



N A E N A E

Newsletter No. 22

April 2017

Building:

The new extension is now up and running and proving a huge boon to members with the extra space. The surrounds are looking pretty good with paving and a general tidy-up. **Thanks again to Tom Paku** for the loan of his spare compactor without which the paving would have looked more like the Southern Alps. The **parking** is yet to be sorted out. The Council, in spite of our pretty solid record of keeping off the grass since they requested it, don't quite trust us and are putting bollards around the whole area so we can't cheat. The driveway next the Shed is available and once the temporary fencing around the current building site of the Bowls Club is removed we will be able to use that area more efficiently and also have access to the area we had been using before.

Current rumours are that the **Bowls Club building will be open** for use about May 15 and the whole site will be handed over to the new Bowls Centre Committee in July, once the roof for the covered green has been fixed and erected. I'm sure we'll hear more of that before then.

The other item that needs working on is a new larger and tidier **sign for the Shed** which is being investigated as we speak.

The metal-working bit of the Shed is now in full swing with Graham E even having time to do a little job for himself (!) rather than spending all his time fixing equipment that comes in or gets badly used.



Management Committee:

As the Shed becomes more active, more members, more days in the week being used, we need to have some slightly more formal systems to cope with running it. I had raised the idea of a Management Committee before but at the last Trustees' meeting I managed to persuade them that this should be introduced to keep things going tomorrow when I drop dead. Accordingly we will get all the supervisors of the official Shed sessions plus the Safety Officer, Co-ordinator and any Trustees involved in the regular running of the Shed to meet every three months or more often if necessary.

This committee will be responsible for

- Maintenance of the Shed and equipment
- Planning of new and replacement equipment
- Ensuring safety of members using equipment
- Planning and implementing joint Shed projects
- Helping with individual and communal projects
- Keeping a watch on members' health and well-being
- Keeping members informed by meetings, newsletters and/or website.
- Reporting any major problems arising to the Trustees
- Appointing Shed Supervisors needed because of vacancies or extension of activities.
- Appointing others to jobs that need to be done around the Shed for smooth functioning.

Those currently likely to be busy doing all that are:

- The Shed Co-ordinator – Archie Kerr
- The Safety Officer – Tony Nesbit
- The Shed Supervisors – Tony Pemberton/Michael Harrison, Graham Eagles, Neil Roulston, John Walkerdine, John Spittal
- Trustees (ex officio and mainly those directly involved in the Shed's running) – Ross Hardie, Peter Chambers, Hugh Mill.

If you are aware of these duties you can bring up any suggestions or problems to those involved so that they can be discussed.

Members:

There has been a bit of a rush of new members lately with an international ring about it all. Hani originally from Iraq, but a citizen of the world, comes offering his artistic skills. To make sure we have got the message his favourite out-fit confirms that, particularly the French beret which van Gogh himself would be proud of. Lee hails from the Tokelau Islands, although to be fair he has been working in the Hutt Valley for the last fifty years or so. A more recent arrival is Valeri from Penza (in Russia you ignorant geographers) and being bored over the morning when his two grandsons are at school has come along to practice his

English. The risk is that we may learn some Russian, but what impresses me most is how well he has taken to carving with his contribution to the final pole for Otari.

On a less exotic note, it is good to see Rocky from HVHS here on Wednesdays and the Capital Training team restarting on Thursdays and Fridays. This year they have a new tutor, so a special welcome to Phil.

Safety:

This is a perennial issue and our mantra needs to continue to be

“Look after your mates”

Having said that, it does not only mean letting your mates know if they are doing something unsafe (which it certainly does mean) but it also means that you have to be prepared for someone to stop you doing something that they can see is unsafe. This **two-way agreement** may be a bit hard to swallow at times but we are all getting older and more forgetful and tend to do stupid things more often.

As part of our continuing concern with safety we have also instituted the **colour coding** system to indicate on your name tag that you are OK to use some machinery, you need to get help to use a machine or you should not be using machinery at all and need someone else to do the work for you. This system needs to be constantly updated and so if you feel your coloured spot is not appropriate for you, let us know and we will review it.

Who is ‘we’ you may well ask! In this case it is the day to day Management Committee. One of its roles will be to take responsibility for **assessing new members** and what they are safe to do. It will also be the arbiter of established members who may be losing skills and seem to be no longer safe working with machinery.

One other important item that can contribute to everyone’s safety and reduce frustration is for everyone to replace what they have been using where they got it from as soon as they have finished with it.

**The classic is leaving bits in the drill presses
and even worse leaving the chuck key in them.**

New Equipment:

Dave L did his usual trick of coming up with something very helpful recently. In this case it was a **large band saw** that was destined for the scrap-heap as it was no longer functioning and the motor seemed to be burnt out. Ross came up with an alternative diagnosis and changed the faulty switch on it and all is well. Almost all actually, as it needed quite a bit of work on the table and the blade settings with a new sharp blade to get it going in near-new condition. It has the advantage over our present one as it provides a wider throat and higher cut for larger timber. This is not all good as it is more likely to bite and the rule is that it will be for straight cuts or at most, gentle curves which have relief cuts to the side. Keep your hands off the table until the blade stops.

The other new equipment is more mundane – a **vacuum cleaner!** Actually it is an industrial one which we are connecting up to a sander so that it starts up as soon as someone switches on the sander. If this works well, we will get more for other sanders especially so that the ever-increasing layer of sawdust all through the Shed can be reduced. In this way it is hoped that we will not need a bigger Shed because the last one is full of sawdust!

Einar has been busy making a catcher to collect the dust for the new system.



Gardeners:

Every so often some keen gardeners turn up and offer to get rid of some of our untreated chips/shavings/sawdust which we accumulate in large quantities and is ideal for mixing into compost heaps. Such offers are enthusiastically met and then there is a quiet period for a while until their compost has rotted down. We can do with more such enthusiasts as our members seem to be more inclined to come to the Shed to avoid gardening. Uphill though it is, attempts are made to train the Sheddies in the basic art of composting which really only means that they should know that old sand-paper and large bits of wood do not rot down in the life-time of most of us.

Events:

On February 11, **Graeme McIntyre demonstrated** his amazing skills in turning ultra-thin vases which he then proceeded to decorate with cut-out patterns and airbrushing paint.

During February John S ran a couple of sessions on **how to make planes** which were well-attended and enthusiastically received. Most people managed to finish their plane which impressed me as it is a rather complex task with skilful wood work and some metal work for the blades.

On March 3 we were honoured by a **visit from our MP, Chris Hipkins**. The main purpose seemed to be to say ‘Hello’ and see what we were up to. Friday being a fairly quiet day meant that we could tell him all about it even if there was a limited range of activities at the time. He seemed suitably impressed with our efforts and was particularly taken by the fact that one of his old teachers, Hugh, was very much involved.



On March 22 the **Upper Hutt Shed members paid us a visit**. Partly to say ‘Hello’ and partly to check up on us. There was some measuring going on to see how much room was needed for various activities. To my mind this degree of planning is over-kill as what space a Shed needs will depend on the members and their specific interests and skills. The basic axiom is get as big a shed as you can – whatever happens it will be too small!

It was also good to see our old friend Bill again, obviously enjoying being well looked after by the UH members. It was not so good to see him **in hospital** a week or two later though. We wish him all the best and also best wishes to **Phil** who was also in hospital recently. To finalise the list: our **President, Bruce**, found himself in Palmerston Nth Hospital unexpectedly a few weeks ago. We all hope for good speedy recoveries for them all.

Projects:

Tony H had a metal table base with nice decoration on it that he was keen to use as a **dining table** for his yet to be found new accommodation. Working with Stuart, they made a frame surround and inserted two panels of mixed timbers into this. Tony could be found sanding vigorously from time to time and when it was suggested that it should be oiled as the best durable finish it was hoped that he would add his elbow-grease to the process. Whatever, it came up beautifully except for the fact that he couldn't get his knees under it when he was sitting on a chair. Four wooden plugs later for each leg and all was made to work well.



Carlo has been doing a great job making puzzles and recently tried his hand at a wooden spoon. Hopefully he won't develop into too much of a stirrer.

The Phil Bisdee Memorial Seat at the Pauatahanui Reserve was officially unveiled on March 17 with due ceremony and the ubiquitous BBQ. His brother and wife attended and the whole structure looks something for the Shed to be proud of. There was a donation to the Shed funds as well which was much appreciated.





Liri was keen to make a **garden box** for a friend who is no longer as mobile as she was and needs to do her gardening sitting on a chair. Because of this the box needed to be elevated to a comfortable height and solid enough to contain an adequate amount of soil. Luckily she had no ambitions to grow carrots and parsnips. This project gave us a splendid opportunity to get rid of a length of fencing with its palings that had been getting in the way for some time. The final result seems more than satisfactory.

On Saturday May 13, Sam, John S and Archie are planning to hold a workshop on carving spoons. Any of you stirrers out there who would like to make a new spoon or get a larger one are very welcome to come along. We thought to charge \$10 so that we could throw in a pizza for lunch and contribute to the Shed funds and the Woodworkers Guild as have previous workshops.

Gripe:

This now is in fact is an **'ungripe'** by which I mean that last newsletter's comments produced the desired result. So thanks to the anonymous person who returned Ross's ladder to his home. He is very grateful and so pleased he may even get round to giving me a bill for all the electrical work he has done on the extension!

Email from our Patron:

In response to the list of sponsors which showed a large contribution from the membership.

“Wow! What an admirable effort from the members. How marvellous! I do wish every town in NZ could have an active Menz Shed (as good as Naenae). Thanks to all of the Trustees and Supervisors of the Shed for your hard work and continuing efforts; and to the members too who turn up week after week, become involved and bring their own skills, humour and hard work to the enterprise. Suffice to say, I am enormously proud of you all.”

Kindest Regards,
Barbara Branch

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:

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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.

We continue to be very grateful for all those who have supported us since we started in 2008 and would like to acknowledge the special sponsors as listed below. Without the help of this wide range of people and organisations we would still be a struggling band of twenty or so oldies getting more and more frustrated at the lack of progress!

SPONSORS

Lottery Community Facilities Fund
Department of Internal Affairs
Te Tari Taiwhenua



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