



N A E N A E

Newsletter No. 17

May 2016

General

There is an increasing interest in the doings and success of our Shed that comes from all sorts of directions. That, without any overt advertising on our part – in fact there is a website somewhere that still mentions a crack I made about needing to have a good bladder as we didn't have a toilet – how out of date is that!

We also had a visit from the Mayor and some Councillors on Thursday (April 14). He dropped in after the sod-turning ceremony for the Bowling Centre next door and was particularly impressed with all the activity and the groups of disabled that we were involved with. I have been able in touch with him to keep him aware of how we are doing and with his and several other Councillor's support we may get something towards our Shed extension from the current round of funding and planning that the Council is going through at present.

Members

We are continuing to acquire a steady stream of new individuals which is very pleasing. Not only do we get new faces, but we get new skills and interests, so everyone wins. I "purged the role" the other day and the reasonably realistic number of members has reached 90 or more.

Amongst those 90 are a number of groups as well. IDEA Services have re-emerged, Thumbs Up are coming with four people and having a ball, and the Kimi Ora School is also bringing a few of their students for a short session. All of this takes a bit of orchestrating and we have developed a Memorandum of Understanding so that groups know what we can offer and what our rules are and we can know what they expect.

In fact, on the 5th of May, we signed up the first of these with Capital Training for them to use our facilities as part of their role of getting young people who have dropped out of school into a situation where they have skills enough to look for work and get properly established in society.

The bottom line with all this is that we are now open five days a week for all or part of the day as well as two or three evenings each week. There is now a clear list of who is in the Shed at any time of the week and who is responsible for ensuring their safety, cleaning up and general supervising.

National Meeting

On the weekend of April 15 to 17. The **National Body** held their biennial (once every two years) get together. It was very well attended with about 70 people there and proved an excellent

opportunity to find out how and what other Sheds are doing, compare problems and find some solutions. There are now 107 Sheds in New Zealand with about 300 in each of Ireland and the UK and some 957 in Australia. Although this latter number is more than MacDonaldis in Australia, it is still down from the 1200 a few years ago. This is partly due to some Sheds failing, but also because some had changed their activities and no longer met the (very general) requirements for a Shed. This is important in Australia as they get considerable funding from the Federal Government.

I was interested to note in NZ, that a couple of the Sheds were virtual sheds in the sense that they had no venue but were a group of chaps working on community projects. A debate as to whether or not we should be working outside the Shed precinct went from their experience where this was the only option to ours (and several others) where we feel we should keep ourselves to ourselves and only do projects on site.



The other event was the **Shed in a Shoebox** challenge. Most rose to this occasion with some incredibly beautiful items on display. Ours was as shown, with Graham's scaled down model of a grader arousing considerable interest. The notice advertising morning tea from 9 am to 5 pm also caused comment.

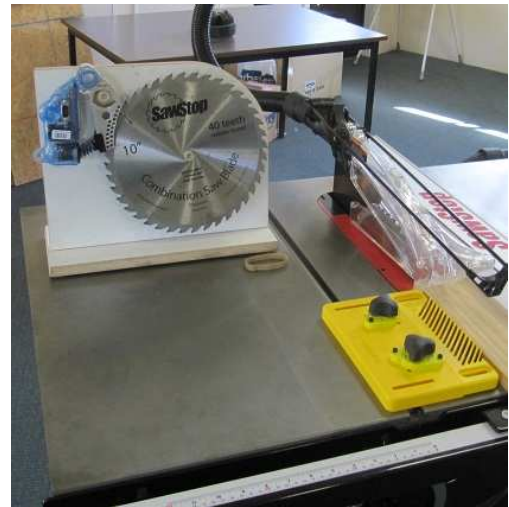
As part of the entertainment we were taken to an individual's workshop in Oxford where he was making **model steam**

engines. Like most of those there, I couldn't understand any of the technicalities, but could only stand in awe at the time and skill that went into their production.



Another visit was arranged to the **Patience and Nicholson factory** making drill bits – 67,000 a day actually! In spite of myself I found it very interesting. They were also very generous with the number of packets of five small drill bits they gave away. Undoubtedly the size with the highest turn-over!

The third 'visit' was a display of Carba-tec equipment and some wood turning. The main item of interest was the **Safestop Saw** which stops instantly when a finger (or sausage) gets anywhere near the blade. Although this looks amazing on a video, I can assure you that the noise, the damaged blade and the crumpled block of aluminium that results were all unforgettable. It works by completing a small electric current from the blade to your finger which stops the saw and releases a spring-loaded block of aluminium into the blade to stop it instantly. As you can see from what is left after this, both blade and device need replacing, but on balance, the couple of hundred dollars for that is probably worth a lot less than a finger.



We visited the **Kaiapoi Shed** on our P &N tour as they have kindly given them space on their campus and pay the electricity bill as well. The Shed was smaller than ours and they too, were trying to extend over and adjacent deck for more space. It was also tidier than ours.

Safety again – **Worksafe NZ** spoke at the meeting and underlined that the new regulations (from April 4) will not affect voluntary organisations like Sheds specifically, but they are keen to see all our members go home with all their fingers and bits intact. They had visited two Sheds in the south and were impressed with their attitude of keeping an eye on all members and ensuring that machinery is used as safely as possible.

Their take-home messages were: Everyone has a role to play in keeping themselves and others safe.

Assess risks and check machinery.

Training and supervision is vital.

Think before charging into using a machine.

Have a safety officer.

Check medications.

Embed a Health and Safety culture in the Shed

This was a timely reminder that we need to revisit our safety procedures and to this end we have started safety sessions after morning tea around each machine that is likely to cause risk.

Building Update

Currently there is little to report on progress with the extension. At some members' suggestion we have started a building fund into which members can put a promisory note offering a donation for June when I hope to hear if the next round of grant applications have had any success. In this way I estimate that we will be able cover up to a quarter if the remaining costs which I hope will impress potential granting bodies. This promised fund currently stands at \$2,500 which shows great commitment.



One way to expand the space available is to clear out some of our junk and tidy up some shelving. Not everyone will notice much difference, but I can assure you that there are happier members

around who don't have to move machinery about as often as they were.



Projects

Thumbs Up have proved a lively success as they have continuing projects on the go which makes it much easier for our regular members who come on Thursday morning to help. Full marks to Tony, John W and Robbie who do come then and provide their expertise. It's not all one way though, and I notice a fair bit of general hilarity over the morning.

As many of you will be aware, we have had a request from **Otari/Wilton's Bush** in Wellington to carve four poles for their new fernery. The first one is almost completed and it is good to have some members other than the regular carvers trying their hand at it.

Another project that is in the planning stages is for a **memorial seat** at the Pauatahanui Reserve for one of their long-standing workers who died last year. The family (and the Reserve) is keen to have this seat in Phil's memory and it should be underway soon.

We have had a number of **repairs of toys** from both Waterloo and Boulcott Kindergartens over recent weeks. These are often very simple, but sometimes quite time-consuming. A common problem is missing pieces of jigsaw puzzles. Generally we can replace the shape involved and leave it to the Kindy themselves to paint it. Einar got carried away with one puzzle when he looked up the original picture on the inevitable Google and copied the missing part of the picture exactly in all its detail. I for one, had great difficulty in spotting the odd piece out. I'm not sure that the hours spent in doing this amazing job were quite what is needed for all of them!

Crosses – we continue to supply St Paul's Cathedral with small crosses that can be held in one's hand. The variety of native timbers seems to appeal and we have had an email passed on from one very satisfied customer:

“My ill mother received today a beautiful holding cross made from NZ Kauri. I see from the label it was made by Menzshed, Naenae. Mum loves it. The unusual shape makes it easy for her to hold. A big thankyou to whoever made it. Susan”

Erratum

I got it wrong last newsletter and the bicycle item should have referred to Tony and Stuart rather than Lorne and Pierre. My apologies to all concerned and in the best tradition of newspapers when they make a mistake, I have made this confession as inconspicuous as I could manage!

Events

On the evening of Wednesday, June 22, Grant from Carba-tec will be coming to show some of their tools to the wood-turners and all Shed members are invited as well. There is a rumour that the Company will be providing a bit of supper as well, but I don't suppose that will make any difference.

Final Plea

Ray collared me recently and asked if I could call for all those members who have taken pencils and drill bits home with them to bring them back. Porcine aviation.

Opening Hours:

Monday - 1.30 pm to 4 pm

Tuesday – 9am to 12.30 pm

Wednesday – 9am to 12.30 pm

Thursday - 9am to 12.30 pm

Friday – 9 am to 12.30 pm

Contact Details:

Archie Kerr Phone: 04 569 7069

Email: menzshednae@gmail.com

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.