

# Sheddie News

April 2023

The official newsletter of MENZSHED NZ

## *From The Chairman*

Flooding in Northland, Auckland and Coromandel, a cyclone hitting the East Cape and Hawkes Bay all caused chaos this year. On contacting each shed in the Hawkes Bay, Gisborne region I was surprised to hear that they came out of it with only small amounts of damage. One shed in Auckland was not so fortunate. Sheds rose to the occasion with large amounts of funds donated to the cause, which was very heartening. I am sure that these funds will be well spent in those regions needing the assistance.

The chaos caused us to cancel the conference set for the Hawkes Bay in April. My heartfelt sympathies to the committee who worked so hard in preparing for the conference only to see their efforts not come to fruition. Re-thinking what we could do for our ten year celebration of Menzshed NZ, the Kapiti Shed came to the rescue and a one day event was held. This began with the AGM. A presentation was made to Peter Blackler who was stepping down as treasurer. Diane Turner, Director for Seniors then spoke to us. We ended with a social get together. I must say the men of the shed did themselves proud by baking yummy scones and putting on a very nice afternoon tea spread.

There is a time for stepping down from a position and only that person knows when the right time is. Peter Blackler has been our treasurer since MENZSHED NZ started ten years ago. He has given his services looking after the books as well as being a very valued member of the executive providing much wisdom. He will be greatly missed.

I appreciate that things did not go according to plan in relation to the webinar. This will be looked at during the coming year and fingers crossed will not happen again.

A new year ahead and what do I see happening with MENZSHED NZ.?

- ⇒ Firstly an increase in region reps visits to shed. This is a vital link in getting to understand the needs of sheds and then be able to react accordingly.
- ⇒ Working with communities to establish sheds and providing support as they work through the process of establishment.
- ⇒ Promoting MENZSHEDS wherever possible at events like aged peoples expos etc.
- ⇒ Providing more benefits and reviewing the benefits we have at present.

Our executive is fully committed to supporting you. We believe “We are here for you” and take this very seriously. **We can only help if we understand and have been told about concerns within sheds.** Please help us to help you by keeping in touch through your regional representative or directly with the chairman.

Region 1 David Broadhead regrep1@menzshed.nz

Region 2 Keith Dickson regrep2@menzshed.nz

Region 3 Murray Campbell regrep3@menzshed.nz

Region 4 Trevor Scott regrep4@menzshed.nz

Region 5 Ian Miller regrep5@menzshed.nz

Region 6 David Packer regrep6@menzshed.nz

Chairman Trevor Scott chairman@menzshed.nz

I look forward to the coming year with enthusiasm. Regards Trevor

## *Farewell To Peter Blackler*

An end of an era, ten years is a great contribution made to MENZSHED NZ.

Peter will be missed. He has looked after our books for ten years. He has contributed to executive meetings and provided us with his wisdom. Our meetings in the future will be a bit quieter as we will not have the sounding of Peter's old clocks chiming in the background ! The words thank you always sound a little inadequate to me but we say a sincere thank you to Peter with real depth behind our thank you.



Presentation to Peter from Trevor



There was only one person at the AGM who should have the honour of cutting the tenth Anniversary cake and that was Peter Blackler because he was the only executive member from the original executive when MENZSHED NZ was set up.



David Broadhead, Peter Blackler, Trevor Scott , Dianne Turner  
Director of Seniors.

## *Welcome to the Executive.*

**Support Services** -Garry Bryant: I have been with the Central Auckland Community Shed since 2018 and as Treasurer since 2020. Originally from Aussie (another baby boomer) but been here over 40 years, married a kiwi and we produced 3 great little kiwis. My background is IT Project Management which started when my dad took me to a Melbourne University Open Day and I viewed their Computer Centre where staff wore white coats. I thought, I'd like to wear a white coat! Retired now and enjoying The Shed where we have a great membership, executive team and produce many community requested items. Always looking for a challenge I reckon I can add value to/for MENZSHEDS around NZ.



**Treasurer** – David Atkinson: Greetings. Kia ora. Yet another baby boomer. My wife and I have 3 children and 5 grandchildren between us and are lucky to have 3 of our grandchildren here locally in North Canterbury where we have lived for more than 23 years. The 2 other grandchildren live in Belgium. My 49 year career has taken me from the UK, to Germany, Belgium and France before finally settling in New Zealand in 1999. I had a varied career beginning with a 10-year period in the British Army, before working in roles that always had some element of accounting and administration. A period of 10 years followed as a Store Manager for McDonalds in Belgium, UK and France. I moved across to a Belgian supermarket chain and then to the European Headquarters of Sumitomo Rubber Industries in Belgium. Since my arrival in NZ I specialised in accounting and administration, working for a R&D Engineering Company, a Customs Brokers and a Forestry Nursery, before my final position before retiring nearly four years ago for



Christchurch Resettlement Services. This role saw me managing the accounts, preparing monthly reporting for the board and preparing the annual accounts for audit. The funding for CRS came from Govt contacts and philanthropic organisations, requiring ongoing financial accountability reporting. In addition to my paid employment I have had many other voluntary positions in NZ: in the Civil Defence, NZ Fire Service, St John's, treasurer for Amberley Tennis Club, treasurer and local support officer for the RSA, board member and bulletin editor for the Lion's, all of them in North Canterbury. In preparation for retiring I joined the Amberley Menzshed at the end of 2017 and have since joined the management committee and look after

the media and Facebook to keep our shed in the media in our local area. I look forward to beginning my involvement with MENZSHED NZ.



**Secretary**– We welcome Roger Bowman back onto the executive and look forward to the service he provides to members. Roger came back onto the executive part way through the 2022-2023 year..

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## *Conference 2025*

Conference 2025 seem a long way away but when you are organising an event like a conference time passes quickly. At present the Invercargill Menzshed is looking to host the event. Invercargill is a great place to host an event such as a conference as they have many interesting tourist hot stops like the Bill Richardson Transport World to visit. Added highlights to the conference itself.

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## *Newsletter Article Change*

As we have filled the position of Support Services Garry will be the editor of the future newsletters. All articles can be sent to him using the following email address: [support@menzshed.nz](mailto:support@menzshed.nz)

To sheds: please also keep sending the chairman your newsletters as he is very interested in the shed happenings.



## *Something Different*

Men's Sheds are a gift that keeps on giving. now we have a Welsh Men's Shed Opera. This info and clip shared by Robert Visintainer of Men's Sheds Cymru. It is worth watching the whole thing, approx 25 minute clip.

Written by Brendan Wheatley et al from Swansea City Opera, in collaboration with Men's Sheds Cymru [Wales] supporting them, with shedders telling their stories. Six shows were put on around Wales last November. The piece was called 'Shoulder to Shoulder - the Men's Sheds Opera'.

It is really fantastic! Those that got involved reportedly thoroughly enjoyed it. You can read and hear more about it here

<http://www.swanseaopera.com/productions/shoulder-to-shoulder/>

Many Thanks Barry Golding (from Australia)

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## *Something for the Sheddies*

Grumpy Old Men in Shedz is something we all can relate to. This film is being made here in NZ starring Ian Mune. I am sure it will be worth a visit to the theatre when it is released. May be make it a shed outing.

For details about the film visit: <https://pullingupstumps.com/>

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# Region One News

## Northland and Auckland

### *The Auckland Central Community Shed Flooding Story*

On the evening of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January and the morning of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 the Auckland Central Community Shed Inc was inundated with 1 metre of water that gushed through Electronics, Wood Working, Office/Kitchen, Metal Working and our Welding Shed (formerly known as The Tractor Shed). The pictures don't really show the devastation we encountered but give an appreciation of what water can do.



Don't use chip/particle board for shelving if it's below a metre from the ground!

Water mark is height water reached outside the building and the same inside



Kids will be kids! Most of the water came from a storm water pipe that blew its lid behind the green fence at the back. 3 beehives (out of five) were taken out.



Road entrance to The Shed. Had to wade in as up to our thighs at 10am Saturday

Woodworking area a mess. Logs used for woodturning floated! **Five points we offer to secure your shed from floods**

1. Don't ever leave valuable electrical equipment on the floor. We had over \$10,000 worth of brand new electric/battery tools left on the floor. Totally water logged. **Ensure your insurance is up to date** as they do pay. Rothbury was ours and I give Mathew Keane (021 659 709) hundreds of stars for helping us through our claim.
2. Don't use MDF or Chipboard for shelving under 1 metre from ground level
3. Ensure power outlets are above a metre (or higher) from floor level. Ours tripped the switchboard RCDs which I imagine saved sparking a fire.
4. Our files in filing cabinets and credenzas (draws under desk) water logged. Can't be resurrected. So saving files for 7 years isn't going to happen! Keep important files above predicted water level.
5. Some areas just can't be protected; engineering with heavy items stored in purpose built cabinets. Use WD40 or equivalent to spray any water logged gear (spanners) including motors, anything that will rust quickly. They usually start but may spit out the moisture.



Our thanks to our members who got in and just did it.



# Region One News Continued

## Auckland Central Community Shed Continued:

Auckland Central Community Shed joins The Hub Market Day. The Hub is above our Shed and we work together really well. I think it is quite unusual for a Shed to be so close to another community entity. Are there others?

The Hub Market Day on Sat 4th March although affected a little by rain was a big success. More vendors and stalls, more attendees and more music. We put out two tables of left over tools and hardware which proved surprisingly popular and also attracted a number of member enquiries.



## *Kerikeri Mens Shed*

One of our members managed to get his hands on a derelict, old telephone box which was loaded onto a trailer without falling apart and taken back to the Shed.

Garth - one of our ace craftsmen - brought it back to life and the second photo is of him inspecting the finished article in the backyard of the unnamed KKMS member.

There was a grand opening just before Easter and Superman and Lois Lane made special guest appearances before an adoring crowd of about 40 bemused punters.

A great time was had by all!



# Region Two News

## Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Gisborne

### *Katikati MenzShed*

Not much has happened since our last report, however in saying this, a lot has happened.

As mentioned in our last report, we are fortunate enough to be on the receiving end of a Council Funded scheme where a new Shed is being built to house us as well as a couple of other community groups. Plans have been drawn up and contracts signed, although there is a small holdup relating to zoning which we were hoping would have been addressed by now. However a different division of the Council is not as efficient as the development team.

We were also fortunate enough to be in a position to be offered a kitchen unit that was recently installed in a Council unit that was being demolished to make way for a larger residential development. We were notified of the availability of the cupboards, sink pantry etc. but only given a days notice to remove the items before the demolition commenced. Surprising what a few able bodied (and not so able bodied ) men can do, and the units were removed and placed into storage awaiting our new shed. What we will receive from Council is a basic KiwiSpan Shed with a shared toilet area with access from the outside to allow access for the other groups, and internal access from the area allocated to us. Our requirements will be to line the internal walls and provide electrical outlets other than lighting to the required areas we need power to. High on our agenda is sourcing a company to supply us with a dust extraction system.

Having been fortunate enough to have been working out of our local college for the past year, we have been able to use the floor plan of the college tech block as a reference point and have seen what works there and what we want to see for our members.

Hopefully by the time we write our next update, we will either be in our new premises or at least installing work benches and an area for smoko/meetings etc..

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### *Settlers Lifestyle Village Menzshed*

Quite a bit has happened since I last went to print.

We made a trip out to Carbatec with the view to purchasing a set up for re-sharpening plane blades and chisels etc. For those of you who don't know who Carbatec is, they are suppliers of quality wood working gear. Check out their website <https://www.carbatec.co.nz>

We have struggled for a long time trying to "get it right" and with the investment we made it fits the bill perfectly. A picture of the set up is below but if you want any more detail don't hesitate to make contact. It was money well spent and there is no doubt about it, you pay for quality.





# Region Two News Continued

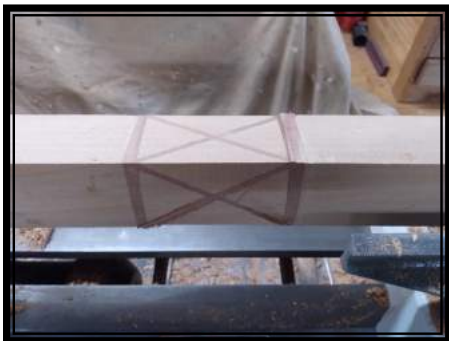
## Settlers Lifestyle Village Menzshed Continued:

I needed to buy some timber for several jewellery boxes and ended up at BBS timber at 82 Henderson Valley Road in Henderson. These people stock an excellent range of imported timber, and I ended up selecting White Ash. I hadn't worked with this before but found it to be very stable, especially when reduced to 10 mm thickness. If you are looking for different timbers, they are certainly worth a visit. The staff are good to deal with and its one of those places that you can still wander around without all the usual safety requirements. However, you still need to take care.

Below are several photos of the boxes during construction and one showing a box in the gluing jig I talked about in the last newsletter



A member of the shed has been following a guy on YouTube where he makes a Celtic knot rolling pin. Two pictures show his progress. An interesting job and looks cool once finished.



Brian continues with his carving and below are a couple of shots showing one of his latest jobs.

His finished work. Just a side note, when Brian came into the village, he hadn't done anything like this before and over the last few years he has completed some very tricky items. He has become an excellent carver.

Bryant has completed the cabinets he a was making (picture of him making one in a previous newsletter) to hold small Lego figures. Once again Bryant hasn't done anything like this before and now he has become a regular in our shop.



To conclude this newsletter, it is great to see some of our residents getting such pleasure from what they can produce with their hands and then to stand back and admire saying "I made that".

Members of our shed who have experience with the machinery we have do most of the more dangerous tasks for these guys but in the end, they do all of the "hands on" work.

Ian Langley on behalf of our members.



# Region Two News Continued

## *Menzshed Whakatane*

**Events: Trolley Derby** coming up on 21<sup>st</sup> April-supported by Menzshed for the community.

**Garage Sale** -Disposal of some used power tools plus surplus craft items and wooden furniture ready for a new home. Planned Saturday morning 15<sup>th</sup> April.

**Projects:** Looking forward to helping the local schools to establish more shade houses for the growing of native trees. This we did last year, and we are again working with “Trees for Survival” to make it happen. It is an ideal project for Men’s Sheds to be involved with as it has a positive impact on environment and does not, in itself, depend on highly skilled labour or hi-tech equipment to assemble these shade houses. The project is planned to re-commence in June this year.

**Some Smaller Projects:** the shed has continued in the “repair-shop” mode by undertaking a multitude of repairs and upgrades of furniture and other items needing some TLC.

Some photos are attached in the gallery.

Notable is the antique toy pedal car which was a rusty wreck when it arrived as a donation from a generous owner.

One of our members has also busied himself making a toy 6-wheeler dump truck which any 3-4 year old would be delighted to sit in and operate once it is complete.

Our membership remains fairly stable in spite of losing some who have died during the last year.

We can always use more willing and able members to partake in the construction and repair work and we hope to be able to gain some new members throughout the year.



Jewellery Box



Stage for Whakatane High School  
Special Needs



Gibson guitar case made for client



Memorial Case for Ashes  
Urn to be Stored



Restored peddle car



Wind-Driven Objects of Art courtesy of the Members



Dump truck

# Region Two News Continued

## *Something Special From The Omokoroa MenzShed*

The following message has been received from Scott Pickering - “to the Artisans of the Omokoroa MenzShed”.

“On behalf of the organising committee of the Omokoroa Junior Easter Classic Bowling Tournament, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Omokoroa MenzShed on the donation of a wonderful taonga for our club, The Omokoroa Junior Easter Classic Championship Trophy.

The craftsmanship of this trophy is really a sight to behold and will be valued by the Club and respective winning teams for many years to come.”

The trophy is shown alongside a Patu awarded to Plate Section winners.

The trophy made by the Shed was awarded to the winning team from Waihi Beach.

Well done guys!





# Region Three News

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

## *MenzShed Kapiti*

For any red-blooded, rugby-loving Wellingtonian bloke of our generation the mere mention of Athletic Park and the Millard Stand is enough to generate a whole session of stories and lies about the wonderful game. Certainly any attempt to explain to rugby buffs the significance of memorabilia connected with that place and those times is more than futile but for anyone who's not so familiar the following may be of interest.

The history of Athletic Park goes back to 1896 and the early years of the last century but in or about 1961 a big new stand was erected and named for a well-known rugby administrator named Millard. It was quite a massive undertaking housing row upon row of wooden seats with wooden backs with no concession to comfort and exposed to the worst elements of Wellington weather imaginable. But it was the home of "blokes" and regarded with almost religious enthusiasm.

To the wooses in the halls of power it was always regarded as a bit dodgy and by 1999 the park was closed as a sporting arena and the Millard Stand had to be dismantled. But an edifice of such distinction could not be allowed to simply be turned into matchwood and someone had the brilliant idea of turning the hundreds of yards of stand seats into garden bench memorials. Each seat carries a brass plaque commemorating the occasion. Each bench also carries a selection of the original numbers that identified seating positions. I have no idea how many such benches were created but we have one in our extended family purchased in 1999 by my son-in-law who, as a senior referee, controlled many games at "The Park". That became my first first-hand experience of the seats.

About three years ago my second contact with this piece of history arose when a badly rotted bench came to the shed for resurrection. I took on the task which, on that occasion, required quite major surgery involving the removal of some of its length in order to be able to salvage some elements of historical significance. I have since learned that the unit belongs to a friend of a fellow Kapiti Sheddie who tells me that it is still in usable order but that the cancer has spread.

Then, just before our Christmas break, the Shed received a plea for help from a lady whose partner is the proud possessor of a bench which has been attacked by the elements so that the two front legs have been shortened and an arm completely rotted away. Closer inspection revealed other damage to unseen elements. When volunteer help was sought I put my hand up and thus made contact with my 3rd Athletic Park bench.

This one required quite a major rebuild but at least the seat and back elements which carry the numbers and the original plaque have been salvaged. The remedial work is now complete and the bench has been returned to its grateful owners. They have expressed sincere thanks and satisfaction for the resurrection of their prized memento.



# Region Three News Continued

## *Carterton Menzshed*

Carterton Menzshed is running well with a healthy bank balance enabling the purchase of new equipment. We now have an MIG welder as well as a 300mm mitre saw.

Premises are still located in the A&P showgrounds where we lease a pavilion. It is a shared facility with the showers and toilets available for the camping ground. Membership is stable. We are open four mornings a week with good attendances each day.

Core activities of the club include member projects and community requests for repairs or new builds. We also have a mentoring programme for the neuro diverse members of our community which has proved to be popular and rewarding for our participating members.





# Region Four News

## Canterbury and Westland

### *Storage Boxes a Poignant Project*

Anzac Day remembrance crosses are now being stored in new, specially designed wooden boxes to protect them from general wear and tear.

Menzshed Timaru members have volunteered their time to help build 60 secure wooden boxes to store the South Canterbury RSA's crosses.

RSA president Grant Finlayson said the crosses represented the 1500 men in the region who were killed in war.

"All of the crosses are named and we put them out to remember these men around the time of Anzac Day down at Caroline Bay for people to see."

The crosses had been stored in banana boxes but due to the size of the crosses and the flimsiness of the boxes, it was not ideal.

Mr Finlayson said they did not want the crosses getting damaged any more than they already were, so they put the call out to the public for help.

"We asked for people to sponsor a box to be built for the crosses and it went so quickly. We want to thank every individual, small company and big company, especially two of our big sponsors, Sanford Ltd and PrimePort for their support and generosity."

Menzshed Timaru secretary and treasurer John Cook said it felt brilliant to be able to help the RSA with the project. "We do lots of work for the community, but we also do it for ourselves. "We get a lot from it and we all want to see the outcome."

Mr Cook said they had done other projects in the past for other community groups including Scouts and kindergartens, and building community pantries.

"We are all volunteers, we are not employees so we don't worry about a time scale.

Men here are able to work on what they want in their own time with no stress or come here and have a yarn. It is social and gives people a chance to do something," Mr Cook said.

He said Menzshed was important as it provided men with an outlet if they had just retired or had little to no social life.

"There is that saying that men talk better shoulder-to- shoulder than face-to-face, Menzshed provides that. People can come along and work on something, learn something new or just come along for smoko."

Briar Allen Timaru Courier



Building blokes . . . Menzshed Timaru members (from left) secretary and treasurer John Cook, Graham S. Taylor, Allan Holland, Graham R. Taylor and Ian McLeod have been involved in making storage boxes for Anzac crosses.

# Region Four News Continued

## *Timaru Community Menzshed Continued:*

### **Michelle's Caravan Restoration**

Michelle always fancied restoring a classic caravan. She saw one on line that ticked a lot of boxes for her. A 1967 Anglo Gipsy that had it's interior gutted, for sale in Christchurch so she bought it.

Michelle's Invercargill cousin was travelling through to Christchurch to look at a motor boat so she was able to arrange with him to pick up a trailer and bring her caravan back

Michelle made a start then realised it was a bit more than she had bargained on so she joined the Timaru Community Menzshed.

Recycled timber has been used for the joinery polyurethaned to bring out the natural grain and copper from an old water heater used to good effect as a splashback. The copper look continues with pipes used as shelf retainers. Michelle has made all the curtains and the bedspread herself so Gipsy is looking better than new

Michelle is grateful to fellow sheddies for their advice and help especially with joinery, spray painting and electrical. Many thanks for all the assistance from Peter McAuley





# Region Four News Continued

## *Redcliffs Shed*

Our community shed in the heart of Redcliffs is humming along with regular attendances mainly focusing on things made with wood. Shown here huddled around one of our two wood lathes are the happy faces our members express when projects come to life.

On the lathe is a serving platter from four pieces of Rimu bonded together and turned, the centre cavity is for a dipping bowl.

Another is a wooden tapered seed depth dowel made on the lathe set out with grooves to set the depth, pushed into the ground for planting different seeds.

We have seen the biggest interest over the last few years in wood turning, resulting in our shed recently investing in a new machine. By far the biggest bang for your buck has been the wood lathes and the enjoyment members get from the process along the way, shaping scrap native timbers, bonding, turning and the final finish resulting in the end item, 'yes I made that'

Just a peek into our shed in Redcliffs.

Cameron Holdaway. Sec/tres



# Region Four News Continued

## *Minister Of Seniors Ginny Andersen visit to the Halswell Menzshed.*

Halswell Menzshed is just gold. The shed is a great place for blokes, and women, to learn new skills. Men are known to have smaller circles of friends than women, so the Shed offers opportunities to foster new friendships outside the social circles their partners establish. One Sheddie once stated, after 10 months of development of his local Shed with a membership of more than fifty; “Ten months ago none of us knew each other, but now it feels like we all went to kindergarten together!”

On a more serious note, men’s sheds are an ideal place for health professionals to help out with mental health and well-being. I heard from more than one person “I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for the Shed”. A big thanks Menzsheds right across the country for providing a whole lot to seniors in our community.

**Article taken from Ginny’s Facebook page.**





# Region Four News Continued

## *Bishopdale Menzshed*

**The Shed builds sheds.** 2022 ended with the Bishopdale Shed having a reasonably healthy bank balance.

The committee discussed making a donation to a charity and after a number of suggestions it was agreed that we should focus on the Canterbury Charity Hospital which is in our area. Serendipitously three of our members are part of the team that volunteer at the hospital working on the grounds with Rusty being the acknowledged caretaker/groundsman. He indicated the need for garden sheds and some battery operated garden tools. In consultation with hospital management it was agreed that financing these was preferable to contributing to the cost of some expensive medical equipment where our donation would have been just a drop in the bucket.

Fortuitously we already had the parts of a dismantled shed on our premises and some time ago we had been donated some EGO battery garden tools which were of little use in our situation. So the shed we had was refurbished and assembled on the hospital site and we donated the EGO equipment to them. This cost us little financially so we agreed to buy another new shed and an EGO hedge trimmer and leaf blower together with a second battery and charger.



**Victorian Letter Box.** No doubt when some of you have explained the concept of Menzsheds to the uninitiated the response is “Oh you mean like The Repair Shop”. Some Sheds might be like The Repair Shop. Ours definitely is not but the response to the completion of this project was very like the response of some of the owners of The Repair Shop completed projects. A lady brought in pieces of an old Victorian letter box. The original had great sentimental value but got stolen. She claimed she had bought it back off Trademe and a contact had given her parts from a very rusty letter box from his back garden. Both the Trademe purchase (which may or may not have been parts of the original) and the garden one were dismantled pieces and looked the same. We got all parts sandblasted by the good people at Euroblast and set about assembling the jigsaw. The pieces are all cast iron except the top which is cast aluminium. Our Shed is 100% woodwork as our licence to occupy states “no sparks” but we do have a member with engineering skills who used his own workshop to drill out and re-thread the bolt holes and weld up some of the bigger cracks in the pieces. It turned out that what we had were parts from different letter boxes that looked the same in terms of the design on the sides but were slightly different sizes and had different assembly arrangements like spacing of joining holes to put bolts through.

Initially we decided that the letter box couldn't be reconstructed from the components available which was a great disappointment to the owner. So we had another look at it and a combination of various brackets and joiners allowed us to assemble a reasonable replica of the original letter box. The red paint is Hammerite brand from Mitre10 – fairly expensive but very good paint for metal surfaces. The lady was greatly appreciative of our efforts.



# Region Four News Continued

## *Kaiapoi Menz Shed*

Christchurch is known as the “Garden City.” Reviewing the projects coming through the Shed perhaps the Kaiapoi Menz Shed should be known as the “Garden Chair- Repair Shop!” Each month we seem to have another garden chair to repair. One month there were three garden chair repair projects on the go!

The last three months have continued to be busy productive times. Approximately twenty five members turning up for the Shed days- as well as a few new faces. In addition to the projects below the Shed has built a new stand for ANZAC flags, planter box, gate repair, lightweight wheelchair ramp, raised garden bed, gazebo roof, produce stand for florist and repairs to an old railway guards van.



**Hand Rail.** Dave and his boys in the engineering shop manufactured the hand rail, then into the paint shop.

**Garage Fascia Board.** Another community job-replacing fascia board on a garage



**Repairing Ethnic Statue.** Just like the “Repair Shop” on TV -Trevor has lovingly restored this figurine which came into the shop with the base snapped off at the ankles.

**Garden Seat.** Bert planted a Tasmanian Blackwood tree many years ago. Now it has been milled and with its beautiful grain is reborn as part of his garden chair.



A few of the other jobs completed this year.



New cupboard door



Shuffle Board



Drinks anyone



Potting Table

# Region Four News Continued

## *Rolleston Men's Shed*

New members keep wandering in so membership is slowly increasing. One thing it does is make the tea room noisy at 10.00 a.m. We had a couple give us a quick talk and the ceiling is now being covered with sound absorbing tiles, glued to the ceiling. Extra bales were bought and these will be installed in the woodwork workshops, most probably strung from wires.

Previously mentioned was the free advertising via the free newspaper. If Sheds want to advertise what they can do and that they exist, this is the way to do it at no cost. Typical was a recent email, "I've got a few of my late father's tools and I'd like to donate. Is this something that the man shed would like?"

Commonly someone will turn up and ask if we can do a job or fix something.

Typical is this job, two chairs and small tables. The chairs were totally dismantled, completely cleaned of what ever coating they had acquired over the years and then reassembled.

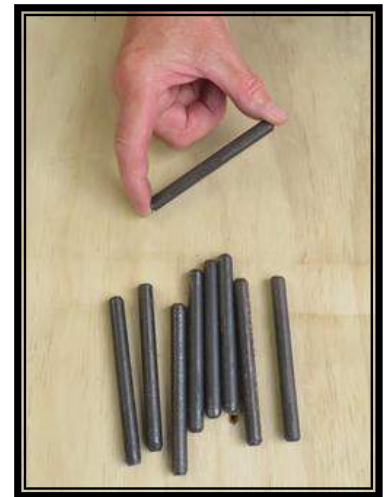


Recently a number of tables have been made from items found on rubbish heaps. These are then donated to the Salvation Army Family Store.

Donations were asked for flood damaged East Coast of the North Island. Rather than donate money to an unknown destination, the Rolleston Men's Shed made a direct donation to MENZSHED Wairoa.

The schools have hooks for hanging bags on. These are cast hooks and expensive and break. The Shed is making hundreds of hooks, steel rods with a bend in them and mounted on long strips of wood screwed to the walls.

Here a few of the rods before bending.



From big to small items, a jewellery box for a granddaughter.



Another job for the Engineering Workshop has been bike stands for the local schools.

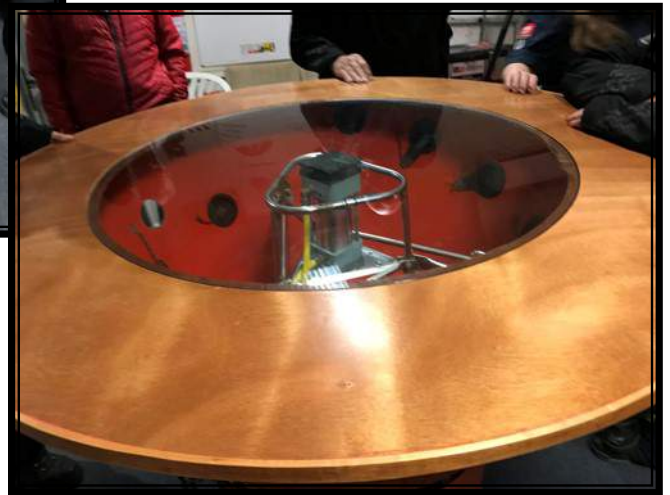
One of the Shed members had made rude remarks about the stand at the Shed and it has also been replaced with the better design, the key point being support of both the top and bottom of a bike's wheel.





# Region Four News Continued

## *Pegasus Woodend MenZshed*



Greetings to all of the MenZshed members from the Pegasus Woodend shed. You don't realise how time flies until the reminder comes for a newsletter update, we must be having a lot of fun, let's hope so.

Our financial membership has crept up to around twenty seven as new members slowly trickle in as more of our community know that we exist. With this we are getting a consistent flow of job requests for things that most sheds are familiar with, from furniture repairs to assembling kit-set sheds.

The most interesting and unusual project we have just completed is making a 'bar leaner' for the local Waikuku volunteer fire brigade. They had an old fibreglass monsoon bucket that they wanted converting into a 'bar leaner' for their social room. It has been a labour of love to complete this masterpiece and also a sense of achievement and relief. A round marine ply top inserted with a glass middle has been made and attached to the top of the bucket. Through the glass you can see the inner workings of the bucket. It has taken skill in preparing this and a lot has been learnt in staining and finishing a bar top in marine ply. It has also been modified with a set of wheels to make it portable.

Nothing has been too much for the main man who made it, Alistair Green, along with some worldly advice and help from other members. I have attached a couple of photos so that you can see what a monsoon bucket looks like, and maybe it will give other sheds some ideas to pursue with their local fire brigade.

All of you take care, look after yourselves and stay healthy now that winter is approaching.

Steve Burleigh  
Chairman  
Pegasus Woodend MenZshed

# Region Five News

## Otago and Southland

### *Taieri Blokes Shed*

Over the years the Taieri Blokes Shed members have been making Lilliput Library Boxes for Ruth who was instigator for designing and marketing of these library Boxes.

They have taken off all round Dunedin and now further afield. We know other sheds are making them now, and some to different designs on request. This is great, and it would be wonderful to hear that they are now springing up everywhere. More recently we have been asked to build one and post to other regions, including the North Island. The cost of postage killed that idea. In another case people have asked us for our plan so they could build one themselves.

Both these ideas, we didn't like. Firstly, our plan is that we make 6 at a time from 2 sheets of 18mm ply so there is no wastage. Secondly, they need to be waterproof and thirdly, if not built properly could ruin Ruth's great idea and hard work, also the reputation that the Taieri Shed has built up in Otago.

Following on from outside enquiries, the Taieri Shed has agreed to pass onto any other shed in New Zealand, the full cut out plans and details for your shed to build these. We build six at a time, explained above, and undercoat them thus allowing the person buying to decorate whatever way they wish. The Howick Shed in Auckland is showing interest in building some. Are you interested as well?

This is a great opportunity for all our sheds to be united in this idea, build them well, and maintain a high standard of these Library Boxes.

**For further enquiries, contact the Taieri Blokes Shed or the regional representative.**

We know many sheds around the country have built all shapes and sizes of Library boxes for their community which is great for all who use them.

Keep the good work up.





# Region Five News Continued

## *Invercargill Menzshed*

"A project with a difference" is how I've described quite a few tasks that have come our way over the last 5 years. Following discussions last year between Peter Bailey of MENZSHED, and Bruce Smart of the Deep Cove Outdoor Education Trust, 9 intrepid sheddies set sail on 20th January from Manapouri, up the lake to West Arm, and over the Wilmot Pass, to spend 6 nights in Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound. (As Bruce signed up to MENZSHED also, he had a foot in both camps - but he managed the jobs of both "employer" and "employee" without showing too much stress.) At this stage it would be easy to say "Eat your heart out !", but if you are not aware of the beauty of Fiordland, nor the West Arm (of Lake Manapouri) hydro power station project deep under the mountains of Fiordland, then you may not get my message!

Suffice it to say that water from Lake Manapouri runs down through 10 kms of tunnels (2 of), with a 230 metre drop from the inlet at West Arm, to the sea at Deep Cove in Doubtful Sound. The power station (NZ's largest) was all built underground in the 1960's, and I suggest that you search on Mr Google to get the full story. The concept of building a power station inside a mountain was tabled in Parliament in 1904, although at that time the machinery needed to do so did not exist.



The task in hand was stage 1 of an ongoing project, to replace damaged doors in the boy's dormitory, and replace the rung ladders on the bunks with a more stepladder-like design, in the Trust's Deep Cove Hostel. (76 beds.) Southland schools take their pupils in there for Outdoor Education purposes, and they also do a boat trip out to the Sound entrance, on the Tasman Sea, where seals and dolphins can be seen.



The Deep Cove Trust paid for all materials and supplied all transport, food, and accommodation at the Hostel. All we had to bring were our sleeping bags, insect repellent, and liquid refreshments. (toothbrush & clean undies were optional !) However, it wasn't all just beer & sandflies ! - the doors and ladders had to be constructed beforehand, which meant a busy month beforehand for some, especially our (retired ??) joiner, Peter Bailey, and his assistants. (Peter's elves). The completed products were loaded into a furniture trailer, towed to Manapouri, barged to West Arm, and towed over Wilmott Pass to the hostel. The old doors and stepladders had to be removed first, although that was a bit quicker than installing the

replacements. Part of the challenge were the 17 or 18 steps from ground level to the first floor dormitories, where we both worked and slept. All equipment and materials had to be manhandled up and down, which possibly led to stronger legs and lungs - although it was hard to be convinced of that fact at times !



However, any hardships were more than compensated for by the excellent food that was prepared for us ! Included in our contingent of nine was lady member Julie Cook, who, although capable with woodworking tasks, was designated as our food team leader, along with resident (relieving) Hostel Manager, Ursula. So, with cooked breakfasts, scones, cake etc for smokos, well-prepared lunches, and a variety of cooked evening meals, which included desserts, the 17 stairs were an unnecessary burden after eating !! MENZSHED member George Lindsay took his 14ft motorboat over

with us, which allowed for the rest of us to take turns and go down Doubtful Sound and do a bit of fishing, with both reel and hand lines.



# Region Five News Continued

## Invercargill Menzshed Continued:

Although blue cod was our preferred catch, only a couple were caught overall, and along with a couple of trevally, and a rig (lemonfish) a good feed was had by all. Mark Dunick recorded the largest catch - a 7 gill shark, and all of us contributed to a haul of possibly 100 Jock Stewarts, plus a few other varieties, including 2 barracuda - one which I caught on a lure fishing from the jetty.



Hostel Manager Ursula provided another delicacy for one dinner, by going deerstalking along the road one night, and returning with 2 deer. She had managed (womanaged ??) to haul both deer on to the back of the ute single handed. Excellent work, Ursula ! Our first couple of days were shared with the Invercargill Rotary Club, who were also doing voluntary work around the Hostel and tracks. We must acknowledge the assistance of a couple of the younger (do we admit to stronger ??) men of this group, who made the task of carrying 12 solid doors, attached to frames, up those "39 steps"!



A short discussion arose during a combined social gathering, which resulted in a brief meeting amongst representatives of MENZSHED, Deep Cove Trust, Rotary, and the ILT, along the lines of future combined projects and fundraising.

Another visitor one night was an Australian, who was jetskiing around the coastline of NZ, having already gone around Australia and Tasmania a few years ago. (Google Jetski Australia website for more info.) He required assistance with launching one morning when the tide was out, so we helped him, took a photo which we sent to him, and he has since included it on the Jetski Australia Facebook page. The job was all but complete on the second last day, which allowed a final day of relaxation. Full thanks must go to Peter and Bruce for an inspirational project, which included the important MENZSHED objectives of community service, team friendship, working together, and individual support. Well done, all. Ken.



# Region Six News

## Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough

### *Picton Men's Community Shed*

Greetings Shedders. After last year's Covid disruptions it's pleasing to report a positive first quarter for 2023. And on a bright note, we've attracted four new members during recent weeks. Given our small catchment they are a very valuable addition to our membership and we look forward to their participation.

Our monthly garage sales are under way again-- surplus items finding new homes and contributing \$ towards our income. Our garage sales come with the added bonus of attracting visitors to the site and generating exposure for the Men's Shed movement.

And another activity attracting the public, and adding to our income, is our garden operation and associated plant sales. They've performed well this quarter, with gaps on the shelves attesting to strong demand. Re-potting's under way, dividing, and propagating too, ensuring a replenished supply for when avid gardeners next come calling.

With regards to commissioned projects, Rex is busy repairing chairs for a customer, and Hans has completed an order for our local Port Company - a quantity of presentation boxes. They're to be containers for bottles of wine, we understand to be gifted to cruise ship captains. There's been a combined effort with several of our members pitching in to create a 'busy-board' for Waikawa Bay School.

Looking ahead, a number of jobs are in the offing. We are negotiating to create a raised garden bed for Waitohi Kindergarten, and to build a display cabinet for CCS Disability Action. We've fielded a knife sharpening inquiry and other small undertakings are being commissioned too. And we're about to be donated an old Seagull outboard motor. It hasn't run for a good many years but there's an international effort to rescue these old wonders of early marine propulsion. It will be a case of 'yours truly' picking up the tools and breathing life back into this piece of treasured marine history.

But let's point out that Picton's not all work and no play. We recently enjoyed a very social morning tea with the other Sheds of Marlborough. The Vines Village cafe was an inspired choice of venue. And it was great catching up those from Blenheim, Renwick and Havelock. Big ups to Dave Packer and his Renwick team for arranging the get-together. Next time Picton will be play host. We have a hard act to follow.





## *Next Newsletter*

The next newsletter is due for publication at the end of July. The deadline for articles for that newsletter is **Friday 21st July**. 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 gives 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 [support@menzshed.nz](mailto:support@menzshed.nz)

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## *Seven Sharp on Channel One*

Great to see the work undertaken at the Whangarei Shed. Having the presenter look in and make extremely positive comments enhances the profile of our organisation. If you missed the viewing then go to our Facebook page and view it there. <https://www.facebook.com/sevensharp/videos/922770655705242>  
Well done Whangarei.



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.

## *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/)



## WORKSPACE LED LIGHTING

