

Blokes enjoy a Menzshed

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- BY SAHIBAN HYDE



Some visitors enjoying a yarn with Menzshed members.

Men flocked to a good old-fashioned Kiwi barbecue put on to promote Napier Menzshed and attract new members at its open day.

Napier Menzshed's Mike Richardson says the club, like other Menzsheds around NZ, is for retired and senior men to support and improve their overall wellbeing and health, and share a yarn or two.

“Many friendships are made and many more will continue to be made by Napier Menzshed members within our community. We have five special needs members who come along and enjoy the company of our members who have skills and are able to share with others.”

The men at Napier Menzshed have contributed significantly to the Napier community as well, Mike says.

“Our contribution to the city of Napier is significant. We are presently building beds for a local charity, we've built bee hives, constructed a bird blind and animal traps for DoC, refurbished an antique dolls house which is currently on display in the Napier library.”

Senior Napier menfolk are obviously attracted to the idea, with more than 80 men turning up for the Menzshed's open day on February 21.

“We held an open day to entice more of our menfolk to join us and see what we’re about — this turned out to be a great success as we had a flood of men respond to our invitation to share a cuppa and a sausage.”

The idea for the Napier Menzshed is not a new one, suggested four years ago by the then senior citizens minister Maggie Barry, he says.

“A meeting was set up at the Napier library to see if there was enough interest within the community. More than 30 men turned up and it was decided to set up a Menzshed here in Napier.”

The Napier Basketball Association offered them the use of two sheds behind the premises at Whitmore Park, free of charge.

“From there our membership has grown and we became more widely known among the retired menfolk of Napier. We had arrived.”

Two years ago, with the help of grants, they purchased the Band Hall at 125 Latham St, adding a second room to the premises.

“We are now comfortably set up with 58 members who regularly attend, enjoying the camaraderie our shed offers.”

Men interested in becoming members: Opening hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am-1pm. Phone Mike 06 8436977.