

NZ Mens Sheds News

August 2024 Edition

The official newsletter of 

From the Chairman

I hope this finds you all busy in your sheds – a total of 139 – around the country now and growing steadily.

Our new national exec has just had its second monthly meeting. After welcoming new member Wayne Anderson and returning member John Bush we are starting to plan for the year ahead.

At the last meeting of your national exec we had an update on planning for the 2025 conference. The team in Invercargill have been working hard and have done a great job in getting a very full and interesting programme together (for both members and partners) so now it's your turn.

Please complete the online EOI form asap – it only takes a few minutes and remember; it's not a booking, just an expression of interest that will really help the team with further planning.

On Saturday 27 July Wayne Anderson (Regional Rep for region 2) and I attended The Men's Health Expo organised by Richard Cato and the team from Te Awamutu shed. With stands and brief presentations from Dementia & Alzheimer's, Heart & Stroke Foundations, Prostate and Diabetes groups it ran like a well-oiled clock and was very well attended – we very nearly filled the church hall. Ex All Black Steve Gordon gave a very entertaining speech about the other sport in which he has represented NZ and local MP Barbara Kuriger came along and offered her full support for our movement (if any of you have good connections with other MPs please let me know). Last but not least it was great to meet Anne Perry, the generous benefactor that donated the Te Awamutu shed building to make it all happen; what a great legacy to leave the men and the community.

Finally, Mens Shed Week is coming up and we'll be sending you lots of ideas about how to get involved. It would be great if every shed could do at least one thing to mark it. And even better if you could send us a couple of lines and a photo.

Happy shedding!

David Broadhead



Feedback from the lady running the Stroke stand (photo above). She checked the blood pressure of about 20 blokes and reckoned that she had referred about 80% of them to their GPs i.e. go and see them within the next 2 to 3 days! The highest proportion she had ever seen at such an event!

Reminder from the National Secretary

Incorporated Societies Act 2022

Sheds established as Incorporated Society under the 1908 Act have until 5 April 2026 to comply with and reregister under the 2022 Act. You'll need to revise your current Rules/Constitution - there's a handy tool on the website to assist with that. Information at this website will guide you through the process.

As part of keeping your society (or Charitable Trust) up to date with the Societies and Trusts offices, we encourage you to log in and check they hold information about your current officers and contact information. Then you can be sure of updates arriving with the correct people. One shed was recently noticed to have been removed from the register for failure to file annual reports. And that might lead to difficulties applying for funding.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST. - Close-off date: 31 August 2024

The INVERCARGILL MENZSHED cordially invite you to attend the 2025 National Conference

being held at Invercargill, Friday 4 April – Sunday 6 April 2025.

The Organising Committee have a number of Sponsorship Applications before Community

Funders in order to keep your attendance prices down.

To assist us with our planning and budgets, we are asking for “ÉPRESSIONS OF INTEREST” as to whether you will be interested in attending the Conference.

NOTE - (Not a firm commitment as that will be by Registration Form at a later date).

Please send your “Expression of Interest” using the following link ONLY:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwVCe-fdd6J1_IBuBy-s2rv3vPSTxTnuFfdRxLm8wuo9ZwZg/viewform

There is nothing quite like a face to face conference so make sure your shed is going to be represented, it's all about the chat between sessions and over dinner that make the experience so worthwhile.





MEN'S SHED WEEK IN NEW ZEALAND 2024

Theme - "Send him down to the Shed"

Men's Shed Week is an annual opportunity to collectively showcase Men's Sheds to the world. It's a great chance to focus government, corporate partners, media and the community on the benefits and positive contributions Men's Sheds make to the community.

So, let's get on board during the same week that Australia (the birthplace of Men's Sheds) celebrates Men's Shed week. **September 1st to 7th 2024**

It's not that hard, just do something to celebrate what's great about your Mens Shed. Some NZ sheds have been celebrating Men's Shed week along with Australia for 5~6 years now, these sheds have found that making these events a fun occasion, that they are able to share with others generates support for the role the shed plays in men's lives, and the benefits that spread across the community.

Ideas; Pick a day during the week and make it your own. Call it an open day.

- BBQ breakfast or lunch with invited guests i.e. MP, Mayor & Councillors, Business leaders, Family, and the general public. With a side serving of mens health and wellbeing.
- Tours of the shed in action, see what the blokes get up to.
- Demonstrations by the shed members and/or suppliers.
- Displays of items made and electronic library of the sheds journey.
- And anything else you want to do.

Market your event on Facebook, Instagram local community paper, spot on the radio, sign at your shed gate.

Hope you are keen to give it a go – more resources will be available very soon, so let's get started.

Men's Shed week can be an annual event that aims to raise community awareness, knowledge and interest in Mens Sheds around the country.

Known by many as a place where older blokes can go to tinker and have a cuppa, to the wider public there is still some mystery around what goes on at the local shed. And truth be told, the detailed picture varies from shed to shed, depending on the members within its walls. So, make your open day one that fits in with the way your shed operates.

Men's Sheds are vital community facilities delivering programs and activities that foster community spirit and contribute to building a more inclusive community. Mens Sheds not only play important roles in the overall improvement of health and wellbeing but also positively engaging within their community for the benefit of their community.

Let us know your thoughts on what your shed could do?

We will share more resources as they become available!

Region One News

Northland and Auckland



Another project has really kept us busy for a long time, during its planning and development stages is shown below.

And as happens with any “real team effort” it has many parents. One is Brian Dornbusch shown above playing with his building blocks.

Others closely involved were Ross Minty and Jorgen Owre. There will be number of other proud members I am sure. At this stage only the handles needed to be added.

This finely crafted piece of furniture is destined to have a final resting place extremely close to a local microbrewery, which could not be a better setting. Well done guys



Station Display Boards: Over the past few months those members of an engineering and construction bent have been building frames to support the display boards that will be positioned at the city end of the platform.

These boards cover the history of transport in the North and more specifically, the place of the Station building in this history. They are the final item in the Station restoration and some funding and support has been provided by the Historic Places Trust in the design of these items, A little bit of muscle was needed to hoist the steel frames into place, together with some mechanical advantage, all under the watchful eye of John Fraser.



The display items themselves were designed following a lot of effort from Duncan and Bonita Sutherland and will reflect well on the Men's Shed.

John Morley seen drilling some final holes to secure the frames.

The next step will be the construction of timber frames to hold the display panels in place

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The last 12 months have been a whirlwind of activity at the new shed which we started to occupy in May last year. The shift from the old shed at 1 Brightside Road, Whangaparaoa proved to be relatively easy and we took our time.

As can be imagined the actual settling in with our own equipment took some doing and then we were donated some engineering machinery from Atlas Concrete, who were upgrading theirs. Although needing some serious TLC these machines have come up great and now form a decent asset for the shed. Thank you Atlas Concrete.



A smaller "hobby" lathe was also donated by a Whangaparaoa family which after some TLC has been a valuable addition to our stable of equipment. With a successful application to the Lotteries Commission we were able to purchase a decent milling machine with its various components, which has already come in very handy. The last big ticket item, welding gear, was also purchased after another successful application to the Lotteries Commission. This is now being used to upskill a number of members. This now completes the engineering "shop".

Meantime we managed to get some funding from the local board for an upgraded dust extraction system (2) which have been housed in "soundproof" rooms. Our own members designed and fitted all the appropriate dust extraction ducting which now tends to keep the wood cutting room a lot cleaner from saw dust, making for a safer and healthier workshop.

Once again we were fortunate to have donated various wood cutting machinery which complimented our own and now sees these machines well used.

Now that the shed is well and truly “up and running” it is becoming quite apparent that the community has become aware of what we do and our capabilities. One of the strong demands on our skills and services is furniture repair and restoration. In the last 6 months we have repaired/restored some nearly 20 dining chairs and some 8 tables of various sizes. The local Red beach Surf Club also came with a request to



modify and restore one of their treasured and old original surf reels so that it could be wall mounted and displayed for their 50th anniversary. How do you split a whole surf reel and mount it? Cut it in half! Easier said than done but our people were up to the task. Red Beach Surf Club very happy.

Some years back the shed was donated a laser cutter unit that needed some TLC. In the old shed no room so it sat there in storage. With the new shed we created room for it, give it good birthday and hey presto we had some-

thing worth keeping. This unit has seen many items being produced and sold, some of it quite intricate, and the unit is now “earning its keep”. But itsshowing its age so consequently we managed to purchase a larger good second hand unit which has now been installed. Much greater capacity.



The “old” one will be used for engraving only.

Some other work also has a modicum of intricacy such as model making and repair. Sail boats, old toys ,kiddies aeroplane and such like.

The engineers meanwhile have also been busy and assembled a mini motor bike parts

by one of our members. The frame still had to be sourced was accomplished with the reing a fully functional unit ready ded the heart of a youngster.



with donated main but that sult be- to glad- Well done engineers!



Region Two News

Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Gisborne



Patrons were coming in the door before the official opening of nine o'clock for the Te Awamutu Menz Shed Men's Health Expo on Saturday 27th July. By midday over sixty visitors had visited the Expo.

Scattered through the Te Awamutu Baptist church foyer were health groups representing Alzheimer's NZ, Dementia NZ, Diabetes NZ, Heart Foundation, Prostate NZ, Stroke Foundation, and Mental Health Foundation.

The visitors, mostly senior citizens, and principally men, took time before smoko to mingle and chat with the health groups. Blood pressures were taken and plenty of advice given on keeping healthy with regular check-ups. At ten o'clock, Richard Cato, Te Awamutu Menz Shed chairman welcomed all present and invited them to continue to share their stories over a cup of tea. Local businesses were generous with their support for both morning tea and lunch.

Guest speaker, All Black and Waikato representative player, Steve Gordon entertained all with a story of one of his many All Black trips. This one was of playing elephant polo in northern Thailand. At the same time, he emphasized that "time is running out – what are you going to do? It is so important to keep active and communicate with each other." This theme was the consistent message throughout the day.

Speakers from each health group gave the audience an insight into their organisations, where their funds came from, and where people could find them.

National Men's Shed chairman David Broadhead summed up the day as being a very worthwhile venture and hoped more sheds would follow suit with days like this.

The day concluded with a sausage sizzle at midday where more stories were told before visitors returned home to places as far away as Auckland, Whitianga, and the greater Waikato.



Forgetfulness vs Memory Loss

Forgetting where you left your credit card

Forgetting how you use a credit card

Repeating a story to a friend or spouse

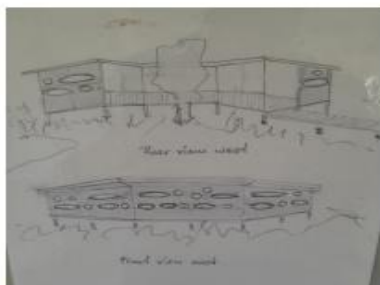
Repeating a story over and over on the same day to the same person

Forgetting what you ate for lunch last week

Forgetting what you ate for lunch 15 minutes ago

Being disorientated for a moment upon waking in a strange motel room while travelling

Getting disoriented in your own home at night



THE BIRD HIDE PROJECT

Work on the project has moved from Cooney Reserve, back to the shed. Under Peter Ehrlich's management, a mock up of the floor area has been built. The frames and roof trusses will now be built, and when all are complete they will be erected on the floor, and clamped together, so that a good fit is made and achieved. They will then be dismantled and removed to Cooney Reserve where they will be assembled on site. Brian Lamb is shown building the first frame, which has been stood up ready for noggins. Peter estimates the framing will be completed in the next couple of weeks. The completed hid will look as shown in the sketches.

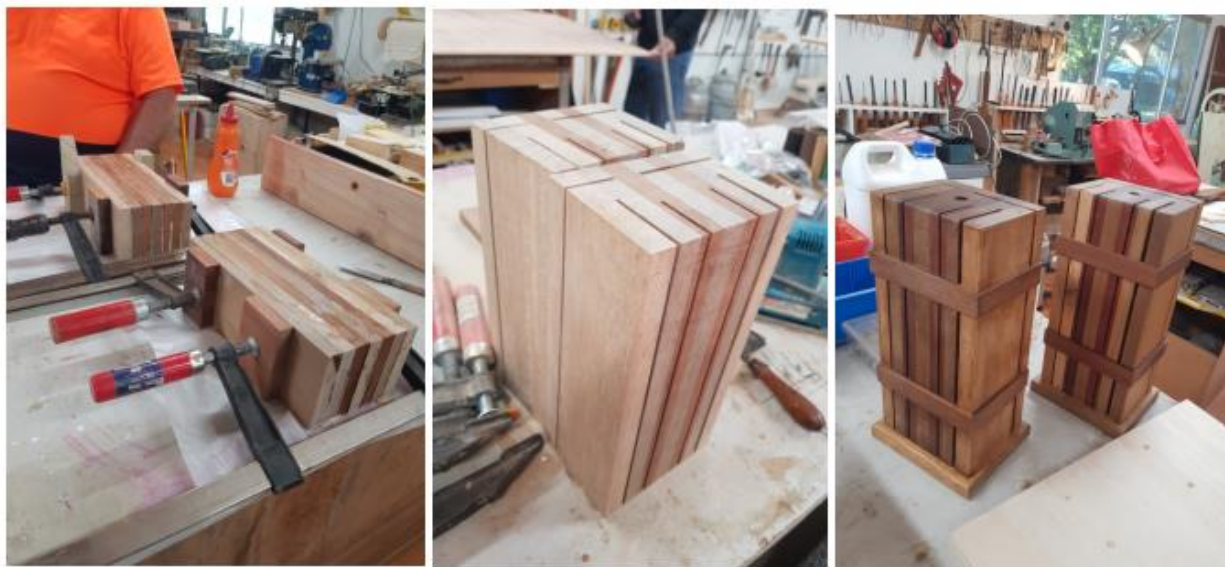
GARDENERS' DELIGHT

The Shed was donated two trucks loads of soil by a local contractor. Another brought in a small excavator and moved the soil to along the boundary, creating a good depth of garden. More soil was placed into the plant shelter, which last summer was a good source of tomatoes.

Grant and Ivan are now looking for plants. If you have any surplus seedlings, cuttings, or plants of the veg and fruit variety, they would be pleased to help with a good home for them. Please call into the shed if you can help.

The shelter is also showing signs of wear and tear. If you have any old shelter covers in your shed, they would love to hear from you, so that they can replace or patch up what we have.





Knife blocks by Barry.
Laminated in Kwila and Grappa with decorative straps.



Geoff has skills he never showed us before making "Relief Art" pieces.
They are donated to KidsCan and for sale by Niven at the Maketu market on behalf of the Shed.
Geoff has mastered the scroll saw and added an artistic flair.
Watch this space, there is probably more coming.

Cambridge Community Menzshed

As a newly established Menzshed in November 2023 the committee began looking for a home. We approached local commercial agents and Waipa Council and in February 2024 after looking at several options the Council offered a building that had been part of an old dairy factory, built in 1902 and later owned by a local motor company.



The Council took it over, we're not sure when, and it has been leased for several decades by local agricultural contractors and has had little ongoing maintenance. We are researching its interesting history and hope to display this on an information board on the site. The interior offers about 318mSq of usable space.

Here is a progress report on our journey towards a functioning Shed. We agreed to take it on and in May 2024 the Council gave us the go-ahead and

agreed a small financial contribution to getting the building secure with services connected. The rest will be up to us!

In July we had a great turnout of volunteers for the first working bee at the Shed and over a couple of hours the guys pitched in and cleaned all the accumulated debris from the inside of the building. Barry did a good job of sorting the timber into the categories of useable and rubbish, with the usable lengths being stored inside the cleaned-out building.



At the same time Paul (a member who is also a Contractor) donated a large digger, a big earthmoving tractor and trailer plus two of his employees to clear the site and level the grounds taking away trailer loads of earth and assorted debris. A member of the local community donated a load of sand which Paul used to fill and level an old vehicle service pit which could have been a Health & Safety issue further down the track.

The Committee has been in constant contact with the Council Property Division, updating the Mayor and meeting the Deputy Mayor on site to show her around the project, both Mayor and deputy are staunch supporters of our Shed Project. We have drawn up a Project Timeline/schedule and provided this to the Council and Mayor to keep them in touch.

Roof repairs, the first phase of the project and one that Council have allocated funds for, will begin on the 12th August. They are also going to ensure all the services are working and connected to the building, this includes Water, Power to the Board, Sewer and Stormwater.



Our lease is initially for five years with two options to renew (15 years in total) and we will take legal advice before signing it. Our Chairman has submitted our first Grants application to the Grassroots Trust.

We have had tremendous support from a number of local businesses wanting to donate time and materials to the Project and we are sorting through those at present.

We have brought all the tools & machinery which we had been accumulating (thanks especially to Matama and Te Awamutu Sheds) into one place in a container loaned to us by a local company. The same business has also given us space inside a large shed to store MDF sheets and offcuts which several joinery businesses have donated to us and this pile is growing significantly. Our initial thinking is to use the MDF as an internal lining for some of the walls.

A local signwriting company has donated a sign for the Shed and we have obtained approval from the Council to install the sign on the side of the building. So, look out for it if you are passing.

A new Building Supply Merchant has provided us with a Trade Account for all our ongoing purchases and will be one of our major donors/supporters helping with mobile scaffolding and a lot of necessary equipment for our project.

Last but not least, Eric has taken on the task of organising the cleaning and repairing the inside and outside of the window frames and glass panes, prior to any reglazing that may be necessary.

Our next task, when funds allow, is to lay a new concrete floor. Watch this space...

Mike Gast: Chairman

Region Three News

Taranaki, Manawatu, Whanganui, Hawkes Bay and Wellington

Masterton Mens Shed – Games Day



There are many sides to shedding, and diversity is one of our major attributes at the Masterton Mens Shed, on this occasion we set up a range of activities/games which have been manufactured at the Mens Shed.

It's about having some fun, not everybody joins in, some come along and watch others are busy in the garden or workshop, but for those who enjoy something a bit different and like to get a little competitive, Games Day can be just the answer.





On this occasion games comprised Cornhole, Jenga, Maze Ball, Connect Four, Klop, and Seven in a row.

Everyone has a competitor card that gets stamped for each activity they have a go at, and those with the most stamps go in the drawer for prizes, some of the prizes are just for fun, others more of a keep sake, and of course we have a best sportsman's award.

Wellington City MENZSHED are involved in a rather large project for Wellington City Council.

Wellington City Council is setting up Te Tai Owhinga Youth Hub in the middle of the city.

We are building seating for this, around existing concrete pillars.

This is the biggest project we have tackled and it involves many of our members. The seating

is in several sections and each is very heavy.

From the plans we made templates of thin mdf, then cut the seating.

The tops and bottoms are thick plywood; the sides are special thin plywood which we had to order from Auckland. It can be bent as all the layers, unlike other plys, run in one direction.

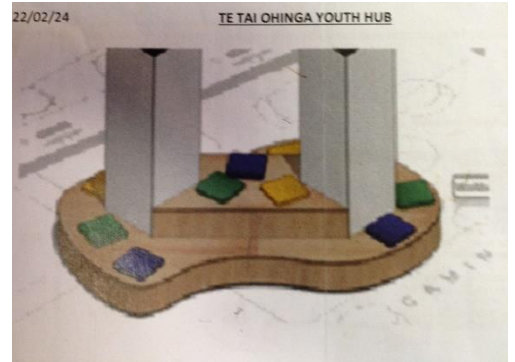
The top and bottom layers are separated and reinforced by square posts, hidden by the thin

ply.

The structure was then sealed, coloured and waxed, ready for installation.

We are at the finishing stages and soon will see the seating installed in the youth centre.

Stuart Hudson Secretary,
Wellington City Menzshed,



Menzshed Manawatu was part of a joint project to provide an illustrated story walk to encourage families to take children on a walk to experience the idea.

The concept is an illustrated story carried on a series of trackside story boards which can be followed while on a walk.

That “The Mog and the Frog” is completely local makes it special. “The idea, the story, the illustrations, the printing, the installation are all from our amazing community.” The shed made and installed the 11 boards which carry the story.



David Chapple said it had not been an easy project and the community group had been working on it for some time

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Here are photos of some of the fairy doors that were made for use at Keirunga Gardens.

Pam, Terry, Eddie, Margaret and Chris I were involved in the production of the items.

Also, are photos of tables that have been made by Pam and Margaret under Terry's guidance. And the plinths for the Acorn Project.

Allan's truck and Eddie's vase as well.





Combined Menzshed & Waikanae Lions Club – Stoat & Rat trapping programme

Stoat numbers along with Weasels, Rats and Ferrets are on the increase in the Kapiti Coast.

One significant cause for this growth in these predators is the Expressway running North South through our community. Stoats are using the new cycleways and walkways that run parallel to the expressway as an easy way to migrate deeper into the Kapiti Coast.

If you have walked or biked from Peka Peka to Waikanae you will have seen the large population of rabbits living on both sides of the track. These are a favourite food for Stoats.

DOC describes stoats as 'public enemy number one' for Aotearoa's native birds. They are relentless hunters and have a significant effect on species such as wrybills, the New Zealand dotterel, blackfronted terns and young kiwi. Only about 5% of Northland's brown kiwi chicks reach adulthood, and according to DOC their biggest threats are predation from stoats and feral cats.

Birds that nest in holes in tree trunks such as mohua, kākā and yellow-crowned kākārīki are also vulnerable to stoats.

Alf Clear was motivated to propose this environmental program, to the Lions and the Menzshed (Alf is a member), after he sighted two Stoats on the cycle track just north of Te Moans Road.

NZTA, who have jurisdiction over the land either side of the walkway, were approached by Alf requesting permission to run a trapline and agreed to his proposal.

The initial proposal is to run a trap line (subject to NZTA approval) from the end of Pururi Road by the expressway, north to Nga Manu. This is approximately 3.5 kilometres. There is an existing trapping program along either side of the Waikanae River.

Predatorfreenzorg.nz recommends for this to be effective a trap should be set every 100m. This requires about 30 traps. The Menzshed made the 30 DOC200 trap boxes and the Lions funded the purchase of the mechanisms, baits and misc. items.

Training in the setting and positioning of the traps will be required.

Volunteers will be sought from both the Waikanae Lions Club and the Menzshed to check and reset the traps on a fortnightly basis.



The completed traps and the Menzshed and Lions team who manufactured them



Penguin Recovery Project. Martinborough serves a large rural and coastal community down here in the Southern Wairarapa.

Our Mens Shed was recently approached by a representative from the Aorangi Restoration Trust to repair and make some new Penguin Breeding Boxes. Unfortunately, predators were taking their toll on nesting penguins on the coast but since the deployment of 20 nesting boxes a few years ago, the population has stabilized somewhat leading to a need for further boxes to be constructed and deployed around the coast. This coupled with an expanded predator control programme is expected to turn the tide properly in favor of the Little Blues and return their population to what it was years ago.

In typical style for us here in Martinborough, a local business donated material for the boxes and we made a further 32, now ready to be placed around the coast by local volunteers.



Our Sample, main chamber is 450mm x 600mm A team precut all the pieces and then it was all hands to the nail guns.



And so, they were all completed and loaded on a trailer for delivery. Another great project for the community.

Reduce the risk of developing dementia

As we get older, our risk of developing dementia increases.
But evidence shows there are things you can do to help reduce this risk.

Look after your heart

Adopting a healthy lifestyle can help to prevent high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity, as not only do these increase the risk for heart attacks and strokes, they increase the chances of developing dementia later on in life.

Lifestyle factors such as quitting smoking and reducing alcohol consumption to two standard drinks in one sitting can significantly reduce your risk of developing dementia.

Keep active

Being physically active has many health benefits, and some evidence has shown it can help to reduce the risk of dementia. Thirty minutes of gentle exercise such as brisk walking, five days a week is all you need to improve your health. If you have any health conditions that limit your ability to exercise, talk to your GP or primary health care professional first.

Eating healthily

Our body and brain both rely on food for fuel. Fatty and processed foods which are high in saturated fat, sugar and/or salt are associated with a higher risk of heart disease and is best

avoided. There is good evidence that eating a Mediterranean-style diet (which includes whole grains, fruits, vegetables, seafood, beans, and nuts) can reduce the risk of developing some forms of dementia.

Do activities you enjoy

Activities that stretch your mind such as reading, crosswords and puzzles, and activities such as bridge, mahjong and chess are excellent. Doing new activities can help build new brain cells and strengthen the connections between them. This may counter the harmful effects of Alzheimers and other dementia pathologies.

Stay socially connected

Social engagement may also be beneficial to brain health because it stimulates your brain reserves. Remaining socially engaged and an active part of the community is important for people with dementia, so try and make time for friends and family.

Avoid knocks to head

A serious head injury, with loss of consciousness, is associated with a higher risk of developing dementia. A 'head injury' includes an injury that occurs to the scalp, skull, brain, and underlying tissue and blood vessels in the head.

Check your hearing

Being able to communicate helps keep people socially connected, so it's a good idea to get hearing checked regularly. Make sure to check any hearing aids so they're working properly.



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Region Four News

Canterbury and Westland

Rolleston Men's Shed

Medical Support

The Shed provides medical support for its members when required. A couple of members regularly use the Shed's equipment and record their blood pressure and pulse rates and this information can be passed on to their doctors. It also checks that the instrumentation is working and recently the clip-on pulse recorder was found to need new batteries and had corroded contacts. A third advantage is there will be more members who can use the equipment in an emergency.

Car Repair

This item was repaired and got in the local paper. Definitely a TV programme "*The Repair Shop*" type of thing.

The model is similar to an American Ford Galaxie 1959 car and needed a lot of repair and it now has the roof coming out of the boot and fitting on the roof as the full sized one used to do.



Woodwork Skill

Amongst the woodwork jobs, a chess table has had our member with inlay skills busy. He has also recently repaired a 120 year old mandolin.

Computers

Another bunch of computers were donated to the Shed. This time Apple Mac Mini desktops and most had Linux installed, a quick and easy job. They are very big in performance and small in size, small enough to be glued(?) screwed to the back of a monitor if wanted.

Woodwork Workshop

The woodwork shop always has chairs being worked on. Recently a complete dining room table and six chairs were sold on Trademe. Coffee tables continue to be made.



A plain coffee table



A bed-end coffee table



A more unusual bed-end coffee table

Region Five News

Otago and Southland

We have all been made aware of Maori culture by previous Governments, it makes up part of our history. I've been interested in Maori artefacts for over 35 years and have made several items since.

This carving is about our Blokes Shed. The Koru in the center represents a fern frond unfurling which means as the Maori believe the beginning of a new life. The other small figures are our committee. The President and Secretary are in the center facing the Koru with the rest of the committee around the edges.

I have taken a tongue in cheek look at how I see the men's shed.

In Maori carving, the carver adds to the story of their history as he works.

There are plenty of books available on early involvement by whalers, sealers and Missionaries, plus the New Zealand Company, RE-Wakefield's.

George, is a retired painter by trade but enjoys carving wood. This includes, walking sticks, trinket boxes, and many other carvings for people. A valuable shed member.



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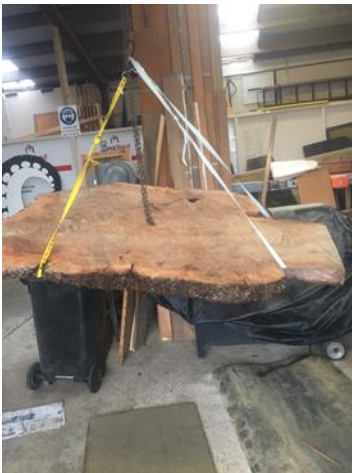
MenzShed Invercargill.

It's been another busy couple of months in the South, with the Matariki project being a major one.

Apart from being busy in the workshop, we have hosted 2 different men's support groups at the shed, both to see what we do, and share experiences.

One group was based on support for those who have experienced family violence (giving or receiving) , and the other was the Cancer Society's Southern Man's Group. Both were good community based events.

Planning continues for the National Conference here next April, so please fill in your "expression of interest" below, if you haven't already done so.



1/ A timber slab to be sanded/polished for use as a table.

2/ Following the making of a Pohutakawa tree 2 years ago, we were asked by local iwi to make this large sign for Matariki celebrations this year.

3/ Another delivery - sections of a track bridge for use on the YMCA Omaui Camp bush track & walkway.

This is a joint venture between Menshed Invercargill, Invercargill Rotary Club, and YMCA, to establish a safe and educational experience for the children attending the camp.

MENZSHED NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM

KELVIN HOTEL, INVERCARGILL

Friday 4 April (start 1.00pm) – Sunday 6 April (finish 12.20pm) 2025

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST.

Close-off date: 31 August 2024

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The Organising Committee have a number of Sponsorship Applications before Community Funders in order to keep your attendance prices down.

To assist us with our planning and budgets, we are asking for “**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**” as to whether you will be interested in attending the Conference. (Not a firm commitment as that will be by Registration Form at a later date).

The Registration Form will cover the following costs:

Morning/afternoon teas; Friday buffet meal; Lunch Saturday, Breakfast

Sunday (with Guest Speaker) and Transport from/to Invercargill Airport.

A Conference Dinner will be held at the **Bill Richardson Transport World** on the Saturday night, but this is **OPTIONAL and \$135.00 per person**. This includes a tour of this World Famous Venue including all the Ford “alphabet” model cars. Dinner and entertainment in the upstairs Conference Room. Some wine on the tables but a drinks bar operating. Spouses and partners invited.

A separate Partners (Ladies) Programme is being arranged to entertain the womenfolk during the Conference sessions.

We have booked all rooms at the Kelvin Hotel for Conference attendees and individuals will need to make such arrangements. **\$150.00 per night (double or twin singles)**

There is nothing quite like a face to face conference so make sure your shed is going to be represented.

Please send your “Expression of Interest” using the following link ONLY:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwVCe-fdd6J1_IBuBy-s2rv3vPSTxTnuFfdRxLm8wuo9ZwZg/viewform?usp=sharing

Next Newsletter – November 2024

The next newsletter is due for publication mid November 2024. The deadline for articles for that newsletter will be 10th November 2024. 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. Please limited article to around 200 words.

Please do not send your whole shed newsletter, as I will only publish single articles sent.

Send articles to support@menzshed.nz Cheers John Bush Support Services and Newsletter Editor

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www.menzshed.org.nz/membership/benefits/





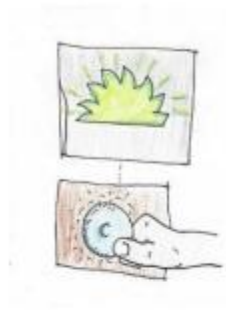
Shed Check-In System

What is it? A computerised System for tracking shed member attendance of Users, authorise member use of designated electrical equipment, identify when breakages occur and facilitate safety training.

Who can use it? Any organisation that wants to know who is onsite, who is using machinery and what safety training is needed.

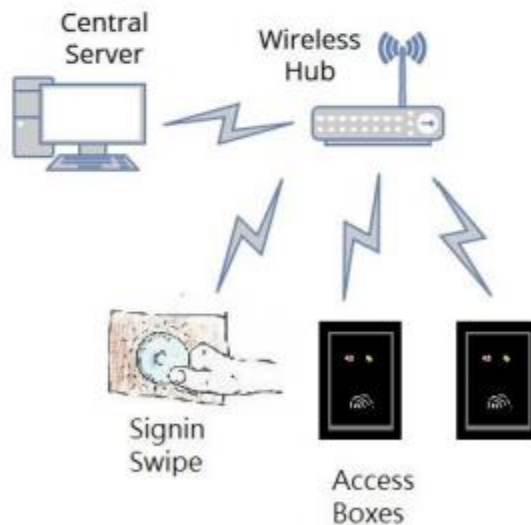
What does it use? The system comprises 4 types of devices

- a small PC for management
- a sign-in box
- one or more access boxes
- a wireless router for communications



How does it work?

A small PC acts as a central server, and communicates with a sign-in device and one or more access boxes. The devices and boxes are using small Arduino computers which talk through the wireless router to the central server. Each Arduino has a swipe sensor reader to identify the user and validate their access. If a breakage occurs, the last user is known.



Would you like to know more?

The initial release of the code, build plans and documentation has now been made available at <https://github.com/TawaMenzShedNZ/SCIS>