

# Sheddie News

January 2021

The official newsletter of MENZSHED NZ

## *From the Chairman*

Christmas has come and gone and we look forward to a year of hopefully no interruptions. It looks as if we may have escaped the second Covid outbreaks fingers crossed. The year for most sheds is full on and projects are well and truly underway. I am sure the communities your shed is in are very happy to see the work undertaken progressing well. With the public events that are being planned and are underway, I suspect that many sheds are holding fundraising stalls to bring in a few dollars to help with expenses. A new year brings with it new challenges and I am sure each shed has some and are working through them. Remember the executive through their regional reps are only a phone call away. We may not have all the answers but I am sure good advice will be given. A big thank you to the sheds that responded to our survey relating to the virtual conference. I am sorry to say that not many sheds responded. This left our executive team with a head ache.

From all the executive we wish each and everyone a very Happy New Year and look forward to serving you the best way we can.

Look after one another.

Trevor Scott

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## *From our Sponsor NZSafety Blackwoods*

NZSafety Blackwoods have been supporters of the Menzshed movement for some years.

Over the last couple of years our movement has lost the contact we had with the NZSafety Blackwoods dealers and sheds have been missing out on deals that they have to offer our sheds.

To receive these benefits and discounts that they offer us, just show proof that you are a shed member of a New Zealand shed to receive their discounts and specials.

They have all the safety equipment and tools that your shed would require.

Let's support those that support us.



A reminder to Facebookers that we have a shedder group called the MENZSHED NZ shed forum at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/917022518450093>

Presently 47 sheds are represented by 89 shedders.

To participate, visit the site and answer the two screening questions.

After your application is accepted, you will be able to read and post to the site.



Mike tells me that he still has some copies of his book *Menzshed Madness*. You can purchase directly from Mike by emailing him at: [mmrichardson@nowmail.co.nz](mailto:mmrichardson@nowmail.co.nz)

## COVID-19

How fortunate we are in New Zealand to have enjoyed Christmas and New Year activities with our NZ based friends and to be enjoying summer at parks, rivers and beaches. Now we await a vaccination programme. This information from reliable sources may be of interest

At a glance: (source - Ministry of Health)

- We expect vaccines to be delivered to the first group of people in the second quarter of 2021.
- Any vaccines we distribute will be approved by Medsafe so it meets strict health and safety requirements.
- COVID-19 vaccines will be free of charge.
- They will not be mandatory for the New Zealand public.
- There will be a sequenced rollout plan so that the appropriate vaccines are made available to people at the right time.

Information available at [Ministry of Health](#) and [Immunisation Advisory Centre](#)

In the meantime, remember to.....

Stay home if you're unwell

Use basic hygiene - good hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, avoid touching your face, and clean surfaces.

Keep a record of where you have been - using the COVID Tracer app or a diary.

## *Next Newsletter*

The next newsletter is due out late April with a deadline for articles being Friday 23rd April. Please send articles to me as soon as you like prior to this date as it makes it easier to put it all together. It is also fresh in your minds.

## Concerns about shed noise affecting neighbours?

Malcolm Hunt is an environmental noise specialist with 30+ years' experience as a self-employed consultant helping companies and organisations obtain resource consents and planning approvals. Now retired, he has offered to assist men's sheds (for free) obtain any needed resource consents. Sometimes neighbours have unjustified fears about noise from a shed, but mostly there are no issues at all. Unfortunately those fears can hold up obtaining resource consent. Malcolm has already assisted the Kapiti shed with a noise report which showed neighbours would experience no noise problems. Malcolm has also acted as a qualified planning commissioner and has contacts at Councils and other planning professionals throughout NZ. Contact [mha@noise.co.nz](mailto:mha@noise.co.nz) 027 4449848



### Need to say Sorry?

Hopefully that's rare, but when it is necessary, it's best to do it properly. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner suggests....

"Making a sincere apology sounds straightforward but as we see time and time again, many apologies fail to express the three Rs - regret, responsibility and remedy.

An apology letter doesn't have to use flowery language, beg for forgiveness, or contain a handwritten pledge from the CEO that it will never happen again. An apology letter should ideally:

- acknowledge the hurt caused by the agency's actions/inactions
- apologise
- if appropriate, briefly explain the steps the agency has taken to prevent the issue from occurring again."

Source [privacy.org.nz](http://privacy.org.nz)

There is also a Radio NZ interview with the Privacy Commissioner [here](#).

## *Virtual Conference 2021*

At our executive meeting held on 25th January the executive decided due to the uncertainty created by the Covid virus to cancel the virtual conference. From the results of the survey taken late last year there also seemed to be little support for a virtual conference. We are looking to hold our next face to face conference in 2023. This will give the sheds that are to hold the conference time to work towards setting it up. In the mean time there will again be an online AGM that is set for **17th May**. Please mark this date on your shed calendars. Notice of this along with voting papers for regional reps etc. will be forwarded to you. Our thanks go to all the conference committee

## *We need you!*

The executive has some vacancies. We hope that the Treasurer and Secretary will stand again. The following regions have vacancies Region 4 and 6, the Support Services role is still looking to be filled. These positions have been covered by members of the executive over the past few years. Regions 1, 3 and 5 come up for renewal along with the positions of Treasurer and Secretary this year. The elections for all positions will be undertaken at the **AGM** on the **17th May**. If you are interested in any of the positions and require information relating to them please contact Roger at [secretary@menzshed.nz](mailto:secretary@menzshed.nz)

# Region One News

Northland and Auckland

## *Mangawhai Shed New Build 2021*

2021 is going to be our year! The Domain Society has accepted our proposal to build our new workshop in the sports and recreation grounds.

Just before Christmas we secured a contract with the council for some public seating. That, plus a grant, means we have enough money to purchase a kitset which will be erected by volunteers. Whilst we progress the resource consent our fundraising focus is for the concrete base.

These are exciting times when we will shortly see stage one of our community workshop completed.



## *Menz Shed Auckland East....*

### *Outboard "good as new"*



Aart Ryke as a member of a local boating club, turned up at the Shed one day with an outboard motor from a safety boat, in a "thousand pieces". It was overheating and the local mechanic was quoting many thousands of dollars to fix and reassemble it.

Aart and the "engineers" Paul, Nigel and Co rubbed their hands with glee as they descended on this latest jigsaw puzzle.

It was finally reassembled. The problem of a cracked pipe diagnosed and fixed. Now the motor is up and running. Watching over future "America's Cuppers" on the Waitemata Harbour.



### *Which way does the wind blow?*

Thanks to Graham Collie, our official weathervane has been rebuilt and is ready to mount on the Shed.

Many of us remember the day when our back yards contained a "mobile" weather predictor.

A glance at the weathervane and the sky was all we needed.



# Region One News Continued

## *Boomers making an impact.*

A wonderful year has passed, friendships have blossomed as community and connection has never been more valued. The Boomer Shed has flourished continually growing stronger whilst moving forward towards 2021. Projects completed in 2020 have brought us closer together strengthening the Boomer Shed community (or as we call it family). Our gentlemen and ladies cherished every moment seen in our lockdown morning tea at level 2.

Always looking for the positive side, our men contributed to a “face mask off” where we had true genius designs come out. Some even got into their wives craft kits and gave it a go themselves, or work alongside their wives in design!



An impactful project the Boomers got the chance to be a part of was the creation of the Rata Vine mural sleeves. Our Boomer Shed was approached by the Auckland Council in the hopes to restore large mosaic pillars at Rata Vine roundabout. Advised by our boomer mosaic craftsman, this task would be too difficult, instead our boomers built wooden sleeves to fit over the old mosaics. The sleeves were perfected by the local schools students, from Wiri Central Primary School, with a beautiful painted mural design of ‘Papatūānuku’ translated to ‘She is a mother earth figure who gives birth to all things including people’.

The guys were moved by the student’s gratefulness for the sleeves and the community pride from the students. See the photo of our amazing boomers building the sleeves, attending the mural grand opening and the side by side comparison. What an improvement!



# Region Two News

Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Gisborne

## *Whakatane Menzshed Under Way With New Shed*

Whakatane Menzshed had to make plans for re-location of it's workshop latter quarter of last year since the building it occupied was sold and the new owners decided to re-develop the site. After much searching around the town for a suitable spot, we were surprised by the news that the nearby stonemason was vacating his premises, and it would be available soon. The attraction of this building was it's nearby location to our existing shed, plus the rent was going to be affordable. One drawback was the present layout which held numerous small rooms, plus the space was slightly less in area than what we were currently using. It was decided to re-arrange the internal walls, remove some partitions and gain some space for storage by strengthening the mezzanine floor and using it for material storage. Thus it was almost possible to regain the area we had- helped by some radical disposal of our less used equipment and a collection of stuff that could be consigned to the tip. During the holiday period a few

keen members occupied them selves re-gibbing the walls and painting these as well as erecting shelving and storage cupboards for the tools and gear to be placed. Kitchen and toilet facilities were also upgraded and improved, much of the items being sponsored or donated by the local businesses, for which we are eternally grateful. Some pictures below will show some of the tasks undertaken, and Menzshed WHK is working together with the landlord to finish the building off and make it secure for full occupation before the end of January 2021.

Discussing the required changes to allow the best layout of the shed.

Re-arranging the internals of the "new"shed.





# Region Two News Continued

## *Hamilton Community Men's Shed*

During the last 12 months, Hamilton Community Men's Shed has made good progress in terms of increased membership and the holding of special short courses for members and the general community. Two new short courses have been introduced : Optimist sailing boat refurbishment and Ukulele manufacturing. Both courses attracting new members as well as existing members.

Our regular yearly short courses are Santa's workshop, Maori carving and soft stone sculpturing, again these were well attended.

We have introduced a class for Special Needs on a Wednesday afternoons and this is working out very well, with the Special Needs guys, assisted by their carers, making a variety of items such as children's toys and projects for DOC such as weta hotels.

Our ongoing community activity, is the manufacture of Angel boxes ( coffins for still- born babies ) these are supplied to the Waikato hospital.

Santa's workshop, which started life as a short course some years back, has now also turned into an all year activity.

We have produced a bumper crop of toys for the Salvation Army in this last year, the pictures below showing our efforts on the hand-over night, to the Salvation Army representative.



On Thursday morning we hold a Ladies only session, and our ladies are never short of projects to get their teeth into, as well as making a good contribution towards Santa's Workshop.

During the passed year, we have increased the number of days we are open, and also we have changed from having a paid Shed co-ordinator to having Shed supervisors of the day, and in the coming year we plan to train up assistant supervisors to act as cover when a supervisor is away.

# Region Two News Continued

## *Whangamata Community Menzshed*

Whangamata Community Menzshed was established in 2017 by a small group of men and women to meet a demand; it has steadily developed and expanded. The Menzshed workshop is located on the Whangamata Area School grounds and we are extremely grateful to the Principal, Alistair Luke, who is very supportive of our efforts and activities. We continue to work hard to expand further on what we have achieved on this site. Our active membership has now grown to around 35 and we provide a safe, stress-free environment where men and women, mostly senior, benefit from encouragement, support and expertise and are able to enjoy the following:

- Fellowship - coming together for a cuppa, a chat and a laugh.
- Working on small personal projects - fixing things, carving, etc.
- Being involved, as a group, in a wide range of community projects and events - having made many items for local community organisations such as the RSA, Community Services Trust, Whangamata Theatre Society, Moana House, the Surf Clubs, Scout Group, Harbour Care Group, Whangamata Area School, etc. Menzshed have also built several memorial seats and other items – too numerous to mention - for the benefit of the town

Our main focus overall is men's health and well-being. All of these activities and the many new friendships which result from working together, contribute to that. We are also affiliated to Menzshed New Zealand which supports Menzsheds nationwide.





# Region Two News Continued

## *Happening at the Thames Shed*

The Thames shed has had a mixed year as have all sheds we expect, but we have kept our focus & the outcome is we have negotiated a site to build our own shed at our local Seagull Centre. (Which is a recycling Trust attached to the TCDC Council Rubbish Transfer Site right in Thames). So we now have to raise funds this year around a need for a removable building which suggests containers as well as other options that we are now exploring. We have been granted Charitable Status to our Incorporated Society, so we can now apply widely to Funders with credibility. Check out 'Exult' Guide to NFP Funding – [www.exult.co.nz](http://www.exult.co.nz) to get a kit for your funding help & all the key funders application dates in a monthly Diary book!

Our activities have spread over doing helpful work for our community & building relationships with a number of groups because of this activity. Our standout projects include a \*Remembrance table & seating to be installed in the centre of Thames, \*Kids Toys for the Market stall, \*Moanataiari School Fish 3D Mural, \*DOC Summer Kids Programme & individual members own projects.

The Fish Mural involved us cutting out 200 ply fish in pairs (the largest over 2 metres long), cleaning up edges, and assisting the installation following the school kids painting them. This massive project is about to be officially opened when school starts & has been in the newspapers already- see photos.

The DOC programme saw us create an animal colouring competition with 3 prizes each of Rat Traps & x Bug Hotels. We involved the kids to make Chew Cards, Predator Tracking Tunnels & pre-cut Corflute Rat Traps assembly. The interesting choice of prize by girls were the Rat Traps!

The Toys are an ongoing fund raising activity which includes engaging members who haven't made things before using wood or other materials. The range of toy design & manufacture were donated by one member who wants to see them continue, bring joy to kids & parents, & help the Shed fundraising. We are also creating a Womenzshed to work on days the shed is not open to our men members, creating workshops that help both men & women learn how to maintain their property, & using tools in a safe and environment.

We are now looking to build our new Shed & to connect with the Seagull Centre to help raise public awareness of recycling their waste instead of it going to Landfill, as well as assisting in the education of Kids & adults to enjoy the process while making cool stuff & having fun. Tony Winter TCMS Secretary



# Region Three News

**Taranaki, Manawatu, Whanganui, Hawkes Bay and Wellington**

## *Napier Menz Shed*

Napier Menz Shed created a great float for the Christmas parade. The float followed the theme of Snoopy's Plane. The prop tuned, the pilot, Snoopy rocked his head from side to side and the plane also rocked side to side. This created some mechanical effort by the gang who constructed the float. All painted up and mounted on the truck made for a great example of what can be achieved by the menzshed folk. They also took out first place for the best float on the day. A great effort Well done.



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## *Hastings Menzshed*

Hastings Menzshed is back in full swing after the Christmas/New Year break. Let's hope it is a less interrupted year than the last one.

Our paid up membership is currently 61. Like most Sheds there are the same members in attendance each day—usually around a dozen. Fortunately in 2019 we moved into new premises at the Hawkes Bay A&P Showground as we had outgrown our original premises. As most of you will be aware the contents of sheds and workshops tend to expand to fill the available space and at times it can be a little difficult to find somewhere to work.

In addition to undertaking repairs brought to us by members of the public (much like "The Repair Shop" on TV) a major part of our work is in reconditioning bikes. Jeff is full time on this. A lot of bikes are brought to us by the Police. These have been stolen and recovered but never claimed. They are thoroughly checked over and any work required carried out by Jeff and anyone else who volunteers to help him. Most of these are given away to needy people to get to work or school. Some are sold to cover the cost of buying replacement parts. Last year the purchase of a NZ made lift was approved to allow bikes to be held and lifted to a comfortable height for working on.

Our other major purchase was a brand new table saw to replace one which had been donated but had a few shortcomings. Most Sheds have probably had a similar experience—upon setting up we have gratefully accepted donated equipment that is less than ideal. Our goal is to constantly upgrade machinery as funds allow. Unless we can provide facilities better than the average home workshop there is little incentive for people to come to the Menzshed unless it is to check on Alan Harris's progress on his latest wooden toy.

Actually, to call them toys is not doing Alan or his creations justice. They are meticulously crafted wooden models of trucks, Landrovers and earthmoving machines often including engines and gearboxes.

If anyone is visiting from outside Hawkes Bay please feel welcome to call in. We are open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 until 12 and morning tea is around 10. It is always good to hear ideas from members of other Sheds.

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# Region Three News Continued

## *How do you turn a heap of scrap into an end of year bonus fund raiser?*

During the course of a year, most men's sheds, generate a fair amount of off cuts of timber from repair jobs or creating bespoke items for customers. To many this is scrap, to be disposed of as speedily and conveniently as possible, either as firewood or heaven forbid to the local tip.

To others however, it's an opportunity to develop an income stream for the shed and impress a fair chunk of the local population with the ideas, expertise and value for money in being able to purchase quirky gifts for family and friends.

At Henley in Masterton, a number of the blokes have developed an eye for utilising pieces of scrap wood with attractive grain patterns into laminated chopping boards, or others who make sturdy wooden toys for children, dolls furniture, plywood frames strung with Xmas baubles, turned bowls, bird feeders, nesting boxes and Weta motels.

There are those who haunt the local building sites for discarded framing timber and rapidly turn them into giant Jenna block sets, which this last year proved so popular, we ran out of material and have outstanding orders for. Note, this material usually goes directly to landfill.

We acquire a fair amount of discarded furniture too, which, with a bit of TLC can be resold quite readily.

Also in demand are the garden dibblers, hose holders, obelisks for growing sweet peas or runner beans.

As the year progresses these items are quietly built up as time and inclination allows, among the many other activities going on.

By years end we turn our multi media room into our XMAS SHOP, which opens to the public for three weeks leading up to the festive season. This has been the 3rd year we've done this and each year the sales and income has increased, culminating with a take of five and a half thousand. That was two grand up on the previous year, and that buys a lot of glue, sandpaper, screws and nails.

So think about it. Most of this material has cost us very little, and while it's easy to just chuck it away, a little thought and imagination can be turned into a profitable earner.





# Region Four News

## Canterbury and Westland

### *Rolleston Men's Shed*

The Shed recently hosted two events on the one day. After delays due to Covid-19, the Rolleston Men's Shed hosted the final Hub meeting for the year combined with an official opening of the Engineering Workshop's extension.

The Selwyn Mayor, Sam Broughton, opened the Shed's Engineering Workshop extension. As it is a Men's Shed we introduced a mechanical aspect to the opening and had the mayor cut a chain rather than a ribbon.

Guests included representatives from local organizations and firms that have helped and supplied items for the Rolleston Men's Shed. Engineering projects continue including making three more bag hangers for Rolleston West School after the first three were so well received. The Rolleston art statues are nearly all complete and a number of them were on display at the Shed Hub meeting.

What is rubbish? A Shed member recently found a single bed bed-end on a rubbish heap and about to be burnt. It is now another coffee table as the timber was good and worth the effort. This is the second coffee table from a bed end. Other tables worked on include a too-big dining table, cut down and made into two. Other tables have been refurbished or fabricated. Some old pin boards with real cork panels, salvaged more than a decade ago, were tidied up for the Shed opening event. The three wood lathes are kept busy making bowls and other turned items.

Sheds help Sheds and in this case the Chairman of Menzshed New Zealand Inc. with a printer problem. Was it the computer or the printer? It was the printer as the computer worked on other printers but no computer would make his printer go. Computers continue to be upgraded at the Shed by installing an SSD to replace the much slower hard-disk giving an up to a ten times speed increase. Loading with Linux Mint instead of Windows also adds to the speed, reliability and ease of use. The Shed had eight laptops and ten desktops donated, some being used at the Shed and some have been passed on to members.

Other items being serviced include sewing machines and bicycles. A Shed member's mate passed on a bike servicing-stand which makes life a lot easier and a number of the bikes have been serviced and passed on to a local school.



# Region Four News Continued

## *Regional Hub Meeting At Last*

Well at last we were able to hold our Hub Meeting. This covid thing was getting a bit much. After two postponements the men were getting a bit edgy. With the opening of the Rolleston Men's Shed engineering extensions this gave a great opportunity to showcase their workshop as well as bring folk from the sixteen sheds around Canterbury. Just under one hundred men gathered. Each shed presented a short report of what they have been doing since the last Hub Meeting, then it was time to wet the whistle with a cuppa and BBQ lunch. This gave folk an opportunity to mix and mingle, share stories, talk about their sheds, explore the Rolleston shed for ideas and generally socialise. After lunch the grand opening of the Rolleston extensions. Great to see the expansion of their shed, well done Rolleston Men's Shed.



## *Rolleston Men's Shed make Book Exchange Cabinet*

Members Barry and Ray using the cabinetmaking skill to craft a book exchange cabinet for the local community. These book exchange cabinets are springing up all around New Zealand. Read a book in one town and exchange at the next what a way to give travelling folk a library.



## *The Tool of Wellbeing*

Men grouping together with their tools can be a multi-channelled powerful initiative.

The MenzShed in Cheviot is proof of this, and they've got their work cut out for the next few weeks getting their new 'home' ready for some MenzShed action.

The relocated building from the former Cotswold School in Christchurch arrived in the town this week, and has been placed on Hurunui District Council Reserve site at 5 Seddon Street, Cheviot which was the former location of the Towns Community Hall.

MenzShed is a nationwide initiative (to quote the MenzShed website) "to put it in a rather large nutshell, a shed brings men together in one community space to share their skills, have a laugh, and work on practical tasks individually (personal projects) or as a group (for the shed or community)."

Bruce Nicol is Chairman and a trustee of Cheviot MenzShed which has more than a dozen members.

He said the community help illustrated this week to get the building in place on its new foundations was incredible.

# Region Four News Continued

## Tool of Wellbeing Continued:

“It was a real boost to us, to see people who aren’t even involved but still helping out; with diggers, their ride on mower, or the Cheviot Tea Rooms providing food for the Kings House Removal Team. People just came out of the woodwork to help out.”

Bruce said Kings House Removals did a great job transporting the building, and thanked Hurunui District Council’s Mayoral Taskforce For Jobs (MTFJ) students who helped tidy up the land before this week’s arrival.

“We are all set to start doing what we need to do in terms of sorting the services to get everything up and running.”

The water and power lines are in, there’s a bit of earth work to do, and jobs will start to be ticked off from now until early into 2021 when Bruce expects the new MenzShed to be open for service.

The wood work room at Cheviot Area School is the current home for the MenzShed, and has been since its inception two years ago.

“The school has been very supportive. We’ve also been working with a small group of students allowing them to create with wood“

Plenty of tools and equipment have been gifted from the wider community too.

“People have been so supportive with their donations, including belongings from community members’ late husbands, who are so happy to see those treasured tools being used again.”

Bruce says the beauty of the MenzShed is about creating a place to encourage companionship, as well as providing a resource of skills to benefit community groups and individuals.

“Mental health and wellbeing is the prime focus. There are blokes sitting alone at home who have skills, and they’re able to use this opportunity and get together. It’s also a subtle way for people to keep an eye on each other, make sure everyone’s doing okay.”

MenzShed gives back with labour as well as with companionship – providing skills and resources for community projects or some individuals, such as woodwork or welding work. “As a team, we have a lot of credibility. We are serious about what we are trying to achieve as we tick many boxes concerning local Community needs.” “The arrival of the building also recognises the support from our funding partners such as Lotteries Community Facilities, Rata Foundation, The Trust Charities Fund, Cheviot Community Committee, Cheviot Community Trust, Cheviot Lions Club “

Article taken from local paper.



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# Region Four News Continued

## *A Special Tribute to Jackson*

Lincoln Men's Shed was presented with an interesting project when the Chief Fire Officer of the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Brigade approached us with a request to build a toy box that they wanted to have at the Brigade Headquarters for the use of visiting children. There was a special reason behind the request; a year had gone by since a child of one their volunteers had tragically died after an accident at his father's workplace, so the brigade wanted to have the toy box as a memorial to the young boy.

At a meeting with the Chief Fire Officer it soon became apparent that they didn't want just some sort of plywood box with a lid, but more of a nice piece of furniture that would look good for years to come. At this point our Shed Member Peter Brocklehurst was recruited to draft up a design and cost for the toy box, this was readily accepted by the Brigade Chief. The finished item, which took several weeks of Peter's time at the shed and at home to complete, looks really smart. It is made with a coloured Rimu frame and has White American Ash in-fill panels and an internal sliding tray to hold small items. The finishing touch was a mahogany plaque on the front with the words "Jackson's Toy Box" engraved on it.

A few days before Christmas 2020 a small ceremony was held at the Brigade Headquarters to unveil the toy box, at the same time as their end of year family barbeque. A good turnout of Brigade Volunteers, their families and Shed Members turned out for the occasion. After a couple of short speeches Jackson's parents and younger brother came forward and removed the quilted cover that had been placed over the toy box. A generous spread of barbeque food was then laid out on a table for all to enjoy.

While only a small number of shed members were involved in the construction of the toy box, it was a very satisfying project that gave something back to our volunteer fire brigade members and their children, and will also be a lasting memorial to young Jackson.



# Region Five News

## Otago and Southland

### *New Build for Arrowtown Menzshed*

After four long years the Arrowtown Menzshed has finally come to fruition. The building has been constructed, the internal fit-out is almost complete, and we are presently in the process of acquiring and installing tools and plant. The day when members will be able to use the facilities in earnest, is imminent.

It was nearly five years ago that Chairman, Russell Heckler, called a local meeting to gauge the interest in a Menzshed for Arrowtown. Around twenty five people joined the cause and a committee was formed. After several fruitless searches for buildings and land plots, we were extremely fortunate to be offered the lease of a small corner of the Arrowtown Holiday Park on which we could build our shed. The committee eventually settled on a 10.5m x 6m Versatile building for the proposed new shed and once funding had been secured from a number of major grant organisations, a contract was let. Whilst this all sounds straightforward a number of hurdles along the way had to be overcome including months spent on getting a Resource Consent.



The Versatile building has a concrete floor, long-run style sides and roof, a higher than required degree of insulation, doors at each end, and plenty of windows. Members opted to take on the job of lining the entire building with plywood and coating it with polyurethane. Plumbing, all electrical work, and painting was also completed after the completion of the Versatile contract.

So far the cost has been around \$110k and we have had support and donations from many sources, including suppliers such as Mitre 10, ITM, Placemakers, and Guthrie Bowron. We still have work to do including installing a heat pump, building a deck, and building benches and fencing but we are well on our way. Members and friends have donated tools, lathe, bandsaw, grinder, bench saws, and a wide variety of hand tools. We are looking for more equipment such as a thicknesser and drop saw, but we are at least in a position where we can now make a start.



Considerable interest has been shown by the community, the council, and the local press and our recent opening day was attended by many supporters and funding organisations without whom we would not have been able to get to where we are today. We already have a couple of projects that we have been asked to attend to once we get fully organised. And whilst we presently have around thirty five members we are sure that this will rapidly grow now that we have tangible facilities and that we are getting publicity.

# Region Five News Continued

## *Elf Down at the Shed.*

Brian Drew, the "Elf" has been working hard again this year making toys for Santa's sack. Brian works away all year making one hundred plus small wooden toys at the Taieri Blokes Shed and at home. These are given away at Christmas time to children less fortunate than others.

This year he nominated the Salvation Army in Mosgiel to receive the toys.

The Taieri shed fully supports Brian by letting him use any timber he needs and the full use of the shed equipment to make the toys. Brian's toy making is well known round the area and brings the Taieri Shed name out to the local community. One person can bring great joy to so many.

One man's pleasure gives so much joy to many children.

Congratulations Brian, Well done.



Rob van Abs the minister for the Salvation Army visited the shed to receive the toys, bringing a basket of baking for shed members to enjoy at morning tea time which went down well.





# Region Six News

Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough

## *Menzshed Blenheim back in action*

MenzShed Blenheim is back into full swing after the festive season, and as busy as ever.

We have already gained three new members this year, so a good start.

We continue to provide assistance to other not for profit organizations, and that is our preference over private individuals and businesses. Having said that, we did make and erect a set of five letterboxes for residents of a block of flats in Blenheim who could not get a contractor to do the job. This will be highlighted in one of our local newspapers shortly.

Our shed has purchased around \$5k of new equipment since the last newsletter, so we are busy reorganizing our small space. This is never ending, which really emphasizes the fact that we need to relocate to larger premises.

We have been looking for a year or so, but have not found a suitable option yet.

Our members and partners enjoyed a lovely well organized Christmas dinner in December which we held in our local RSA lounge. The RSA is incorporated within The Clubs of Marlborough building which is a must visit if you are staying in, or passing through Blenheim.

In closing, we wish all our fellow shedders throughout NZ a very happy and prosperous new year.

Dave, Chairman



## *Privacy Of Email Addresses*

The privacy issue of using a group email has come to our attention. Many folk are sending our group emails with all members addresses of that group visible. They are using either **To** or **Cc** (carbon copy) to list there group emails. This allows all members email addresses in the group to be visible to all. Where as using **Bcc** (blank carbon copy) will only show the person who the email it is intended for plus the sender. This poses a problem for those who do not want to share their person email addresses with people they don't usually correspond with. We must consider this as a personal privacy issue. One of the best ways to protects folks privacy is to send the email to yourself and **Bcc** the group in the same email.

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## *Is your information on our Web Site Up to date?*

With the start of a new year there may have been some changes to the information we hold on your shed and on our web site. I notice that there is a number of sheds that use personal email addresses. It would be best if there was an email set up for the shed. This is easier to manage as personal emails cause some problems when the person is away etc. Having a generic email address like **gmail** or **outlook** would enable easier access for shed members. If the secretary is away they only have to pass the password onto a member so that emails get through. Also it would be good to see when each shed is open. From time to time things change in shed and it may be time to just update what your shed has on our website.

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## *Sponsors and Discount Benefits*

Visit our web site to find out more about each company and the benefits they provide to member sheds.

[www.menzshed.org.nz/membership/benefits/](http://www.menzshed.org.nz/membership/benefits/)

