

Sheddie News

January 2022

The official newsletter of MENZSHED NZ

From the Chairman

Happy New year to all sheds and sheddies. I do hope that this year will turn out alright in the end, despite covid in a different form knocking on our doors. Member sheds are indicating a smaller number of men attending. Members are enjoying being down at the shed even though there may be fewer projects being undertaken for the community. I hope this will pick up once we progress through the year. A special congratulations goes to Alan Kissell of the Waimea shed for being awarded a community service award in the New Year honours. It just shows what can be achieved from the work done at the shed and the value that the community put on what we do. Well done Alan. Looking at our database I see we have about one hundred and thirty sheds as members to Menzshed NZ. Last year saw about six sheds become members four of which were sheds just starting up. We have also changed some of our resources access and most of the resources will only be given out to member sheds in the future. If you as a member shed can't get access to the resources you require contact your region rep and he will pass on the access code. Resources for starting up a shed are still available to all. This change will strengthen the regional reps position and involvement with sheds. I look forward to the conference in 2023 and hope to be able to report back to you all with a programme etc later in the year. Until then stay safe, Trevor

Welcome to our Region 6 Representative.

Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough. David Packer: Shed Renwick

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Born 1950 Christchurch NZ. Father was a motor mechanic, air crew during WW2. Mother was a working housewife and mother to three children. High School was Xavier College. A 5 year apprenticeship with Steel Bros as a coach builder, led to the Toyota Motor Assembly plant in Hornby ChCh till 1972. Had leave of absence for travel to England. Worked for Stelmo's in Kent where we built the moles that bored underground tunnels, including the Channel tunnel between France & England. One of the 2 machines is still under the English Chanel, the other at Folkstone. Also worked on the rail tunnel to Heathrow and the Dartford Tunnel. From there to Melbourne for a few months then returned to Toyota maintenance department. Four years later with itchy feet, moved family back to Melbourne and worked for Kenworth. Set up their new building. Next I joined the printing industry starting as a fitter and moving through the ranks to plant engineer with the largest printing co in Australia meaning many trips to Europe, England and USA with work. In 1996 I returned to NZ as chief engineer and project manager for this company. My role was to set up maintenance departments in NZ 's five plants and look after all purchases of equipment, including relocations of plants and equipment. Retired in Dec 2013, then worked for another printing company, to set up a new building and install their new equipment from France while relocating their existing plant from Ashburton to Ch-Ch. I set up their H&S systems for the next year and trained their new H&S officer. Joined the Rolleston Menz shed in 2014 as H&S officer and supervisor. At the end of 2016 we moved to Blenheim where we designed our home and had a local builder complete the house. Joined the Renwick Menzshed in 2019. Favourite hobbies: cars, motorbikes, carpentry and making heritage toys.



Mens Shed Waimea

Many of you will have noticed the Mens Shed organisation was represented in this years Queen's New Year Honours List in the person of Alan Kissell our Shed Co-ordinator and one of the group who founded our Shed 13 years or so ago. Alan was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for his contribution to the local community. Our Shed members are very proud of him. As a quick potted work history of Alan: he started his working life as a postman here in Nelson and then transferred to the Post Office Savings side of things. After several years his boss suggested he should "get out of here" not because he was useless but because his talents were being wasted in a large (and from the sound of it, fairly stuffy) empire. Alan and his wife Wendy, who is also a great supporter of our Shed, took over a Fish and Chip business which was a great success and then Alan moved into building becoming a qualified builder.

All of these skills he brings to the Shed, although speaking as our Shed's secretary one skill he doesn't seem to have developed is keeping his side of our tiny shared office tidy. He confirms that one of Mens Shed Waimea's original aims was to help the local community and we have and continue to assist a wide group of voluntary organisations, schools, the local Hospice and the IHC for whom he along with a group of our members, runs a mornings woodwork class at the Shed, plus local individuals who just need a little practical help.

Therefore, the award he has been given is well deserved and we hope he will continue to support the Shed for many more years.

Cheers Ian Grage Secretary, Mens Shed Waimea



Conference 2023

Planning is well underway for this event. The Hawkes Bay region has kindly taken up the challenge to host and provide us all with an exciting programme of entertainment and interesting papers being delivered. As information comes to hand regarding this event it will be forwarded onto sheds so that you all will be kept up to date on the happenings.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due for publication at the end of April. The deadline for articles for that newsletter is **Friday 22nd April**. When you have completed an interesting project or done something of interest with others down at the shed, send us an article. Don't wait for the deadline as it gives the editor time to arrange articles. It is always good to see pictures with an article. Format for article please use Word and Jpeg for pictures as these are easy to work with. Send articles to chairman@menzshed.nz

Region One News

Northland and Auckland

Settlers Albany Blokes Shed

I have a Myford Super 7 metal lathe and was missing a fixed steady so I set to and built one using 6061-grade aluminium and brass for the wear supports. If any of you sheddies are into machining, using aluminium, then I suggest you consider using 6061 grade. It is beautiful to machine and you get super finishes. Komax in Palmerston North are the suppliers and they offer a fantastic service with good stock. I highly recommend them as a supplier of this sort of material. Check their website for what is offered. I am a time-served fitter and turner so if any of you are struggling with a machining job I would be happy to offer some advice. I also worked for 28 years for Seco Tools, a company that manufactures carbide inserts and tooling for machining and I know this product well so would be happy to guide you on this as well.



We recently changed our workshop around as we were running out of space, especially to store small wood panels. The outcome was to buy four kitchen cupboard units from Mitre 10 and as can be seen, we now stack our plywood off-cut on edge between the cupboards, whereas before it was all stacked up on top of each other, hopeless. We also moved our morning tea-making facility to a more convenient place with a bench to operate from, making it more homely.



A project that has been going on for a while is the refurbishment of a 100-year-old clinker dinghy. This task was taken on by Alan Young, a professional boat builder, and John Morris (he is in the photo). It will be auctioned off when completed and funds go to a charity. The floorboards for it can be seen standing on the bench. Alan made a beautiful job of these made from Sapele mahogany. They look great and will certainly finish her off.

Cheers Ian



Region Three News

Taranaki, Manawatu, Whanganui, Hawkes Bay and Wellington

Down at the beach Napier Menz Shed

Another shed project for our Napier water front. This chest goes along with the five big chairs we made for the Ahuriri promotions group. The chest has been concreted down to stop it walking away. There is a range of equipment for the kids to use, some kids rakes, mini spades and toys to play with and hopefully return to the chest afterwards.



Region Three News Continued

Presentation of Ceremonial Toki - Menzshed Upper Hutt Shed

Premium preschool (P2) in Upper Hutt were donated an adze head (toki) after their work in improving the stream close to their school. Here is their story.

Every year since Premium Preschool opened 15 years ago we have our Annual Wheel-a-thon where 24 children raises over \$1000.00 for a charity e.g. Wellington Free Ambulance, Ronald McDonald House etc. This year the children raised \$1150.50, and we donated this to "Manaaihakona Stream - Friends of the Stream." A connection was then formed between the two parties. The Friends of the Stream then invited the children to plant a tree each. We invited the parents to join us for a celebration of planting the trees with their child and ended with a lovely picnic in the park. The children of P2 now have their own special tree by the stream and often visit them on our local walk. At present Preschool is also germinating plants to be planted at a later date.

Bart the chief organiser of the stream also gifted all the staff of Preschool a special Pounamu necklace as a representation that we are leaders and protectors of the stream and are bringing up the next generation. He also gifted Preschool a large piece of greenstone that could be made into an axe - toki. Lucky for us we have a great relationship with the Menzshed where there are many talented people. The Menzshed have then been able to create the most magnificent Toki. The Toki sits pride of place in our entrance way. We had a special morning tea at Preschool for the presentation of the toki and it was a great opportunity for the two parties to meet, Friends of the Stream and the Menzshed.

Preschool has had an affiliation with the Menzshed for sometime now and they have created a large house, boxes, blocks, fine motor skill activities, wheels for our train etc. Before Covid small groups of children have visited the Menzshed in their old premises dropping off baking.

A big thank you to the Menzshed, we are so lucky to have such talented people here in Upper Hutt.

Nic Cross

A suitable piece of blackwood was selected for the shaft which was then hand carved by Peter. The stand made from Totora completed the stunning display piece of the toki. This was presented to Nic Cross at Premium Preschool in late November.



Region Three News Continued

Menzshed Upper Hutt Continued:

Menzshed helps out Aged Care

Early in December the Menzshed was approached by BUPA Stokeswood Care facility to help refurbish some of it's outside seating used by the residents. These were looking a little tired and needed some TLC to bring them back to their former state.

Menzshed has started on this task which will take some time to complete as there are more than twenty chairs or benches and at least two tables. Each item will be stripped down, joints re-glued and either stained or painted back to their original condition before being returned.

As the residents use these items daily – not when it's raining of course – they will need to be completed over several weeks in small batches, presenting least disruption to the residents who get very attached to “their” chair or bench.



The first bench has now been delivered back to Stokeswood for the residents in time for Christmas and the second is well on it's way to completion.

We are currently raising funds to move to a new shed from rented premises. If you would like to help the Menzshed please visit our Give a little page and donate:-

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/where-men-can-do-what-men-do>



Region Three News Continued

Pahiatua Menzshed.

The sled was in a sad condition when Santa delivered it to our shed after sitting in a barn for several years. The boys got stuck in replacing broken timber and major strengthening of the frame before a complete paint and sign writing job. As an extra we also made a Rudolf cut out to complete the job. It was finished in time for the Christmas parade but sadly the parade was cancelled. So what to do with the sled became the question. An idea was put forward to place the sled in a local centrally located park. Santa can still be present and children young and old can still enjoy a Christmas spirit and have their pictures taken with Santa. Over one hundred children had their photographs taken free of charge. This was a collaboration between the Pahiatua Help-n-Hand, Pahiatua Menzshed, Bush Telegraph and the Tararua District Council. The boys and girls in blue came by to inspect the sled and gave it a warrant of fitness. So it was ready for delivering all those presents to the local children on Christmas Eve.



Region Four News

Canterbury and Westland

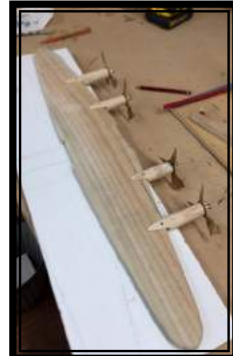
Something Special For My Grandchild

In my 'real' job I pushed a desk. That didn't include doing any manual work. Most of my tools I owned at home were for gardening. I didn't have a workshop. I didn't build things... ever!!! I didn't know Menshed existed. Then I had a stroke that forced my retirement. This forced me to keep physically and mentally active and to try some new things. As a result I challenged myself to build an aeroplane wind vane. The idea came from brief time spent with my youngest grandson in Melbourne. Covid severely restricted my time with him. When we did venture outside we had watched aircraft flying overhead. Further, the aeroplane connection was quite deep with a great grandfather being a RNZAF navigator on Sunderland flying boats based in Laucala Bay in Fiji. My grandson's house even featured some large pictures of this plane. So a meaningful challenge was set.

Some things underscored this whole project. There was always lots of advice, experience, patience, and understanding from others at my local Menshed. The mantra was 'we're not building it for you, we'll show/tell you what to do -- but you do it.' That suited the challenge. It proved that I had to learn as the project progressed.

Process

1. I used an old plastic model as a guide while I also downloaded some cross section images. These provided an approximate shape. These dimensions were converted to cardboard cut outs, length, wingspan and so on.
2. These shapes were traced onto wood; a newel post provided the basic fuselage shape and this was cut using a band saw. An important point was not to cut [separate] both profiles until the last possible step. These profiles needed to remain attached until one final cut to ensure relativity of horizontal and vertical aspects.
3. The main body was cut, rasped, sanded into the plane shape. I've never sanded so much! Keeping a centre line was important to give greater accuracy to the shape.
4. We used a thicknesser to prepare a 12mm fence paling for the wings.
5. The wing shape was extended to cater for the four propellers while 18mm dowel formed the basis for each engine. It was then shaped and cut.
6. Metal propellers were formed from brass circle cut-outs. These were formed into three bladed disks and shaped, filed, cut and drilled to suit. A simple bending of each rotor blade ensured they would catch the wind. The Sunderland had a three bladed propeller, no doubt other variants could be imagined. Each blade of the fan was gently twisted to encourage turn in any wind. A soaking in vinegar ensured each propeller had a polished appearance.



Region Four News Continued

Something Special for My Grandchild continued:

6. In order to fit a set of wingtip lights, we cut a channel into the trailing edge of the main wing. This was initially carefully hand sawn then broadened using a Dremmel? unit
7. Within this channel we ran a thin cable from the battery box to each coloured wingtip LED.
8. I briefly considered flashing wingtip lights however these did not produce the same brightness.
9. The battery box required its own cut out section on the body side under the main wing. The leads from this box lead up through a wider cut out section located near where the main wing would join the main fuselage. Wires to each wing tip led were soldered and made waterproof.
10. The main wing also covered a central hollow where a ball race was centred to allow for a free movement of the plane as it pivoted around a central shaft.
11. We identified an approximate balance point prior to final permanent assembly of the main wing to the fuselage – rolling the body back and forth along a pencil – very scientific!

The RNZAF Sunderland was not a very colourful aircraft. This made painting easier. After sanding and sanding, I sprayed on a Wattyl undercoat, and gave this a light sanding after it dried. A week later I completed the last of two top spray coats, - Wattyl exterior white.

The vinyl lettering was prepared at a local print shop. I chose our grandchildren's initials, their house number and their mum and dad's initials. It will be interesting to see how long it takes the grandchildren to determine their 'own' letter and house number.

The local team has helped me consistently. I thoroughly enjoyed undertaking the work I set for myself. I undertook a host of new activities and was able to complete these in a safe and supportive team environment. My sincere thanks to the New Brighton team. I'm sure the pleasure isn't over yet though. I look forward to the reaction from our grandchildren as this Sunderland spins its stuff outside their Melbourne kitchen window.

Thanks Rick for the article.



Region Four News Continued

Menz Shed of Kaiapoi

2021 has been a year of start/ stops but even so there have been many work/ social times with over thirty members regularly turning up on work days. One positive improvement to our cramped conditions happened earlier in the year when the “Piano Room” was completed enabling our paperwork to be more easily accessed, small group meetings, storage of small sale items as well as the tea/ coffee making facilities. The name “Piano Room” originated when the room was being constructed. During discussions about the accuracy and fitting out of the room one person was heard to say “We are not building a F****ing Piano!” Hence the name “Piano Room.” It is with sadness we announce the passing of Frank Overend on 1st December 2021. He was a member of our Shed for eight years and secretary for five. Kaiapoi is a river town and the bridge in William St is the site for decorations on the 8 planter boxes commemorating Daffodil Day, Canterbury Show Day and other days including Christmas. This art is sponsored by “All together Kaiapoi.” The decorations were made and are installed/ removed by the Menz Shed members as required.



Canterbury Day



Disability Picnic Table



Bowling Club Shelters

The disability table installed bedside the BMX track was donated by “Keep Kaiapoi Town Beautiful” and made by the Menz Shed. A feature of the table is the extended table top allowing wheelchairs to tuck into the table. The Kaiapoi Bowling Club was the recipient of 6 shelters, making an impressive sight as they were each delivered on the back a Ute. The 2021 list of club projects is extensive and includes school picnic tables, chocolate wheel, manufacture of many footstools, honours board for the Mandeville Sports centre as well as repair projects similar to the TV1 Repair Shop. We play an important part in the community. Safety is always a consideration and a formal Induction Document and Process has been implemented. A copy is included on our web site. Our workshop is extremely cramped and plans are underway which if successful could enable us to move into new premises later in 2022. Watch this space!



Morning Tea- wet outside



Morning Tea- dry outside



Another repair job

Region Four News Continued

Kept busy at the Oxford Community Shed

After having a bit of an up and down year with closures etc, we have managed to have a successful year which has kept us busy.

We have helped numerous members of our local community by fixing and building a whole array of wonderful items. We have also been able to assist the local council with two or three larger jobs carrying out repairs to picnic sets that had been vandalised and are currently remaking a set of wooden toys for replacement in a local reserve which has a sand pit left over from a time many years ago when there was a school on the site, besides the sand pit the only signs of the school are the swimming pool and equipment shed, The pool being one of the standard primary school jobs of solid concrete, sadly this one no longer is able to hold water.

A table for students of another school now sits in their library for them to use for making creations out of Lego, it was made low so the students can sit or kneel around it on the floor.

A bit more complex were the angles for these ply trays we made for a vendor of the local farmers market, used to display the cuts of meat they have for sale, they were sized to have freezer chill pads fit neatly in the bottom and the vacuum packed meat sitting on top

This year has started with an order for twelve large trays to be used by a local catering company for gourmet platters; we have managed to get some really nice looking Birch ply to make them from.



Region Four News Continued

Citation for St Martins Community Menzshed

Welcome, Brian, Chair of St Martins Community Menzshed.

I'm **Lee Sampson** and on behalf of the Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere Community Board I'd like to thank St Martins Community Menzshed for its service to the South West Christchurch community. We acknowledge the Menzshed committee members: yourself as Chair, along with Alan Airey, Mark Atherton, Peter Fear, John Hinchey, Hugh Hunter-Weston, Gary Payne, Warren Pettigrew, and Dugald Wilson.

When St Martins Presbyterian Church moved back into its premises after the completion of earthquake repairs, the then Minister Dugald Wilson and church members considered how the church could better serve the community, and a survey was commissioned in 2018 to assess community needs in the wider South West Christchurch area including the suburbs of St Martins, Waltham, Opawa, Woolston, Spreydon, Somerfield, Beckenham and Sydenham. The survey identified a need for an activity-based service for the growing number of retirees in the area, and the recommendation of a Menzshed was welcomed by the church and endorsed by the Spreydon-Cashmere Community Board. The church called a public meeting in May 2019 to gauge support for establishing a Menzshed in St Martins and was overwhelmed by the response with 40 attendees. A steering committee was formed, and tasked with setting up a Menzshed.

After considering a range of options, the committee decided to locate the Menzshed on St Martins Presbyterian Church grounds, 43 St Martins Road. The church generously made available an existing building for a proposed electrical workshop and a small meeting room for attendees to socialise. The committee located a removable school classroom for the main woodworking workshop, and it was transferred to the site. Following delays due to COVID-19, St Martins Community Menzshed was officially opened in February 2021; instead of ribbon-cutting, lead instigator of the initiative, Dugald Wilson, and committee Chair, Brian Davies, sawed through a length of timber at the steps entrance.

The facility is open on Monday afternoons as well as Wednesday and Saturday mornings, with 54 members attending regularly. Each session has a supervisor, and tutors include an experienced wood turner. In addition to woodwork and electrical workshops, there are plans for a metalwork and welding workshop. The Menzshed has a community focus, and members can work on community projects or bring their own projects. Time is set aside at each session for chatting and building relationships over a cuppa.

We join with your nominators, Gail Resuggan and Jeannie Moeller, in celebrating the Community Service Award for St Martins Community Menzshed.



Region Five News

Otago and Southland

Kids Grow Food

The Taieri Blokes Shed was contacted back **August 2021** by Ronnie Bhogal from Silver Stream School in Mosgiel to provide some planter boxes. This sounded like a pretty straightforward job for us and the local community funding for material was in place.

To provide some background: Chef Ronnie Rhogal prepares meals for the children at the school. He wanted to get the children involved in growing and preparing the food they eat, showing them that food comes from the soil, not the supermarket. The project consisted of building 15 planter boxes 3 metres x 700 x 300 high. We advised Ronnie that the cost of material would swallow a large proportion of his budget. The boxes were to be assembled on site and filled with veggie mix sourced locally. Moving 7-8 cubic metres of veggie mix was not a job for the older Blokes shed members so Ronnie set to and organised members of the Student Army to help with the heavy work.

A local timber yard agreed to supply all the timber, cut to size and delivered to the school in kit form which was very helpful and just inside the budget. We approached Mitre 10 Mosgiel for fittings via the Helping Hands Programme. As the shed didn't impose any fee for this project the Mitre 10 manager very kindly supplied everything we needed free of charge. All was costed and approved, the Student Army was booked, six shed members were ready for that August Saturday morning and along came COVID once again.

*Forward to **October 2021**:* Wood delivered, fixing collected, veggie mix delivered, Student Army rebooked. At 8.30 on a Saturday six members of the Taieri Blokes Shed turned up to start construction. Six boxes were completed before a delicious lunch provided by Ronnie and the school. By 4pm ten boxes were constructed. On the Monday, a non pupil day, we returned to finish the project. The boxes are now being planted with seasonal vegetables. The children are now more likely to eat veggies that did not interest them in the past, are learning new skills and appreciate the food they have grown themselves.

This just shows what can be achieved when 6 different groups pull their resources together to help their community. The Taieri Shed received some lovely "Thank You" cards appreciating our assistance in their project.



Garden beds complete and a happy group of kids.

Region Six News

Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough

All Happening at the Renwick Menzshed

After some time as a Complementary Hosting shed. Finally, we have the paperwork completed and fees paid. So great to be a fully paid-up member of NZ Menzshed.

A few details about our shed: Started by the Anglican church vicar to look after men in the area, funds were granted by the local Diocese to purchase a kitset shed, 6m x 6m in 2012. It was based on their land beside the church, sometime later it was subjected that they join the Menzshed NZ.

As membership grew the shed became too small as every time we opened everything had to be taken outside and returned at the end of the day.

We purchased two 20ft containers and set them up to store equipment which has made life much easier. Current shed is workable except on wet days.

Two years ago, after many BBQs at Bunnings and other fund raisers we managed to purchase a second hand 10 x 6m shed so we can expand, and our members don't have to work outside in the summer heat and winter cold. The foundation was laid late July. Alterations to the building are under way, i.e., raising the height by half a meter and getting approval from council.



Due to Christmas just being around the corner the frames will be erected early January once the local crane truck owner is back to work. Once the walls are up we will then extend the height, get the electrical cabling in, line the wall and ceiling, coat of paint and set out the equipment stored in the containers. So, with a bit of luck, we will be in before winter. Other projects our 15 members have been working on this year include : 10 picnic tables for the local school, picnic tables for the Tennis club, street planter boxes for council, a computer desk for a local family made from 75mm Macrocarpa and a 4-seater bench seat to sit at their family gravesite. and many other projects, of various sizes.



School Picnic Tables



Grave site bench seat

Region Six News Continued

Renwick Menzshed Continued:

Every Thursday afternoon we host the Blenheim Alzheimer's group.

Friday mornings we have around seven, 8-year-old boys from the local school for woodwork class, with a new group each term, along with teacher and parents.

We cut up wooden toys into kits and they assemble and paint them any colour they want.

The toy timber comes from old pallets that are stripped down by three of our men that live in a halfway house, a job they love and do with pride.

Once cleaned and de-nailed the timber is machined to size and shelved

We also have a bike repair shop on site and repair bicycles and sell them to the local community.

Another member who is wheelchair bound due to a stroke while Deer shooting, makes coat racks and chopping boards, and sells them with the guidance of his helper.

A happy little shed just like yours where we can solve the problems of the world over a coffee and plenty of good banter.

Our open day is Tuesday 8.30 to noon. If you are passing, please drop in and have a cuppa and a chat with us.



L shaped Computer bench.



RSA Poppy sale box.



Happy Boys and their toys.



WE'RE BACK AFTER CHRISTMAS



A reminder to Facebookers that we have a shedder group called the MENZSHED NZ shed forum at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/917022518450093>

Presently 47 sheds are represented by 89 shedders.

To participate, visit the site and answer the two screening questions.

After your application is accepted, you will be able to read and post to the site.

Sponsors and Discount Benefits

Visit our web site to find out more about each company and the benefits they provide to member sheds.

www.menzshed.org.nz/membership/benefits/

