



October 2025

186 Mill
Tuesdays &
3pm • Telephone
022 4069 439

Road, Ōtaki
Thursdays 10am-

Don't forget our

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Thurs 23 Oct, 12,30pm

Kia ora - we're back!

We've never been away, of course, but this is our first newsletter since well, years ago.

Have you missed the newsletter? We would like to know how useful this newsletter really is. How else are you keeping up to date with MenzShed? Are you visiting our Facebook page? How would you like us to stay in touch with you? Do drop us a line and let us know what you think.

Everyone here at MenzShed is pretty excited that Spring is here, we're super keen to get out there and we've got some exciting projects we are working on.

Not that winter has been a time of hibernation - we have had a busy few months of late and are pleased to give you an update on our activities, which included a visit to the Health Camp Rotunda.



MENZSHED
ŌTAKI

Chairman: Les Frost Secretary/ Treasurer: Tony King
Committee: Stewart Turner, Brian Winterburn, Barry Dwane and Wal Bowra.

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Email OtakiMenzShed@outlook.com  [OtakiMenzShed](https://www.facebook.com/OtakiMenzShed)

Otaki MenzShed Incorporated is a registered charity CC50404. We work for koha to fund activities. Donations KiwiBank 389015-0439770-00

MenzShed visits Ōtaki Children's Health Camp

We had a great day out when we visited the Ōtaki Children's Health Camp to get an update on the restoration progress of the camp's historic Rotunda.

We were really pleased to catch up with Ōtaki Montessori children who were checking out the Health Camp's donkey cart - a cart we had restored to its old glory some time ago.

"It's amazing to see how what we do brings happiness to the community," MenzShed secretary Tony King says. MenzShed have done plenty of work for Ōtaki Montessori over the years, as well as the Health Camp. "We all help each other out and it's so satisfying to see that we are able to make a real contribution to Ōtaki."

Our members really enjoyed a tour by the Chair of the Rotunda Trust Di Buchan. The Trust was formed to preserve and restore the hexagonal shaped building, which was used as a children's dormitory when the Ōtaki Children's Health Camp was operational last century.

Protected from demolition by its status as a Heritage New Zealand Category One building, it remains a striking structure. Restoration began earlier this year and is expected to take some time.



Louisa Brown and Manaia Mekalick enjoy a ride in the Donkey Cart we restored a wee while ago.

Ōtaki Rotunda Cont.

The Rotunda work is led by restoration specialist Rob Tilbrook. "We've already rebuilt a wall in its entirety and replaced a good bit of the floor," Rob says. The job involves restrengthening, floor rebuilding, window and sash replacement, electrics and provision of disabled access. A new roof which is due to be installed soon will protect the work. It's hoped the Rotunda will be back in action by late summer.



Not a job for the faint hearted: Rob Tilbrook inside the Rotunda.



Ōtaki Kindy fishing rod – what a catch!

As you all know we just love doing bits and pieces for all groups in the community, but it seems the best and most interesting jobs are done when we can let our creativity fly. Brian Winterburn did just that and gave Ōtaki Kindergarten something they don't already have – a fishing rod for their backyard boat. The kids are delighted to have something new and exciting to play with.

Heidi and Tyrone, steering the ship at Ōtaki Kindergarten and proudly displaying their catch. Great to see the kids having fun with a clever fishing rod built by our own Brian Winterburn.

A touch of the ol' dog and bone



Millennials and Generation Z may never have seen one but for many of us, the old phone booth once was a crucial means of communication. Clutching a handful of coins, we would sometimes even have to line up to get our turn - but we always knew where to find them, because they were bright red.

One of these now rare specimens can be found at Te Horo Beach, at the Bus Stop Café at 55 Sims Road. A touching reminder of older, maybe simpler times. Café owner Kirsty Green knows that Father Time waits for no one and the wind, rain and sun take their toll.

So she asked Stewart Turner, Barry Stewart and Malcolm Scotney to help. Many hours of painstakingly detailed work later, the refurbished phone booth can now be admired at Kirsty's beautiful café – go and visit for a pie or some of her other baked delicacies, open Friday to Sunday 9am-3pm.



President's report

Dear members,

The moment you've all been waiting for is nearly here - yes, the very first event of our famous Summer Barbecue Season is coming up. We're all over that rain and we're putting a marker in the ground by firing up the barbie and saying 'no more rain!'.



So, get ready to sizzle, mingle and chat on Thursday 23 October. We're getting together around 12.30pm. All members welcome, of course, and partners, and if you know anyone who might be interested in what we do then by all means bring them along, too.

We'll have food and drinks for all, but let that not stop you if you have a hankering or thirst for something specific to bring that along, too.

It's been a good year and we have eight new members, all from different backgrounds, which is fantastic to see. Just recently we were approached by a lady who is renovating her home, she and her whanau can do a lot of that themselves but for some things they need a bit of muscle, so here we are. Helping the community, that's what we do.

Things are ticking over nicely, however some of our costs are getting higher so we'll have to adjust our membership fees, up by a tenner to \$40/year.

Thanks to all of you for your continuous support, giving your time and energy for the betterment of all the members and our community. Looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Les

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