

# Sheddie News

July 2022

The official newsletter of MENZSHED NZ

## *From the Chairman*

How time flies, July already and we down in the south have only recently had the hard frosts and heavy rain that signals winter is really with us.

Although covid is still with us and it appears that it is becoming a problem again I hear that most sheds have been able to operate even with limiting the numbers on any one session. A few sheds have had to close for a short time as members have become unwell.

Since our last newsletter we down here in Canterbury have been fortunate in being able to hold a Hub meeting. The sheddies look forward to these and it was very well attended by fifteen sheds with a combined attendance of around seventy. The time spent at Hub meetings is most important as sheddies can come together, share projects and ideas and chat with fellow sheddies from around the region. This day also included a visit to the new Carbatec shop that has opened in Christchurch to service the needs of the South Island. It was great to catch up with Grant Oxenbridge who came especially to take us round the new shop. As one of our sponsors we thank Grant for the effort he made on the day and also for the support he gives us.

On reading the many newsletters that are sent to me from all around the country I am aware that the Menzshed movement is thriving. There are some very interesting projects being carried out. It shows the range of skills in design, and making that members have and I am sure each community is very pleased with the outcomes each shed is providing.

Men's health and wellbeing are most important and I hear that a number of sheds have a friendly doctor who contributes to the shed by way of talks on health and men's issues.

Our AGM once again has come and gone. I was a little disappointed on the night as not all the video feeds were able to be operational. Next year it will be a face to face meeting at the conference. I would like to thank all the executive for all the work they gave over the past year and for staying on for the coming year. A special thank you to Bill Greenwood who is not part of the executive but continues to work behind the scene as our web master.

The newsletter is a big one but it is wonderful to read about all the great things happening around the country. Thanks go to all the sheds that have taken the time to send in articles.

Take care of one another. Regards Trevor

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## *Renewal of Membership*

By now you should have received an invoice for renewing your shed membership. When the invoice has been **paid** you will receive a membership certificate, the Cabots offer for the coming year and a return we require you to send back to us regarding membership numbers. Please break the membership numbers down to show both men and women attending your shed. Please take the time to complete the return as we use statistics when talking with other interest groups. If your Shed has not received the renewal notice please contact Treasurer, Peter Blackler at [treasurer@menzshed.nz](mailto:treasurer@menzshed.nz).

## Conference 2022

As yet the final programme has not been set. The following programme is a **brief** outline of what is being planned. We look forward to registrations later in the year. Our thanks to the team who are setting up the conference. Updates on the conference will be sent out as they come to hand.

### Friday 14th April 2023. Registration Day:

Registration: From 2pm

Friday 5.30pm: Welcome and opening of Conference by Trevor Scott and Mayors of Hastings and Napier. Buffet meal, meet and mingle, music. Early night

### Saturday 8.30-9.30am: Breakfast

10am start. Split into groups to go to Hastings and Napier sheds to view facilities and watch specific demonstrations or to stay at Lindisfarne and view displays. (Christine agreed to look into 'My Ride' to see if it's a viable idea to use them for transport)

Return for lunch

Swap in the afternoon.

Saturday Evening Formal Dinner and speaker.

### Sunday Morning AGM of Menzshed NZ

Closing of conference approximately 11.30am



### Electrical Problem Warning

A recently repaired item was a member's laptop power supply, supposedly blowing fuses. The first step was to check the power cord. It was leaking between wires enough to trip a breaker. More enquires to members of the Shed found that one member who does testing had come across 4 such cables and the other electrician had that month one fail at home.

**Warning** - as above, the internal plastic at the socket end of the power cord degrades and becomes conductive on some cords. There will be nothing wrong with the supply itself.

## *Health and Safety in today's Menzsheds.*

Every shed has their own views on H&S within their shed and I am not about to tell you what to do.

Most of us grew up without H & S in the workplace and probably don't really think too much about it. But the year is 2022 and under the NZ law we have a **duty of care** for our members and for those that have paid members you have a greater responsibility to your staff.

Part of all our shed's mission statement is Men's Health so let's include H & S as part of that.

I have spent many years working in Australia for the largest printer in the Southern hemisphere with plants in all Australian states as Chief Engineer and Project Manager, I have had to change my ways to fit in with the changing laws to ensure our staff and contractors were abiding by these new laws that effect our daily routines. This has taken place over the last 20 years.

I then moved to NZ 1996 with the company and had to start from scratch here as NZ was way behind Victoria in H & S. We purchased some 10 plants in NZ, and I was involved in helping a lot of them come to terms with H & S. in the workplace and working with contractors before they worked on our sites to meet head office requirements.

I have also been involved in a few serious harm injuries in Aust & NZ and had to face the judge on two occasions in NZ , not something I want to do again. Both times we got hammered by the judge solely because the injured people had been trained in using the equipment, but because we didn't have the paperwork showing the training program or any sign off by the trainer, date, or the staff member signature on the training record.

Our members using equipment we have in our sheds, need to be trained by a competent (or someone who has completed an apprenticeship using that equipment or a representative of the manufacture) person and signed off with a signed copy kept on file just in case some day you need to face the judge.

To the best of my knowledge the phrase DUE CARE has never been challenged in a NZ court of law.

So, my point here is Health & Safety in your shed does not need to be heavy handed, but by doing little things it will grow overtime.

At my shed we have just updated our rules and regulations and now included in our committee a new position for a H & S Officer with a job description. They will report to the monthly meeting any events that have occurred.

**Each shed should undertake a full annual review of all equipment by the committee** to ensure all guarding is in place and safety devices are working and that the machinery is fit for purpose, if not then it should be disconnected until it is safe to operate or replaced as a lot of sheds have old equipment handed down or left to them by the public.

One of the major problems I see when I go to the larger sheds is you don't know who used the equipment yesterday and you don't know if they had a problem and forgot to report it. **Taking 30 seconds to check the equipment over before starting it could stop you being involved in a serious harm accident.**

If anyone needs help with H & S then please contact me. [Regrep6@menzshed.nz](mailto:Regrep6@menzshed.nz)

**Remember a safe shed is a happy shed, and we get to come back tomorrow.**

Dave Packer.



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.

## *Health Article from the Pauanui Menzshed*

An inguinal hernia occurs in the groin when part of the intestine protrudes through a weak spot in the abdominal muscles. The intestine travels down the canal the spermatic cord takes from the intestinal cavity to the scrotum, (the path the testes took before birth). Lifting, straining, or standing for long periods can cause a hernia to develop. ACC covers about 10% of hernia repairs, usually the accident involves slipping when carrying something heavy.

Hernias are more obvious when standing and disappear when lying down. They are often discovered when showering, a cancerous lump in the groin will not usually disappear on lying down. The hernia can become wedged in the canal, (irreducible), or squeezed tight cutting off its own blood supply, (strangulated).

A hernia truss is a belt with a pad that sits over the point where the hernia comes through the abdominal wall. The belt is tightened to hold the hernia in. A truss is useful in the very frail or to 'buy time' until surgery is available. Usually laparoscopic, 'keyhole', surgery is recommended. Laparoscopic surgery avoids big muscle and skin cuts and closure of the defect with sutures under tension. With laparoscopic surgery, once inside the abdominal cavity, a patch of Prolene mesh is placed over the hernia opening and fixed in place with titanium screws into the pubic bone. the patient is encouraged to be physically active the next day. **Best to avoid hernia by not lifting heavy weights!**



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## *Annual General Meeting Report Back*

This years AGM was another Gotowebinar. There were twenty eight sheds represented online. The executive was elected as follows: Trevor Scott :Chairman, Dave Savage: secretary, Peter Blackler :treasurer, David Broadhead Regional one : Keith Dickson Region two : Murray Campbell Region 3 : Trevor will cover region four : Ian Miller region 5 : and David Packer Region six. There were no remits presented. It was disappointing in that the full executive was not on video. There was discussion regarding the changes to the Incorporated Societies act. This will come into affect about two years from now. We will endeavour to have examples of an updated incorporated society document in our Tool Box. We look forward to the conference where we can hold an actual AGM in person.

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## *Next Newsletter*

The next newsletter is due for publication at the end of **October**. The deadline for articles for that newsletter is **Friday 21st October**. When you have completed an interesting project or done something of interest with others down at the shed, send us an article. Don't wait for the deadline as it give the editor time to arrange articles. It is always good to see pictures with an article. Format for article please use Word and Jpeg for pictures as these are easy to work with. Send articles to [chairman@menzshed.nz](mailto:chairman@menzshed.nz)

# Region One News

## Northland and Auckland

### *Men's Shed North Shore*

The Men's Shed North Shore is up and running at full steam again, and although the daily attendance is a bit lower than before the lockdowns, it is increasing. Thanks to a few of the Members who were able to go into the Shed during lockdowns, it was still possible for us to get some community projects done and earn a bit of money to cover expenses etc.

I must admit, I was reluctant to return to the Shed after all the lockdowns. When I did finally go in, it was wonderful to catch up with everyone again. I was reassured by all the protocols that were in place, such as proof of vaccinations, compulsory masks, hygiene procedures etc.

Surprisingly, membership is still increasing, with lots of new faces showing up every week.

Some of the Members who do the community projects have commented that thanks to the Repair Shop programme on TV, some people are coming in to have important heirlooms restored.

The Men's Shed North Shore is continuing to grow and we are expecting our 3rd extension to get underway soon.



David restoring some chairs



An old school desk has been brought in for restoration



James is building a guitar



Restored kauri furniture on the way back home

# Region One News Continued

## *Settlers Lifestyle Village Blokes Shed making a Ukraine Peace Flock*

This idea came from New Zealand Menzshed. Some weeks ago they sent out an article about an artist, Rob Woods, from Welborne in the UK who had come up with the idea.

His plan was to do something practical to show his support and get others involved by making it a communal experience.

His words were – “The white bird is a symbol of peace, so I used that as a basis for it and just wanted something which was a gentle response to Ukraine, to send that message of hope and peace to the people.” The point was they are like a metaphor of migratory birds taking peace from us to them in Ukraine”

After hearing of this initiative Idwal and Ian handcrafted a beautiful flock of the Peace Birds in the Settlers Blokes Shed. The birds became a pop-up installation at the entrance of Settlers Lifestyle Village in Albany, Auckland, New Zealand.

The flock was sold raising \$1395 that will go to the Red Cross who will send 100% of it to the people of Ukraine.



# Region Two News

Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Gisborne

## *Te Puke Menzshed*

As some may be aware, the Shed moved in September 2021 from No.3 Road to Cameron Road in Te Puke. The new Shed has an upper and lower floor.



The upper floor



This was a major undertaking moving equipment, tools, wood etc., as it is only then one realises the materials collected over the years.

Covid had an impact on us as it did with many Sheds throughout the country. We are recovering and look forward to things getting better.

The new shed has afforded us our own kitchen, toilets, meeting area, office and much needed working space. The larger premises has made a big difference and allowed us to expand and grow for the future.

Being on a main road has given us better exposure to the community and the public at large, thus resulting in an increase in the amount of work we are receiving. This has also contributed to the increase in membership. We have helped numerous members of our local community by fixing and making a whole array of wonderful items.

# Region Two News Continued

## Te Puke Menzshed Continued:

One of the larger projects undertaken for the District Council was the construction of a Lychgate for Te Puke Cemetery. This was pre-built at the shed and then assembled on site. A second Lychgate is under construction



The shed was approached by the Maketu Wetland Society to make sea-birds for a school project run by the society. This involves the children identifying and painting the various birds to create a wall mural.



Dotterels, terns, petrels etc



An array of beautiful pens made from native timbers, deer antler and epoxy resin.

Over the past few months, the Shed has been contacted to undertake repairs and construction of various items. Below are some repairs undertaken.



Over the next few months one can see the shed being as busy as ever.

# Region Two News Continued

## *Whitianga Community Menz Shed*

### **Brian Mearns: Presentation of “The Malcolm Brown Memorial Shield”**

Once again we are privileged to have Malcom’s wife Pauline here with us to present the trophy. Every year we award the trophy to the Sheddie who has contributed the most to our cause and this reminds us of all the work and enthusiasm that Malcom gave to get the Menzshed established in Whitianga when he along with others from the Lions Club called a meeting of interested parties and formed the group we know today.

Malcom was our initial President and the driving force in our formative years and so it is fitting that we remember him with this award and remind our team of those who got us underway. This year the award goes to a man who has stood head and shoulders above the rest of us in terms of output...in fact when I think of him he reminds me of the energizer Bunny in the battery ad! Not only has he often taken over the running and organizing of the shed, but he is often at the shed when nobody else is working on projects for us or taking home work which he completes and sells on our behalf. He often takes on the projects nobody else will do but still finds time to help those who need guidance in the workshop. Whether it is fixing a piece of machinery or completing a run of bread boards in time for the market there is never any hesitation... everything gets done NOW or sooner.

So **Glen Schache**...please step forward and

Pauline will present you with this trophy and please accept our thanks for all you have done for the Menzshed this year.



## *Te Awamutu Menzshed Activities*

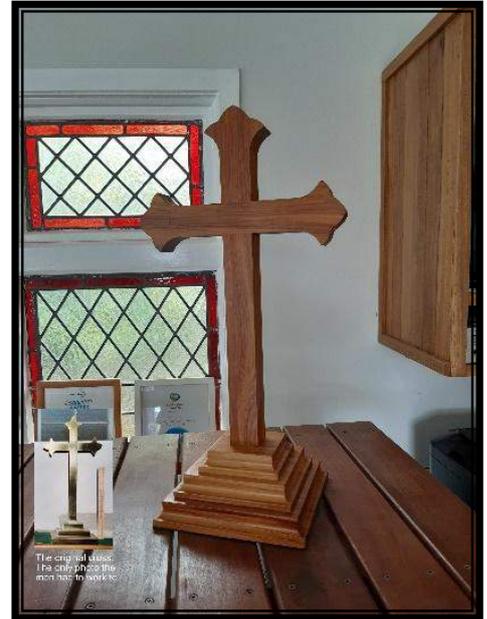
Activity at the Te Awamutu Menzshed was at a fever pitch in June. The successful running of a garage/clearing sale was foremost in the men's minds last month. Donated tools and vegetables were added to the crafts and toys on sale. There was a good turnout of men, from the seven o'clock set up to pack up time at twelve midday. Te Awamutu people supported us well, with many going away with a bargain. The day was highly successful, and the men's share of the cost of painting their shed was raised. The balance has come from community grants.



# Region Two News Continued

## Te Awamutu Menzshed Continued:

The wooden cross replacement for the Pukeatua church has been completed. The cross was dedicated at the small community ANZAC service held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. The shed was represented by the chairman, Steve Mannington, and committee member Richard Cato. The representatives were privileged to be part of a small village gathering.



The men in the engineering shop have been cleaning and repairing a large lathe. At the time of writing, trial work was being carried out to check the lathe accuracy.

With the increase in the number of tuis around Te Awamutu, tui feeders have been this month's build.

Donations of timber and dismantling of a shop in town have kept the timber racks full.



The restoration team has been busy working on a 120-year-old toolbox. This box was made in England in 1900 and came out to New Zealand with a local family in 1908. Having spent the last twenty years in the back of a hay shed, the men needed to clean all the wood and metal work on it. A coat of paint was applied in colour as close as could be remembered, and the toolbox was returned to its proud owners. This was not before a secret under the lid was uncovered. The men carefully prized off the cardboard lining from under the lid to discover a 1937 – 1940 picture theatre poster from the Regent and Empire theatres in Te Awamutu. The poster displayed films that were shown during that era. Of most interest was that it cost 1/6d to go to the pictures, which were screened every night.

# Region Two News Continued

## *Whakatane Menzshed*

A week or so back we lost our President after he had suffered two heart attacks and died.

The shed is now without a President and Mark will be sorely missed as he had brought us through some difficult times, what with Covid 19 negatively affecting our production, as well as a forced move for the shed to new premises after the Landlord saw fit to sell up the old one.

The picture shows Mark (middle) at a recent trolley derby, handing over the winner's trophy



The shed built a specialised ladder frame for a young girl who suffers from Rett's Syndrome

The frame comprised two sturdy uprights, with rigid feet on them and the ladder part consisted of 40 mm dowels, set into the uprights. The whole frame was then stained mahogany and coated with polyurethane varnish. Pictured below:

The customer wrote this very nice message to the shed:-

“I trust this message finds you all happy, well and in good spirit.

I am writing with heartfelt thanks for the standing ladder you built for our daughter.

This equipment is pertinent to her development in that it enables her to stand ‘unaided’ in order to strengthen her torso, hip and thigh muscles so that hopefully one day, she will be able to stand with minimal aid.

The standing ladder you have made is nice and robust and is well supported by a couple of sturdy footing; bonus that it looks great too!

You can tell by her very happy face that the slightly abraded surface of the bars not only offers her a better grip, but also stimulation from the unique texture.



We are truly very grateful for the fact that you have donated your woodwork skills, time and resources to helping improve our daughter's motor skills. We hope you enjoyed making this standing ladder as much as she enjoys using it.

Noho ora mai rā,”

It is always a pleasure to receive letters of this nature as it makes our members feel that they are of value to the community, and that they have helped fulfil a needy cause. Lance Sutton completed this ladder frame for us.

Project: Ashes Urn Holding Box

A gentleman who wanted to remember his wife in a unique way requested the shed to make this glazed box, wherein he would place her ashes in an urn and put them on display.

Pete Mulooly completed this task, and the final product is shown in the photo. We quite often get these special requests, and the members enjoy exercising their creative skills in response to the customer's particular taste.



# Region Three News

Taranaki, Manawatu, Whanganui, Hawkes Bay and Wellington

## *Menzshed Manawatu*

Menzshed Manawatu in Palmerston North celebrated 10 years of existence in 2021. To mark the occasion we constructed new outdoor furniture for the Square Edge Art Centre courtyard café. Some of the team enjoyed the facilities when invited to attend morning tea at the venue.



For some years Menzshed opened its facilities to the Mana o te Tangata Trust to run sessions offering peer support to younger members. Darren Gosling attended the afternoons and is now a full member of Menzshed Manawatu. He has been wood carving since 2000. These two pieces are called Falcon and An Old Flame. Darren also carves in stone, making small jewellery items. He brings some more diversity to our ranks. He markets his jewellery via his website. <https://darrensjewellery.myshopify.com>.



The Regional Council (Horizons) approached the shed to build some replacement bench seats to be placed in the Pohangina Reserve picnic area. The existing ones had simply returned to the bush. The brief was to build 8 moveable bench seats to be dispersed around the bush area. The city council were installing a large stormwater drain adjacent to our shed, so we managed to acquire the timber which protected the pipes while in transit. These were used to build the seats thus avoiding the need to pay for timber and preventing it going to the landfill.



Neighbourhood Watch plays a key role in the Palmerston North Community. Menzshed has partnered with them to produce a number of park benches to be sited around areas of the city, sponsored by individuals or neighbourhoods. Since the production of the prototype, the Shed has orders for more. With the increase in walkways around the city it looks like being a long term project.



# Region Three News Continued

## *MenzShed Kapiti*

From time to time, MenzShed responds to requests from Community organisations to assist with larger projects at that organisation's own premises. Over the years that has included large projects at schools and pre-schools, and for organisations like the Kapiti Marines Trust, the Cancer Society, and Volunteer Kapiti. Those projects have used the building and organising skills of our guys to renovate buildings and create better environments for the children, employees and volunteers involved. Our most recent and the largest project has been to assist the Kapiti Community Foodbank to create a new home of their own. After operating out of several sites in Kapiti and being moved out of the Kapiti Community Centre when that building was forced to close, the Foodbank decided to establish their own premises and their committee reached out to MenzShed for support. Our first task was to assist Foodbank to fit out temporary premises at Coastlands and to help them move in. This included taking down and reassembling shelving, moving appliances and stock and creating a kitchen for their team and an office/interview space for the Foodbank Manager. All that work was done to tight timelines as the community centre was deemed to be unsafe and the shift was urgent. While that move was being completed, Foodbank was fundraising and planning for their permanent home on a leased site in Hinemoa Street Paraparaumu. Their objective was to provide a stable base for Foodbank in Kapiti and to ensure their operating costs were minimised. To that end, Foodbank purchased a former double school classroom building in late 2021 and this was moved onto site just before Christmas. Our guys assisted with the planning work for the move, site preparation and then undertook the refurbishment needed to convert the old school building to the high-quality home the Foodbank deserves. The MenzShed Committee agreed to assist Foodbank with this project even though we already had a full programme of projects, including building our workshop underway. We recognised that the Foodbank is such an important community resource and that it was an opportunity for volunteer organisations to collaborate and work together to achieve great outcomes for our community. Our MenzShed team working on the Foodbank project has been led by Cliff Daly and Trevor McIntyre from the beginning. Once the Foodbank was established in their temporary site, work began on the refurbishment in early 2022. Since then, a team of 5-12 volunteers has been on site for 3 days a week, between 5-7 hours a day depending on the work required, meaning that the team has contributed a minimum of 100 hours of service each week since the start of February. Our team has stripped out the internal framing and linings and is building all the facilities the Foodbank requires for their work. New windows, doors and firewalls have been fitted and a new veranda, decking and ramps are being built to ensure easy public access and accessibility for disabled users. Foodbank is planning to be in their new home by the end of July and our volunteers are working hard to make this happen. It has become a very large project, probably much larger than initially expected and the core team of builders have devoted time, energy and skills far beyond what would normally be expected of volunteers. They have been well supported by other volunteers from our larger MenzShed team and others from the Foodbank and community groups also. Once finished, the new Foodbank building will be a real asset to the Kapiti Community for many years to come.



# Region Three News Continued

## *Greytown MeNZ Shed*

The Greytown MeNZ Shed, with the help of the community, has raised \$4000 for the amazing work the Red Cross is doing in war ravaged Ukraine. The Menz Shed has over the years delivered hundreds of projects into the community, especially where they benefit charities, community groups, children and health concerns. This time, we wondered what we could do to help shattered families in the Ukraine. We advertised that we would give all donations received in May for “make and mend” projects. Word got round and Greytown and the community came on board. We had so many projects that the scheme was extended to two months. Some people just came and made outright donations, raising \$4,000 to present to The New Zealand Red Cross to help with the amazing work they are doing in war ravaged Ukraine. Tom Bateman, Chair of Greytown MeNZ Shed said "We've always helped out on community projects but this time we thought we'd try to stretch a little further and help people doing it tough in the Ukraine. We knew we couldn't make and mend stuff from afar but came up with the idea that for one month when we made or mended for anyone in our community, we'd pass on 100% of their “thankyou” donation we normally use to keep the shed running, to the Red Cross Ukraine appeal." Tom Bateman said “We're blown away by the generosity and compassion of everyone who has supported us and lucky to have an organisation like the Red Cross who will put the donation to good use.” Greytown Menz Shed is at 85/87 West Street, Greytown and is open from 9 am to noon on Wednesday and Saturday. We are an inclusive community style shed welcoming everybody.



## *Carterton Menzshed*

The Carterton Menzshed has consolidated since our last newsletter.

We now have over 40 members with opening days increasing to 4 mornings a week. Tuesday is the main day with scones and muffins provided by Alan Batson at the morning coffee break, creating a convivial atmosphere to discuss issues and incoming requests from the community. The main activity of the club is for members to work on their own projects or to work on requests by the community for repairs or new builds which provide a small but welcome income stream. However another string to the bow has been added. With input from the community we are now providing the opportunity for neurologically diverse people to experience a workshop environment that otherwise would not be available. This has also provided its challenges, with supervision and a bit of learning on the job. However it has been a success with a handful of boys involved. They do seem to enjoy it. They are able to take something home they have made with a bit of help. With a healthy financial foundation and an enthusiastic, enterprising core group of members the Carterton Menzshed is in good hands, steering a true course, (hopefully now), with fair winds to take us into the future.



# Region Three News Continued

## *Henley Men's Shed*

All sheds are presented with almost daily requests from the general public for help in repairing or making things. Most are fairly common, like repairing toys or items of furniture, but occasionally someone turns up with something quite different, which you do not forget in a hurry.

At Henley, in Masterton recently a man called in carrying a few blown up photographs and a brand new bow saw blade, along with an odd request.

Could we kit set a replica of an old bow saw fitted with this new blade? "Probably", was the cautious response, "But why?" Let's forget the finer details, but it transpired this gentleman had spent some time recently in Ethiopia, with a chainsaw. Using the photos, he explained he'd spent a few days in an isolated village, whose main source of income was harvesting Australian Red River Gum poles, up to 10 metres long, which when split lengthwise, were used for scaffolding on construction sites. Incidentally, these poles are about 100mm at the butt end.

His initial task, along with his chainsaw, was to build a bridge across a steep sided gully, to save the villagers an hours walk to access these poles, which were cut down using a very crude type of machete, made by heating lengths of flat iron and beaten into shape with a cutting edge on one side. One step up from a stone axe if you like. Their only way of creating a hole in this timber when needed, was to heat a piece of reinforcing iron and burn the hole through.

Our visitor explained, that despite their lack of resources and access to more modern technology, once shown how a bridge could be constructed using bigger trees than they could handle, they immediately saw the value of the chainsaw and willingly, using their combined manpower, had the bridge built in a few days.

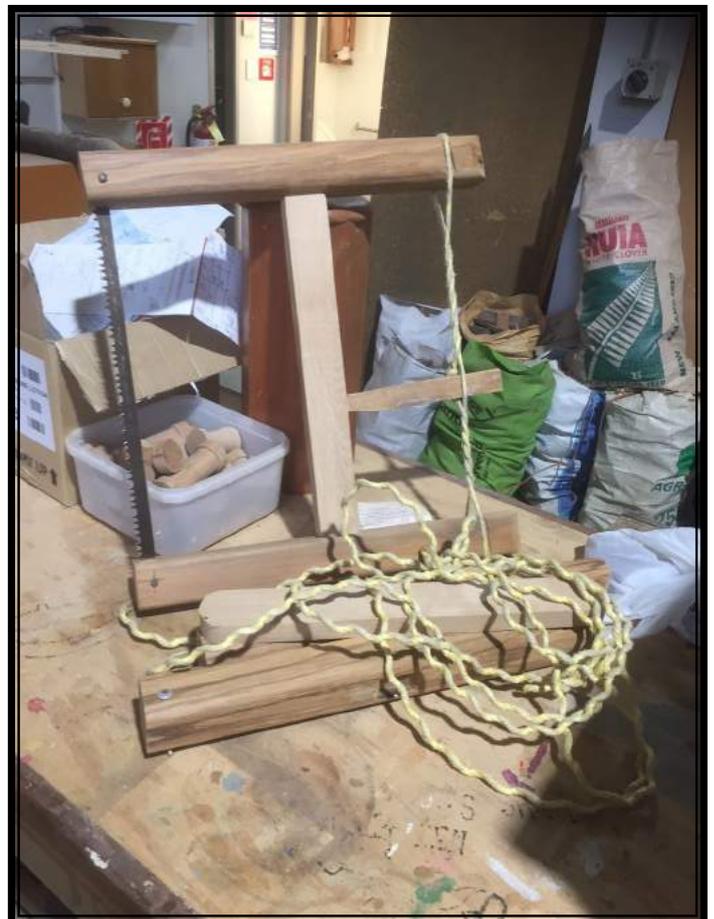
Wondering how these people could be further helped to improve their lifestyle, he hit on this idea of an old fashioned bow saw, made from local materials, if they had an example of how it was made. Hence his visit to us.

We accepted the challenge and once we had an old saw, we drew up a plan with similar dimensions. We made two kit sets from timber, including a fulcrum bar and a length of nylon cordage.

The one with the blade fitted was completed by placing the fulcrum bar into the notches in the middle of the handles, and then the saw was tensioned by looping the nylon cord around the top of the handles and twisted with a piece of wood, then locked behind the fulcrum bar.

The other, we substituted the blade with another length of nylon, which when looped in the middle, will hold a drill bit. With a block of wood held on top as a bearing, this will drill a hole by sawing the saw backwards and forwards.

One very pleased customer, accepted our gift with gratitude and with a few extra blades included, the package is on its way to a remote village in Ethiopia.



# Region Four News

## Canterbury and Westland

### *Happenings From Down at the Oxford Men's Shed*

**Warren Reserve Project:** Late last year I was approached by a local council officer with a box under his arm, in it was a collection of bits of decayed wood. His mission was to have this collection of bits turned back into what they formally were a group of wooden toys. It turned out that they were the remaining toys from what was the Warren School which long since closed ( the school centennial celebrations where in 2016 ) and the council now have the property as a public reserve. In this reserve there are still the swimming pool and sandpit along with some buildings housing maintenance gear . The swimming pool no longer holds water but the sandpit has plenty of sand and is popular with the young people who picnic there with their families.

The project has taken a while but is now nearing completion. This week the council will get a new set of wooden toys which being made from treated timber wherever possible should last the next fifty or so years despite being left in the sand pit in all weathers.



**More Storage:** Looking to tidy up the workshop by making more storage and combining a revamped saw table unit to fit the new saw into, led to the creation of a set of cupboards instead of shelves as we had previously. Cupboards were preferred as the items inside would not be so prone to the dust which floats about in a workshop .

A 2.8 metre long saw bench supporting it has created a very large amount of storage for range of supplies from spare screws, fastenings, machine parts and hand tools that should be safely stored where they won't get damaged or are not used often.

The saw cavity has a sloping bottom with the dust extraction pipe set in all ready to go. The extraction system is next on the list of things to do ..

# Region Four News Continued

## *Open day at the Ashburton Menzshed*

Due to enquiries from the general public and a desire to promote our shed, the promotions committee suggested the Shed hold an open day to promote and raise awareness to the community as was done in the past albeit several years ago.

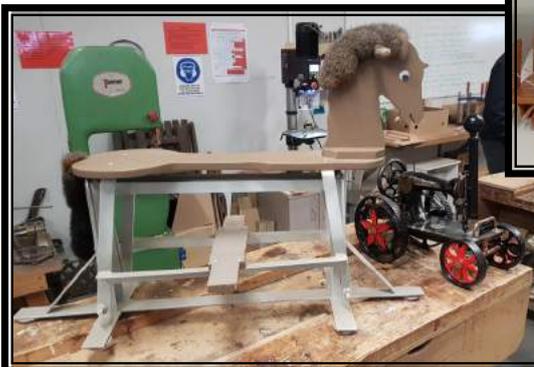
With the approval of the Management Committee planning was put in place, extensive advertising along with articles and photos was carried out with the local papers, face book and radio, an exclusive interview was conducted over the local Radio Station (Hokonui) breakfast show with DJ Phil Hooper and our Membership Chairman Keith Robertson.

The Shed was prepared for the day with members putting out for display projects, photos and items that have been completed or currently under repair or refurbishment including an assortment of model trucks and locomotives that members have made. It also was a chance to give the Shed an extensive clean out and give all the machinery a spit and polish.

The open day turned out to be fine and sunny, a sausage sizzle was provided by our most proficient cooks for all visitors to enjoy, many of our members were on hand to give conducted tours and explain to visitors the Shed operation and the use of the various equipment in all areas that member can use, a questionnaire was provided for visitors to complete following their tour to gauge how they foresee the Shed's operation and facilities regarding days of operation and opening hours etc.

The Shed gained 7 new members on the day and several visitors took away membership forms with the positive view of joining in the future

In all the open day was very successful with over 50 visitors signed in. More inadvertently missed the sign in register.



# Region Four News Continued

## *Bishopdale Menzshed -Red Baron's Fokker Triplane.*

One of the most loved floats in the Christchurch Santa Parade is a half scale model of the Red Baron's Fokker DR1 Triplane and a smaller aircraft with Snoopy. All who have seen the triplane close up say it is a beautifully crafted piece of work. Unfortunately after the last pre-Covid parade, when the triplane was being returned to its storage place, it was not securely tied to its transport and fell off (trying to fly!!) shattering all the wings on the starboard side and the tail plane as well as other damage. In September 2021 the Bishopdale Menzshed was approached by Mark Rayner from the Parade Trust to see if we could have a go at fixing it. We agreed and one of the other tenants on our site allowed us to use a garage to store it in. Without that facility the project would have been very difficult. The job was essentially a scaled up version of the balsa wood construction kitsets we used to do as kids. We made a new starboard bottom wing. The middle wing was originally a complete unit but we made a new starboard side and married it into the original undamaged port side. The plan was to do the same with the top wing but a close inspection showed the port side had been previously damaged and repaired so we built a whole new 3.5 m top wing. This wing also has a large flap on each side. The Parade Trust provided red nylon material to cover the wing skeletons. This was not ideal as it doesn't stretch and doesn't shrink so it was very difficult to get it evenly tight. However we agreed it looked ok from a distance. The next problem was a glue that would stick nylon to wood. We ended up using Zap-a-gap from Carbatec which is a CA glue (aka cyano-acrylate, aka superglue) It comes in 56 mL bottles @ \$25. It sets fast and did adhere the two surfaces but two attempts were needed for some of the more absorbent wood. Vinyl gloves kept it off our hands. When the project was almost complete someone suggested we could have used Ados contact adhesive. Subsequent trials showed this adhesive does stick the surfaces together but the nylon easily peels off. The whole project took nine months of intermittent work which was not an issue as the Trust gave us a year. The triplane is now complete and the Parade Trust are very happy with it.



# Region Four News Continued

## *Akaroa Mens Shed*

The Akaroa Men's Shed has been busy this last quarter.

### Shed Painting

Before winter set in we all agreed it was time to tidy up our Shed appearance. A working bee was held to clean up the entry way, clean the gutters and repaint the outside of the shed facing the street and the public.

While we were at it we repaired some of the adjacent Akaroa Trap Library shed and gave that a coat of paint too!



### Trap Making

Our regular rodent trap making for the Banks Peninsula Predator Free group continued with a contract to make some 600 traps in stages. Big job but we are nearly there. The 400 already finished have all been branded and coded ready for distribution across the peninsula. In addition we have made 300 for the local trap library.

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## *Kaiapoi Battle For Extension Leads*

THE GOOD NEWS -7<sup>th</sup> JULY- WE HAVE POWER ON AND ARE AGAIN BLESSED WITH THE SYMPHONY OF POWERTOOLS DOING THEIR THING.

The spirit of the Shed was not broken when we lost power due to Sutton's Factory fire on 30<sup>th</sup> January. Two generators were brought in, the smaller powered the urn for our morning cuppa while the larger diesel 3.5 kilowatt unit enabled us to run the larger pieces of equipment -one at a time. But the result was a scramble to find an extension lead every time you wanted to run a machine! The loss of electric power from our Shed brought many of our activities to a halt.

However it fostered a closer association between the guys- some only came for the morning tea. It was a good time for a chinwag outside on a frosty morning around an open fire and just talk.

There has still been the odd piece of work going out. Some very nice looking outdoor tables went to Ohoka School. We noted Trevor Scott's request to include pictures of people related to projects. Unfortunately, someone pointed out that to have a picture of the school children with a table would require us to get approval letters from all their parents first. So just a picture of our dedicated workers.

The Williams Street Bridge decorations have gone up and down per schedule. These included ANZAC and Matariki commemoration displays. The Matariki display featured solar and battery powered lights for each of the stars.

# Region Four News Continued

## Kaipoi Menz Shed Continued

One of our projects required the purchase of an edge laminator. Fortunately, the edge laminating was completed before we lost power due to the fire and the project, one of the largest that we have undertaken, was completed on time.

What the MenzShed does is it helps reinvigorate us, brings back a little of the “can do” spirit the Kiwis have practiced in earlier days. I installed a rotary clothesline before the earthquake and it had a lean for many years. Fortunately I was able to blame the earthquake but I had my suspicions. Anyway I decided it was time to attack the clothesline foundation and this has now been addressed and corrected. Thanks to the Menzshed for giving me the courage and confidence to complete this task.

Another project is a puzzle called “Border Patrol”. It utilises milk bottle tops loosely set into a board. The treats are hidden under the bottle tops and cats and dogs love scratching for the hidden treats. It is perhaps saving the planet- “One bottle top at a time”.

The Shed is back. Our profile has taken a pause due to the after effects of the fire- but we are now up and running again and seeking the community based projects which we enjoy such as installing the North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support street signs.



Neighbourhood signs



Ohoka School tables



Produce stand



Installing ANZAC day poppy



Pet Enclosure



# Region Four News Continued

## *Rolleston Men's Shed*

In these odd and changing times, the Rolleston Men's Shed carries on as normal. Membership is just under 70 and jobs keep rolling in. The Shed has a good advertising medium, with an article each month in the free local newspaper. What has been done for the community, for community members and for schools is described and the articles appear to be of interest to the readers.

A few months ago two chairs came in for work on them. It appears the first ones were well received and the Shed's expertise worked so two more turned up. Metal connecting rods are fitted from the front to back legs to stop them slaying under load. One of the first ones showed a little de-lamination which would have definitely reduced its strength.



The Engineering workshop, besides having nearly finished a trailer for the BBQ used at markets for fund raising, has also done work on a manifold for a Triumph TR4. Yes, that is reflection due to the polished steel.



What about a shoe tree? Here shown undergoing construction and in use.

Other Woodwork workshop jobs have been a shed for firewood and a set of large shelving for a community member. More jobs are on the way for the same person.

Technology keeps invading the Shed. A laser etcher / cutter is one of the latest. As a member had one that worked, the same make was bought for the Shed. Its first job was to cut out koru patterns. Previously, to prove such a thing was needed, vinyl lettering for stick-on notes and wooden boards with the Shed's name on them were done with the member's one and the results mounted on the door to the tea room. A 3D printer has been donated to the Shed so there is plenty of technology to keep up with.



Though there is talk of making things repairable two items recently proved they are not. A soldering station with four screws to dismantle it. Three were Phillips and one a "you-can't-unscrew-it". It was taken to with a drill. The fault? A burnout bit of printed circuit, easily fixed with a bit of wire. The other item was a camping lamp with burred Phillips screws.

# Region Four News Continued

## *Pegasus Woodend-Menzshed*

We have had a very busy time since our last report. This left the reader at the completion and opening of our new shed in October 2021. In the following nine months we have achieved a lot more. The shed is now completely filled with machinery and work benches are correctly located in their positions; tools and sundry items are also neatly stored. At the moment we are installing a small air filtration system which will be suspended from a roof support span just above our work bench area. Fine dust particles and fumes are always a hazard and I would imagine a cost burden for most sheds.

The shed also has a large working concrete area which is the outside extension for our workshop. It is great for large projects and for keeping some of the wood dust outside the shed. The only hindrance is the rain and cold but surprisingly enough there are not many days that prevent us from using the area. Two containers have also been installed, one for storing timber and the other for general storage and a small engineering workshop. We have a small lathe, drill and welding equipment along with a reasonable size workbench complete with a heavy duty steel top. The containers are served by a wide gravel pathway for all weather access and both containers have electricity for lighting and power.

Our membership is currently sitting around twenty seven. We have an average turn out of between ten and sixteen members for our Wednesday and Friday sessions. We recently had a very successful open day which attracted another three or four members. The Community has supported us and in return we have done work for them; some of it has been voluntary and the other being paid. The local schools, day-care centres and the local community centre have all enjoyed our workmanship; individuals have all received our help on various projects.

It has been an action packed nine months and we are still busy. A lot of money has been raised through jobs and grants but we seem to have a few holes in our pockets. Several attempts have been made to repair these holes but money still seems to fall through them and disappear. We have never been short changed by anyone as it is always spent, and what change does come along is always lost through these holes in our pockets.

Thanks for reading our report and all of you take care and stay safe.

Best regards Steve Burleigh Chairman.



# Region Five News

## Otago and Southland

### *MenzShed Invercargill Update*

MenzShed Invercargill was initially formed just over 5 years ago, following a public meeting called by South Invercargill Rotary Club to see if there was any demand for such a facility. By the end of the meeting, a steering committee had been agreed upon, chaired by Graham Sycamore from the Rotary Club. Things moved fairly quickly, as a couple of properties were currently available – maybe not perfect for our long term needs, but with a short term lease available for the Forth St. building, we decided it was an ideal place to commence operating. Graham calmly and capably led the administrative wing of the Steering Committee, and before too long we were an “Inc. Soc.”, with most of the Steering Committee agreeing to stay on the newly legalised one. Graham was unanimously appointed to continue as Chairman, and he ensured that all the legal and regulatory procedures were put in place, until our “t’s were all crossed and our I’s dotted” ! In the meantime, with some floor repairs, other maintenance, and electrical upgrade required, we were very lucky to have experienced, and mostly “retired” tradesmen on the Committee who could get our shed shipshape with minimum cost. (Our “2 Peters” – Peter the electrician, and Peter the joiner.) We received an amazing array of hand tools donated by the public, we also knew that we would need more substantial electrical machinery if we were to operate successfully. Peter “the joiner” Bailey offered MenzShed the use of his commercial equipment, including sawbench, thicknesser, drill press etc., which he had kept for the occasional job, and hobby work. This allowed us to open the doors for business, and as we had already commenced applying for equipment grants from our 2 main Community funders, the Invercargill Licensing Trust and Community Trust South, it was obvious that Peter was committed to the success of MenzShed. It was decided by the Committee to appoint Peter as Operations Manager, so that we had someone experienced in planning, supervising and pricing any jobs that came our way, given that it was mainly woodworking tasks that we were set up for. From then on the work flowed in, with many unusual requests and projects coming our way. In Peter’s own words, he “doesn’t like saying no” to any request, from cabbage trees and sails for the Pacific Island Trust’s pre-school playground, chocolate block ceilings and seats for Richardson’s Transport World Cadbury display, and a Pohutakawa Memorial Tree for Invercargill’s Murihiku Matariki Festival at Queens Park this week. Publicity for many of these projects and events played no small part in giving MenzShed greater community awareness, and an increased demand for specialised skills. Our initial thoughts and plans were that we would probably need extra space in the near future, especially as we wanted to expand into light engineering, and have more specialised space for the electrical work that was coming in. Within a year we began looking for a bigger shed. After viewing many buildings, all of which offered extra space, but came with other challenges, we finally agreed on 55 Liddell St. in early 2021. Again, no time was wasted, and Peter had drawn up plans for extensive renovations, with specified areas for the various items of machinery and equipment, as well as storage. It was all hands on deck for a few weeks to complete the renovations, as well as keep up with a few projects. Suffice to say, that although Peter led the charge with his commitment and expertise, it wouldn’t have happened without a dedicated team assisting. Blood, sweat and tears went into the renovations. We must also acknowledge the incredible financial support of our Community funders – the Invercargill Licensing Trust, Community Trust South, COGS, and Lotteries – as well as our landlord, the HW Richardson Group, and many of our Trade Partners. Graham stood down as Chairman when he shifted to Cromwell a couple of years ago. Graham was awarded a Life Membership of our shed before he left. MenzShed Invercargill had been well & truly established. Last year, after the move to Liddell St., where Peter had been working “eight days a week” (in spite of a couple of ailments), he was awarded Life Membership of our MenzShed. Graham and Peter – we are all grateful indeed that your leadership has achieved so much in just a few years.



Invercargill Licensing Trust Chairman, Alan Dennis, about to “cut the ribbon” to open our new Liddell St. Shed, along with Life Member & Shed Manager, Peter Bailey. Note the Life Members Honours Board in the background.

Life Member and MenzShed Invercargill’s inaugural Chairman, Graham Sycamore, (centre) speaks at our Shed opening, flanked by current Chairman, Paul Goffin (left) and Shed Manager & Life Member, Peter Bailey.



# Region Five News Continued

## **MenzShed Invercargill Continued:**

Much of MenzShed Invercargill's work comes from referrals, and our Matariki project was no exception.

A referral from the Invercargill Licensing Trust Chairman sent Sharne, from the Murihiku Matariki Festival Committee, along to see Operations Manager, Peter Bailey, earlier this year. Her request was to build a pohutakawa remembrance tree for this year's Matariki celebrations.

Not one to turn down a challenge, Peter agreed, & then set about how best to make one. They also wanted 1,000 plastic tags so that people could write names of family members they wished to remember, and hang on the tree. Moons and stars were also cut out of plywood, thanks to member Simon Seear and the CNC machine that he made from scratch.

The base for the tree was made by the engineering section, so the project was a real group effort.

1000 small nails were "nail-gunned" around the branches so that the named tags could be attached.

Although the tree initially looked a bit naked, it was soon well hung with memory tags, and looked very colourful, especially with coloured lighting.



# Region Five News Continued

## *Taiari Blokes Shed Celebrating Their 14<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

The Taiari Blokes members celebrated their shed birthday on the 16th July 2022. Where have the years gone? We believe we are the oldest men's shed in the South Island or can someone better this?

The shed celebrated by the cutting of a cake and a photo shoot. In the photo, Left to Right, Don Spittle, Shed member 3, in order of joining. Middle Dave Thomas, Number 1 both these members are in their 90s. Dave is 18 months of his 100th birthday. Also our shed chairman, Nick Wilson, number 43

In the first year 15 members had joined, 4 are still active today and 3 still come to enjoy the fellowship.

Three years later our roll had climbed to 36. 18 joined in 2011, just couldn't remember all the new names. With these numbers the shed totally outgrew the building we had started in. Our tenants, the local Aero Club offered us a much larger building nearby, but badly needed a complete refurbish inside. Members rolled their sleeves up and within a few months our building was ready to start shed projects again.

Today the membership stands around 60, with up to 30 attending on some shed days. Over the years many sheddies who joined, have found it wasn't for them. Some have moved on or have passed on. That figure would be as many as our financial membership to date.

The shed has achieved many challenges and interesting projects for our local community, this includes schools, councils, retirement homes, pre schools, and private work. Also personal projects for shed members and private persons.

The shed hasn't ever been out of projects as they keep arriving at our door, keeping our members involved in a space to share time for fellowship, well being and members health.

The future will be challenging but I'm sure our sheds will adapt to these times, looking after our member's wellbeing.



## **Kaikorai Valley High School (Braithwaite Centre) Project**

We were asked to provide playground equipment for a special group of students with learning support needs. The equipment would provide them with challenging physical activities. It included two ground level walking beams, two horizontal ladders fixed to the ground, a two lane bowling alley, five 2.4 x 1.2 metre framed panels mounted to the fence, two steel targets mounted on a gantry which gave a ring when hit with a ball and a concrete table tennis table.

After some research we found that the concrete table tennis table would swallow 60% of the budget, purchasing it commercially. One of our Shed members has a CAD drawing package at home and with his considerable engineering skills, set to and planned our own table. Another of our members who worked on the Clyde Dam brought his skills to the project and made the boxing for the table legs doing a great job of casting the concrete. The table top was made by a local company for structural reasons at a sympathetic price.

# Region Five News Continued

## Taieri Blokes Shed Continued:

The Bowling Alley was fairly straightforward apart from the skittles. Our wood turner made twenty perfect clones with great skill.

The five panels were to be fixed to the fence with key clamp fittings but these were far too expensive for the budget so the guys in our on site welding container fabricated twenty brackets to do the job which were a much better option. One of the panels had channels on the face forming a ball run and the other four panels are for art work to be completed by the school.

We installed the equipment over two mornings. Moving and craning the concrete items was a particular challenge! Its good to be able to report that this worthwhile job was completed under budget and in a timely way. This project involved a lot of planning, energy and skills. A big shout out to all involved.

Bill Chapple

Vice President of Taieri Blokes Shed



# Region Six News

## Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough

### *The Menzshed Motueka*

The origins of MENZSHED Motueka date back to 2011 when a small group of guys gathered together with a view to establishing a place where likeminded chaps could meet to socialise, enjoy one another's company and perhaps do something useful too. The intention being to formalise an association here in Motueka along the lines of the growing interest in MENZSHEDs throughout Australasia.

The formal aspects soon materialised into a constitution, election of officers and registration as an incorporated society, the only impediment to progress being that of not having a "Shed". The Motueka Recreation Centre however, generously permitted the use of its garage for weekly gatherings of members and a place in which to store some tools and other acquisitions donated by well-wishers. Members did manage to do some useful work in repairing broken gardening tools for the Motueka Community Gardens and generally being available to assist with practical expertise for odd jobs here and there in the community.

Meanwhile the brains-trust of the fledgling organisation set about searching for real premises and also raising funds for the acquisition of suitable equipment with which to actually make things that had useful application in the community. The costs of building a purpose built facility however were daunting and as it became apparent, beyond the means not only of philanthropic organisations but also members and the community itself.

A solution presented itself in the form of the Motueka A & P Society's Produce Shed. It is a large edifice that remained unused for much of the year but could be adapted to suit the needs of the growing interest in the community of a MENZSHED. Negotiations conducted in a spirit of enormous goodwill resulted in an arrangement to lease the building for a couple of decades but with the rider that the building would be made available for show days and for members to assist the Society as and when required. It has proved to be a durable and mutually beneficial deal.

Now that the awkward matter of premises for the MENZSHED had been satisfactorily resolved, the membership increased and so then began the programme of acquiring suitable machinery and other bits and pieces necessary for making, repairing and doing all sorts of jobs, not only for individual members but also for community organisations. Of particular note, the Network Tasman Charitable Trust made available sufficient funds to purchase workshop machinery in the form of a table saw, a bandsaw, thicknesser, welding equipment and several other items necessary for serious work. In another indicator of progress the local Member of Parliament the Hon Damian O'Connor agreed to be the patron. Other commercial organisations in our town who have provided valuable support include ITM, Placemakers and Mitre 10 – their support is so very highly appreciated. MENZSHED Motueka has benefitted from the donation of all sorts of handtools and bric-a-brac – it all adds to the portfolio of jobs members can perform.

The A & P Society's Produce Shed has had a facelift and is now ideally fit for MENZSHED purpose. Each year before Show day, all of the equipment is stowed away and the venue readied accordingly – it is a necessary discipline and ensures that things are kept shipshape during the year. The Members meet on a regular basis two days a week but the facility is available at other times depending on demand but with appropriate safeguards.

During the past few years, output from the Shed in the form of practical production has steadily increased. It includes the construction of numerous chairs, picnic tables, signposts, benches and similar artefacts that are now dotted all over the local community. A separate programme caters for the making of toys and puzzles for younger children – these items are available for purchase but the majority are given to benefit those institutions that assist kiddies who might otherwise have to do without. Each year, Santa mounts the sleigh his elves made in the Shed as part of the Christmas parade. Another programme constructs predator traps – a necessary tool in the campaign to restore New Zealand's local bird life.

A significant precept of the MENZSHED Motueka is not to encroach or compromise the professional activities of local tradies but rather to do those jobs that fall outside those parameters.

# Region Six News Continued

## Menzshed Motueka Continued:

Members come from all walks of life and includes women members. Expertise is shared amongst this eclectic group of mainly senior citizens. There are associations with other groups in the community, notably the Motueka Museum, the Crafty Tarts and the Motueka Quilters. Smoko is a vital part of Shed activities and the exchange of all sorts of ideas, experiences and good humour is something that everyone enjoys. Visitors are welcome and new members are not expected or coerced to serve on the committee shortly after joining. New friendships are formed and there is always a lot of chatter about this and that. There is an extraordinary camaraderie amongst the membership and a real desire to add matters of substance, practical and social, to all elements of our community.

Peter Cozens Article from local newspaper



## *Tapawere Men's Shed*

During May, our Shed was host to an informative Pallet Creations Workshop organised by Tapawera Connect. Workshop presenter Victor Santos started off by talking about pallet labelling – the various symbols, country of origin etc. Before deconstructing, he encourages a check for paint, oil, mould or insect contamination, all of which could affect how you start the job or the intended finished product. Then came deconstruction. Victor demonstrated a circular saw, jemmy and an angle grinder. Nails can be a challenge - some will be grooved and glued making the job a serious work. And cutting nails creates the risk of further tool damage if sanding or planing is part of the creation. Many ideas for repurposing pallets can be found on Pinterest. The workshop finished with a quick build of a table. More recently we received a request to make high quality pest traps. We obtained a proven design and were pleased to supply an excellent product and are now able to offer these to the wider community.

We have also received a commission to renew and upgrade a welcome sign in the village. This is a one off and more challenging project, but will help to raise our profile in the district when finished.



Welcome from MENZSHED Chairman Peter on the left, Juliana from Tapawera Connect and Victor.



Victor on the job - with assistance



The finished table.

# Region Six News Continued

## *Mohua MenzShed*

Bird-watchers have a new place to hide while seeking out views of Golden Bay's spectacular shorebirds. Last Wednesday, a crew from Mohua MenzShed installed a bird hide at Taupata Gravel Reserve, a notable roosting site close to Puponga.

The wooden structure is located on the seaward boundary of the reserve overlooking the extensive intertidal flats which, at low tide, extend to the horizon. It provides an unobtrusive vantage point from which to observe the range of species that gather nearby, including godwits, oyster catchers and royal spoonbills.

Cynthia McConville from Forest and Bird Golden Bay was there to witness the latest milestone in the campaign to repurpose the area. "We started when this was a freedom camping site and realised that we needed to do something to protect the birds."

That was three years ago, and that "something" began with Forest and Bird creating a natural boundary of native grasses and shrubs at the shoreline. "The idea was to establish a barrier around the area," said Cynthia, who is pleased with the result. "The planting has really taken off."

Cynthia encourages everyone to visit the reserve, which is no longer a freedom camping site, check out the new hide and learn about local shorebirds. "It's all about education; this is the way Forest and Bird have to go," said Cynthia. "We hope schools will use it as well as visitors and locals; it's open for everyone."

She acknowledged the "huge support" from community members who had worked with Tasman District Council and the Department of Conservation to realise Forest and Bird's vision. "A lot of people contributed," said Cynthia. "Andy Clark designed it, ITM [Tākaka] supplied materials at cost, and MenzShed built it. It's also supported by the Ornithological Society of New Zealand as it's a bird-count site for regional, national and international studies."

Taupata is one of seven key shorebird sites in Golden Bay identified by Forest and Bird, according to Cynthia, so the new hide may be joined by others in due course. "It might be the first of several bird hides."



# Region Six News Continued

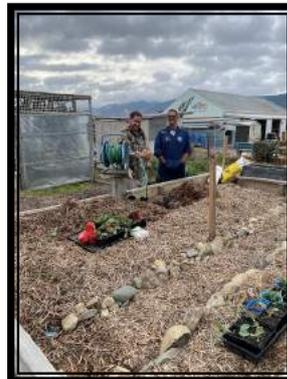
## *Mens Shed Waimea*

We had youth join us at the shed last month to make outdoor tables for pre schoolers.  
Programme involving Youth Nelson, Waimea College On Track and Whakatū Marae.  
Material and funding generously donated by Mitre 10 MEGA Helping Hands and Sport Tasman.  
We're very fortunate to have excellent community relationships.



We're much more used to seeing our shed co-ordinator Alan Kissell in sheddie attire of a hi viz top and work trou.  
Here he is togged up with Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro to receive the Queen's Service Medal for service to the community.  
"Investiture included high tea and a private meeting with their excellencies Dame Cindy Kiro and Dr Davis. It was a lovely ceremony," said Alan.  
Congratulations Alan.

We have several garden plots that are used by members. Daniel and Cliff's garden is part of a Whakatu Mauri Whenua programme to support men's wellbeing within a kaupapa Maori framework and teach sustainability around food. We will look forward to seeing the first kumara harvest - Cliff explained there are more varieties than the usual two we see at the supermarket. Daniel plans to plant seasonal vegetables all year round teaching others how to supply for their whanau.



Our shed continues to be open most weekdays, but periodic Covid cases necessitate shutting for a day or two.

Our Tuesday morning sessions for men with intellectual disabilities to attend are very popular. We usually have twenty plus on site. The blokes have been making domino sets the last couple of months.

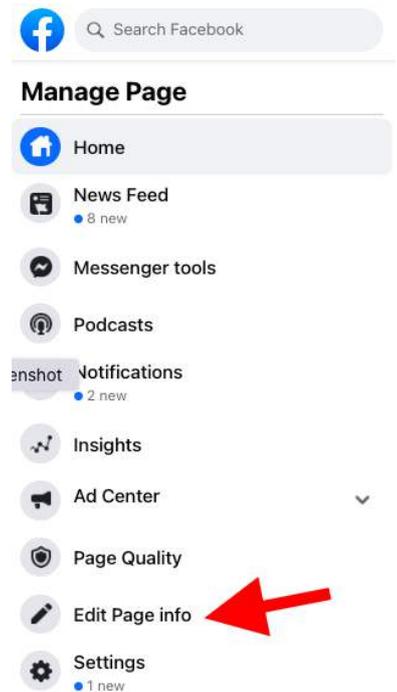
## *You Can change your Facebook Name of your page.*

If your men's shed has a social media page at Facebook, you may have had to choose names styled MENZ SHED Anytown or Menzshed Anytown because MENZSHED was always rejected.

As a result of a request by a sheddie, Meta/Facebook have modified their system to accept the word MENZSHED.

If you want to update your page, you will need to be the page administrator. Snip on the right is from a PC screen.

Remember the word "MENZSHED" is a Trademark of the national association of New Zealand men's sheds. That organisation approves member sheds using the word in their name and promotional activity. See <https://menzshed.org.nz/library/foundation-documents/>



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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/)

