



MenzShed Kapiti Incorporated.
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NEWSLETTER January 2025

No 156

From the Chair

Talofa lava

Welcome to 2025 everyone. I trust you all had a good break and managed to get some decent R & R time in?

At the risk of repeating myself, 2025 has begun just like last year. We have only been open for just over a month and already the Shed is busy with many activities either completed or on the go.

Here are a few examples

- New roofs being constructed over the containers to make them watertight and better suited for storage.
- A number of 'bay' workshops being worked on, to turn them into better/cleaner/less cluttered work-spaces
- Donated goods being uplifted and sorted in preparation for the garage sale
- Planning for the annual garage sale is underway
- Supplying refreshments for the Kapiti Garden trail

This is all on top of usual activities involving our gardeners, kitchen team, firewood team, administration team and myriads of other projects our members are working on.

I want to thank you all for the time and effort you are putting into our Shed.

As I mentioned in the morning brief today several of our committee members will be absent at different times in the lead up to and on the day of the garage sale. With that in mind, I am asking all those members who are available to please step up and assist where you can.

The garage sale is our biggest fundraiser and saw us raise more than \$7,000.00 last year. If we are to achieve this figure (or better it), it will require a big effort from us all in the preparation leading up to the day and on the day itself.

Thank you in anticipation!!

Soifua

Tony

Important Information

Important Information on what's happening and who's making all this happen

Event	Date	Where	Comment
Menzshed Garage Sale	Saturday 29th March	@the Shed	
Recurring Events			
Committee Meetings		@the Shed	At Noon
Sharpening tools	Last Thursday of Month	@the Shed	This is a regular event
Fresh Scones	Last Thursday of Month and whenever there is a birthday shout or any other excuse!	@the Shed	Hans and his apprentices will be producing superb scones fresh from the oven, or for anyone's birthday shout

Contact Details

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The most terrifying thing in life is when the toilet refuses to flush at someone else's house!

The Month that's been



Tony A practicing for controlling the committee.



This is what Alfred C & Nigel R get's. up to when collecting items for the Menzshed. Scones and cakes.



Message from the Exercise Well Clinic 'Thank you so much to the Menzshed for building Exercise Well a mobility scooter accessibility ramp! Our clients can now come when it's raining and not spend the first 5 min of their sessions trying to get in! Thank you so so much we are so grateful and so are our clients!'



Kapiti council decided that a tree near the bench was dangerous and needed to come down. We thought there was a possibility that the seat would be damaged so, as we could not move it from it's concrete base, we removed the centre rail with the text and graphics for safety.

We needn't have worried, all went well. The centre rail was returned to it's original position and the client decided to renew the staining.



If I was a plastic surgeon...

I would put a squeaky toy in every breast implant!

Hired a handy man and gave him a list. When I got home, only #1, 3, & 5 were done. Turns out, he only does odd jobs!



A client brought in a work of art statue for overhaul. It's base was very corroded and the steel support pin that went up its leg was loose. Ray W did an great job of restoring it and, a certain member of our shed had to show off his similar legs!



Bringing Pottery Wheels Back to Life: A Successful MENZ Shed Project by Grahame J

With the expertise and generosity of Mark K, I recently repaired a very dilapidated pottery wheel for my daughter. This project caught the attention of an art teacher at Paraparaumu College, who reached out for help. The college's art department had two pottery wheels in need of repair before students could use them.

Thanks to Mark's invaluable assistance, Alan W's work ensuring the electrics were safe, and Brian D's support in sourcing metal-work, both wheels were successfully restored.

It was incredibly satisfying to return the fully functional wheels to the college, where they are now being used by students in their art classes. This project exemplifies the spirit of the MENZ Shed.



Repairs to a Barbeque umbrella—A relatively simple job: One of the 6 (tubular) arms had been broken, so I sleeved it at the break, with a slightly smaller tube inside. Wish they were all that easy! Alan C



We have just completed the 4th Battery Recycling cabinet, to add to the 3 now operating in the Kapiti Libraries. This one is for Shed members and friends to use.

Our cabinet is located just inside the main roller door of the Peter B Workshop. We will periodically empty the collecting bucket, probably at the Library, who will arrange for collection

The Council pamphlet below sets out some simple guidelines, including the list of batteries NOT ACCEPTED, and the need to TAPE OVER LITHIUM-ION BATTERY TERMINALS, to avoid fires.

About this household battery recycling trial

We're running a one-year trial battery recycling programme to help divert hazardous waste from landfill. We hope to have this service available in all our libraries as soon as possible.

When you recycle batteries, you help:

- Avoid water and air pollution caused by improperly disposed batteries
- Save valuable finite natural resources by allowing the valuable metals in the batteries to be reused.

A big thank you to:

The MenzShed Kapiti
The talented Jim Walls and Allan Cannell from MenzShed Kapiti custom-built the battery drop-off station to safely house our battery recycling bucket.
www.menzshedkapiti.org.nz

Otaihanga Transfer Station Tip Shop
The reclaimed wood cabinet used to create the drop-off station was sourced from Otaihanga Transfer Station Tip Shop.

www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/BatteryRecycling
waste@kapiticoast.govt.nz
0800 486 486

Published 2023

HOUSEHOLD BATTERY RECYCLING

Learn how to safely recycle your household batteries

Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Recycle your household batteries safely

To help us make this trial a success please recycle right.

1. Accepted batteries:

- Alkaline, lithium, nickel cadmium and zinc manganese dioxide batteries
e.g. AA, AAA, 9V, C, D, N
- Hearing aid batteries



2. Tape the ends of any lithium batteries with the tape provided.

- Any AA, AAA, C or D battery marked "Lithium" or "Li-ion"
- Any button/coin batteries that begin with CR...
- Lithium batteries are often rechargeable batteries

Please see the taping instructions included.

3. Put your batteries in the recycling station "naked" (not in bags or boxes).

Tape the ends of your lithium ion batteries

Lithium ion (Li-ion) batteries can pose a greater fire risk than other more common household batteries.

You can still recycle lithium batteries, but the ends need to be taped to prevent sparking in transit or storage.



If you are unsure, please ask one of our friendly librarians for assistance.

Batteries not accepted

This battery recycling station cannot process the following battery types:



Vehicle batteries



Power tool batteries



Leaking, swollen or damaged batteries



Electronic device batteries

Please safely dispose of these batteries at your nearest transfer station



Two boys, rightly, very pleased with themselves having built a planter box recently at the Shed. Supervised by Alistair B

Nine Important Facts

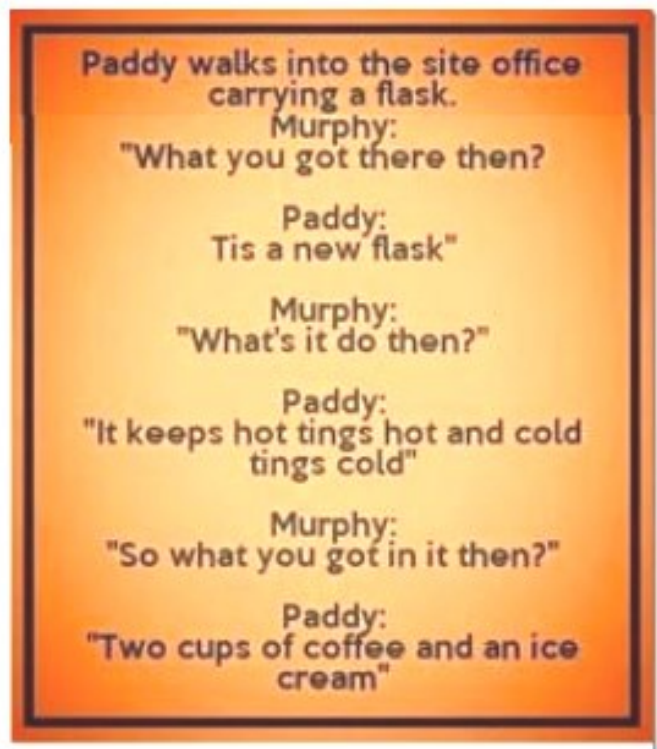
- Number 9 - Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
- Number 8 - Life is sexually transmitted.
- Number 7 - Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- Number 6 - Men have two emotions: hungry and horny, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
- Number 5 - Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
- Number 4 - Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- Number 3 - All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- Number 2 - In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- Number 1 - Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today might burn your ass tomorrow.

...and as someone recently said:

- Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last that long.



Dolls House repair by Colin and painted by Noel T.



I've been presented with quite a variety of projects over the years, most of them bench seat repairs, but the one recently completed was a little different from any other. Like most it had been subjected to fairly vigorous handling and exposure to the elements with the most obvious result being the broken front rail possibly due to excessive weight being applied. Nothing unusual in that but the real challenge lay in the unusual design of the unit.

The middle element of the 3-seater structure was designed to convert from a seat to a raised table (see image 1). I had never seen that before and a search of the internet failed to find one. That was a pity because several of the parts that enable the conversion were rotted or broken. If anyone can find one like it I will be keen to know more about it. It is made by Kent Furniture, not surprisingly based in UK.

I managed to remake the broken and rotten bits and, at the request of the owner, added a couple of additional legs to overcome any weakness where the break had occurred. Thus, as is usual with Menzshed projects, the customer is satisfied. Images 2 & 3 show the seat in its 2 configurations. Derek C

The next time President Trump gets shot at, the secret service agent won't say, 'sir get down', they will call out, 'Donald Duck'.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto were riding through a canyon when they stopped, Tonto dismounted and put his head on the ground, 'Ahh', he exclaimed, 'many buffalo pass here'. The Lone Ranger asked if he could hear vibrations through the ground. 'No', said Tonto, 'Hands and ear all sticky'.

MenzShed Kapiti's Secretary had a Merry Christmas in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Port Vila and its environs experienced a 7.3 magnitude earthquake on Tuesday, 20th December. The Vanuatu Red Cross (VRC) building was suspected to be impaired and, for safety, the Emergency Operations Centre was moved into the car-park. Utility power was lost and as a result, computer facilities were unavailable for two days. Emergency generators provided essential power and the computer system was moved back into the building and successfully restarted. The Vanuatu Red Cross requested support from New Zealand Red Cross and our Secretary/Treasurer - John Moriarty with one of his Red Cross colleagues - was deployed for a short-duration mission to ensure that all information systems were available for the ongoing relief effort and to support incoming International Red Cross Delegates. Travel up to Vanuatu (and return) was courtesy of RNZAF in their Boeing 757 and Hercules C130.

The essentials of life for in a disaster zone are water, food and shelter, but none of these can be organised very effectively without computers and Internet.

On a previous mission (March 2023, after Cyclones Kevin and Judy), John took a Starlink system up to Vanuatu and it supplied much-needed internet. This system has been providing internet ever since. On this trip, another smaller Starlink system was taken for backup and it will be used to help remote teams keep in touch with the Operations Centre.



John M setting up the Starlink satellite for Internet reception. Note it is held down by sand bags



Refueling the generator.

Earthquakes create different problems from cyclones. In cyclones, sturdy buildings are seldom damaged (apart from damage to windows and roof cladding from flying debris), but people can usually keep working in them. As we Kiwi's know, earthquakes wreck even sturdy buildings and it becomes unsafe to work in them! What happens then? People move into tents, warehouses, awnings, etc but they still need power, computers and internet to carry on helping those affected. The NZ Red Cross supplied several generators back in 2023 and these were used once more to get the Vanuatu Red Cross systems working. After power was restored, John worked with Structural Engineers to determine the safest place in the damaged Red Cross building to relocate the computer system. These engineers were also sent from NZ as part of Fire and Emergency's urban Rescue Team.

It was very humbling to be a part of this relief effort and one can only admire and respect the resilience of the people. Two cyclones and a major earthquake in less than two years has placed huge burdens on Vanuatu's people, yet their welcoming and optimistic nature in the face of what they have endured makes whatever problems we have here look small by comparison. There will be years of reconstruction ahead. Many roads, wharves and buildings

will need to be completely rebuilt. Donations to the Red Cross Vanuatu Appeal is a very effective way for you to assist.

John Moriarty
January 2025

Restoration of an Inherited Longcase Grandfather Clock

When my wife inherited a Grandfather Clock housed in the UK, a series of questions were raised. Do we want it? Where would it go? What would it cost to get out to New Zealand? To which the answers were Yes, Not sure, and Does it matter!

So we contacted a freighting company (shout out to Pickfords UK Ltd) who did a superb job of crating and delivering it to our home in NZ by the quoted time even though there were issues such as the Suez Canal being closed at the time. The clock arrived in a large specially made crate which was 2.5m high, 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep.

The known history of the clock is that it had been in my wife's family for at least three generations but that was as far as we could trace it. Her grandfather (born in 1878) was reputed to enjoy attending auctions and it may have been purchased from an estate sale, or perhaps it was handed down to her grandparents by previous generations? Surviving family members couldn't help with any further information about how it came into the family. What is known is that the clock dates back to the mid 1700's and was made by a John Stokes of St Ives (most likely of Huntingdonshire) between 1720 and 1766 as the clock face is numbered and is a low number.



Prior to its arrival in NZ my wife had contacted a clock maker near Otaki re servicing the clock mechanism itself and luckily he had the expertise and was happy to take on that job. We knew the clock had been in a farm house lounge for a number of years on flag stones and the base of the cabinet had deteriorated badly plus the entire case needed to be restored. Where could that be done in New Zealand? My contacts at Menzshed were able to help.

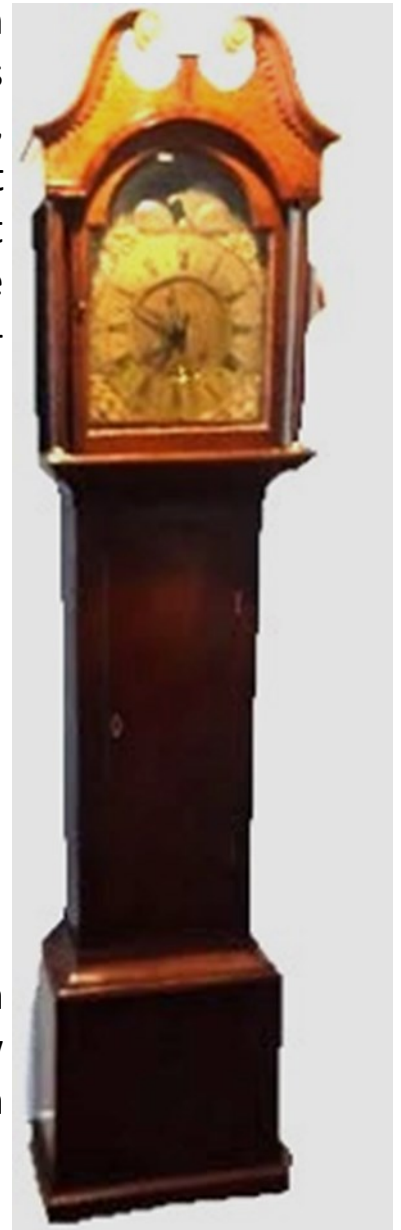
John D was approached and agreed to work on the clock case (*Photo2*) but when we returned from the UK John told me the case was very old and recommended we get an experienced restorer to work on

the case and suggested talking with John at Thorndon Antiques, who gave us the names of a couple of restorers and we approached Dave of Owhiro Bay. Thanks, John, for suggesting Menzshed do not complete the project - it turned out to be a massive job!! Dave said the cabinet

was made of best quality English Brown oak with the wood cut to give a distinctive pattern

So, the specialists did their jobs and in due course the mechanism and cabinet were installed at home. After a bit of “tweaking” it’s now wonderful to have the clock installed, ticking away and quietly chiming on the hour.

Originally the clock even had capability to show the date of the month and phases of the moon.



And what happened to the packing case? It was recycled by a Menzshed member and used to ship a painting to Christchurch.

PeterR

Remember: When something goes wrong at the circus, they send in the clowns to distract the audience.

Well, something has gone very wrong with this circus and the clowns are everywhere!

Click on this link!

Despite having positive feedback on the article in last month's newsletter on links to YouTube videos I still don't have any member's contributions. However here are some more links I found interesting.

If you find any gems on the Internet, please share them and I will put them up here, (if appropriate)! Below is an explanation on how to get the link to a YouTube video

Press Ctrl as you click on the blue text. It doesn't work on a printout!

Fascinating videos of how some people work very efficiently

See the ingenious and skillful ways that some people make their working life easy and very productive.

[Most Skillful and Fastest Workers Ever!](#)



What Indian factories produce from old stuff

Indian backstreet factories are a fascinating mixture of old machines, innovation and to hell with health and safety. See if you can guess what these factories are making.

[It's amazing what the Indians can make out of old oil drums](#)



The secret life of...

In 1980 Tim Hunkin produced a wonderful tv series called the secret life of machines in which he went through the processes of development of machines from the early inception of the device to the current date. He shows how they work and, in some cases, how they can be fixed. He remastered them in 2015 and added his comments. There is a whole series of these videos which are well worth watching.

[The secret life of the refrigerator](#)



How to get the link to a YouTube video.

Right click anywhere on the video screen, while it is playing, and a black box like this should open up. Left click on the second item, "Copy video URL", and you should be able to paste the result into an email.

It should look something like this "https://youtu.be/xX31J9cBR2o".

This is the link. Send it to me at Currier.Roger@Gmail.com. I will check it out and put it in the newsletter if suitable.



Jim F and Noel T were asked to put together a Christmas tree from numbered pieces of driftwood



Dennis doing final finishings on a rocking chair



Charlie and Troy in the process of making more coffee tables!



Robbie obviously pleased to have his photograph taken



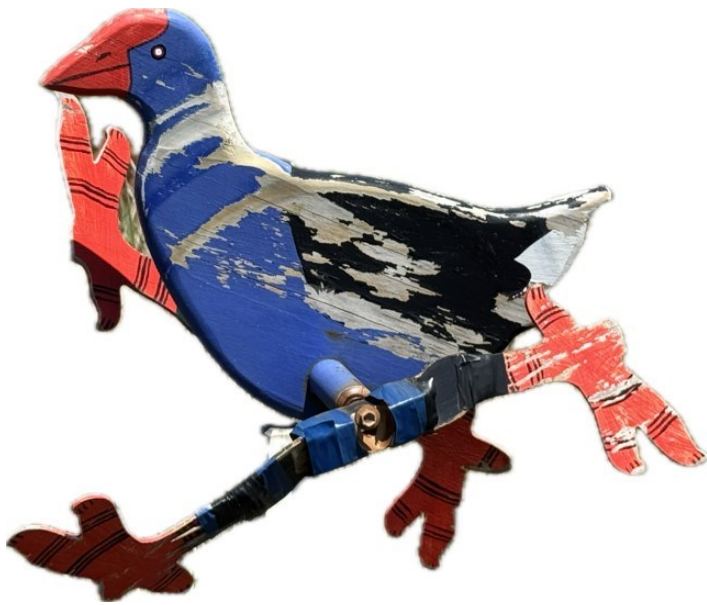
Garden tools being refurbished by Alan C and others in preparation for the garage sale



Simon T with the client and an ornament that he repaired.



The best part of a Menzshed day



We were asked to mend a worn out Pukeko. It had been running on a fence post for the last 20 years and it's bearings were stuffed, it also had broken legs which had been splinted with cocktail sticks and masking tape. It was passed to the 'toy makers', Jim F, Noel T and Graeme J who did a transplant on his legs, provided new bearings and gave it a full service overhaul, as you see. The client was delighted. The toy makers did take the opportunity to make Pukeko templates so expect to see them running round the shed in the near future.



A lady brought in a small shovel with a loose handle. As you see Ian P did a good job of turning and fitting a new one



Ian P was asked to repair a carding machine that had a broken motor. After some discussion with the client they agreed the best repair was to replace the moto with a handle and that's what Ian P did successfully.

Carding machines are used to comb wool and other materials in preparation for spinning into twine. Here's a link to a video showing how they are used. [Carding Machine](#)

Advice on working in the Sun from AI

This is an experiment on how well AI works when it is told to use humor in answering a question.

AI's response to the initial question

When working in the sun on a hot day, it's essential to take precautions to prevent heat-related illnesses and sun damage. First and foremost, always wear sunscreen with a high SPF to protect your skin from harmful UV rays. Apply it generously on all exposed skin and reapply every two hours, especially if you are sweating. Wearing a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses will shield your face and eyes from direct sunlight. Choose light-colored, loose-fitting clothing made of breathable fabrics to help your body stay cool.

Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid caffeine and alcohol, as they can contribute to dehydration. Take frequent breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas to allow your body to cool down. If possible, try to schedule your most strenuous tasks during the early morning or late afternoon when the sun is less intense. By following these guidelines, you can work safely and efficiently, even on the hottest days.

Humorous advice on working in the Sun from AI—if you are a Kiwi

Working in the sun on a hot day can feel like you've been cast in the lead role of a slow-cooking rotisserie chicken commercial. But fear not, with a few handy tips, you can avoid becoming a human barbecue! First and foremost, channel your inner fashion icon and sport a wide-brimmed hat that screams "shade is my superpower." Pair that with sunglasses that make you look cooler than a cucumber in a fridge. Slather on sunscreen with a high SPF like it's a second job, and reapply every two hours—after all, you wouldn't want to end up looking like a lobster that just discovered sunbathing.

Hydration is key, so keep a water bottle within arm's reach at all times, and avoid caffeine and alcohol unless you fancy turning into a raisin. Remember to take breaks often and find a shady spot to relax, maybe even practice your best impression of a sun-averse vampire. If you can, schedule your most strenuous tasks for the early morning or late afternoon when the sun is less aggressive. With these precautions, you'll not only work safely in the sun but also potentially earn the title of "coolest worker under the sun"!

Humorous advice on working in the Sun from AI—if you are Russian

Working in the sun on a hot day in Russia? Ah, you must be a brave soul! Let's face it, the sun in Russia is like a rare guest who overstays their welcome and brings a bottle of vodka to every party. First things first, you'll want to protect yourself like a Russian babushka swaddling her grandchild. Cover every inch of your skin with sunscreen like it's your last line of defense against a Siberian blizzard. And don't forget the hat—a fur ushanka might be overkill, but any wide-brimmed hat will do to keep you from boiling like a samovar. Throw on some sunglasses too, because we all know the sun has nothing on Russian stoicism when it comes to staring contests.

Staying hydrated is crucial, so make sure you've got plenty of water on hand. That said, resist the temptation to replace it with kvass or a shot of vodka, unless you want to end up dancing with a bear in the midday heat. Take frequent breaks in the shade, and practice your best impression of a Russian taking a summer nap on a park bench. If you need to tackle any hard labor, get it done in the early morning or late afternoon when the sun is less likely to ambush you like a bear from the forest. Follow these steps, and you'll be working safely in the sun, all while maintaining your legendary Russian resilience. Поздравляю! (Congratulations!) 🎉🎉

As you can see, AI has a long way to go to produce real humor! But at least this got you to read the advice on working in the sun, instead of saying 'doesn't apply to me mate'! You know it makes sense.

Plus a special mention of support of our MenzShed Kapiti backers, local businesses, supporters, and sponsors.



A Roof Over Our Heads



Supply of toilet & Plumbing Items



Serious Site Earthworks



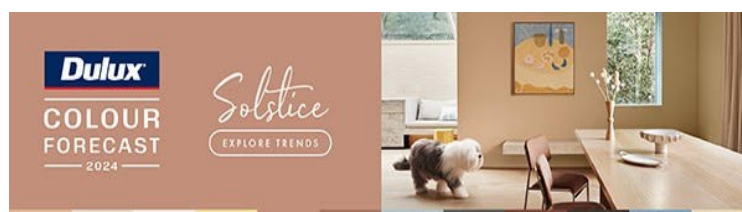
A Heatpump For Our Comfort



Waikanae Charter Club Community Grant



Electrical Apprentice Manpower



We receive 10 litres of Cabots stains annually from Dulux



Printing Our Brochures



Driving The Website



Stair tread edges and trims

Plus that ongoing support for our projects and community activities



Boys Toys and Just Stuff for Community Projects

Remember these magnificent people when you plan your next special project