

Sheddie News

October 2020

The official newsletter of MENZSHED NZ

From The Chairman

It has been a very difficult time for us all. The lock downs, then level 3 changing to level 2.5 then back to level 1 for all sheds out of the greater Auckland area. I see that some sheds have closed the doors and are waiting for the day when we can all get back to normal. Other sheds are fortunate to have the space within their workshops to be able to have safe distances between members. It is important to note that when things get tough we can help one another by just making contact on a regular basis if unable to attend the shed. Things will get better as time goes on. It is great that we are all back to level 1 again.

Just looking back to 2015 when there were fifty sheds operational and now here we are in 2020 with one hundred and six sheds operational. Just five years and we have doubled our number of sheds. There are thirty shed initiatives just waiting to get underway. We are part of a revolution, be it a slow one. You are all making a tremendous contribution to your communities through what you do in terms of practical projects and what you do to help with the health and well being of the men. In each community you can see projects that have been achieved by sheddies. What ever we are doing we are doing it extremely well. I can see the day when most towns have a MENZSHED and then most suburbs have one also.

We don't have a crystal ball. We will just have to hope that there will never be another time when sheds will have to be shut. We all look forward to having a chat, sharing our skills and experiences and have a great time down at the shed.

Stay safe and look after each other.

Trevor Scott

Shed Information Technology Group

There is a proposal to setup a group that is dedicated to technology. Basically "I have a problem, does anyone have any ideas?" The main thrust would be aimed at computers and how to set up, running and solving members problems. It would cover Windows, Apple and Linux operating systems. This group has sprung up out of the Rolleston Men's Shed. There is a wide range of knowledge throughout MENZSHEDS. If you are interested in being part of this group please contact: Sandy at mensshedrolleston@gmail.com



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.



RETURNING AFTER LOCKDOWN

ON SALE NOW!

AN EXCITING NEW BOOK OF CARTOONS AND HUMOUR

ESPECIALLY CREATED JUST FOR 'SHEDDERS'

Cartoonist Mike Richardson
(Himself an avid Napier Menzshed Member)

Has produced this book chock-full of day to day goings-on in a Kiwi Menzshed

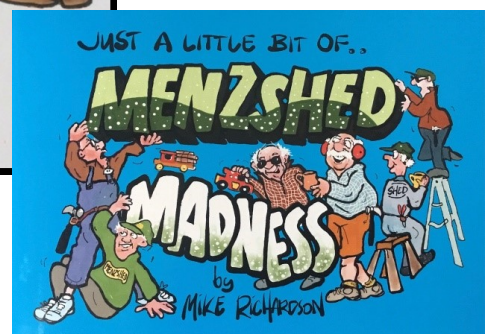
PRICED \$20 BOOK

CHOICE BRO!

This makes an ideal gift or a talking point for your coffee table...

64 pages of hilarious Cartoons to be enjoyed by all

The book can be purchased directly from Mike. Note post and packaging will be added to orders. Mike can be contacted by email: mmrichardson@nowmail.co.nz



Things of Interest



ACC offers a free smartphone app, designed to reduce falls by improving seniors' balance.....

Staying active, particularly as we get older, is important. We want to help reduce your risk of a fall so you can live confidently and independently without the worry of falling. Research shows most falls occur when we're distracted. Getting used to handling both mental distractions and physical activity is something that a free app called Nymbbl can help with.

ACC and Live Stronger for Longer are trialling Nymbbl for older New Zealanders because we want to help them improve their balance and live falls-free.” Read more [here](https://bit.ly/30LDhOx) or copy and paste this web address to view: <https://bit.ly/30LDhOx>



“Good governance is vital to the success of any charity. Governance, in its broadest sense, is about how an organisation is run. To help new officers understand their role and how they can contribute to good governance, we have put together a [helpful guide](https://bit.ly/3nBHggI) which explains officer responsibilities.” If **helpful guide** does open copy and paste this web address to view: <https://bit.ly/3nBHggI>

Top 10 daily balance tips

At Nymbbl, our goal is to help you live your best life, free of falls. One way to do that is to improve your balance. Print and hang this in a place where you'll see it, like your refrigerator or bathroom mirror. Remember, consistency is key!

- 1 ADJUST YOUR STANCE**
Every time you brush your teeth, challenge yourself to stand with your feet closer together.
- 2 FOCUS ON YOUR FOOTING**
Focus on stepping from heel to toe when you're walking. This gives your brain the information it needs to assess the walking surface.
- 3 TALK WHILE MOVING**
Train your brain and body to work together by counting items around a room or carrying a conversation while exercising.
- 4 LIFT YOUR FEET OVER IMAGINARY OBJECTS**
Practice lifting your feet over imaginary objects to prepare yourself for every day trip hazards, such as rugs.
- 5 SHIFT YOUR WEIGHT**
Hover your hands inside a sink for safety and shift your weight from one leg, then the other.
- 6 RISE FROM A CHAIR MORE THAN ONCE**
When you get up from a chair, make it a habit to sit and stand 3-5 more times.
- 7 NOTE OBJECTS WHILE WALKING**
Train your brain and body to work together by walking through a room, turning your head, and mentally noting objects around you.
- 8 FOCUS ON AN OBJECT WHILE MOVING YOUR HEAD**
Sit on the edge of a chair and focus your vision on an object across the room while moving your head.
- 9 DANCE EVERY DAY**
Move your body by including dancing into your routine.
- 10 PRACTICE LESS WEIGHT ON YOUR WALKER/CANE**
If you use a cane or walker, practice taking 20-second periods of time where only the weight of your hands are on the device.

Here are some suggestions from Nymbbl to include in your daily routine:



Region One News

Northland and Auckland

Up and Running Again

At last! The Men's Shed North Shore is back up and running again after the lockdown. There was a large turnout at our welcome back barbeque on Mon 12th October and everyone had a chance to catch up with old friends and meet some new ones.

Chairman Larry Klassen addressed us all, welcoming everyone back and saying that the small team of members who were able to come in over level 2 had been able to keep up with some of the community projects. The income from this was enough to cover our expenses while the Shed was closed. It was great to see everyone back on the tools and sharing their stories. We are all looking forward to be able to finally have some shed time!



Region One News

This from Auckland East Shed.....

Mud Kitchens Proving Popular

Our prototype of a mud kitchen has caused much interest among Waterwall customers.

Many are now ordering Mud Kitchens for their students at local schools and childcare centres.

Plans have been drawn and construction details are being created so more members can participate in the manufacture of these popular items.



Check the website (msae.nz) projects page to see what these look like. Talk to your friends.

The order rate following discussion is extremely high. Certainly seems to be a popular item out there..

Region Two News

Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Gisborne

Menz Shed wheelchairs donated to Social Services



The Whitianga Menz Shed donated on Tuesday last week two refurbished wheelchairs to Whitianga Social Service. Refurbishment of the wheelchairs was one of many projects the Menz Shed has already undertaken since it was formally opened 18 months ago. "Among the other projects we've taken on were the manufacturing of bread and cheese boards, children's toys, a hen house, pest traps for the Whitianga Bike Park and even a coffin," says Brian Mearns, chairman of the shed.

The shed is enjoying tremendous support from the local business community, including rent free use of the workshop they occupy in South Highway - courtesy of Richard Vetter, the owner of Peninsula Roofing and Scaffolding - and signage Darren Hartley of Coastal Signs provided to them free of charge. "Richard and Carters Whitianga have also gifted us the roofing and cladding materials, and timber we need to build a moveable storage shed to house our ever-increasing array of materials, equipment and completed projects," says Brian.

Sheryll FitzPatrick, manager of Whitianga Social Services, says they are hugely appreciative of the Menz Shed donating the wheelchairs to them. "The wheelchairs fit in with our renewed focus on providing mobility solutions for the people of Mercury Bay," she says. "They will be on loan with other mobility equipment we have available. We're also working on an arrangement with a mobility equipment supplier that will make it easier for the community to purchase the equipment they need locally. We hope to make an announcement in that regard in the next week or so."

Pictured are those who were present when the wheelchairs were handed over on Tuesday. From the left - Brian Jarvie, Trevor Smedley, Sheryll FitzPatrick, John Berryman, Alan Hooper, Stacey Cullen (Whitianga Social Services Community Programme Coordinator), Brian Mearns (in front of Stacey) and Des Bristow.

Region Two News Continued

Restoration From Whitianga Menz Shed

Antique barber's chair ready for new home after stunning restoration

By Gillian O'Neill

Built in America sometime around 1900, a pristine looking antique barber's chair now sits in the corner of the break room at the Whitianga MenzShed.

Bought for around \$600 by local residents Trish and Craig Hill in 1985, the Koken Congress Pedestal Hydraulic Chair No 147 has been on quite a journey over the past 35 years. But its life and times before the Hills picked it up at a New Plymouth antique shop remains a mystery.

"I just liked it," says Craig. "I thought I would restore it, so we bought it and I took it apart. Then it sat in pieces in a box and travelled all around the world with us until we sent it back into storage in New Zealand in 2000. It has been to Thailand, Singapore, Australia twice and lots of other places, so it has had quite the OE."

Eventually the chair settled in Whitianga when the couple retired here in 2008, its fate still undetermined, until a chance discussion with neighbour, Mike Brown, chairman of the Whitianga Sea Scouts. "We knew the Scouts were in need of money for their new den, so we thought if we could get the chair restored it could be sold to help raise funds," says Craig.

Finding the expertise and knowledge for the job brought the MenzShed into the picture, where committee member, Alan Hooper, took it on. "I started getting the hydraulics and brake sorted," says Alan, who was delighted with the opportunity to put his engineering background to good use. "Then we sent it off to get it nickel sprayed."

One part was missing and Mercury Bay Engineering came to the rescue. With the metal work complete, it was the turn of Warren Brookes from Whitianga Upholstery to work his magic and in the process discover plenty of evidence of the chair's former life.

"I started finding what I first thought was



Some of those who were involved in the restoration of an antique barber's chair which is being sold to raise money for the Whitianga Sea Scouts and the Whitianga MenzShed. From the left - Alan Hooper, Trish and Craig Hill, Max Laird (a young MenzShed supporter), Warren Brookes and Mike Brown.

some kind of straw or filling, and then I realised it was hair," says Warren. "It just kept coming, it was unbelievable really, every colour you could think of - black, brown, ginger. It really made me think about all the people who must have sat in the chair, hundreds, maybe thousands, all with their own stories to tell."

But the chair did not have any further secrets to share so where its working days were spent and with whom remains a mystery. "Unfortunately, I didn't find any more hidden clues," says Warren.

In all, around a kilogramme of hair was removed before Warren set to work repairing the original framing, which he said was in really good condition given the chair's age. "The biggest problem was the seat springs which were really bad, but I was able to revive the straw that was in there and build the seat back up and then reupholster it," he says.

Alan who first started to work on the chair almost a year ago, is very happy with the results of his labour. "I was doing bits on and off, then we had the lockdown and we needed to find the right people for certain aspects of it," he says. "Then it all sort of came together quite quickly."

Trish and Craig say seeing the chair back to its former glory is amazing and they are delighted it will now hopefully find a new home with someone who will love and appreciate it. "We're just glad that it's going to be able to help these two great community organisations," says Craig.

The money raised from the sale of the chair will be divided equally between the Sea Scouts and the MenzShed. A Trade Me auction is being considered, but Mike says he is also very happy to hear directly from local buyers who may be interested in putting in an offer. Anyone keen can phone him on (021) 995 323.



Region Three News

Taranaki, Manawatu, Whanganui, Hawkes Bay and Wellington

Big Project Almost Complete

Henley Men's Sheds biggest project is almost ready to be rolled out the door

It's taken over a year to dismantle, restore where possible, then completely rebuild the rest. The steeple and belfry came into us in a very sorry state. In fact the guys still can't believe it survived the trip into town.

Built in 1902, The Church Of The Good Shepherd, in Tinui, often referred to as the "Anzac church", because it held the first Anzac service in the world in 1916.

After it was delivered, we realised that the steeple itself was in a much dire condition than we anticipated, and as a result, copious photographs and measurements were recorded, so we could recreate it later.

The belfry was a much better proposition, so we worked on that first.

Even here the going wasn't straightforward and fitting the bits of the jigsaw back together created some head scratching before the end result was achieved. It's not likely to come apart in the next 100 years, hopefully.

Gathering a small team of members together, we tackled the rebuilding of the steeple. This has occupied months of work. Fortunately, Henley has a large membership, and in the time it's taken, a fair proportion of those members have had a hand in its construction. Many may have only held a piece of wood, wielded a paint brush, handed bits of equipment to other workers, but they've all done their bit.

So now having clocked up the longest and biggest project in the Shed's history, it's about to be wheeled? out the door on its way home.

Accompanying it will be its heavy bronze bell, which was cast in the same foundry as Big Ben and the Liberty bell, so it has some pedigree.



Region Three News Continued

So what did Menzshed week do for your shed?

At Henley we decided to make a feature of this within our local community by promoting ourselves and what we do in and for the community.

We copied the Aussie posters and offered them to others, including Featherston, Porirua and Manurewa which we used in a variety of ways to promote the week within the shed and to a wider audience. Specifically, Henley, spent around \$1000, to make ourselves known by utilising newspapers, radio and static TV screens in various retail stores, waiting rooms etc. The newspaper articles, were written for the most part by local reporters and interviews on radio.

Many of the articles highlighted individual members specialised skills in the shed, in restoring, constructing and creating items brought into the shed by members of the public who daily present us with challenges. Among those highlighted, was a story of a member who creates kids toys out of scrap timber going into kindling bins. Trucks, tractors, cars, graders etc which are given away. Another, uses some of his skills in cutting up old gas bottles and turning them into mini stoves, complete with ashes tray, flue and damper, or sturdy plant holders. A WW2 US Marine knife re-handled to look as lethal as it once was. The 19 century, antique French hay forks, which were repaired, restored and then replicated as items of interest. And the story of the 18's something borer riddled table, which yielded enough solid timber, to create a treasured coffee table for the later generations of the family to cherish.

The former guitarist and band member, who with help, made his own gleaming electric guitar. There's also the guy who has made a "Dover" eggbeater, completely out of wood including the hand carved gears.

A very successful shed project, which recycles offcut framing timber from house builds into Jenga blocks, which we sell by the bucketload. A very nice fund-raiser.

The opportunity was also taken to explain what a shed is, the history of the movement and the tangible benefits members derive from their association with other "sheddies" in the shed environment, and to spread the word about our Xmas shop which opens at the beginning of December.

We made a particular emphasis of thanking the combined sponsors from Black Diamond Technologies, who donated Mitsubishi Electrical heat pumps and in partnership with staff from National Mechanical and Electrical and J A Russell who, over the summer and avoiding lockdown, pulled together to sponsor the supply and installation of all the equipment needed to keep the shed a lovely warm environment during the winter months.

By the end of the week all that publicity, generated an awareness with the public who came to visit with grandchildren, to ooh and ah at the diversity of what was going on, to increase our membership by five, and to deplete our stock of sale goods. A great return for a relatively small outlay, and of course that awareness continues.



Neville and scrap wood toys.



Dougie the latter day U.S. marine.



Terry Schiska with his wooden egg beater .



A replicated antique French hay rake made by Geoff Smith.

Region Four News

Canterbury and Westland

A Few things From The Oxford Shed

This is the new sign which adorns the outside of our shed now. It was made on our CNC router and is a full 2400 x 1200. We made it using ACM board which for those who are not aware, is a plastic cored sheet with an aluminium cover on both sides. It comes in a variety of colours and thicknesses. We opted for a 3mm board as it is hanging on the flat surface.

We have also taken the opportunity to make a change to the name we have been using for the shed. Due to a sponsor deal when the shed was built we had the McIver's naming rights. This deal with them has now lapsed so we have dropped it off to become the Oxford Community Men's Shed.



Health and Safety of our members is a major concern for our sheds. The Oxford shed had a problem with dust particles in the air and some members were feeling the affects. This was over come by the purchase of an air filter. The unit was purchased from Machinery House at a cost of just under five hundred dollars. The unit Model is a W326 Ap12 Two stage air filtration unit comes with a two year warranty

They are exceptional units. Ours does a great job of cleaning the air. Seems to take no time at all to clear up our workshop .



We have just finished producing a bar leaner for one of our local residents who called in one day to see what we did in the shed. While looking around they mentioned that they were looking for a bar leaner so I took them out to one of our wood storage areas and showed them some various types of timber. Then I remembered a slab of Oak we acquired a while ago, turns out that the shape, type and colour etc was just the ticket. A lot of hours of hand sanding and planning got it looking good but with a lot a cracks and a large intrusion from the limb in the middle. These needed to be filled, so we used about 3/4 litres of epoxy to fill them. After a bit of a trial it was decided the epoxy needed to be coloured in order to make a feature of the cracks and holes so bright blue. It was then a heap more hand sanding then a trim up and finally four coats of an exterior marine type varnish to finish it off. Looking back a job well done. Thanks Ray for the articles.



Region Four News Continued

Bits and Pieces From The Akaroa Community Mensshed

Well the winter months have not deterred members from attending the Akaroa Mensshed. A consistent and loyal bunch spend Saturday mornings at the shed, and often some will be there two or three extra days a week.

Croquet Members Board: One of our members solved the problem of how to achieve 60 degree cuts into the face of a board, that others said could not be done with the usual quadrant guide on a table saw. The cuts were required to take name cards at an angle that was easily readable on a members board for the local Croquet Club. His 'Record' Bandsaw has a 60 degree sliding quadrant, so with two adjacent cuts of a new sharp blade, it made cuts wide enough for each card – there were 45 members to make cuts for. Needed a steady hand and a clamp to keep them accurately spaced along the board.



Akaroa Light House Display Panels: A member of the mensshed was also a member of the Akaroa Light House Trust, so he brought along a challenge, to make some display panels as part of the recent refurbishment of the historic Lighthouse. The design needed to accommodate the sloping walls of the inside of the Lighthouse; so large panels could not be hung like picture frames, as they would swing out from the wall. The design solution involved secret housed brass screws on the corners of each panel frame. The rebated dovetail frames were made from 150+ year old Rimu wirewove bed bases, nicely rounded with the router to match the T & G lining of the Lighthouse.



New Lathe: From time to time most sheds get bits of machinery donated. Well our two old wood turning lathes were starting to get problematic with worn out bearings and broken tool rests etc. And neither of them could be used to turn a nice big bowl. So it was agreed to search for a new lathe. A decision was made to purchase a traded-in Nova DVR XP from Timberly Ltd in Auckland. This lathe has a swivel head with outrigger tool rest for face bowl turning. To go with the lathe it was agreed to purchase a set of new Hamlet wood turning chisels. Delivered and installed it was recently 'christened' by one of our older members who made a generous donation towards its purchase.



To finish the installation another member made a moveable unique triangular tool cabinet to house the chisels and accessories. The chisels rack can then be moved near the bed for spindle work or the swivel head for bowl work.

Region Four News Continued

Cheviot Menzshed

Post Covid our small but dedicated group has been quite active. Our prime focus has been achieving Resource Consent to relocate a former classroom block onto a Council Reserve site right in the centre of Town.

This hasn't come easily. We've really been through the wringer with compliance matters but worse has been the extortionate fees to consultants – where we've done most of the work ourselves.

But, we've got our RC which has allowed us to apply for Lotteries funding to get the building on site. The decision is at the end of November and all going well we'll have the building onsite before Christmas.

There will be a few months getting it all up to spec and fit for purpose, but it'll be the boost and incentive our Group needs.

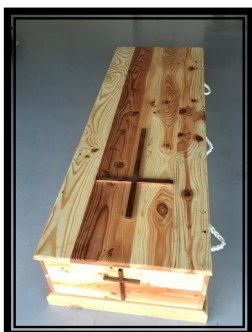
Since the end of lockdown, the school has invited us to work with a small group of students 2 days per week in the workshop. Term 3 was mainly woodworking but Term 4 is a bit more innovative with the group great enthusiasm which in turn is very encouraging for the MenzShed blokes who love to be able to pass on our skills. So, this term we'll be woodturning, joinery, tool sharpening, plastic welding and if time, some glass cutting. Even though we have some photos we felt it wise to err on the side of caution of publication, but they will appear in some school publications.

We conducted a very successful fairy door making programme over the school holidays with kids from 6-13 years of age. Some great imagination went into some of the creations with around 50 doors and a dozen mushrooms being placed in the now unofficially designated 'fairy forest' of the Cheviot Hills Domain. These kids can now proudly take their families to the Domain and wander through the forest. Hopefully our next publication will be to show off our building on site.

Bruce Nicol : Chairperson



A few Projects From The Darfield Menzshed



Community gardens insulated pantry.

Casket for Ian - one of our team who passed last month.

Playground boxes for a preschool.



Region Four News Continued

Menz Shed of Kaiapoi Trust

Greetings to all from the shed members of Kaiapoi. Before the lockdown we regularly had 30 to 35 men at our Tuesday workshop and 20 to 25 on Thursdays. After lockdown we started with a bang with 32 members on the first day. Since then the numbers have fluctuated considerably but are not quite at pre-lockdown numbers. However the number of community projects that we have undertaken and have on our books is keeping the members very busy – there has been no let-up on the demand for our services.

Projects include: disability access picnic table, teaching aids for the local play centre, rabbit jumps for the local rabbit fancier clubs (yes this is a thing), access way hand rail, building 4 beds for local charity re-housing families that have been through the refuge, restoring 4 park benches with cast iron frames, lots of toys, renovating furniture for a local club ski-field and enclosing a patio to contain cats (our 3rd catio).

In the to do list: assemble kitset garden shed for time poor member of our community (an engineer), paint fences, modify TV cabinet, modify 16 council rubbish bins to put a clear window in them for education purposes and 3 bespoke coffins. And this brings up an issue that some of you may have come across already – coffin sizing. Now this is not an issue for a burial, if the box is too big, for a tall person for example, just make the hole a bit longer. But we have been asked to make a coffin for a 6ft 6in, 1.98m, male. This is pushing the limits of what some crematoria can accommodate, so best to check.

For some time we have been working with considerable constraints on space. Space for tools, work benches, assembly space and even space to sit down for a cuppa. For more than a year now we have been in a working committee with the local council in a project to develop some of the land vacated after the 2010/11 earthquakes. The development will involve several community groups, not just the shed, and the proposal is to provide an area that we can all use and share long-term. But the end is still 2 to 3 years away.

So with the approval of the Suttons management (our sponsors) we are embarking on a building program to create a “clean” non workshop space. This is to remove all the non workshop activities out of the crowded workspaces and allow for the re-configuring of the workshop. The building is being constructed to be easily dismantled when the move finally happens. This new space will have kitchen space, notice/white boards, shelves for the toys etc. that we make and meeting space for perhaps a dozen members, and somewhere to do the paperwork that is generated by the shed – and there is a lot of it!

It has been an interesting year, Covid-19 has brought home to many of us how community is crucial for us all to thrive, and many menz sheds around the country have very strong connections to their communities. The Kaiapoi shed was founded after the earthquakes of 2010/11 in response to a shattered community and we have never lost sight of our ties to the people of Kaiapoi – they sustain us and we them. I do not for a minute think that things will return to the ways of the past for many years to come so we need to adjust to the new reality and make sure that we create an environment in which everyone in our community thrives.

Wishing you all the best for 2021, Kia Kaha William Titulaer Secretary



Region Five News

Otago and Southland

Alexandra - The story behind our new shed

It was through the initiative of a small troop of local identities, viz. Neil McArthur, Lex McLean and Malcolm McPherson, together with Jim Robbie and Russell Leask, (both now deceased) that we gained our shed. After a two year search and numerous obstacles, the group registered a charitable trust, witnessed by an agreement dated 27 August 2013 to be known as The Alexandra Men's Shed Trust.

The group had located a vacant building within the Presbyterian Church grounds previously occupied by Birthright. Prior to then it had been the MOW site office at the Roxburgh hydro scheme during the 1950's. Being now surplus to requirements, the group negotiated its purchase and removal for \$2,000. That was the easy part.

Finding a site proved to be more challenging but the then Council property officer took a punt and recommended to Council that it make available a small site within recreation reserve land via a temporary licence. Commencing from 2011 the agreement was for five years at a peppercorn rental plus the usual, but no right of renewal. Not ideal, but at least it was a leg-up.

The shed then engaged a draughtsman to design a new building having a floor area of 350 sq.m. The proposal was put before Council which agreed in principle to grant a longer lease over an alternative site. All this took some time, so push came to shove when it was eventually realised the original 5 year term to occupy had already extended 3 years beyond the final expiry date.

We then had to start raising money for construction. Immense credit must go to our chair Malcolm McPherson and treasurer Trevor Goudie, who between them put in an inordinate amount of time and effort toward securing the initial \$275k funding from Central Lakes Trust and Otago Community Trust. They later secured an additional \$80,000 from Lotteries Community Facilities Fund plus a top-up from three smaller private trusts. Our own shedders also raised a further \$10,000 by building trellises for sale.

But nothing runs smoothly when that fellow Murphy is in town. Council had recently had its fingers burnt a little after it carried out work for which it should have acquired resource consent for improvements it undertook in the reserve near the shed site. The resultant chorus of disapproval shown by nearby residents made the Council noticeably hesitant about proceeding to allow erection of the proposed men's shed within the reserve.

The dilemma for Council was that it had already granted consent, but in the interests of keeping all reasonably happy, the shed members reluctantly agreed to consider alternative options if available. They reasoned that pushing the proverbial uphill was probably not the way to go in the longer term interests of future harmony between other reserve occupiers, residential neighbours and the wider community.

Shortly thereafter, the Council property officer indicated there was a possibility that we could possibly buy into an existing Council-owned building within the town's industrial area. In many ways, it was a superior building to that proposed to be erected by the shed.



Region Five News Continued

Alexandra - The story behind our new shed Continued

Although lesser in area at 216 sq.m. it is as new, of all-steel construction, equipped with four high-rise roller doors directly facing the street and providing shower and toilet facilities. It also had the advantage of additional vacant land adjacent to the premises which could be used for later building extensions or storage and placement of a container. None of those features would have been available or permitted on the site within the recreation reserve.

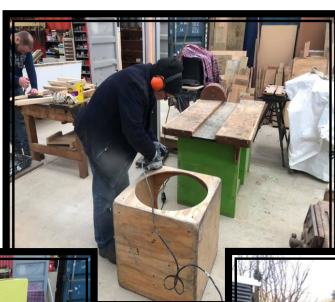
Although we have purchased the building, we will not take possession until 1 April 2021. Nevertheless, our members are already busy planning conceptual layouts and improvements they deem necessary, and no doubt the next few months will pass well before we've realized where the time has gone.

Brian Taylor Alexandra Mens Shed



Back in Action Again-North Dunedin Shed Society

The Shed is busy again after the COVID-19 lockdown with lots of projects for the community and upgrades in the Shed. We've had hard frosts but the heat pump and the heaters in the workshop are demonstrating their worth. The project range included, a set of shelves for the food cupboard and Lilliput Library outside the Valley Project offices. These shelves will contain items to borrow like recipe books for use by everyone in the community. Re furbishing a tea trolley, learning new skills such as paint stripping and painting. Bringing new life to the Early Childhood Centre outdoors play equipment. This project used donated paint. Repairing and tidying up a small garden shed that will be on sold for funds for the shed.



Green Island Shed

The Green Island Shed members have been very busy over the last two years getting the shed up and workable as well as doing community work. Our main fund raising has been cutting and selling kindling. We also have been doing work for local schools. It has been an interesting time with organizing places to use machines and a construction area up and running. At the moment we are constructing a timber rack and getting power sorted out.
Bruce Cromb, President

Region Six News

Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough

Hello again from sunny Blenheim.

Since the last newsletter we have maintained both our membership and attendance. COVID level one has not greatly affected our operations.

As we are all aware, shed income is important to keep viable. We have completed several projects that have attracted good income.

- coffin construction
- 40 Shearwater nesting boxes
- large display screen
- furniture repairs
- tool and scrap metal recycling
- bike repairs and sales
- go kart for school.

Coming up is a BBQ at Bunnings and Christmas raffle. Our October social outing was tenpin bowling and November will be a mystery bus tour.

We wish all sheds and sheddies a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dave Oliver, Chairman.



Tapawera sheddies have appreciated opportunities to refurbish buildings that were a part of our heritage. Our latest project is repainting the signs and reroofing the railway platform shelter at the village, to coincide with the opening of the next stage of Nelson Tasman's cycleway - The Great Taste Trail. Several sections of the cycleway follows the route of the railway line - especially the latest section between Kohatu and Tapawera. The passenger and freight service operated from 1876 to 1955 between Nelson and Glenhope.



MENZSHED Conference 2021

You will be wondering what is happening for the 2021 National MENZSHED conference.

With covid19 still around us and with some fresh cases breaking out, the running of a physical is too high to take that risk. In discussing this issue with the National body they felt spreading a virtual conference over a month was stretching it out too much and recommend it run over one to two days would hold more interest for our members.

The committee will now look at shortening it down to a day or a weekend in April 2021. We are hoping that speakers will be able to present from their own regions. The biggest challenge will be to create a program to hold the interests of all those that tune in. We hope sheds will invite neighbouring sheds to join them creating a social atmosphere, some may wish to run a barbeque on the same day. We are as frustrated as you about not holding a physical conference where you can meet and share ideas so hoping a virtual conference will be just as good. Just remember that this virtual conference is a first time.

so hoping you will all support us in this venture.

From the Editor

Many thanks for the contributions. I have very much enjoyed reading it all and hope you will also. The next newsletter is due to go out at the end of **January 2021**. Final date for contribution will be **22nd January**. Contributions can be sent to: **chairman@menzshed.nz** The newsletter is an important part of the organisation as it gives sheds all around the country an idea of what is happening, it is another way of sharing ideas and forming relationships through the wider network of sheds. Each shed has something that they created, something they are part of, just a brief outline of what has been happening down at the shed. Send an article along with a few pictures. Lets make the next newsletter even better.

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/

