

The monthly newsletter from the Te Awamutu Community MenzShed

MENZSHED
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Fostering Friendship and Wellbeing

12 October 2025

The last month or more has been a busy time around the shed with a wide range of projects being completed both outside and inside the buildings! I start with some of the good stuff, but have to end with a bit of a gripe – I hope you all take the message on board and keep the shed a great place to be! – Richard O’Dea, Chairman

Special General Meeting

By the time you get this our Special General Meeting will have been and gone on the 9th of October focusing on the idea of covering the concrete pad area in. The favoured option is to cover it with a carport, including framing to allow for the incorporating doors should the members decide at a later date to fully enclose the carport. Members support with the construction as and when needed is expected as it will ultimately benefit all members.

New soak Hole.

A new soak larger pit has already been installed to better cope with water from the existing roof and surface runoff. It also has the capacity to cope with rain water from the carport once built. It must be noted that the cost of the materials and labour related to the installation of the soak hole was completed by Stu from Dizzy Digger. When asked to email his invoice, he said that there would be no invoice as he was donating all costs to the Menz Shed, saving the Shed some \$1,000. His generosity was based in part on the work we do for the community. In thanks, a koha to say thanks was swiftly arranged the same day by Clive Partington.



Garage Sale

Our Garage sale on the 20th of September reflected what is happening in the economy across the country. While there was a slow but steady stream of sales, the numbers coming to the Shed were significantly down on the garage sale held earlier this year. However, the purchase of several ‘\$100’ items helped push our takings up to \$990 on the day – all thanks to those who put the effort in on the Friday before, sorting, labelling and arranging the goods ready for the sale. Also thanks to those who were there Saturday morning, selling, welcoming, chatting, carrying – everyone making the shed look and be as inviting as possible – and to the clean-up team as well. Great work everyone!

Not a lot left over as you can see – although there are a few odds and sods elsewhere.

Te Awamutu I-Site Manager’s upcoming visit

One of our visitors to the garage sale was Jacqui, the ‘new’ manager from Te Awamutu I-site. After a good look around and a chat she is keen to join us later in the year for a coffee and a chat with everyone. We will set a date and let you all know when she will be coming – their support through sale of some of our goods, and that of many other organizations, help to make the shed the great place to be that it is.

Visit to Ross Brothers on 16th Oct

I have been past the museum with my 4 year old grandson and we both were blown away by the size of the machines set back from their road frontage at their Hautapu site. If they are any indication of what is inside it will be an awesome place! Everyone is welcome and need to pay their own entry fee of \$10 per person. We will car pool from the shed, leaving at 9:00 am and suggest all passengers give a donation to the driver for petrol costs.

Heart Foundation - 22nd October Alina from the Heart Foundation will be here on the 22nd of October for coffee and chinwag about heart health. There's a wide range of topics that could be addressed so Alina will pick one she feels is relevant and then will open up for questions. It is planned that we will provide all members with several healthy eating booklets from the Heart Foundation. In addition, we hope to also provide one from Diabetes NZ around food nutrition, a perfect complement to the other booklets. It is our intention to deliver all three booklets to any members who can't make it on the day.



'Doc' Traps

While tapping on the computer at the shed on Monday 22nd, I noticed Malcolm arrive with a trailer load of planks for the latest order of 88 traps. A short while later I emerged to see a production line cutting the planks to the correct width on the band saw and to the right length on the drop saw. Both teams had three or four guys, feeding the saws and stacking the lengths in piles. Sometime later, after smoko, I emerged again to see the next stage well under way, cutting slots, prepping for early construction into our quality product. Another great team effort by a well-oiled machine! Thanks guys for being 'all in'!

Rat Tunnels – pricing email at \$20

Speaking of tunnels, a number of you were aware that we recently had a mix up with an order of rat tunnels, specifically with the price. After discussion with the customer we agreed to reduce the price to \$10, the same as for traps they had previously sourced from another supplier. Subsequent to our agreeing we received an email requesting an invoice to charge not at the \$10 agreed but \$20 because of the quality of the product. Quality is all important for our reputation and future business. Thanks Malcolm for resolving this with integrity.

Christmas Hamper appeal

Jill Watson has approached us to make small wooden trucks, (and spinning tops?) for the annual Christmas Hamper appeal, something we supported last year in the same way. We have agreed to do so again as a donation to the appeal and these should start being turned out by the time you read this. If not, put your hand up to help! A few small spinning tops turned out on a lathe have been added as a bonus.

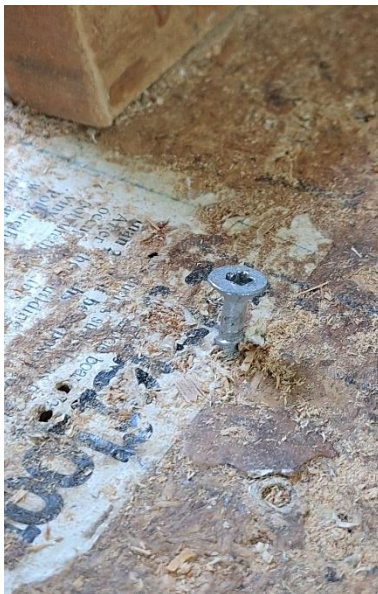
Shed Wash-down 24th Sept

The outsides of houses are no different to the inside when it comes to accumulating dirt and grime. Consequently, it is recommended that house be washed down on an annual basis. Our shed has not had any external attention of that nature for something like four years. Grass growing in the spouting and accumulated branches on the roof were testament to that lack of attention. Thanks to the guys that got in and completed this.

From now on we will put in place a date for a regular wash-down. Look for an annual planner to be put up on the wall with this and other annual events to be added. Failing to plan is planning to fail, as we saw with there being no activity for this year's Menz Shed week. So we are setting that right.

And Now a Gripe From Your Chairman

At the end of a day I recently went for a stroll around the shed and was disappointed at the state things were left in – little things, yes, but so many that impact on the next person working in the area or on a machine – how things were left was not acceptable. None of them biggies on their own but it shows a lack of concern for the rest of your mates. Leave the machines and work areas as you would want to find them – clean, tidy and ready for use. Put things away once you are done with them... where they belong.



- Bit left in drill press.
- Dust across the sanding table.
- Sawdust across the planer.
- Screw left in bench by drop saw. -
- Sawdust part swept and left.
- Saw dust overflow just left.
- Off cut left on drop saw.
- Broom hung up in router room – easy to do but it belongs above the drill press.

Clean up and Put Away

