



N A E N A E

Newsletter No. 25

October 2017

Building:

Our new signage is now up and there is no excuse for people missing the Shed as there is a label on each wall.

The Regional Bowls Centre had a big do on Friday, September 1, to open their rinks and also the RSA facility which is situated there as well. All the dignitaries were there and everyone seems very pleased with the increased number of members they are attracting.

As part of this facility, there is a very good café/restaurant which can provide an excellent lunch for \$10 (and ice-cream for free!) if you are a member. Non-playing membership of the Bowls Club only costs \$30 a year and that would soon be gobbled up by cheap lunches (did I really mean that?).

As well as all the eating offered they have also been keeping us busy with odd jobs around the new building.

More on Signage:

In an attempt to get people to put things away after use we have made some changes. We have cut down the number of power tools that are left out for use and those on the shelves have their places well labelled (with large letters so they can

be read without glasses).



In addition, Hugh has got so fed up with knocking his head on my amateur sign about putting things away, he has donated some properly printed ones for the Shed. I would suggest that out of respect for Hugh's great gesture that we actually read it and respond appropriately.

New Equipment:

At the recent managers meeting (23 August) we decided to go ahead with the purchase of Oxyacetylene welding equipment which will give us more flexibility in what we can do with the metal working department. Graham E has been busy getting all the trimmings sorted out and now has the equipment installed and safely arranged so that those of us with no idea of what it is all about don't cause any trouble. Hopefully we may be in line soon to get some tuition on its use to widen our experiences.

Members:

New members keep rolling in (no that's not right), coming in and looking around with every intent on staying, which is great. One recently at Wesleyhaven, turned up looking for a place to do a small job, equipment to do it with and help with some of the requirements. That seemed to spell out exactly what we are here for.

The total number of members is always a bit hard to pin down as there is so much coming and going, some come, sign up and don't turn up again, others wander in and stay. With that proviso, we are around the hundred mark which means that there is room for all as long as we spread out over the week.

Website:

Being a progressive modern organisation we are planning to leap into the 21st century and develop a website. Uili Fecteau, that well-known French-Canadian, Samoan New Zealander has offered to take this on and would have got further if a certain nameless person hadn't been dragging the chain so much. I have given him some more information about the Shed for him to use, so progress can now be made. My ambition would be to have all the instructions in English for old people like me to follow and not have too much computerese which seems to be a separate language with a distinct inability to call a spade a spade.

Projects:

Jobs for the Bowls Centre have included the **sign-in desk** which is happily still on the wall and working well. They are also keen to get a **table-height bench** round one of the rooms that looks out on to the greens, including the inside one, and where the umpires and officials sit to keep an eye on the unruly players and make sure all the scores are recorded accurately.

That is all underway, as is the **extension to the gates** on to the outside greens area where the original design left a gap at the bottom which was big enough to let dogs under and potentially damage the surfaces. By the size of the gap available it would appear that small, low-slung dogs can do significant digging on the greens. No prizes for detecting that bowls may not be one of my regular activities.



Carving:

After several months of patient, quiet, at times frustrating, work, Paul has finished his carving. It is the most magnificent piece of work that I have seen for a long time and certainly something he should be very proud of.



Events:



Some weeks ago we got an email from **Comac Ltd, in Palmerston North**, a company that sells a wide range of items for woodworking. They had an advertising wheeze that resulted in contacting Sheds around NZ and offering a cake for the next social event and catalogues for us to peruse. That seemed safe enough, the only problem being that we hadn't got any social event planned. The offer was stimulation enough to get the **BBQ** dusted off and organise a lunch for the team. My enthusiastic response to Comac was such that they offered a choice of cake flavours, so the carrot cake was duly delivered on Wednesday, September 6 and joined thirty odd members at the BBQ lunch.

On the day. We had more than the usual number of people there. Graham and Neil organised the sausages, bread, fruit and drink – all very healthy, and John S supplied the most beautifully marinated mussels I have ever tasted. To cap it all off, the carrot cake duly arrived from Comac and was received with enthusiasm. I promised one person that unexpectedly couldn't make it that I would put some in a doggy bag for him. I didn't expect to have half the cake in the frig still for him and others coming over the next few days. Thanks very much to Comac and I hope they will note that their large supply of catalogues were gladly studied by a wide range of members.



Another good thing about the morning was how many new faces there were present which was a great introduction for us to them and vice versa.

Pataka Exhibition:

The Woodworkers Guild have their biennial exhibition at Pataka gallery in Porirua from Nov 3 to Dec 3 this year and our members are invited to attend, be involved and get going on the top-spinning and marshmallow throwing competitions. We have a number of ballisters for the marshmallow tossing at the Shed so there's plenty of opportunity to get in some practice.

Obituaries:

Bill Clark died on 19 August, 2017 after a short illness following his steady deterioration in general health.

Many of you will remember Bill who was a founding member of the Naenae Shed and in fact a keen contributor to the original organising committee from the start. At that stage he was using a mobility scooter exclusively to get around so he made sure we planned to have proper access for disabled members well covered.

As a young student he was climbing Mt Huxley at the head of Lake Ohau in the Southern Alps when he fell 100 feet. He spent the next 44 hours unconscious while his fellow-climbers sought help which included what must have been one of the first helicopter lifts off a mountain and then a plane trip to Dunedin Hospital. In spite of his very serious injuries he made a pretty good recovery and worked in various occupations during his life.

Like most of us, he was retired by the time he joined the Shed and used his membership to continue making toy trains for his various grand nieces and nephews round the world, as well as others locally, including the Hutt Hospital Children's Ward. The Shed was clearly an important social contact for him and he was a good example of why we exist. He was also fully committed to it and was happy to help where he could. When he ran his scooter into the ground and couldn't afford a new one, he was very much more limited in his activities and eventually sold his house and transferred to a home in Upper Hutt. That exercise required a lot of work from his sister-in-law to clear out his house and garage and our Shed benefitted immensely from his generosity. He was an inveterate collector of power tools and we got most of what he had in terms of skill saws, bench saw, electric screwdrivers, an electric carving tool, a drill press, Dremel, buzzers, etc. Not to mention various hand tools and the inevitable collection of assorted nails, screws and bolts. It was this sort of generosity that got us off to such a good start, so thank you, Bill.



On October 9 **Paul Andersen** died after being increasingly incapacitated for several months. Paul was another person who became involved in the Shed at an early stage and was very supportive of both the idea and of getting it under way. Whenever there was something to be done he was usually working quietly in the background and if you were looking for someone to help set up for an event or tidy up afterwards, more often than not, Paul was there already doing things. He was also very thoughtful in the planning stages and often came up with important ideas that had been overlooked by the rest of us. Much of how we do things in the Shed is down to him and I am especially grateful for his comment that we will need a tub for cleaning all the dirty material that we generate, washing paint brushes and other messy jobs. He has saved the hand basin and sink from disaster. Our condolences and thoughts go out to his wife Phyllis and their two daughters, Katherine and Maria.

Important Notice

The Monday evening session that John Walkerdine has been running for several months will go into recess for a while as the attendance has been too low and erratic.

We hope to restart this sort of session for learners on a short-term occasional basis later on.

Opening Hours:

Monday – 1pm to 3.30 pm	Supervisors: Michael Harrison, Dave Winthrop
Monday – 7 pm to 9 pm	Supervisor: John Walkerdine
Tuesday – 9am to 12 noon	Supervisor: Graham Eagles
Wednesday – 9am to 12 noon	Supervisor: Neil Roulston
Thursday - 9am to 12 noon	Supervisor: John Walkerdine
Friday – 9am to 12 noon	Supervisor: John Spittal

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