



**N A E N A E**

**Newsletter No. 21**

**February 2017**

Happy New Year to you all – even though we seem to be well into 2017 and Christmas will be upon us at any moment! I hope you are all rested and reinvigorated for another time of ‘hard work’ and socialising at the Shed.



Everyone is steadily getting back into the swing of things. It is so much better having a bit more space to work in and those hoping for a bit of metal-working on the side are looking pretty smug.

**Buildings:**

Now that the extension is completed, we are working on the surrounds. Thanks again to Tom Paku who lent us his spare compactor which meant we were able to pave all around the new extension in time for those doing the building next door to put tar seal down along the edges. We had hoped for the whole of the driveway to the new Bowls Centre to have been fully resealed, but apparently the money ran out and that will have to wait. Although we have our name down for the shed next door which would be ideal for extra storage (and to put the noisy thickneser in!). I presume we won't know about that



until the Bowls Centre is up and running and they have worked out how they are going to manage their greens.

There was a little hiccup with a leak in the new roof near the internal door which has been attended to by Totalspan.

The metal-working area is now well organised and there is a substantial amount of equipment. I would give some details if I understood what all the bits and pieces do. I guess the best idea would be for you to come along and have a look for yourself.

The power is now on and the bills are rolling in so we will have to watch how many switches we leave on and what sort of lights we use.



### **Membership:**

This seems to be cruising along about the 100 mark, with some leaving us and others joining.

It was good to see John S with two of his granddaughters making things in the Shed and learning how to draw and understand plans (his granddaughters, not John).

The problem remains that we are focussed on day-time activities and this precludes those who are working from joining in. Happily, John W has taken up the cudgels, (or is it hammers and saws) and has started a session on Monday evening which concentrates on basic skills with hand tools. There are a number of women keen to be involved in this as well as some men who are working during the day. Although this session is in its infancy, I can see it taking off in a big way and being very popular.

Another group of people I came across recently were women especially, but not I suspect exclusively, who would like some teaching on how to go about simple maintenance activities around the home. Things like assembling kitsets, putting up shelves, hanging pictures, changing light-bulbs, etc, etc. None of these is particularly complicated but it often needs a little encouragement to have the confidence to give it a go. I'm not sure how we might go about this, but I'm sure there are ways to do it that will work.

Another thought for the future would be having the Shed open on some Saturdays for members who are working or busy during the week to drop in and use the gear, etc. This would take some thought and planning as well as some knowledgeable 'volunteers' to supervise it all – perhaps on a roster to lessen the load.

## Projects:

**Christmas** went off very well with lots of toys for the Salvation Army distribution in spite of being short of electricity for six weeks at a critical stage. Thanks especially to a number of members who did a lot of work at home to make their donations.



The **Otari pole carving** exercise is going well with a second one complete and ready for permanent installation. Progress was helped considerably by Sam and Archie taking the pole to the Stone Carving week in Upper Hutt and working on it there. This was a departure from the usual Oamaru Stone only approach at that event. Apart from adding to the interest of what was going on there, it also emphasised to us both that it is much more pleasant to be carving clean tidy wood rather than the notoriously dusty stone which requires you to go home after each day, strip off at the back door and clean up with a shower. It also meant that I didn't end up with yet another bit of stone around the garden.



The other benefit of the pole carving exercise is that anyone can have a go and see what wood carving is all about and how easy it is. Tony has got quite involved in it when given a chance and was even willing to clean up all the mess I made with the initial stripping of bark and various grubs and creepy crawlies off the fourth pole.





Sara, a new man on the block, has been **making some furniture** with Tony's help and doing the sort of job that he is very pleased with, but then anyone else would be too in view of the high quality he has achieved.



Hugh's **turning group** continue to turn (*sic*) out a steady stream of excellent bowls and platters along with a number of pens. He got a bit thrown by a request to help make some acupuncture pressure 'thingies', to use a technical term. No trouble of course to the expert.

### **Other Local Sheds:**

Although most of the Sheds in the Wellington region are going from strength to strength, it was sad to hear that the Wellington one has had to close in its present location because of the risk and liabilities of the temporary Shed they were using. We hope they can find another venue quickly.

There is also some activity in forming Sheds in Porirua and Tawa. I understand the Tawa group has formed a Charitable Trust and is now aiming to become an Incorporated Society. This seems like a belt and braces situation to me and I have never been convinced that one type of governance is better or worse than the other. Even though they do not have a venue yet, they could follow the example of one or two Sheds in the South Island who got under way doing things for the local community and grew from there.

Best of luck to them all anyway.

### **Events:**

The Woodworkers Guild organised a **demonstration day** on Dec 17 with specific demos on bowl decoration with paint and carving, making pens and other small items, carving, using a bowl sander and engraving with a laser. There was a good attendance from both the Guild and the Shed Members and the lunch was particularly appreciated with John S's BBQ'd mussels being especially welcome.

The Shed **finished up the year** with a BBQ on Dec 21. More mussels were in evidence for a short time there too. These events are very important for the members and I think we need to have them more regularly.

Coming up later in Feb, John S is running two **plane making sessions** a week apart. As most will know, John's interest is in the planes that glide over the wood rather than the sort that fly, although there are probably some similarities.

Another **demo day** is also scheduled for March 11 when Graeme McIntyre will be showing a number of his amazing skills.

## **GRIPE, COMPLAINT, GENERAL BITCH**

That is by way of attracting your attention to the fact that someone has taken a small aluminium ladder that belongs to Ross Hardie. It disappeared just before Christmas and has not been seen or heard of since. This is a special ladder he needs for his electrical activities from which our Shed has benefitted greatly. The possibilities are that it was borrowed by a forgetful member or stolen by person or persons unknown. The latter is an upsetting thought but is looking more and more likely to be true.

**If anyone knows anything about it, please let me know pronto.**

### **Opening Hours:**

Monday – 1.30 pm to 4 pm **and now: 7 pm to 9 pm**

Tuesday – 9am to 12 noon

Wednesday – 9am to 12 noon

Thursday - 9am to 12 noon

Friday – 9am to 12 noon

### **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.