



Newsletter – September 2015

Change of email addresses

Please note that the executive email addresses have all changed to the format @menzshed.nz instead of @menshed.org.nz. The change is a result of taking up the Google not for profits support available now in NZ and using the free email facility. The new email addresses are:

Ray Hall chairman@menzshed.nz

Roger Bowman secretary@menzshed.nz

Peter Blackler treasurer@menzshed.nz

John Bush safety@menzshed.nz

Regional representatives

Peter Lewis regrep2@menzshed.nz

Stuart Reesby regrep4@menzshed.nz

Neil McArthur regrep5@menzshed.nz

The website is still hosted at www.menzshed.org.nz but can also be reached as www.menzshed.nz.

Regional representatives and a communicator wanted

Seeking a creative publicity person

MENZSHED is looking for a volunteer, a person with publicity skills to join the executive. At this stage, assistance with preparing a quarterly newsletter to our sheds and members is required and attendance at the monthly executive internet video meetings. Familiarity with desktop publishing tools, image editing and content creation is required.

If you have experience in website maintenance and social media, that will also be helpful.

If you want to know more or are keen to assist, please contact [Roger](#) and [Ray](#).

Regional representatives for the top and lower North Island

Disappointingly, at the AGM we did not get any volunteers for the position of regional representatives for the top and lower North Island.

The regional representatives positions facilitate communications with sheds in the area and help new shed projects get started. If you are interested in getting involved with the other sheds in your area, please contact the chairman chairman@menzshed.nz.

New Zealander of the Year Awards – Do you know someone in your shed worthy of an award?

Received from Toni Keeling:

I am contacting you on behalf of the New Zealander of the Year Awards, as our awards are now open for nominations and it would be great if the Menz Shed could be represented.

We have two categories that Menz Shed would fit into. One of the categories is the Local Hero Award and the other is the Community of the Year Award. We have 16 Community presentations for the Local Hero as well as an overall winner at the Awards Ceremony. The people who the Local Hero award is designed to recognise is someone whose selflessness and determination have made a difference in the community. While the Community of the Year is for a group who have contributed to the economic, social or environmental health of their community.



I am sure that there a lot of Menz Shed groups around New Zealand who would be deserving of the Community of the Year Award due to their contribution to the community through say building children's playgrounds. Just as there are probably plenty of men who dedicate their time to volunteering and helping to make a difference in the community.

To nominate someone for an award takes only a few minutes on our website – www.nzawards.org.nz,

but it can help to recognise a lifetime of achievement.

Nominations are open until 30 September, so there is still awhile to get some nominations in there. It would be great to receive some nominations for the Menz Shed and if the message about the awards could be passed on to the various locations around New Zealand that would be great. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Toni Keeling

tollfree (NZ). 0508 692 927

a. PO Box 331329, Takapuna, Auckland 0740, New Zealand

w. www.nzawards.org.nz,



Membership benefits

The executive has endeavoured to achieve benefits for member sheds nationally and has been successful with the companies shown on the website <http://menzshed.org.nz/membership/benefits/>.

Blackwoods Protector

MENZSHED New Zealand executive are very please to announce a new benefit for member sheds. A partnership with [Blackwoods Protector](#) will enable member sheds and the blokes in that Shed to purchase at reduced rates, either in store at 23 locations or online.



Member sheds will be receiving information on how they can activate their cash purchasing account to purchase the safety gear required to keep everybody safe in the Shed. And that's not all they stock, if you are looking for mechanical parts, tools and accessories they have that too.

Another benefit that pays off, from becoming a member of MENZSHED New Zealand.

St John first aid courses

Its been a year now since these courses were introduced for sheds to skill up on first aid and it would be great to hear from those sheds that have run one of these courses.



Tailored First Aid Training Sessions

Just send a quick email to safety@menzshed.nz and let us know how organising your session went, the quality of delivery, the number of blokes that benefited, and any other comments you have on such offerings.

If you have organised your own first aid courses from another provider, we would also like to know how that went.

Shed news

Shedding in the Wairarapa area

[Henley Mens Shed](#) (aka The Mothership) has reached a new high with 135 current members, and thanks to two extensions completed earlier this year the added space has enabled greater diversity of interests and projects being undertaken. Visit the Henley Mens Shed website to get more on what they have been up too – <http://henleymenzshed.kiwi.nz>

Two notable events are; the National Launch of Adult Learners Week on Monday 7th September, when the Men's Shed will cater for 100 guests arriving for the launch.

And 1 week later a film crew commissioned by Fair Dinkum Sheds will spend the day filming the range and extent of activity undertaken in the Shed as part of a national marketing campaign.

[Martinborough Mens Shed](#) is working simultaneously on setting up workshop space and embarking on smaller projects within the community.

Next on the list to get a Men's Shed is Carterton with the District Council not wanting to be left out and keen to see something in their patch. A public meeting is scheduled for 29th September to hear from the local blokes on what their vision of a shed might look like.

With the establishment of a shed in Carterton, all towns in the Wairarapa will have a community based Men's Shed. Reciprocal membership with all Wairarapa sheds means the 300 plus blokes get access to each others sheds to share company, participate in projects, activities and events.

"Shedding really is a great time in life in the Wairarapa".

Greytown MeNZ Shed

Many of you know, the Greytown MeNZ Shed has been open for three months, we thought we'd get the public to come along and have a nosy and find a way to say "thank you" to the community for their support.

So last Saturday we had our first "Sharpening Day", for those of you who haven't tried this gig yet, here's what we learned: It pays to advertise: local community paper, flyers through every letter box, including RD1, community radio etc., we wondered if anyone would turn up, we were inundated.

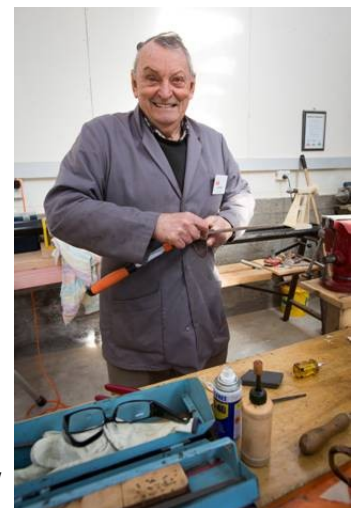


Charge a low per item sharpening fee, to get people through the door and up-sell like Auntie Wainwright from "Last of the Summer Wine". We charged \$2 per item and sold a bunch of other stuff whilst we were at it (picnic tables, saw horses, everything but the kitchen sink) - raised well over \$600 in three hours.

Have a system for sorting and distributing the incoming stuff and collecting it back up from the various sharpening stations, this was our greatest choke point.

Label everything - we got over 230 knives, secateurs, shears, scissors, spades, loppers etc., that's a mountain of stuff, some of it the same brand and model. Encourage people to come back later, or pick up on the next shed day (we'll colour code the labels next time).

Have a show, we got the local chain saw shop to come along and demo how to sharpen a chain and maintain a chainsaw.



Exploit seasonality - the number of gardening implements of destruction in the mix said it all - Spring is upon us.

Offer tea or coffee, if they hang around, they must want to buy something or join up

Have membership forms handy and friendly "meet and greeters" - we secured three new members paid-up on the spot and there are more to come.

Finally, laughter is infectious, share it with the public and it's the best brand you can have. Hope I haven't been too blunt with you.

John Boon, Greytown.



Featherston Menz Shed

The Toy Library will benefit from this month's efforts by our sheddies who donated time, labour and skills to Featherston Community Centre to assist the renovation needed for housing the Toy Library. Work on finishing our shed to the point where we can truly call it operational and allow our members to come and work on their own projects continues: the three firewalls are now completed, which should make the neighbours happy, and the toilet has been blessed with vinyl flooring to help us keep it clean.

There are quite a few members who are just itching to get in to the Menz Shed to start making things instead of having to do it at home or not at all. We believe that a properly operating shed is so important to our members' physical, social and mental health that we have decided to suspend most other projects until we reach this goal.

Web site <https://www.facebook.com/FeatherstonMenzShedInc>

Email featherstonmenzshed@hotmail.com

Opening times: Tuesday 10am – 4pm, Thursday 6:30pm – 8:30pm Sunday 1pm – 4pm

Monthly meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7pm

Richard Burgess

Martinborough Menz Shed

Good News! We have been granted use of the Old Courthouse on Cork Street in Martinborough. It is just across the street from the Town Hall that is due to be upgraded to the new Community Centre. It's a great location and offers scope for growth in the future.

The Inaugural Committee has taken a deep breath knowing along with the great opportunity to bring life back to this fine building, there is an enormous responsibility to do it well. And we will.

South Wairarapa District Council has also granted us use of storage sheds across from the Council Offices and we are already storing donated tools and materials.

Ric Geisler, Chair Inaugural Committee

Tapawera

We're located 50k inland from Nelson and our base is the former Scout den, which we own. We meet each Saturday from 10am. Our shed has a lathe, two work benches, bench grinders and a modern chain saw sharpener – we provide a community sharpening service.

A memorial friendship seat was built for Tapawera Area School this year – a feature of the design is no metal fastenings.

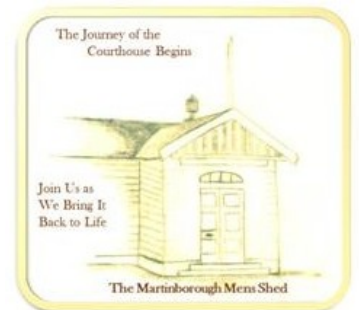


Illustration by Burnt Offerings NZ





We continue to support our community at the Tapawera BGAC Show and the Tapawera Christmas Fair by managing car parking and we're waiting for warmer weather to finish a painting job for the Toy Library.

More information at www.menzshedtapawera.wordpress.com or see us on [Facebook](#).

Timaru Menz Shed

Moving to the old St Peters Scout Den in 67 Otupua Road Timaru, on the 8th Sept 2015.

Bruce Mitchel and Francie Spivan, from Timaru Scout Group, are very keen to see the Menz Shed take over the old defunct scout shed at nominal rent. So, around the 8th Sept 2015, all 'Busy Bee' work group hands will be on deck, as its going to be a big move. Initial clean up/ clear / to 10 am. then floor protection and bench install should take us to 2pm (afternoon tea), then tool install machinery and computer hook up to 4pm ish.

Thanks again to all the troops who helped with the gutter clean out, it was a big job, made light by the happy crew of willing helpers, there will be flap jacks and pikelets for smoko with maple syrup!

We have Syd Horgon, from (South Cant Sustainable Trust) keen to push forward the Menz Shed concept in Timaru, in the Eco park. As a large projects work site (garden sheds, outdoor furniture, raised planter boxes etc.). To this end I have dismantled the St Pauls Church tractor shed from Seddon St. Timaru and transported it to the Eco site at Redruth.

We have offered to make some stand alone shrub and plant boxes for Alzheimer's South Canterbury group and the Presbyterian Support South Canterbury.

The Oxford street community gardens group, have lost their site due to redevelopment and sale of the land, so they too are moving to the Eco park. We are making them a new (recycled) shelter/ garden shed as their flimsy tin shed was damaged in the wind storm.

Kev Wildey

Techsoup and Google Not For Profits (NFP)

<https://www.techsoup.net.nz/>

TechSoup New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation that works to help New Zealand charitable organisations to understand technology. They work with world leading IT suppliers to provide charitable organisations with donated and discounted computers and software.

Recently Google announced the availability of their Not for Profits programme in New Zealand, access to which is managed through Techsoup. <https://www.techsoup.net.nz/blog/google-nonprofits-programme-launches-new-zealand>

MENZSHED NZ has taken up the Google NFPs offer which provides free access to some Google commercial products including online storage, collaboration tools and emails. As a result we have now changed email addresses to the format chairman@menzshed.nz and are using cloud storage for the membership database and other documents. Those changes will result in a reduction in overheads and a more effective executive.

MENZSHED NZ Blue Skies Conference 15 – 17 April 2016

<http://menzshed.org.nz/conference/>

The 2016 bi-annual conference is being held in the South Island at the [Scouts NZ Blue Skies Conference and Training Centre](#) at Kaiapoi, just north of Christchurch. A planning group from the Amberley, Oxford, Kaiapoi and New Brighton sheds are meeting regularly to organise the conference.



Registrations for the conference will begin in January 2016. See <http://menzshed.org.nz/conference-2016-2/> for more information.

New sheds

New sheds or new shed projects continue to pop up around the country. Recent ones include; Martinborough, Reefton, Westport, Greymouth, Menzshed Whakatu, Hibiscus Mens Shed Trust, Fielding Menzshed, Carterton Menz Shed and Timaru.

Other developing new shed initiatives include in Christchurch; Dallington and Phillipstown.

Shed collaboration

Sheds continue to help each other and also provide assistance to new shed projects. This willingness to share experiences is a real help at the start of a new shed project. If you are in the area or belong to a shed nearby, why not contact them.

Regional shed meetings

There are some regional shed meetings, a great chance to hear what other sheds are up to, share experiences and resources. In the top of the North Island, contact Ross McEwan of the North Shore Shed. John Bush of the Henley Shed has got a good group established in the Wairarapa with a common membership and shared access to events. In Canterbury the Hub meetings have been ongoing since 2008 ([Facebook](#)).



Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA)

<http://www.mensshed.org/home.aspx>

The web site has a lot of useful information relating to sheds and they also run a bi-annual conference, the next is in Newcastle in October <http://www.dconferences.com.au/mensshed2015/>.

MENZSHED NZ received funding from the Lottery Ministers Discretionary Fund to attend the conference and was also able to use part of the Kaiapoi Jetstar grant for the airfares. Known attendees from NZ sheds are; Neil Bruce (Hamilton), Frank Overend (Kaiapoi) and Ray Hall (MENZSHED NZ / New Brighton).

MENZSHED NZ Executive priorities

Priorities in no particular order and progress to date are:

1. Template guide for sheds on how to approach local authorities.
Regional reps should be your first contact. Peter Blackler (Treasurer) is also available as a contact. See also example docs at <http://menzshed.org.nz/library/example-documents/>

2. Guidelines for setting up a shed.
A start has been made on this with a website page and links to information from Community Law. <http://menzshed.org.nz/library/setting-up-shed/>

There is also available the Australian Men's Shed Association manual that contains a lot of relevant information on setting up a shed and also Safety. You can download a copy at [AMSA](#)

A good start in where to obtain funding in NZ can be found at [Fundview](#) . You can also access Fundview through some online library facilities.

3. Health and Safety
See the new documents on the website <http://menzshed.org.nz/library/safety/>

4. Access to research, health and other benefits

There is some existing research on the website <http://menzshed.org.nz/library/research/>

The executive supported Jenny Moore in her research initiative and selected sheds will have received shed and personal questionnaires. A report on this is due later this year.

The AMSA conference is also expected to contribute in this area.

5. Reduce overheads as a way of keeping membership costs down

As mentioned elsewhere, the move to Google Apps for free mail and replacement of the GoToMeeting product will reduce overheads.

6. Updating our database of sheds and contact information and enabling shared access amongst the MENZSHED NZ Executive.

Completed with the move to Google not for profits.

Member sheds vs non members

Member sheds are identified on the website as [MENZSHED NZ Status: Member](#) and non member sheds are shown as [MENZSHED NZ Status: Complimentary hosting](#).

To keep membership up to date, or to join, please ensure your shed's annual subscription of just \$25 has been forwarded to our Treasurer or banked to our account.

Accounts were sent to sheds during June, if you need a replacement account form, please contact treasurer@menzshed.nz

Sheds that do not renew their membership will lose access to member only benefits. The shed website page will remain but the membership status will revert to [MENZSHED NZ Status: Complimentary hosting](#).

Communication is a two way process

MENZSHED NZ exists to promote the spread of men's sheds in NZ. The website provides a searchable facility where the public can look for sheds in their locality. Most men's shed enquiries go direct to the relevant shed but on average MENZSHED NZ receive 6 enquiries a month.

The shed pages on the website are for your shed content, please check your page and keep them up to date, especially contact details. You can send content changes to webmaster@menzshed.nz .

The executive would also welcome your feedback or questions. Send them to secretary@menzshed.nz or use the Contact us form on the website <http://menzshed.org.nz/contact-us/>

If you have some news or projects to share with other sheds, success stories or even failures that other sheds can learn from, let your regional representative, secretary or webmaster know. Text and pictures are always welcome.

Website statistics

The latest website statistics for page visits and location of visitor can be seen on the website <http://menzshed.org.nz/library/website/>