



N A E N A E

Newsletter No. 20

December 2016

Urgent Announcement:

We have just planned an end of year BBQ for Wednesday, December 21 at 10.30 am. This is an innovation – you don't usually have a BBQ morning tea! All invited.

I would love to tell you all that the power connection went smoothly and without a hitch. Unfortunately that would not be quite accurate. What I can say is that Genesis have been absolutely consistent throughout and never done what they promised. That, plus the fact that the modern process requires the involvement of several firms to play one another off against the others, and you can imagine the struggle we have had to get going again. Just people involved actually talking to each other would be a huge help rather than sending instructions via cyberspace.



Still seven weeks isn't a bad timeline as long as you have plenty of alternative activities and don't have to make a living at it!

The number of times that oldies like us were found reminiscing about Power Boards and the good old days could not be counted.

The only positive is that those who have come along have often remarked on how quiet it is and perhaps we need to have hand-tool only days with a ban on power tools from time to time.



It's also important to point out that vital activities continued, even though hot water in thermoses was required.

Huge thank you's need to go to several of our members: to Ross for all the electrical wiring and keeping his own cool and helping me to keep mine over the debacle with the power connection; to Robbie for painting the end wall white to help with the lighting, although the full benefit of this is yet to come; to Graham E, Einar, Dave L and Neil for getting our embryo metal-working area sorted out and looking as if we are serious about it. The other appreciation goes to Hawkins with their patience initially before having to remove the pole and therefore our electricity supply. They have also been happy to help out with supplies of hot water to ensure that our thirst has been suitably assuaged.

You'll be pleased to know that the earthquake damage was limited to a forward tilt of the wood-turners' cupboard which was easily corrected. Flood damage was non-existent in spite of nearby roads being completely under water as one stage.

New Work Bench:

One advantage of no power is that some things can be done by hand. Tony has produced another substantial woodworking bench over the 'down' period. This has included two wood vices that have been donated by a garage clear-out and a member. These are expensive items and the donation of old re-usable ones does a lot for our morale and also the environment when throwing old junk away seems to be the norm in our society. It is also a tribute to the skill and experience of many of our members who can resuscitate unprepossessing pieces of ironware from under a covering of rust, dust and cobwebs.

Metal Work:

One of the benefits of the new extension and the considerable increase in space that it



provides is that those who know what they are doing have been able to develop an area where we can accumulate the metal-working equipment that we do have and set it up where it is easier to use. We have got a large bench, suitably tested over some decades, from Einar which

also has attached a large metal vice and some anvils. Graham E has contributed a welding plant and saw, and Dave L has come up with a band saw for cutting metal and other equipment. This, plus the metal lathe we already had, has given us a significant start in this area and brought smiles to several members' faces.

Members:

In spite of the lack of power and therefore of activity generally, there continues to be a small steady stream of enquiries about membership and what we get up to. It is a bit disheartening not to be able to get such people involved quickly as it is likely that some at least have lost interest and turned to other entertainment. Not all do however, and it is good to know that 'patience', that inestimable virtue, has not been lost in the bustle of the 21st century.

Paving:

Having done a brilliant job of paving the area under the original awning, it was a bit sad to have to remove it before the floor slab for the extension could be laid. Happily, there was an opportunity for prospective pavers around the new building and picks and shovels don't need much electricity, although power is required.

Special thanks to Tom Paki for the loan of his spare compactor which made such a good job of the original paving and made this current paving so much easier.

Projects:

Memorial Seat – the seat in memory of one of the long-term workers at the Pauatahanui Reserve has been completed and looks pretty good. Unfortunately, some major flooding there prevented the formal unveiling but plans are on hand to do that early next year. In the meantime, the workers have tested it and the birds have been making full use of this new facility.



Christmas Toys – there has been some progress with these in terms of wooden ones. Unfortunately the lack of electricity for nearly six weeks at this time of the year has meant that our efforts have been seriously curtailed. In spite of that, the Thumbs Up team have contributed to ‘mass producing’ some trucks with a lot of help and guidance from John W.



The other ‘toy’ project is a number of returns from a toy shop have been passed on to us to see if members can fix them. Often there is only small adjustments needed such as in rails or bogeys on trains and they work and look like new. On the other hand some provided a bit of a puzzle in their own right as to how to reconstruct them!

More offerings for the Salvation Army Christmas distribution.

While on the subject of toys we would be keen to hear of anyone who may have spare storage room which is clean and dry. Toy World have supplied and continue to supply, a lot of ‘returns’ to us for repair and three quarters of these can be got back to fully functioning. The biggest challenge is to find somewhere to keep them as they are only for giving away (not selling) and therefore need to be kept, in steadily increasing amounts, until Christmas for the Salvation Army. A place to store them would be very welcome, so if you know of anywhere/anyone, please let me know.

Other Projects – we continue to contribute to people and groups who have little things they want done, but which are too fiddly or expensive to get done commercially. Accordingly, we have done such things as cutting up rimu planks for a crafts woman to mount her tiles on. This was much appreciated and as it was done in a home workshop (with power!) the volunteer claimed the gift of preserves and chutneys for himself.

Another grateful grandmother had her children’s old doll’s house restored for her grandchildren in time for Christmas.

A local Kindergarten has got us to fix a swing consisting of a car tyre that had come off its ropes along with a pile of wooden jigsaw puzzles with the inevitable pieces missing. This is another project delayed by lack of power.

Other Activities:



The wood turners continue to use the Shed facilities on Saturday morning once a month. Dennis or Hugh are seen then passing on their expertise to a group of enthralled woodies. Hugh has also continued to involve the Shed members on a Wednesday morning with some impressive objects being produced.

Otari-Wiltons Bush – the carving of more of the poles for the entrance to the fernery at this reserve continues. At an open day in September, Sam and Archie were pleased to see the first ones in situ and the general comments were favourable. In fact, the completed one is featured in October amongst the magnificent flowers for all the other months in the Otari 2017 calendar. (Only \$15 each)



First Prize for the **weirdest request** so far is to the lady who came in and wanted us to make some knitting needles, joined by a flexible wire as in the type you use for knitting socks. The key thing was that she wanted the needles 50 mm in diameter and about 400 mm long, tapered at both ends and connected by a metre of electrical flex. Apparently her husband had not suddenly had an overdose of growth hormone and become giant size. Her cunning plan was to knit a beanie for the Naenae town clock tower which clearly needs help as it has been stopped at a quarter to nine for as long as I can remember.

Christmas Closure:

The last day will be Thursday Dec 22 and reopen again on the week of January 9.

Best Wishes:

Christmas and holidays (for those whose life is not just one long holiday) are upon us. We wish all members and those who get this newsletter all the best for the Christmas/New Year break, have a safe time and may you all be restored and re-invigorated for the year ahead.

Opening Hours:

Monday – 1.30 pm to 4 pm

Tuesday – 9am to 12 noon

Wednesday – 9am to 12 noon

Thursday - 9am to 12 noon

Friday – 9am to 12 noon

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.