



N A E N A E

Newsletter No. 23

June 2017

Members continue to arrive from all parts of the globe. The most recent one was from as far away as Foxton! He illustrates just what we are here for in that he has shifted from his own home and workshop to a bedsit in a retirement home with no real opportunity to 'do things'. Add to that, he is in a new town with no contacts and the Shed provides an opportunity to get to know a few people with similar interests and approaches to life. Someone else from Whitby was keen to learn more woodworking skills in his retirement, but hesitated to come along because he was unsure if he was eligible from that far afield.

Tuesday, May 23, capped all records with 5 new members turning up to sign on, including another Foxton refugee!

Building: It's great to have a feeling of completion now that the extension is finished and we just about have a certificate to prove it. A bit more paperwork from Totalspan to prove that the foundation slab was really as good as it appears to be; a notice to explain to I don't know who that the door over there goes to the outside and therefore qualifies as a fire exit; and a sloping board at the accessible



entrance to make it more accessible, although it's hard to imagine someone in a wheelchair coming on their own; and low and behold we have passed the final hurdle.



Now we can qualify to pay more for the insurance for our expanded facility and no doubt the cost of the lease will go up sometime too. Ah, the price of success!

House-Keeping: This is not a word you would hear from anyone in the Shed usually, but these are ‘interesting times’, as the Chinese saying goes. Some weeks ago we bought an industrial vacuum cleaner which has a switch that means it goes on automatically when a machine plugged into it is switched on. This is ideal for our sanding machines as it means that even the laziest of us has to have the dust extraction going when they switch on the belt sander for even a minute or two. Some have sought to thwart this cunning plan by disconnecting it when we weren’t looking, but ingenuity from those leading the charge and a good deal of tape has kept the system intact.



Particularly involved have been Graham connecting hoses from sander to vacuum cleaner and Einar making funnels to collect the dust from the machine.



Emily Pearce and her mother of Nicholson and Pearce, kindly offered us a lot of equipment from the family business. Much of this was not satisfactory as it required 3-phase power supply which we are not into. The team sent members down to Petone to check it out and they came back with another very large and energetic vacuum system which was rapidly inserted in-line with the other two sanders. This has completed the transformation of that corner of the Shed from a deepening collection of fine dust to an almost dust-free zone.

Adding to all that was one member with a vacuum cleaner fetish who brought in a large collection of Tellus cleaners one day that covered the floor like gnomes at the Czech border. Ross got on to making them all go and we are now looking for machines that generate even the smallest amount of dust to attach them to!

Having managed to come to terms with the ‘safety’ part of our needs, it is good to now pay attention to the ‘health’ part of the deal. We have more to do in this respect but a good start has been made.

Signage: Our Patron, Barbara Branch, has been busy chasing up some new signs for the outside of the Shed. The old one certainly looks tatty and we do need to be more easily found by new members who are continually ringing up my wife and asking where they can find the Shed. The common problem is that those of us who go there know where it is, so why doesn’t anyone else. The real worry will start when we can’t remember where it is!

The suggested signage looks good and gained unanimous favour except for the price. We hope we can find a sponsor for it.

Other Jobs:

As you all know, but prefer to forget, there is a list of jobs on the board with those responsible clearly indicated.



I was very chuffed the other day when Tony H offered to become towel cleaner-in-chief for the establishment. Off he went with a pile of grotty looking articles and came back a few days later with unrecognisably clean towels that he swore did actually come from our bathroom.

Advertisement

As far as I am concerned the only good advertising is for something that is free. Accordingly, I wish to announce that we have a complete and comprehensive set of **wall-papering equipment** in the Shed that is free to be borrowed by any one of you keen home decorators that are sick of painting and would like to try wall-papering. Let me know any time you want it.

Technically we could use it in the Shed itself, but my suggestion that we go for some flowery paper in the metal-working area has not received a very positive response.

Monday Evening classes: Thanks to John W these are going really well. He can't get over how keen the attendees, mostly women, are. Clearly we are providing a service that is needed and huge thanks have to go to John for being willing to commit to this every week.

Projects:

The **Capital Training activities** are well under way again which is very pleasing. Each of the six students has made a couple of items and the team is now out in the wide world putting up a fence as a combined project. That sounds just the sort of activity that we were hoping to be part of and be able to encourage.



Carlo has been very busy making puzzles (clearly a Manchester United supporter) and spoons and lately trying a bit of carving.



Rocky has been coming from the **Hutt Valley High School Gateway programme** for some weeks. Unfortunately he got off to a rather bad start from us because he arrived in a more than usually chaotic period. He kept smiling and tolerated our incompetence for long enough to try his hand at wood-turning under the Hugh's excellent tuition. By the time he left to go on to another programme he had made two bowls that anyone would be proud of. Well done.

St Columba Church, across the street, has been sold as an earthquake risk and recently was demolished in a day or so in the usual manner that we have come to expect when money rules the world. A local brought in the remains of the large macrocarpa cross that had also fallen foul of the digger-cum-smasher. The request was for some **small crosses** that could be given to the parishioners that were feeling the loss of the church they had worshiped in for many years. That was a relatively straight forward project but the senseless destruction of useful and irreplaceable resources that we have seen at the Taita Community Hall and the Bowling Club next door continues. More damage from market fundamentalism.



I thought making **speaker cabinets** for your Hi-Fi was out of fashion, but **Richard** has been doing this industriously with a plan I have not seen before. Graceful curves and large openings were the order of the day to make a little speaker come up with a big base noise. Good luck to him and his neighbours.

Events:

National AGM: This was held by a Webinar electronic link on Monday, May 15. I duly registered on behalf of our Shed, offered after dinner coffee at my home for all those desperate to attend, joined another practice session about the system the week before, and it was not until I realised at 9.30 pm that I had forgotten all about it that I also noticed about five reminders on the email! As far as I am aware, there was nothing controversial on the agenda and my absence probably sped up the meeting, but I do confess to being slightly embarrassed!

From the minutes, points to note are: David Chapple of Manawatu is our regional rep.
The 2018 AGM is a face-to-face one in Auckland in late April.
There are 141 Sheds in NZ but only 81 are registered with the national body.
Having the AGM on the Webinar Net worked well.

Spoon making: This was a much more successful occasion with fourteen contenders for 'spoon of the month'. There was a good variety of patterns and timber available, Sam did a great job organising everything and showing people what to do. Lia came in time for morning tea with some muttered excuse about netball or some such. Consequently she didn't give herself quite long enough to finish, but promised to complete it on her



next Monday night. We did manage to provide morning tea and pizzas for lunch as promised.

I think everyone learned something from the exercise – for me, it was the fact that Pizza Hut don't open until 11 am!

Management group: From my point of view one of the most important events so far this year was the fact this group of Supervisors, Trustees, Co-ordinator and Safety Officer got together for the first time to look at the current needs of the Shed and where we are heading in future. Items needed were continuing attention to dust extraction, better and cheaper mobile spot lights and a gas welder with ultimate plans for a MIG welder and longer term, a milling machine and surface grinder for the metal workers.

We also emphasised the need for the supervisors of each session to be responsible for **welcoming new members** and getting their contact details.

Safety was stressed again (and again) with Tony N, John S, Neil, John W, Ross and Graham E to be responsible for assessing new members and re-assessing current members and assigning an appropriate colour code for their name tag. This makes the whole process more transparent, to use an overworked word, but does allow for members to ask questions if they feel hardly done by and for those making the decisions to be properly supported.

Another job assigned was to check what equipment we have for the **inventory** (and possible insurance) as well as to see what we don't need any more. It seemed best to give **redundant items** to other Sheds or charity shops rather than run as garage sale as we haven't got enough for that.

English Lessons

It has been decided that we should have some reading lessons for members who are clearly limited in such skills at times. I blame television and computers.

The first lesson will be low key and concentrate on simple words like 'tidy', 'clean', 'wash', 'sweep', etc.

Once some understanding of these words has been achieved, longer, more challenging phrases will be introduced such as 'put things back where you got them from' and 'compost contains only wood shavings and not sandpaper and blocks of wood'. This latter may be too long for most and could be held over to the third lesson.

All are welcome to attend and there will be no extra charge.

Farewell:

For the last few months Valeri, from Russia, has been with us to keep occupied in the mornings when his grandchildren are at school and to practice his English. The former has been more successful and he has done a sterling job helping to carve the last post for Otari. I can't comment on the latter other than to say I hope he learnt and can remember more English than I learnt Russian. As a memento of NZ we sent him off with a rimu spoon (which of course he had to carve himself) and look forward to having him back again in February when grandfatherly duties are required again.



Good luck on your trip home. We will miss him and now Sam and I will have to get back to work on the pole!

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.