

Sheddie News

January 2023

The official newsletter of MENZSHED NZ

From the Chairman

2023. A new year and what a year it is going to be. The conference is being held in April, with an appropriate title of “Coming Together Again”. Yes, the last few years have been frustrating with one thing and another but let us not dwell on that. Coming together in April is a way to revitalize membership, attend a gathering where we can share experiences, talk of projects undertaken and develop friendships with fellow sheddies from around the country. It really is worth your while to join us.

The AGM will this year be held as part of the conference programme. We have vacancies to fill on the executive. If we are to move forward and grow as an organisation these positions must be filled. It truly surprises me that although we have over four thousand five hundred sheddies throughout NZ we cannot get even half a dozen of you to commit to what is a very low commitment two year role. If folk do not step up we will fold up.

The positions we are looking to fill are: **Secretary, Treasurer, Regional Reps 1,3 and 5 and the Support role.** If you are interested in any of these positions please contact me ASAP. Lets have a chat.

2022 was a big year for Menzshed NZ as we had about ten new sheds being commissioned. This brings our total to one hundred and twenty four. There are still a number of sheds that are operating but are not members of Menzshed NZ. This is mainly due to their being not willing to embrace the fact that the main purpose of their shed must be for men’s health and well being.

My registration is all done, my ferry booking has been made and I am looking forward to cruising north to the Hawkes Bay and the conference. I would like to drop in on sheds as I go. Whilst up north after the conference I am cruising around that part of NZ and hopefully I will be able to catch up with sheddies as I go. You never know I may just drop into your shed.

See you at the conference

Regards Trevor

Conference 2023

The programme is set, the registration forms are ready for you to fill out. You only have to go to our website and there they are waiting for you. The speakers bio’s are their. Have a read they looking very interesting. The group setting up the conference have been working hard to make this event a great happening. “Coming Together Again” is most appropriate title as this conference sets the cycle for future conferences. We will be looking for a region to host the 2025 conference. A region where it is easy to travel to by plane, bus or car, has accommodation such as boarding school hostels or other forms of accommodation, has a number of local sheds that can share to setting up on the conference. If your region is keen to host the 2025 conference please contact me. We would like to announce the next conference location at the 2023 conference. Come on fill out the form and lets meet up at the conference.

New Years Honours: Congratulations to David Chapple MNZM

Menzshed Manawatu is delighted that founding and current chair of the organisation was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2023 New Year's Honours list. The list of activities David was honoured for is substantial. The shed intends having a celebratory morning tea on resumption of operations in January.

David cannot remember a time when he was not making something. As a primary school boy he made garden seats from apple boxes for relatives and neighbours. Pocket money was spent on tools when cheaper imports made these more available.

At Christchurch Boys High School David made use of the woodwork room and still has some of the items he made there. Following High School and two years working and studying he went to Auckland University to complete studies in Architecture. ”

Upon graduation he moved to Palmerston North, and was in business there for over 50 years. Early on he became involved in the local Branch of the Historic Places Trust and that sparked a lasting interest in historic buildings. When he was 13 years old, an uncle gave him some money to buy a book – he chose “How to Draw Churches and Cathedrals”.

He and wife Helen have always worked as a team, and David was fortunate that Helen's father had a good workshop, enabling him to do things like make furniture and windows for their house.

Before he finally “retired” David spent 12 years as the Property Manager for the Wellington Diocese of the Anglican Church, giving him an opportunity to assist and advise many church communities in the lower North Island on their buildings.

He was approached to be part of the establishment of Menzshed Manawatu in 2011. He has been Chairman since then, but will step down from that role at the end of this year. He is passionate about the Menzshed movement and grateful to the guys in his own Shed for their commitment, companionship and support .

He served as Regional Rep for the area for two years but found that the affairs of his own shed got in the way.



Health and Safety – Did You Know

Over the years many a good workshop, professional business, home workshop or workplace of the Menzshed variety have been set alight by nothing more than a rag impregnated with a vegetable-based oil being incorrectly disposed of after use or simply left lying around.

The type of oils that can start a fire are all readily available and commonly used by woodworkers. These include linseed, tung, Danish oil, teak oil and buffing oil. Processed oil is more dangerous than natural oils so boiled linseed is worse than raw linseed oil. Similarly natural fibre is more prone to ignition than man-made. While not usually a woodworker's oil biodiesel also belongs on this list.

Motor oils and spirits have spontaneously ignited on very rare occasions but only when an exact and very unusual set of circumstances occurred.

Vegetable oils on a rag oxidize when exposed to air. This oxidation process releases energy in the form of heat sufficient to start a fire, no other ignition source such as a flame or spark is needed in this process. A rag that is balled up or folded will heat more quickly as it retains the heat more efficiently if it is then thrown into a workshop rubbish bin with sawdust, offcuts etc it is little short of a bomb. An important point to remember is that it is the oil that causes the fire, the material that has absorbed it plays no part in the process other than becoming the initial fuel. It follows that the common practice of cleaning up larger spills with sawdust is a really bad idea unless disposal of the absorbent afterwards is carried out thoroughly and correctly. Where available sand is a much better option. If work is being carried out in a house or in a workshop that has carpet on the floor (why ever would you?) and oil is spilled you have the oil/fuel formula and while unlikely a fire is possible however contaminated, folded or bundled drop sheets and even the clothing worn can pose a real risk.

Once the oil has dried on the absorbing material there is no longer any risk. The method I use is to simply hang the rags I've used or may possibly have used (say to wipe my hands) out to dry on a tree branch or fence. I leave it there til the next day at least before disposal. The oil has still oxidized but the heat has been able to dissipate safely. Hanging the rags over the clothes line is never a good idea as it may ignite a heated reaction of a different kind!

If sawdust has been used to clean up a spill or become contaminated in some other way put it into a sealable metal container and fill the container to the brim with water.

Some years ago the NZ Fire Service noticed a disturbing number of fires in early education centres, always at the start of the Christmas holidays, on investigation it was found that common practice was for teachers to give wooden toys and furniture a coat of linseed oil, throwing the rags in the rubbish before locking up and heading home for six weeks.

An interesting fact I read while checking my facts and which illustrates the danger is that in the US it's estimated that 10% of gyms that store their used exercise towels overnight in bins or bales for collection or laundering later experience a fire caused by the natural body and rubbing oils present on the towels spontaneously igniting!

Thank you to Keith for the article.

Additional Benefit to Sheds and Their Members

Workspace NZ has kindly offered all member sheds and their members and friends of members a discount on their LED Lighting. They are offering 15% discount on each light sold. The brochure regarding this offer has been sent out to all sheds. LED lighting is so much brighter and uses less power. Don't work in the dark. Check it out.

Region One News

Northland and Auckland

Auckland Central Community Menzshed

Cedar Strip Canadian Canoe Project

This canoe built was an enjoyable distraction during the Covid19 lockdown. It took nine months to complete but I wasn't in a hurry to complete it as such an enjoyable project. This Canadian style canoe is a 15ft Ranger, built from plans developed by Ted Moore, a legendary canoe designer.



The construction is cedar strips, then covered with fibreglass inside and out to create the very strong waterproof hull and finished with UV resistance marine varnish.

The 5m long red cedar planks were cut from 6" x 2" rough sawn timber. The trim is American white ash and Rimu deck fore and aft. The paddles were hand planned from recycled Rimu and Kauri.

Technically it wasn't a difficult build, just follow the plans using basic woodworking skills. Cedar is a perfect timber choice for the strips. It's great to work, effortless to shaped with hand tools, easy to sand, can be bend in multiple directions without splitting to form the complex hull shape and has an appealing colour variation which is ideal for a clear finish.

A lot of time and care was taken in machining all the cedar strips to consistent dimensions of a finished size of 6mm thick x 19mm wide. As each strip is cut it needs to be marked as a matched pair, left & right, so the colour of the strip is symmetrical down the centreline of the finished hull. A bead & cove profile were routed onto each edge to make the strips interlocking.

Construction A 'strong back' box structure was constructed to attach the 13x station moulds to. The inner stems were steam bent and laminated before being attached to the end moulds. The cedar strips are PVA glued together and temporarily stapled to each mould station to form the hull profile.



The strips start at the gunnel and are built up on both sides to meet up at the keel centreline.



The last couple of strips are the trickiest as they need to be precisely shaped to make a tight plug. The ends of the strips are glued to the inner stem, trimmed to length and then capped by the outer stem which hides the cedar end grain.

All the staples are removed, gaps filled, outside hull sanded and fibre glassed using a 6oz cloth.

The hull is then removed from the moulds and turned right side up. The upper edge is trimmed to form the classic Canadian canoe shape with raised bow and stern. The inside hull is sanded and fibre glassed. The outer and inner gunnels are glued into place using every clamp I had.

Region One News Continued

Auckland Central Community Shed Continued:



Much sanding was required, using progressively finer paper, to finally end with 400 grit wet sand. After vacuuming out the garage I lined the room with plastic film to create a 'dust free' paint booth before applying three coats of marine varnish.

The seats and central yoke were built from ash and the seat woven from parachute cord – they are surprisingly comfortable. The yoke was hand carved by my daughter and is used for portaging the canoe on your shoulders. The finished weight is 28kg.

The project was assembled in my single car garage at home but it was invaluable to have access the woodwork equipment at the Shed to prepare all the components. It was a very enjoyable project to build and my family will hopefully get lots of use out of this summer. Rod Willis

New Plymouth Menz Shed

Well summer is here and the shed continues to be as busy as it has ever been. Several new members, plenty of community projects keep us active and the ever important cash flow helping the operating budget.

As you know we have rebranded and recently installed a "Sponsors and Supporters" board in the Shed to recognise the organisations and those in the community that support us. Has proved to be great advertising and a reminder to all sheddies of the generosity of our Sponsors and Community at large <https://www.facebook.com/Menzshednp>

Following our reorganisation from a Trust to Incorporated Society, the committee decided to increase the annual membership fee in line with many other Menz Sheds and to help give the Shed much needed funds to pay the ever increasing operating costs.

The committee has decided to prepare a Strategy paper identifying the options for an expanded Shed workshop facility to accommodate the increasing number of Sheddies wanting to use the MenzShed.

We also awarded (our first) life membership to George Haigh for his fantastic energy and commitment to establishing and running the Shed. The shed has given permission for this link to their facebook page if you wish to view photos. <https://www.facebook.com/Menzshednp/photos/pb.100070885194730.-2207520000./5366626413414746/?type=3>

Region Two News

Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Gisborne

Hamilton Community Men's Shed

Great to see the variety of projects coming together. Our member Keith has been working on a scale model of a Viking Boat. This has surely tested his skills while other members have been able to watch and learn as the boat takes shape. Perhaps a holiday in Scandinavia to learn more about the Viking story and their boats would be interesting.



Region Two News Continued

Greetings from Katikati MenzShed

2023 will hopefully be a far more pleasant and productive year for our branch than the past two.

Last year we not only lost the premises we were based out of, but also one of the Katikati founding members of the MenzShed. I am sure that a lot of those who have attended National functions as well as being visited by Ron Boggiss will know how he will be missed by the organisation. However we must move forward and this year the Katikati MenzShed will be moving on from our temporary base of the Katikati College Tech Block, into our own purpose built shed being built in conjunction with our local council and two other community services. At this stage work is planned to start in March 2023 and the finished shell will be handed over in May, all going to plan.

From that point we will have to fit out the shell with a smoko room, and the internal electrical wiring, along with lining the interior walls, Dust Extraction unit and possibly an area that can be set aside as a retail or display area, where items made by members either for the shed or perhaps sold on behalf of members. This and other ideas are still in their early stages of discussion but we see a lot of opportunities, especially as we will not be restricted in relation to attendance times as we are at present at the College with two evenings a week and Saturday mornings.

Our membership over the past year has been like the tide, up and down, with older members resigning or moving away from the area, and with new members moving into the area as well as some only just discovering the MenzShed organisation.

Like most sheds around the country, locals are slowly looking to the MenzShed to assist with some of those little jobs that local business are not interested in undertaking or just haven't got around to doing. We have at present a couple of small community based jobs, including the making (or replicating) of several church pews, a potting table for home gardeners, a couple of ornamental wheel barrows for garden art and the re-decking of a mobile dance stage trailer for the local Scottish dance group, as well as Roller Stamp pads, and a spinning wheel repair, along with the normal dining room chair repairs to name a few.

As mentioned, our hours of attendance for the first part of the year at least are Monday and Thursday afternoons from 3.30 PM until around 6.00 PM and on Saturday mornings from 9.00 AM, and invite fellow Shedders to drop in and have a yarn if passing through Katikati.

All the Best Dave Watson Secretary

Region Three News

Taranaki, Manawatu, Whanganui, Hawkes Bay and Wellington

Christmas Parade - Napier Menz Shed

A team of four shedders have toiled away on the construction of this years float since July this year. As the parade was cancelled last Christmas- due to Covid most of last years float was stored and ready for a clean-up. Our sponsor Napier Signs loans their truck each year so our float is designed to fit the truck tray. We feel the publicity we get from entering a float each year is vital to our shed. Another plus- over the last few years we've taken out first prize which comes with a cash bonus- this helps with our fundraising each year. Getting our name out to the public is a great bonus- the locals look forward to our floats each year.



Feilding Menzshed - Something Different at Christmas Time

Every year we have a family get together at Christmas and there is always a theme adopted. This year it was Tutankhamun, as it was 100 years since he was found. Everyone was to present some sort of memory of Egypt at the time of Tutankhamun.

Initially I made a 'mummified' cat with a Coca Cola bottle as the body and a wooden head wrapped in bandages from a torn up sheet. I then had a thought of a full size person mummy, at first thinking I could use a plastic skeleton, however they are quite expensive - so I thought I would make one out of timber.

Belonging to a Menzshed meant that I had access to a band saw and drop saw to cut up pieces of wood products, much more accurate and easier to do than with a circular saw.

I drew up a rough sketch of a skeleton and identified the pieces that I could do down at the Menzshed. Having identified that I could pre-cut the skull, shoulders frame and hip frame from scrap we had at the shed, I cut out those pieces one morning and took them home to put it together. I used one of the guys as a model for height, width hips and shoulder, and measurements of his skull to give me some dimensions.

Region Three News Continued

Feilding Menzshed Continued:

I used a 100x25 piece of timber as the spine, which at time of construction was longer at both ends than the body to enable it to rest on construction blocks in the horizontal plane on a plank set on cardboard boxes and to hang from bottom chord of truss in the shed for bandaging.

I used screws and PVA glue to join up all the bits, the legs were from tree branches and the arms from a timber broom handle. The ribs were from an old hose screwed to the sternum and spine. The knees were made from a tennis ball. Some foam pad stuff was used to round the skull. About six queen size sheets from the app shops in town were torn as 100mm wide bandages and wound around the frame. Staples and PVA glue were used to secure the sheets to the body.

The big disappointment was that the ribs did not show, however it was hard enough getting them on without trying to capture the ribs. Two balloons were blown to size to fit in the gut area.

The mummy was placed into my home made plywood casket for my final resting place. The ply was fixed to a 50x25 frame work with screws from the inside, The in-between pieces are temporary supports for shelving as I use it to store books etc, they will be removed at time of my occupation. It is fixed to a wall by a screw for earthquake support. Thanks Chris



Region Three News Continued

Menzshed Manawatu

One of the institutions in the Manawatu is the annual Red Cross book sale. It is held over a long weekend and attracts thousands of book lovers. Red Cross had a building in the city where they stored and sorted the offerings and ran a bookshop for the rest of the year. However, that building was deemed unsafe due to being an earthquake risk so they were forced to move at short notice. The space they moved to was a four bare walls building with very little shelving.

Menzshed Manawatu set about building and fitting a complete set of shelving into the space. The material was donated by a local benchtop manufacturer. Because the shelves were to be edged in red, Menzshed approached another Kitchen firm, who agreed to edge the shelves with vinyl at no cost. They in turn approached the supplier and they got behind the project and provided the material at no cost. True community support. The project took almost a year to complete but the results are very pleasing and Red Cross have been able to run a full time book shop from the space as well as being able to sort the offerings for future book sale weekends.



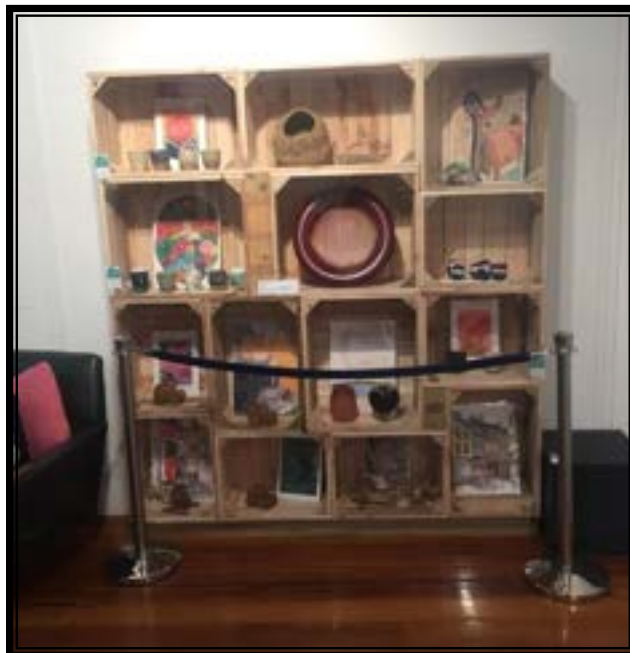
Square Edge Community Arts Centre

The community arts centre in Palmerston North provides a gallery for local artists to display their work. It is a public gallery and there was some concern about the security of the artworks in such a space. The Shed set about producing an array of various sized and stackable display cases from pallet timber. Each display case has a Perspex cover to protect the contents.

The result has been a vibrant and flexible and colourful display area for artists to feel secure leaving their



works on public display.



Region Three News Continued

Henley Men's Shed

Late last year, an older woman brought an old rocking chair into the Henley Menzshed in Masterton, and asked if it could be repaired and spruced up a bit.

Obviously old, it certainly needed some TLC, with a plywood seat which was delaminating seriously, but overall didn't appear too badly damaged. It was black all over and we had no way of knowing what it was made of.

On a subsequent visit she informed me, it had been brought to N Z by her great grandfather in the 1870's or 80's, and once it was cleaned up she wanted to give it to her great granddaughter.

On closer inspection, I discovered the black coating on it was very old Shellac, which when scraped with a pocketknife, shattered to reveal a turned English Oak chair underneath.

With diligent scraping and minimal use of sandpaper, and a few minor repairs, it was soon time to give it three coats of Shellac and final coating of high quality beeswax furniture polish, which retains its old patina and glows warmly in the sunlight.

Unfortunately, I didn't photograph the chair before transforming it into what it is today, but during the process, it suddenly struck me that there can't be too many pieces of furniture in this country, whose lineage can be traced through six generations of one family.

While the owner is blown away and extremely grateful for what we've achieved with her beloved chair, she has become very interested in tracing her family history through this estimated 200 year old chair.

The restored old rocker now awaits its new owner, a young lady of just four weeks old.



Region Four News

Canterbury and Westland

Rolleston Men's Shed

The two months before Xmas have been busy with jobs for schools, the Fire Brigade and the local Council as well as members of the community and Shed members.

The Shed advertises its existence every month in a free local newspaper and every two months in another. From this free advertising we get a lot of jobs from the community.

One school had three bag cabinets made. The hooks on the original unit were cast hooks which cost a lot each and students managed to break them. The ones fitted to the Shed-made units were simple steel rods. Easy to put a bag on and off and cost next to nothing.

Another school, after we had made a couple of sand pits for them, got a couple of gaga-dodgeball pits. These are octagonal and the sides are pinned with pull-out bars, making dismantling for storage easy.

The Headmaster, a couple of teachers and the groundsman came to the Shed's morning tea bearing cake and congratulations on the work done. Yes, the Headmaster had played a game of dodgeball. He had been put out, he said, due to his long legs. If you check the rules you will see why.



The council wanted 12 tables for their teaching section. A large stack of plywood is being converted to table tops and the offcuts go back to the council for another project they have. The Fire Brigade needed three bench tables for outdoor use. Trailer loads of benches were delivered to the fire service one day.

Earlier in the year we were offered computers to distribute to Sheds. The person involved says he has seen glaciers move faster and the blame lies with the overseas company involved. However some have trickled through and the HUB meeting at Lincoln was a chance to give what we had to Sheds attending the meeting.



Over 40 computer upgrades have been done for a number of Shed members and because of the free mentions in the local paper, some have also been done for community members. This usually involves fitting a solid state disk and Linux to software. The result is a fast, reliable and easy to use computer

Rolleston has a toy library so various toys are made and supplied to it. Christmas means reindeer. These ones come apart and make storing easy when not needed. The Cancer Society fitted noses and decoration to the ones the Shed made for them.



Ronald McDonald House wanted wooden food platters made and our laser etcher was hard at work engraving their logo on all 42 of them.

Region Four News Continued

A Brazier for Kaiapoi

2022 was a year of starts. Starting after Covid. Starting eventually when our generous hosts- Sutton Tools (NZ) Ltd- allowed us back on site after their disastrous fire, Starting up the portable generator to give us limited power for the shed. Starting up all equipment after being connected again to the electrical grid.

We have seen not only individual projects and shed projects completed- but importantly – we have been able to complete community based projects. With approximately 30 members turning up each work day it is easy to lose track of the projects being undertaken. The workshop is cramped and we are looking forward to our new workshop- perhaps by Christmas 2023?



Cat Enclosure. One of the larger projects was supplying and installing an enclosure for a lady to keep her cats in.

Laying Gravel. Another lady had requested us to level some ground and cover it with plastic prior to it being covered with gravel. The guys came back dusty from laying the plastic and the next week several guys with

wheelbarrows and shovels went back to spread 8 cubic metres of gravel for a very grateful lady.



Renovated Table. The table, originally a drop leaf, has been reconfigured as a flat top table with finishing love from Richard and Jeff in the paint shop for one happy customer.

Saw Horses. Saw horses with a difference, made from plywood and stackable to provide different heights.

Grooving the Timber. A rather technical job machining the groove in timber using a circular saw by feeding the timber at an angle. One step in the manufacture of cheese platters.



Metal workshop. Part of the metal working team in front of their cramped work shop- hidden inside a shipping container. Dave and Doug are holding a part of the mobile tool rack they are currently manufacturing. The metal working team have completed many projects including shelters for the bowling green and a framework for plants at the Kaiapoi Food Forest Garden.

Clamps and Wedges. The end timber of a chest of drawers had split and one section had shifted vertically and also tucked its way inwards. The timber had shrunk leaving a gap between the two

halves of the damaged timber.

Bert tackled the project by firstly clamping lengths of 4” by 2” timber across the inside and outside. These provided a backing for the wedges to push one section out to line up with the other. A feather of timber was inserted in the gap. Several clamps were placed to massage the timbers together and hold while the glue set. After whittling down the feather with a spoke shave followed by gentle sanding the feather was stained to match the original timber before the final coats of varnish.

Garden Seat. The repair shop jobs keep coming in. Sam and Arthur working on a garden seat which has an ornate metal back.



Region Four News Continued

Timaru Community Menzshed

Lincoln Hub Meeting : We lost our navigator for the Lincoln trip but made it without any problems. Stopped outside a house and asked a couple cutting their hedge the location of the Menzshed, they said they never realised there was one We carried on and stopped outside a building site where a young carpenter produced his cell phone and was able to help our 12 seat van driver program GPS to take us to the Lincoln Menzshed which is beside the Lincoln Rugby Club

Had a good look round, a lot of give away items on display, very impressed with their new building in the final stage of construction. Hub meeting then lunch at the Lincoln Rugby clubroom . Great day. Thank you Lincoln Menzshed



Christmas BBQ : Usually when BBQ's are organised, it rains, but the weather gods turned on a brilliant sunny day for ours with a big turnout of members, members wives and partners. We were spoilt for choice with the amount of food served at midday. Even whitebait patties! Ice cream was served with a variety of desserts. A big thank you to the committee and members who helped to make the event a success



Gullivar's first check : Instead of Gullivar's legs going across and down to the peddles he kept wanting to go down and across, it did not look right so a temporary permanent fix was required. A galvanised nail was driven into the wooden frame. While he was down he had his joints oiled.



Region Four News Continued

Halswell Menzshed

The last few months have been pretty busy for Shed members with projects continuing to roll in.

One project though, is worthy of special mention:

Background: In Issue 103, Jul-Aug 2022, of The Shed magazine one of our members, Edwin Edmonds, had an article titled: "My Shed Story so far". This was Edwin's story about how our Shed had helped him following the sudden death of his wife just as they were heading into their retirement years.

Meanwhile, on an island far, far away Alan Harvey, (Chatham Islands) receives and reads The Shed magazine cover to cover. On reading Edwin's story and understanding more about our Menzshed and our culture, he, along with other members of the Anglican congregation decided that we were just the people to help them with repairs on their historic church.

Project: I received a phone call from Alan asking if some members of their congregation could come to the Shed during an upcoming trip to the Mainland. Soon after, three people from the church came and met with us to see if we would be able to help in the restoration project of the heritage listed building. The main item of concern was the feature window in the church. Consisting of 3 sections, including lead-light stained glass, it had suffered from the ravages of time and weather. The church is still in regular use for worship and is often visited by tourists to the island.

Following various discussions, a date was organised for Des Thomson and Grant Taylor to fly to the Chathams. There is only one flight a week from Christchurch, so planning included being away for the week. They flew out on Tuesday 15 Nov and returned on Tues 22 Nov. Des and Grant needed to travel as light as possible and were working out what tools they needed to take. Des asked what was available on the Island and this was their response:

"We have the following tools available for your use. Sabre saws, Multi Tool, drill and bits, wrecking bars, scaffolding, Paslode Nail Guns, Impact Drivers, screws. Also Fishing Rods, Bait, hooks, bandaids!! Paua and Crayfish maybe. All Supplied."

If the job was completed in 3 or 4 days, they figured they would be able to cope. In fact, the window was so rotten that it was out, the salvageable pieces packed up and temporary cladding and polycarbonate as a temporary window - all in a day and a half. Leaving Grant and Des to fill in the rest of the week enjoying Islander hospitality...sightseeing, fishing and enjoying the local cuisine.

Currently we are waiting for the crate to arrive by ship in Timaru and then on-freighted to the Halswell Menzshed in Christchurch.

The plan is to start the rebuild in the new year, crate the new window up, ship it back and make a return trip in March or April. I have a feeling we won't be short of guys to do the return trip to put the window back in and repair other window sills at the same time!

On a side note - if we are concerned about the cost of living recently – one of reports included the following:

"Our hosts have been telling us about the cost of living over here - add 30-50% onto the cost of everything, compared to back home."

(Pictures of this project are on the next page)

Region Four News Continued

Halswell Menzshed Continued:



Region Four News Continued

The Shed' Magazine Projects

The January/February 2023 issue of The Shed magazine is in many ways a tribute to our New Brighton MenzShed, as one of our members was asked to write its Christmas issue cover article. Entitled Six Summer Projects. The brief was given in June, with the deadline being the end of October. We took on five of the projects, while the Halswell MenzShed took on the sixth.

Our projects consisted of a workstation, a wooden easi-poise lamp, a coffee table with a place to keep children's toys and the like, an artist's easel and a swivel tablet holder. They all looked stunning when they were finished, and all found good homes. The tablet holder went to a school for special needs children, and was very much appreciated.

The workstation was the big one. Seven months after it began, it was finally installed in the administration office of the recently restored St Faith's Church in New Brighton, where it was well received. It was good to see it gone from our shed, as it had dominated it during its construction.

What was interesting was that most of the projects were achieved using materials from our timber racks and fixings shelves, with very little having to be bought. The total cost was just on \$400.00, which the magazine reimbursed. Considering the complexity and detail involved, it was a huge success and showed what could be done with the astute use of what was available without having to buy very much at all. The can-do nature of the MenzSheds at their best.

It's impossible to calculate how many hours went into the projects - economically they would all have cost far more than their eventual value. What was very measurable however, was the satisfaction, the teamwork - the demonstration of what can be achieved when the need arises.

The point behind the projects was the need to draw on resources both from within and from around the communities in which we live. It's getting harder to live, with inflation, housing prices and social expectations pushing the cost of living far beyond the means of many. The more we can repurpose, make or recycle, the more we can mitigate, to some degree, against stresses and pressures that can at times seem relentless.

The picture opposite shows Al wiring the easi-poise lamp while to the side is the workstation early on in its construction. You can see from Al's mask that this was in the dark days of Covid, yet even that couldn't stop the simple pleasure of just getting together and making stuff - the spirit of the MenzShed alive and well in New Brighton.



Region Four News Continued

Bishopdale Menzshed

We have been working with Kai Kori Waitaha (Play in Canterbury) making equipment for Jimmy Sinclair and his team to take out into schools (mostly primary) to get students out of the classroom and engaged in largely non-competitive activities. Equipment has included quoits, corn hole and giant jenga sets. The pegs on the quoits are from a stack of turned kitchen chair legs that we acquired. They have been on site for a number of years and there had been discussion about throwing them out.

Over the break I have been working on ramp walking animals with varied success. These are deceptively simple but the Physics is quite tricky with the walking achieved by shifting the centre of gravity as the leg(s) move. There are two types. One with a central body and rear legs on the outside that rotate through a restricted angle, typically kangaroo and rabbit type animals. The other has three body (or part body) parts with a fixed leg laminated together. The middle piece has a cavity cut out for a pivoting leg. Both types seem to work best made from 12 mm material (mdf or plywood). There are many different examples on the web. There are not many plans on the web and even fewer plans that actually work. The thought is that ramp walking critters may be an interesting project for blokes who join but don't have any project thoughts in mind. They are relatively small so don't take up much space, use minimal materials so rejects can just be dumped and there are potentially a number of outlets; grandchildren, local preschools and fund raising ventures. There are web based outlets from which plans can be purchased for around \$15 and if the idea took off that could be a source but the feeling is they should be simple enough to design and build. The only downside is a bottle neck at the bandsaw. I would be pleased to hear from any member who has had experience with these toys. Contact Richard Rendle, rendle@xtra.co.nz



Region Five News

Otago and Southland

Riverton Menzshed

Greetings from the deep south!

There's never a dull moment at Riverton Menzshed aka the Riverton 'Repair Shop'. Recently local people brought in an old trunk. In fact a trunk that had been manufactured in Europe in 1760 and subsequently transported to New Zealand. This very old trunk hadn't been opened for many years, the key having been misplaced. Menzshed crew and interested observers led by Ted Saul set to work to open the lock and what a surprise when it finally popped open..... inside there was the key! Never a dull moment.....

Our club is on a reasonably small scale in terms of active members, but we do have some very skilled carpenters and craftsmen. One of our number Richie Wilson recently featured in newspapers throughout New Zealand in an article about choosing to move from Queenstown to this little seaside town of Riverton and his involvement and commitment to Riverton Menzshed. Recently Richie has completed an interesting and complex project for a local lady, a carefully crafted wooden hand hay baler. Such is the talent among our members!

This year we have opened the 'shed' to a Women's Workshop. Several keen women have participated in projects from housie counters fashioned from a broom handle, to a folding table to a nifty advent calendar. Among these is a Samurai Whirligig pictured, made super big with a view to scaring dogs away from hen-bothering activities.

Prior to Christmas, the focus for our members was a children's playhouse for a Christmas raffle prize and in order to get it ready in time, it's been a case of all hands to the plough! At the time of writing, it wasn't quite finished, hence the action photos of the men moving it to a more accessible location for finishing. Also pictured is the end result

As has been noted in many reports to Menzshed New Zealand, an important aspect of our group is the friendship and support shown each other. To that end, we welcome visitors to our shed which is open Wednesdays 1 - 4, Saturdays 9 - 1 and our Women's Workshop Thursdays 1 - 4. If you're visiting this lovely part of New Zealand, please call in and join us for a cup of tea and if you're lucky enough to visit us on Saturday morning, enjoy the delicious baking of our Chairman, Alan Oakley. We're at 160 Palmerston Street, Riverton, behind Fleck's Hall. N. Bartley, Secretary



Region Five News Continued

Alexandra Men's Shed

Tribute to
James Neil McArthur

It is with deep sadness we advise that Neil McArthur, a foundation member of the Alexandra Men's Shed, has passed away. He died quietly in Alexandra on the morning of 8th January with his dearly loved wife Jenny at his bedside.

At a meeting in the Alexandra District Club the hand-written minutes dated 20 August 2009 record the presence of Neil McArthur, Graham Box, and Russell Airey together with the late Bob Edwards, Lex McLean and Brian Phillips, for the purpose of discussing the formation of a men's shed in Alexandra.

However, it is without doubt it was Neil's subsequent inspired dedication and outstanding contribution which drove his single-minded focus toward eventual establishment and development of his vision. This was achieved two years later with the formation of a charitable trust witnessed by an agreement dated 27 April 2011, to be known as The Alexandra Men's Shed Trust.

Neil was the first regional representative for Otago Southland, a position he held for some years while also assisting other newer sheds become established throughout the region.

Neil's funeral was attended by a good turn-out of members together with representatives from Taieri, Invercargill and Cromwell, with Trustee member Ayson Harris speaking on behalf of shed members. A Guard of Honour was formed at the conclusion of the ceremony.

R.I.P. Neil. We are indebted to you.

Region Six News

Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough

Picton Men's Community Shed

Boat project: following retirement I was enjoying learning how to use all of the machinery in the Picton Men's Community Shed. After over 40 years working as a Doctor my engineering and woodwork skills were minimal and I was keen to learn. Under the tutelage of Hans, a retired cabinet maker, I built my first project; a coffin to my 95 year old mother's measurements. I haven't told her yet.

I had also wanted to build a small boat. Another member (Bill Pettigrew) is also the Secretary of the Clinker Boat Club and as a retired boat builder he was the perfect tutor. He had already built this particular type of kit set boat and recommended I try a version called "Stitch and Glue". I sent away for the plans from the Sabotina Company. The project uses plywood panels cut to shape and the joints are then stitched together with cable ties. The joints are then glued and filleted using the West system. Bill had already built several of these boats and as he was already working on his own one my project was perfectly timed to take advantage of his knowledge and skills. For example, when mixing the glue I had to get it to the consistency of peanut butter so that it didn't run.

The Picton Men's Shed has an outside area under cover and it has good ventilation so we have been able to work without creating an unpleasant environment inside the actual building. On sunny days it's even better to be outdoors. Thanks John Welch



Region Six News Continued

Tapawera Menzshed

The 2022 year has been a challenging year for the shed with Covid requirements having an effect on attendance by members, a lack of projects and to a lesser extent health issues.

However, some maintenance was carried out to the shed, surplus items of equipment were sold, a BBQ table and a firewood cutting trestle built, as well as refurbishing a large meeting table for the local community council.

During the year we were asked to construct some pest traps which we duly supplied. We then decided there was an interest in them and ultimately built about 50 of the units, some of these have been sold, and hopefully there will be some further sales of the unsold units as winter approaches.

We were asked to design, gain funding and consents, build and erect welcome signs at each end of the village. This caused much discussion but in the end we decided that the building part was the only segment we were interested in. Subsequently we offered to reinstate and upgrade the old welcome sign on the village green, this offer being accepted by the Tapawera Community Council. This project took longer than originally thought due to material holdups and poor weather conditions for doing outside work. We had decided to mount the new sign on old wooden railway gate (circa 1906) that was donated to us. The new gate posts needed to be fairly substantial due to the size and weight of the gate and sign, and luckily the local St. Arnaud DOC donated a 100yr old bridge beam for this purpose. The gate was repainted and hung with the original hinges, an interesting job as the hinges were square in cross section and we only had round boring bits.

Holes were dug, posts lifted in, concrete poured, new sign cut out and painted, posts painted, capping put on posts and sign lifted into place and fixed. Job completed.

The new gate is now sited some 20 metres from where it was originally located when it was on the Railway stockyards at the time.

Chairman Peter Phillips speaking at the unveiling of the new sign along with Menzshed members.



In December members of the shed celebrated the Tapawera Shed being 10 years old. It's articles of incorporation were signed 25 November 2012.

A birthday cake was baked and eaten at morning tea during our regular Saturday morning session, with past and present members, not long after this date.



Roger Bowman, one of the founding members cutting the birthday cake, with other members looking on.

Region Six News Continued

Blenheim Menz Shed

Happy New Year everyone. We trust you all had a break over the festive season and have returned to your shed invigorated and ready to rumble, Since our last submission, (which seemed to have got lost in the electronic triangle!), We have boosted our membership into the 40's, and celebrated our 10th anniversary. Our 10th anniversary was held in November last year in a community house next to our MenzShed. It took the form of a lovely lunch with liquid refreshments to follow, preceded by short speeches by guests who so generously committed time to set up a steering committee which eventuated in forming the MenzShed Blenheim Inc.

After some years of deliberating, procrastinating and trying to get sponsorship for an AED, we decided to purchase one through CellaAED for around \$500. This offer is available to all MenzSheds. However, be aware that it is a 'one use item' and there is a waiting list. As luck would have it and soon after we ordered and paid, we were offered sponsorship for a Red Cross AED by our local Freemasons Lodge. We have accepted their offer, and the AED will be located in the community house next to our shed so all the local user groups can benefit.

We continue to recycle bicycles which we give away to needy people and schools, and also sell to the 'not so needy'. It provides a stable income for us.

Our shed organised a morning tea to include ourselves, Picton, Renwick and Havelock MenzSheds at a local café/restaurant before Xmas. Unfortunately Picton had another commitment that day, but around 30 people attended and enjoyed the camaraderie and banter. The plan for the future is for each shed in turn to organise an activity every 3 months.

Again, we continue to provide company and activity for our members as well as a service to the Marlborough community.

All in all, we are "happy chappies", and may it long continue.

Dave : Chairman



Good Governance Code

2022 saw the introduction of the “Good Governance Code”. For all organisations this may mean looking to update what you do at your shed in terms of governance. It outlines the following:

Principle 1: Rangatiratanga and Impactful, Purposeful Leadership.

Principle 2: Whanaungatanga/Whakawhanaungatanga and Connected Leadership.


Principle 3: Tuakiritanga and Diverse and Inclusive Leadership.

Principle 4: Manaakitanga and Integrity and Accountability.

Principle 5: Kaitiakitanga and Transparent and Open Leadership.

Principle 6: Pono and Effective Governance Processes.

To find out details regarding the Code visit: www.communitygovernance.org.nz or **our tool box on our website.**

	<p>A reminder to Facebookers that we have a shedder group called the MENZSHED NZ shed forum at https://www.facebook.com/groups/917022518450093</p> <p>Presently 47 sheds are represented by 89 shedders.</p> <p>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.</p>
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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/

