



N A E N A E

Newsletter No. 16

February 2016

Welcome to the New Year and best wishes to everyone. I know we are well into February, but some of us a rather slow off the mark.

Building:

We have got off to a reasonable start this year with the floor slab being laid for our extension just before Christmas. They could have done the rest at the end of January, but we had a little problem with the finances – little being a description of the bank account after paying for what has been done so far.

With my usual optimism I expected to get some positive answers from the grant applications we sent off early in January. Not a dicky bird, I'm afraid! We have four more applications awaited which would cover all our costs if they all come to the party – dreaming again, I suspect.

Never mind, we just keep plugging on. Unfortunately we can't borrow any money to build as no granting bodies will cover the cost of events/expenditure that has already happened.

Actually it's not all bad. As working outside on the new floor with the sun and a bit of a breeze is very pleasant.

For those who haven't heard, the other news is that the engineering equipment that we thought was coming our way is not going to eventuate after all. We have the rudiments for metal-working already and we expect to improve this over time so all is not lost. In addition, we need the extra room for the growing number of members and activities.



Members:

There is a steady stream of new members turning up to join us and some new groups arranging to use our facilities. Recently, some disabled children from Kimi Ora School have started coming with their care-givers so that they can have a wider experience of the community and what is happening within it.

In addition, Thumbs Up, who hail from Petone and also supporting people with various disabilities have started coming on Thursdays to keep us all on our toes. The first session was busy (a euphemism for a shambles) but everyone enjoyed themselves and it was particularly helpful that they had a cunning plan, namely, to make money boxes. Hopefully we won't charge so much that they have nothing left to put in the completed boxes.

There are about 70 more or less paid up members at present and probably 20 to 30 who use the Shed as part of their allegiance to other groups.

The other big initiative is that an organisation called Capital Training are planning to use our equipment and workshop facilities to train some of the young people they are mentoring to gain skills and get started in the workforce. This is an exciting development and is very much in line with the ambitions we had at the earliest stages of planning the Shed and getting it under way. Passing on the practical skills and huge experience of our members to younger generations seems like one of the most important reasons for our existence.

Big Grown:

I am not usually one to complain, but there is a problem with people not putting gear away when they have finished with it. This is OK for your own workshop, but when it comes to a communal one, it just causes havoc. It is also extremely inconsiderate and my patience is wearing a bit thin.

As you can see some relevant signs have appeared mysteriously and are so placed that they command immediate attention. As they have not been as successful as one would hope, there seems to be two further options:



- 1) to make them of wood, preferably heavy and dense,
- 2) or 2) get a good fairy out to disappear anything that is left out and not returned to its cosy little resting place.

Guess which of these is happening?

New Skills:

Last year we had an interesting challenge to make clocks with wooden mechanisms. This year, Ralph Hill has offered to introduce us into the world of plastics and show us some of the skills of injection moulding, etc. I deliberately put the 'etc' in as I have no idea of this subject and look forward to learning a bit about it. Initially, three members will visit Ralph and then be in a position to pass on their information and skills to the rest of us.

Projects:

Prizes – We recently got an SOS from a local engraver to see if we could make up the wooden backing and bases for him to engrave for prizes for various organisations. If we come up to scratch in his quality control assessment this should prove a useful source of income.

Carving – The carvers are under way with the first of the poles that Otari/Wilton Bush Reserve want done for the entrance to their new fernery. There are four poles in all, so we might be busy for a while.

Metal-work – Lorne was keen to make a basket for the front of his bicycle – like the 'Open All Hours' model for those of us old enough to remember. When he and Pierre went off to get the metal for it, they got out-manoeuvred by the salesman who offered to make it for him. This very generous offer has produced the goods very quickly.



Toys – There was a huge and impressive array of wooden toys at the end of the year for the Salvation Army Christmas distribution. It looks like there will be at least as many with a number of members underway already in a serious attempt to do more, better and brighter for this year. A new member, Marty, had hardly arrived before he was hard at work cutting out and sanding the bodywork of some jeeps.

Model Car – Jack Gee, a long-term member of the Woodworkers Guild contacted us to say he had the bits of a model car that a small child could drive around in, including the electric motors to save on pedal-power. The offer was to take over and finish it. It will be interesting to see how that develops.

National Meeting:

Coming up from April 15 to 17 in Kaiapoi, the National organisation is holding the AGM and this year we are due for the biennial countrywide get together for as many Sheds as possible. Our Shed has of course come up with the usual underwhelming number of people who want to go, but one volunteer has been found who can use it as an excuse to visit his daughter and family in the south.

A novel event this year is to have our Shed in a Shoebox. That means putting a number of items that illustrate what we have been up to in the shoebox to display to other Sheds. I assume that if we leave the shoes in we won't need as much to fill it.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday – 9am to 12.30 pm

Wednesday – 9am to 12.30 pm

Thursday - 9am to 12.30 pm

Contact Details:

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Note: If anyone does not want to receive this Newsletter or finds the attachment too big for their system, please let me know and I will remove you from the list.