



**SIGN OF THE TIMES:** MenzShed members with their new sign on Mill Road. Back row, from left: Tony Laws, Russell Bell, Pania Parry, Russell Holden, Mike Grant, Dick Boyd, Ski Lewandoski, Brian Winterburn and Barry Dwane. Front row: Jan Laws, Wal Bowra, Pauline Carr, Tony King, Artie Morrow, Mihana Holden, Bill Pearl, Bruce Heather, Eric Edwards, Alastair Pain, Geoff Railton, Tracy Pearl and Michael Moore. *Photo Simon Neale*

## Welcome sign out for MenzShed

By Michael Moore

**Ōtaki MenzShed, now in its seventh year, has unveiled a new welcome sign at the entrance to its Mill Road workshops and meeting room.**

The large wooden sign is carved out of local macrocarpa slabs donated by Big Mac Slabs. It was made by Shed members over the past couple of months and replaced an old sign that was printed on plastic corflute that had faded and deteriorated over time.

The new signage better reflects the group's craftsmanship and handiwork that they carry out for the community.

"We're really happy to support this

wonderful initiative," Steph Smith of Big Mac Slabs says. "The MenzShed is such a great thing in the community."

The new sign has a touch of Māori styling in the lettering to reflect the significance of the local history in Ōtaki.

The MenzShed provides a place for comradeship and support of its 50 members.

Founded by the late Valdis Plato in 2013, the Ōtaki group welcomes women as well, unlike many sheds in New Zealand. Valdis had an inclusive vision that promoted friendship, building and supporting local community and saw the creation of opportunity by nurturing those in need as

central to the club.

The MenzShed's community space allows people to share their skills, have a laugh, share a cuppa and work on practical tasks individually or as a group, for themselves and the local community.

The Shed has completed many projects including building obstacles for the council dog park in Aotaki Street; helping a pre-school; building planter boxes and helping undertake small projects in return for a koha.

The Shed is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 186 Mill Road, behind the Community Women's Health Centre. Telephone 022 4069 439