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NEWSLETTER 42

NOVEMBER 2025

So here we are in the middle of a Wellington spring. The only reason we are all still here is that we have equal days of extreme northerlies followed by extreme southerlies, so we are blown north and south leaving us in the same place. Enough of this “bipolar” weather.

With such wild recent weather, one might expect fewer Shed attendees but no, the biscuit/sausage roll consumption is as high as ever. We have new members with inductions and badge training ongoing which is great. The Shed is ‘buzzing’ (have I said this before??). Visitors are amazed at the projects we have going on and these just keep on evolving. Just a walk around Mai Katoa is so energising. I hope members take a little time out to circulate and be amazed – carving, lathed wooden bowls, laser engraved objects, plants germinating under LED light. etc.

We have received a grant from the Hutt Mana Charitable Trust for a bench lathe. One step nearer to starting wood lathing classes. We await the outcome of our ‘Lotteries’ grant application which, if successful, will enable the start of these classes. If not, Allan N will attempt to find funding through a last source before Christmas. If it is successful a further application will be made to contribute towards tools to complete (and enable the use of) the metal lathe container and workshop. Busy. Busy.

Our gardens have suffered the vagaries of our ‘spring’ weather. After each storm we face torn anti-Pukeko/insect netting which is a bit dispiriting. There is a new method of cover in the planning so watch this space. Meanwhile, our gardeners take heart and keep producing veges for the food bank. In Shed 3 Steve C is germinating seedlings for the gardens and for members. There is now a whiteboard on the wall for orders to be written for action by Steve and his helpers. The work space for this enterprise has been extended with an additional work bench. I sense the possibility that the green finger brigade are trying to take over Shed 3.

We now have a collection of toys for WCA (Wesley Community Action, who we have worked with before), small but cool. Thanks to Nathaniel and Ian for their efforts here. To bolster this gifting, we now have a gifting basket labelled “Christmas for Kids” on the sale table. It would be amazing if members could consider a contribution towards this (wrapping later). Just think – your gift might be the only one that a local child gets. If unsure of what to buy a cash donation would be wonderful: the committee will purchase a gift and give the donor a tax receipt (we are a registered charity). Thanks for the early donations so far.



Paul, Gary and Steve rebuild the garden corner.



Nathaniel and his wonderful airplane gifts.

Another community venture we are setting up is a Men's Health Expo. This is encouraged by MenzShed NZ and several such expos have been successfully held by other MenzSheds already.

Our Men's Health Expo will be held on:

Saturday 29th November at Pataka Performing Arts Room from 10am to 3pm.

There are relevant health professionals booked to give information, talk, check eyesight and blood pressure etc. It is free and partners are welcome. We are co-hosting with Ora Toa (a medical centre in Elsdon) who have access to a range of health practitioners. It's promising to be a good community collaboration so please ink in the date.

Several of our members have been helping clear the workshop of a deceased local community identity. This has provided an interesting source of unusual tools and some excellent timber (great for the wood lathers).

A small negative: we recently had a break in and lost our mower, water blaster and weed eater. It's not worth claiming on insurance. Thanks to Steve C for donating a new water blaster. We'll replace the other items when we can. The person identified on our security cameras was caught and went to court where he pleaded NOT GUILTY. Go figure!

Thanks to David for cleaning the ceiling in Shed 3 – how much brighter it looks! Shed 3 continues to be a good source of income as Ben and helpers apply detailed care to restore pieces of furniture, some of which mean a lot to the owners, who tell us the amazing stories behind them.

Also, our thanks to Paul K for using the (kindly donated) 'Wet and Forget' to spray the exterior of our buildings. I'm thinking we may need to consider a paint job on our Sheds in the near future. The 'gifted' paint we used on sheds 2 and 3 a few years ago was of relatively poor quality and has not weathered well.

We held our 2025 AGM last month outdoors and with a lovely BBQ. Your committee remains the same with (I think) only one change since we started (six years ago). This is amazing and unusual as most voluntary organisations struggle to keep governance structures going, especially the executive roles. Thanks to our 'new' committee for volunteering to serve the Shed for another year, and thanks to all members who participated in the AGM.



Al Fresco AGM (& BBQ!)

Our 2025/2026 Office holders are:

Committee: Ben Espinosa, Murray Goold, Allan Nichols (grants applications), Graeme Blick

Treasurer: Richard Cook Secretary: Alastair Woodfield

Chairperson: Carole Brown

Welfare officer: Paul Parish

This last position is a new role which Paul identified the need for and volunteered. If you know of a Shed member who is unwell, please let Paul know so he can be in touch and offer our support. You can also leave a note on the admin office desk. Many of the people above also serve as Supervisors, along with several others. Without their support we simply could not function.



Hal, Ian and others unloading timber. Some may be firewood, but much is a really great resource.



Ben has restored a much-loved rimu drawer set for Kate, who is thrilled with the result.



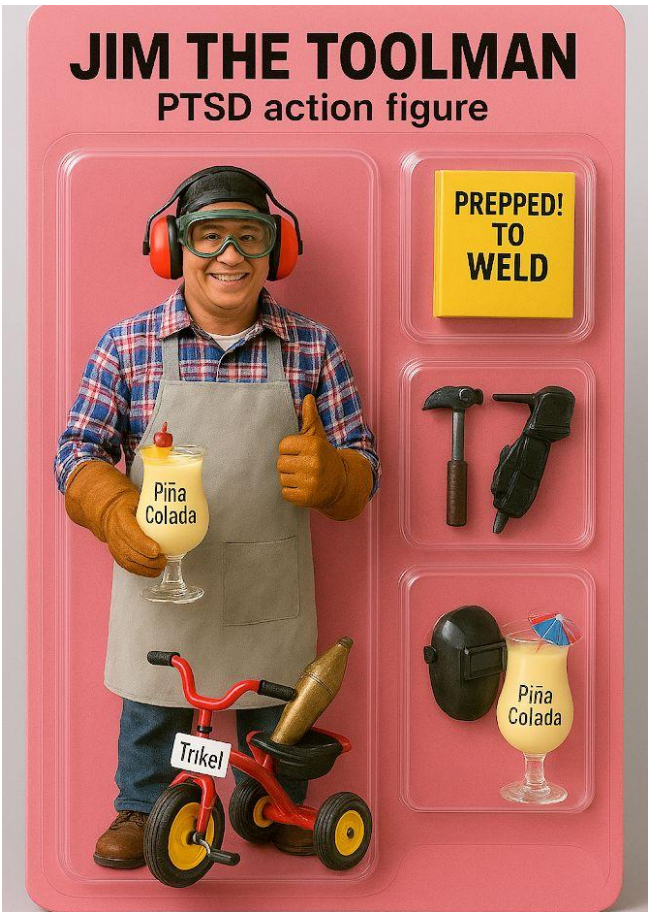
'Master' dumpster diver Chris with recent trophies.



Jose trims wood for a new chopping board.



Richard and Murray instal a new security light.



Apparently, this man is a legit Shedd member?

Future Dates/Event to note:

MEN'S HEALTH EXPO SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER AT PATAKA

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS: ANY GIFT DONATIONS OR CASH TO PURCHASE SAME BY BEGINNING OF DECEMBER PLEASE.

WE ARE APPROACHING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR CASH DONATIONS TO HELP WITH EXPENSES OF OUR HEALTH EXPO. TAX RECEIPT AVAILABLE. ANY MEMBER DONATIONS WELCOME (we already have some).

END OF YEAR BBQ: SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER. PLEASE BRING A PLATE – PARTNERS WELCOME. DRINKS, BBQ FOOD PROVIDED AS USUAL.

Your committee.

....and finally....a few (more) random quotes to keep you amused...

So the school is closed today. Do we just drop the kids off at the teacher's house or what?

I dream of a world where chickens can cross the road without having their motives questioned.

Unless he wears nappies, you can't change him.

Never argue with a woman. If you win things could get much worse.

A bicycle is just as good company as most husbands and, when it gets old and shabby, a woman can dispose of it and get a new one without shocking the entire community.