



*Andy Tyler and Bruce Dawson work together to restore a piece of furniture at Napier's Menz Shed.*

Twice a week the doors are open and the kettle is on at Napier's Menz Shed.

Even when the members are taking a break from hammering, sanding, and painting the shed is still alive with laughter and the jug is always hot.

The Nuffield Avenue site provides its retired all-male group with friendship and a sense of purpose, while keeping their wit and craftsmanship sharp.

In July last year the first members were introduced through meetings hosted by Napier City Council and similar meetings are planned to help launch a shed in Hastings.

Napier Menz Shed member Mike Richardson said his group were planning to support their Hastings counterparts.

He said the Napier group began with nothing - no money or resources - just a group of like-minded men.

But over the last 18 months they have moved into a site and developed 45 members.

He said Menz Sheds were a global organisation and provided a sense of belonging and camaraderie to men.

The Napier shed has worked on sizeable projects, including a model airplane large enough to sit in.

"Men come here and put their talents to good use," Richardson said.

"We are getting guys out over their homes to do things that are good for them and good for the community."

Shed members also complete projects for personal interest or community groups, like a cross for the RSA to attach poppies to on ANZAC Day.

Richardson said men were also encouraged to come down for a chat and cup of tea even if they were not working on a project.

They are preparing to shift to a new site on Latham Street with the possibility of expanding operating hours from the current 9am to 3pm on Tuesday and Thursday.