

## THE LONG WAIT IS OVER

Sorry for the long delay. I was fooled by the old apprentice trick when I was sent to the hardware store for a long weight.

## ANOTHER YEAR COMPLETED

Yes we have completed another years operation. That is MenzShed Kapiti Incorporated has completed another financial year. So sometime between now and the end of October we will need to hold our AGM, elect the officers to run the place and deal with any major issues the membership want dealt with. So members think on any issues you might want raised and dealt with. The details will be notified sometime soon. Also have a think about who you want on your committee or perhaps you might want to be on the committee yourself.

**A new financial year means that it's time to pay our annual subscriptions to renew membership.**

**Our annual subscription is \$20 and can be paid in cash or by cheque at the workshop**

**OR**  
**send a cheque to our treasurer, Charles Lloyd at 164 Weggery Drive, Waikanae Beach**

**OR**  
**Direct credit to the MenzShed Kapiti Inc bank account**

**Kiwibank account number 38-9010-0354831-00**

**Include your Surname + subscription as reference on the deposit**

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Lots have happened during that long wait.



The yellow dunny was fully installed inspected and passed for use. But that was way back so just in case you haven't been near for a while and the diuretic medication is the reason, that excuse has been sidelined. Since then many cups of tea and coffee have been consumed and passed by all about the place as part of our quality checking process.

In April Andrew was able to arrange for some of our crew to recover useful materials from a house being demolished at Waikanae Beach. Lots of lovely timber and too good a chance to just let slip by.

Kapiti shed members travelling to other places have taken the opportunity to drop in on other sheds



I dropped in on Oxford in late April. It was just a concrete pad back then with a sign saying Coming Soon. With the cold snowy weather they have had they would need something more substantial. But at least they started with a dunny and then added the concrete pad so they got that right.

Peter was in the Nelson area and dropped in on the very new Waimea MenzShed to take a look. They were very fortunate in being able to purchase a substantial building left vacant with the closing of a dog obedience club. It's at the Richmond Show Grounds just out of Nelson.



Mike Rodwell, one of the people behind setting up the Waimea MenzShed, has family living in Raumati so recently took the opportunity to drop in and check out our place. Mike became good a friend of our test pilot for the still unfinished pedal aeroplane.



We also had a visit from Neil Bruce the convener of the Hamilton Community Mens Shed, one of the first in the country. It seems that he wasn't too photogenic or else we were a bit slow on a wet day.

## **PLANNED EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Good progress has been made toward improving our workshop space. Peter, Andrew and Alan have taken on the task of moving our purpose built shed plans forward to something real. They have presented a proposal to KCDC for MenzShed to develop a purpose built facility and create amenities to support other community groups as part of the development of the old depot site.

As a first step, the Waikanae Community Board have given their support to a formal lease arrangement being entered with KCDC extending our present arrangement.

The next step is for KCDC to accept our proposal to develop a community facility at the site as proposed to the present LTCP. The deadline for KCDC to respond to this proposal is getting near so hopefully we will have good news soon. Lex Bartlett, the KCDC Open Space Manager, has been very helpful during the development of the proposal so we hope all the important issues have been covered.

The moment we get the ok from KCDC we are prepared to begin the substantial fundraising with lots of offers of help from amazing community minded people.

## **A PIECE OF SAD NEWS**

For those who somehow missed this piece of news. One of our older members, Doug Thyne did not wake up one morning in May. Doug didn't spend a lot of time at the shed. He arranged for Driving Miss Daisy to bring him down to spend time with the guys which he thoroughly enjoyed. An ex RNZAF aircraft engineer, he spent much of his life in Blenheim but came to NZ from Australia in 1937. I and many others at the shed enjoyed talking with Doug about many things including aeroplanes. Strange isn't it that when he came along to the shed I had just arrived back from spending time in the Maleny area where he went to school.

## PRESENT PROJECTS ABOUT THE PLACE

We have just completed and installed new display cabinet doors for Harcourts who very generously printed our brochures and flyers. Some pleasant person must have had a need for a piece of safety glass so one night they removed the cabinet doors from one of the display cabinets on the Te Moana facing external wall.

Grey Power has had a revamp and needs some storage cabinets for archive material. It has taken a while to work through all the requirements of Coastlands but the design is complete and fabrication is well under way. John, Ian, George and anyone else who can help on the day are making this happen. Watch this space for a pic of the finished job.

Our power tools have all sorts of special accessories and spanners and things tend to get separated in the workshop so we have made special standard sized boxes that can keep all the bits together and store easily. So far 16 boxes have been completed and all are fully committed. I don't think I have told Chris and Murf that a rack to store the boxes is next.



Child Cancer had an old historic dolls house given to it for use at the Newtown Cancer Kids centre near the hospital. They asked if we might restore it and Ray is now more than 80% through the job. It now needs an appropriate chimney and the glass windows replaced with perspex which Mulford Plastics in Gracefield have provided free for the job. Businesses are always so helpful when the project is a worthy cause. What could be more worthy than Child Cancer.

Paraparaumu Kindergarten approached us to see if we might make a purpose built bridge for the path around the playground to put some interest in it. So we are working on an arched garden bridge to become part of the path used by kids with their trolleys. We are working on the design of this and the photograph is just one of the concepts we are using. The finished bridge will look similar to this but with a raised edge to stop the trolleys running off the side.



The Waikanae kindy workbench for the children to bang in nails is a bit the worst for wear. A new one is under construction and will be fitted with a small vice to add to the interest and fun. Eddie and Bill have this all in hand. Thanks to the generosity of Crightons Building Centre who have made the materials affordable and consequently the project is happening.

## MORE GREAT TOOLS DONATED

In the break between newsletters MenzShed Kapiti was a beneficiary from a very generous inheritance from a good friend and supporter of our shed, Drew who died following a battle with cancer. Drew and Faye are magic people and such strong supporters of what we are trying to achieve for our members and our community.

One of our members, Terry, has decided to close down his home workshop and spend more time doing the travelling type things while still young. Terry has passed on many useful tools

to our shed where we hope he will continue to use them and teach us about them from time to time.

This past week yet another local man Tony, has been forced to downsize his lifelong collection and rang to see if we might be interested. Once again some beautiful tools that have been so lovingly cared for. We also hope that Tony will take the opportunity to continue to use some of his tools at our MenzShed and that our members will be able to help him do the things he is no longer able to.

We are very well equipped now for almost any woodworking task and have accumulated many essential tools ready for a mechanical engineering workshop when we have the space. Even now we manage to get Daryl our very able engineering member to weld the occasional small job. Old sack barrows have become useful trolleys and wheelbarrows have had a new lease of life with repaired handles through Daryl's hands. Fantastic. Wouldn't it be nice to have an old car restoration project in our workshop. I have already found a candidate in a shed near Geraldine that has been waiting since at least the mid 1990's when I first noticed it.



I can hear many people saying what about just a quiet place to talk and have a game of chess or work on a model. We do have that in our plans too and we even have stored a beautiful chess set and many donated books and magazines ready for the library. That's also the part of the place for excellent coffee and tea so it's central to the whole plan for our new place when it happens.

## MEMBERS LOAN TOOLS

**Firstly Missing in action - Festool 150mm random orbital sander.** All the discs, dust bags and accessories are on the shelf but for the life of me I can't find the power tool. I have looked in all the right and wrong places but no luck so maybe someone borrowed it and forgot to record it in the loan register. We miss this because it's our only true random orbital finishing sander. We would love to have a big welcome back if someone can show us where it is.



**Our tools for borrowing for home projects is growing.** Presently we have our trailer, an excellent electric hedge trimmer, electric chain saws, weed eater, concrete mixer, etc, etc. Anything borrowed must be returned in the condition it left the shed and a small donation is expected to cover the maintenance costs such as replacement chains, oil, trim line and so on. Much better for one good power tool shared between many rather than each one owning something only used occasionally.

## CHANGES AT THE SHED

Tidying up of our side storage shed and reconfiguring it has given us better use and access to things. We can now get to things we want without too much difficulty. Thank you John and Tom for taking the lead on this.

KCDC has made some changes to their staff operations which includes ceasing to base staff at the Waikanae Beach Depot. In future it seems that staff will be all based in Paraparaumu and the depot sheds that were upgraded this year with new roofs and roller doors will become simply storage areas for machinery only required in Waikanae. Maybe one day we can make better use than that of such great sheds.

A 1200cu/f/m dust extractor and accessories were purchased using the grant given by the Waikanae Community Board Capital Improvement fund. MenzShed in NZ is becoming well recognised by suppliers and as a result we were able to negotiate an excellent deal with a supplier that has allowed us to also purchase a second hand fine dust extraction unit ready for our clean area in the new facility. This unit removes the real unhealthy dust.

With workshop dust extraction working properly we are been able to use our edge finisher and other dust making tools inside. This has made a big difference on some of our bad weather days these past few weeks.

Our Tanner thicknesser is now mounted on a heavy mobile base and doing a fantastic job. This is a serious piece of machinery which is much quieter than the modern domestic use type units when it comes to big jobs.

John and Ian and the crew have created a Router table using a donated bench and good quality router that makes creating finishing joinery pieces a breeze.

## DONATED MATERIALS

Elite Windows and Doors at Paraparaumu give us a call whenever they have a quantity of timber used as packing for their aluminium extrusion. This week they gave John a call and we picked up a large load of useful materials including some cedar planks that were once garage doors. We plan to turn this into a useful portable folding table for stalls.

## PUBLIC EVENTS

MenzShed will have an information booth at the **Age On The Go Expo** on Saturday 22 Sept 2012, 9.30am to 3.00pm, Memorial Hall, Pehi Kupa St, Waikanae. Come along and have a yarn, sign up or offer suggestions for things you might like to be part of.

We hope to hold a stall at the Paraparaumu Saturday Market soon to start the ball rolling by selling items made at the shed and to raise funds for our proposed building programme. We have a stock of bumblebee nests, bird feeders and oddments to sell plus it will give us the opportunity to let more people know about our group and what it does for the community about us.

## MENZSHED NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MenzShed National conference was held in Wellington over the weekend of 29 June to 1 July.



Peter, Charles and myself were involved in organising and facilitating the event. 45 people attended the conference which is a significant show of interest. A local shed crawl was included on Saturday but rather than use up 2 hours of valuable time travelling to Kapiti, we set up a MenzShed Kapiti display table that was on show right throughout the conference. This included small items like our weta motels, honesty boxes, bumblebee nests, bird feeders and lots of photographs showing our people in action at the shed. Those

attended showed particular interest was our A5 brochure and DL sized flyers and it appears that these may become the basis for generic MenzShed material for promoting the movement nationwide. Our logo and general branding seems to have become accepted as the National standard that identifies NZ sheds having a distinctly different identity to the original Australian sheds and concept.

David Helmers, from the Australian Mens Shed Association attended the conference and contributed an awful lot of background and advice to help move things forward. Their national organisation AMSA has developed an enormous resource to help local sheds and you might be interested in taking a look at their web site, <http://www.mensshed.org/home/.aspx>

Nae Nae, Eastbourne and Wainuiomata MenzSheds have very close ties, all being supported by the Lower Hutt District Council and these three sheds that are all very different were the focus of the crawl. Nae Nae was just a concrete pad at that time. Thanks to the Ngati Poneke Trust, Wainuiomata has 3 good sized school rooms at the old (closed) Intermediate School. One room is set aside for a large model train setup, one a workshop only and the third has all the amenities plus workshop space. Eastbourne is based at the old Day Bay Fire Station. The membership is quite modest and they focus upon community projects like us. The shed is long and narrow but like our place it works. But they have a nice little kitchen and amenities area at the back. You can see in the picture that they have picked up our logo and sign style.



One last small point to note about local conference input. Local Waikanae resident, Michelle Laurenson made an excellent contribution to the conference with a short session on fundraising sources and tips. Michelle has been a major very successful fundraiser in Kapiti and in the background has been a major supporter of MenzShed Kapiti. Michelle is also a current member of the Wellington/Wairarapa Lotteries Grant Committee which provides her with access to the Department of Internal Affairs. So she knows what's happening in funding circles. On the day she was not well through food poisoning but nonetheless presented her session. I definitely owe Michelle a favour for this effort. For everyone's information, when I first started working on a MenzShed for Kapiti, Sandra Patton (a very strong supporter)

suggested to me that Michelle would be a good source of advice. So Michelle became a recipient of our newsletters and her continued encouragement to me has been as helpful as anyone in keeping my enthusiasm going.

## CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The following are Key aspects from the conference as summarized by Neil Bruce from Hamilton. (Saves me doing it.)

The Second New Zealand Men's Shed Conference was held at Wellington High School and three local sheds during the weekend of June 29, 30, July 1<sup>st</sup>. The weekend was very successful for the 40+ delegates representing Community Men's Sheds from Christchurch in the South to Whangarei in the North of New Zealand. The earliest Sheds are now in their fifth year but are presently the enthusiastic company of over 40 other sheds with new ones in establishment almost on a weekly basis. A common denominator among shed members is the enthusiasm of the men themselves. Often retired, members enthusiastically give of their time, skills, knowledge and company for the support of individuals and groups in their wider community. Of particular note during the conference was the support from the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA). Executive Officer of AMSA, David Helmers gave great support to the establishment of a national association and reported on the rapid growth of the shed movement in Australia (at over 700 sheds now) and from his recent visit to Ireland confirmed over 80 sheds for a population not dissimilar to New Zealand, with the movement in Scotland and England proceeding rapidly.

The delegates overwhelmingly voted to establish MENZ SHED AOTEAROA as a national association of community sheds in New Zealand. Targeted goals for the association are to establish a constitution and give support to all new and existing sheds throughout New Zealand. There is a keen interest to ensure safety is maintained in sheds through shed policies and practice and that benefits created nationally accrue to member sheds like bulk insurance cover for public liability, statutory liability and shed tools and equipment. A steering group of five which includes Martin Cox (Christchurch - convenor) John Shrapnel (Wellington), John Bush Masterton, Neil Bruce (Hamilton) and Peter Cleland (Mangere) will coordinate and assemble elements of the new association for ratification at the next conference planned for Nelson during the weekend of February 15-17. Here it is planned that a new constitution will be presented and an election of office holders can occur. Meanwhile back in local sheds its clear there is enthusiasm in abundance and the future is certainly in growth mode.

## JUST A FINAL THOUGHT

Now what does everyone think about this as a design for a new bike. Any old track shoes can become new tyres.

Maybe it's the next project or a school holiday programme idea.

Cheers everyone

Nigel Clough  
Chairman and general MenzShed enthusiast

