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From the Chair

NEWSLETTER – April 2025

Talofa lava

No. 157

Our 2025 Garage Sale was a great success raising over 1K more than last year. While I don't have the exact final figure yet, indications are it will be in the mid to late 8K range.

Thanks to all those involved in the lead up, on the day and in the clean-up post the sale. What a tremendous team effort!!

The 2025 National Men's Health Week will be held in the week 9 -15 June. MenzShed New Zealand is encouraging each Shed around the country to organise local initiatives that help men get on top of issues that affect their health and wellbeing.

Cliff D has volunteered to coordinate our Shed's efforts. If you have any ideas about what we could do or would like to assist him, I am sure he would appreciate that.

MenzShed New Zealand report there are currently 135 Shed nationwide, with a total membership of 5600. At present all Sheds pay a subscription of \$25.00 per annum. This is supplemented with donor funding that cannot be relied on year to year to cover their expenses.

A motion was put at the MenzShed New Zealand AGM held in Invercargill in early April 2025. It proposed the annual subscription be on a 'per head' basis (\$5.00 per member) rather than on the current 'per Shed' basis.

Our committee decided to vote against the motion and sent a written submission in support of that decision (see an extract below in italics). That said, we indicated that we would support an increase of somewhere between \$100 to \$200 per Shed.

"The determination that between \$4,000 and \$5,000 is needed to satisfy MenzShed New Zealand's (MSNZ) contention that our Regional Representatives should travel about within their Region. The travel by Regional Reps should be not based on a mandated need to visit each Shed in their Region. It should be based on either a request by a Shed, or where there is a serious issue that MSNZ determines should be addressed. We see no reason why 99% of any interaction with our Regional Representative cannot be satisfied via any of the following: phone call, email, Zoom Meeting – or perhaps a single (very succinct and business like) annual Hub meeting where all local Sheds get together to discuss matters of mutual interest, share ideas and collaborate."

Sheds were advised that the motion to raise the subscription to \$5.00 per member was passed unanimously at the AGM.

With our membership currently at about 150, this will mean a substantial increase in our yearly subscription to the national body for 2026 year.



Soifua

Tony

Upcoming events

Just a memory jog of what Menzshed Activities are happening in the foreseeable future.

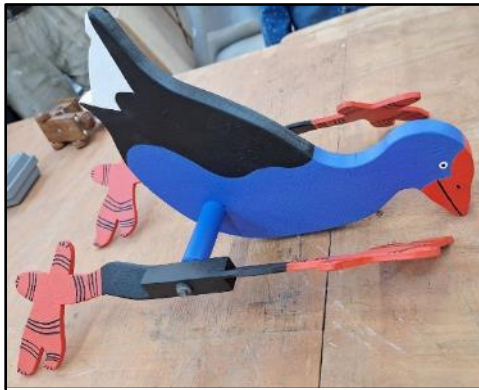
Make sure you have them in your own Diary.

Event	Date	Where	Comment
Recurring Events			
Sharpening tools	Last Thursday of Month	@the Shed - regular event	By Gordon and Ray  
Electric watch battery replacement	Second Tuesday of the Month	@the Shed – regular event	Mick Mc will be bringing his wristwatch tools to replace batteries for a small charge 
Fresh Scones	Last Thursday of Month and whenever there is a birthday shout or any other excuse!	@the Shed – fairly regular event	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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Around the Shed



The pukeko has crash landed



A one legged Dave M with yet another street library he made



A brass clock pendulum being created for a 90year old clock by Mick Mc



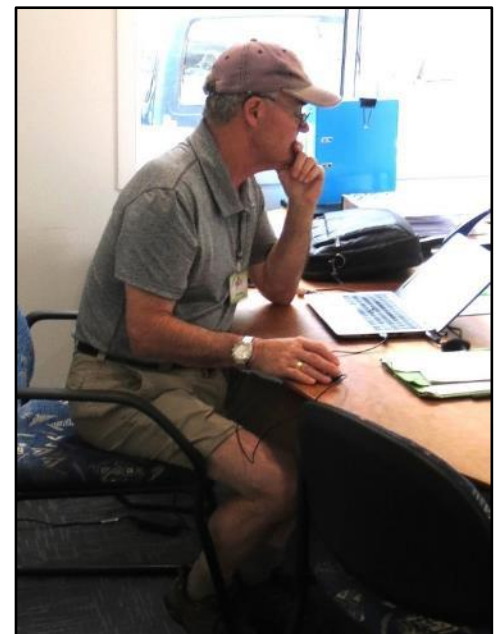
After trump increased the tariff on Chinese imports



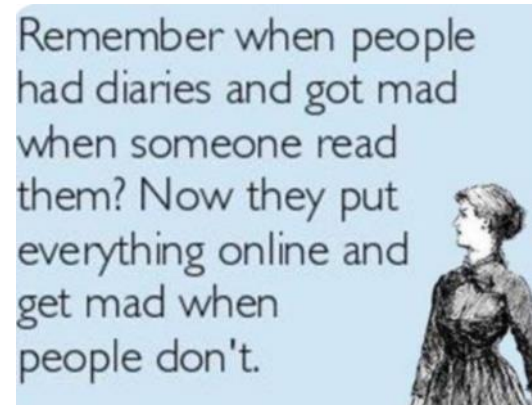
Troy M with a friend



The shed is offering a new minimal cost assisted diy embalming service



John M struggling to balance the books





We swapped battery cabinets with Paraparaumu library as they needed a taller unit to

accommodate the receiving box that they now use to collect and transport the batteries to and from the recycler. We got the brown one, but Alan C had to use a heat gun to remove Paraparaumu's labeling.



Found at the shed, a very nice simple hand held router hidden in a cupboard, obviously too good for the garage sale. Bear it in mind next time you need to do some routing.

Our making of book libraries is setting a trend Ian B has been telling his friends about them and they have picked up the idea and have now made some outstanding units.

We had better sharpen our pencils and expand our designs or we will be left behind



Gardeners Christopher H and Grahame C have a beautiful crop of cabbages and broccoli available to members for a donation



I have an original Black & Decker Workmate bench. It's very old, very versatile, very much loved and very dilapidated. I was using it the other day and it wobbled. One of the legs had snapped. After swearing I suddenly realised that as I was a Menzshed member I could use the shed's facilities, ie Ray W and the metal workshop. Ray cut two metal plates and seated them in the web of the aluminium leg, fixing them with pop rivets. It's as good as the original. Thank God for the Menzshed and Ray W!



Tony L and his son in law taking a clock to pieces



For the life of me I can't work out what Ray W is doing!



The Garage Sale

Over the year the Menzshed accumulates a cornucopia of tools and household goods and has developed a process of returning it to the public for them to eventually re-donate their purchases to the shed. This mutual exchange of goods is known as the Garage Sale and has become a successful social event which is not to be missed.

In that year these re-accumulated items get stuffed away in containers in, I think, the forlorn hope that they will not have to be again sorted, refurbished for re-exchange. But, the time comes around and the focus of the shed turns away from it's usual activities of making and mending to separating and sorting items required for the sale. Gradually the allocation piles accumulate being constantly browsed by teams checking on items they sold last year, with an occasional gasp of excitement when something new appears.

This year Alf C., and a Menzshed team did a wonderful job of emptying the containers, getting rid of the rubbish, inspecting and repairing, cleaning and painting and sorting. Tony A created teams to organise aspects of the event which worked well.

We made more than \$8,000 profit from the Garage Sale – That's why it's an annual event. Well done everyone who assisted.



Donated Garden tools before they were cleaned up, sharpened and painted.



The chaos of donations needing sorting.



A typical stall where we sold almost anything



The people running for bargains,



The garage sale underway except for the boy asleep in the chair!



Already we are working on preparing the garden tools for the 2026 Garage Sale. This is the first batch to be completed by the Tools Gang.



Crowds of people hunting for bargains

Every marriage has one person who throws things out, and a garbage-loving chaos goblin who says "But I was saving that!"
Now who could that be?



A quiet beer afterwards



An Interesting Email!

I got this email asking for help from someone I had not contacted for a long time. I have changed the names and contact details for privacy reasons:

Hi
Sorry to ask, do you have a free moment over email?
Please let me know!
Thanks
Kind regards

Rohan & Jane Evans

The name rang a bell, but I couldn't quite recall who it was. I looked at the details of the sender's email address to see if that would help but it didn't, his email was r.j.evans@xtra.co.nz which didn't help but looked ok. I often get calls asking for help, so I regarded it as a typical cry for help. I replied:

Rohan. Glad to do it, Sorry I didn't reply earlier. Was moving house so life was chaos.
Where do you live? And what's your phone number?
Mine is 021991617

Roger Currier

The reply came as:

It's good to hear from you. I need to get an Apple iTunes gift card for my friend whose birthday happens to be today. She's battling with Stage 3 metastasized breast cancer, she's having a difficult time at the moment. But I can't do this now and trying purchasing it online proved abortive.. I was wondering if you could help me get it from any store around you? And I'll reimburse you back.

Kindly let me know if you can handle this so I can tell you the amount and how to get it to me.

Thanks

Note the different font. I did a bit of research for him and sent this reply:

Go to Seagm.com who sells NZ locked gift cards. Press the right arrow on the \$5 charge and select the price you want to pay. I assume your friend is in NZ.

I assume we get a physical card not just credit or points!

If you are reluctant to do it tell me how much you want to spend.

The response came

Thank you very much. I'll want you to go ahead with whatever amount you have but total amount she want is \$100 (in \$50 denomination each) from any store around you and I need you to open the back of the card to reveal the pin, then take a picture of the back showing the pin and have them sent to me in my email so i can quickly forward it to her. Once again thanks and God bless.

How soon can you get this done?

Await your soonest reply.

By this time, alarm bells were ringing, didn't he want to give the cards to his friend rather than sending a photo of the back of the card – weird?? And it was simple enough to do it himself. And there were grammatical and typing errors in the email. And, the email address had changed to r.j.evans@outlook.com.

I didn't respond. I got the following response: This time from r.j.evans@xtra.co.nz

Roger, Jane and I are very grateful for the support received from friends and family. The scam was a harrowing experience. Thank you for your support. Rohan Evans.

It was a typical spam email confidence trick. It was set up to appear as a call for help and I responded, fortunately not as far as to spend money. Probably Rohan's email account had been hacked and his address book contents taken. The trickster then sent the same email to everyone in his address book.

Rohan was probably confused when he got my 'Glad to do it response' and other similar responses and sensibly he contacted someone for help.

You only need to know the number on the back of an Apple iTunes gift card, and you can cash it for money.

Be aware of emails asking you to spend money on the promise you will get it back, sometimes giving you even more than you spent. Also have a look at the sender's email address, it changed part way through the exchange of messages.

There are thieves about!!

My Planter Bed Project

Having moved into a retirement village with substantially less space than the 3½ acres we previously had; I decided to build a planter bed so we could still grow vegetables. After discussion, the word bed turned into beds and they grew in size and height up to 550mm high to so that there would be less stooping as I got older. It was irrelevant that I intended to delegate the planting to Penny!

I worked out what timber I needed and put an order through to ITM Levin for the timber. Basically, it was built from 250x25mm H4 bottom rails and two 150x25mm H3.1 upper rails with the inside lined with DPC. I was very pleased with the ITM timber, it was good quality and was oversized by about 2-3mm. I compared their pricing to Mitre 10's and it was approximately a third cheaper. The timber was delivered to the shed, so I could get it at trade, and I borrowed the shed trailer to get it home.

It is screwed together using heavy duty 14g hex head stainless steel screws which I find are really tough and easy to use. I find modern stainless-steel square headed screws are too soft and it's so easy to chew the head up as I drive them. I should say, however, that you need a powerful drill working at its slowest speed and even then you have to watch out for the drill to kick as they finally tighten up.

Generally, the bottom rail rested on a paved surface which was a bit uneven leaving gaps under the straight lengths of timber. I didn't want soil or plants permeating below the bottom rail so after some thought and discussion at the shed, (thanks Noel T), I decided to put a skirting profiled to the pavers with the gaps filled in with something.



I was originally thinking of cement mortar, but at Mitre 10, I discovered Sika Boom. Sika Boom is a waterproof expanding foam filler that comes in an aerosol can. It has a trigger and nozzle for spraying, (with a nice way of blocking the nozzle when you are not using it by folding it back onto a stud in the trigger). It needed a good shake to start with and then it can be used at any angle, including upside down, for spraying.

Spraying was quick and easy, only took 10 minutes to do both beds, then you have to leave it for 23 minutes to expand and set after which you cut off the surplus with a Stanley knife or equivalent. Don't leave it too long. It's very easy to use and to clean up. Much easier than using cement.



Sika Boom, note their clever way of blocking the nozzle



After spraying



After trimming off the surplus

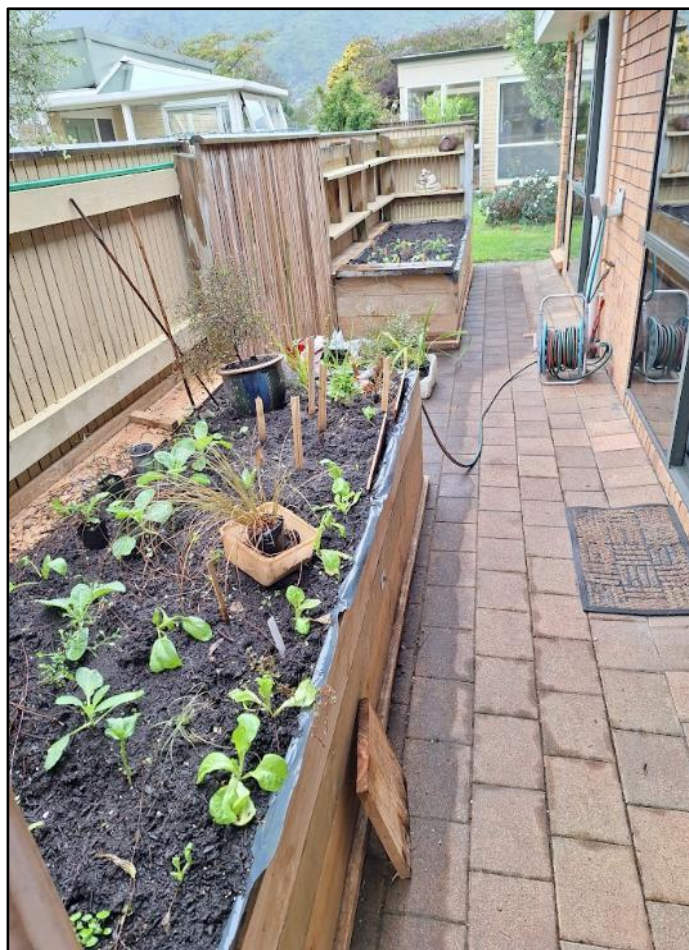
The beds were cross braced with threaded rod in pvc tube below the surface so that they didn't bow. I lined them with DPC to stop moisture and plants coming through the boards.

Eventually the beds were finished, and we filled them with compost laced with fertilizer. No sooner did I turn round than Penny had planted vegetables and introduced worms from our worm farm. The compost I got from Composting NZ in Otaihangā. They had free trailers, and each bed took approximately 1.5m³, it cost \$80 per m³.

I still have to put some trim along the tops of the boards and build a portable bridge so Penny can reach right across to the back.

However I am now allowed to play snooker so that may take a little while!

Roger C



Oil and Rag Danger

Over the years, many a good workshop, professional, home, or of the MenzShed variety has been set alight by nothing more than a rag impregnated with a vegetable-based oil being incorrectly disposed of after use or simply left lying around.

The types of oils that can start a fire are all readily available and commonly used by woodworkers. These include linseed, tung, Danish, and teak oils - and the one used on this project: buffing oil. Processed oil is more dangerous than natural oils, so, for example, boiled linseed is worse than raw. Similarly, natural fibres are more prone to ignition than man-made ones. While not usually a woodworker's oil, biodiesel also belongs on this list.

Motor oils and spirits have spontaneously ignited on very rare occasions but only when an exact and very unusual set of circumstances occurred.

Vegetable oil on a rag oxidises when exposed to air. This oxidation process releases energy in the form of heat sufficient to start a fire; no other ignition source, such as a flame or spark, is needed in this process.

A rag that is balled up or folded will heat more quickly as it retains the heat more efficiently; if it is then thrown into a workshop rubbish bin with sawdust, offcuts, etc., it is little short of a bomb.

An important point to remember is that it is the oil that causes the fire; the material that has absorbed it plays no part in the process other than becoming the initial fuel. It follows that the common practice of cleaning up larger spills with sawdust is a really bad idea unless disposal of the absorbent afterwards is carried out thoroughly and correctly. Where available, sand is a much better option. If work is being carried out in a house or in a workshop that has carpet on the floor (why ever would you?) and oil is spilt, you have the oil/fuel formula; while less likely, a fire is still possible. However, contaminated and folded or bundled drop sheets and even the clothing worn can pose a real risk.

Once the oil has dried on the absorbing material, there is no longer any risk.

The method that I use is simply to hang the rags I've used or may possibly have used (say, to wipe my hands) out to dry on a tree branch or fence. I leave them there until the next day, at least, before disposal. The oil has still oxidised, but the heat has been able to dissipate safely.

Hanging the rags over the clothesline is never a good idea as it may ignite a heated reaction of a different kind!

If sawdust has been used to clean up a spill or has become contaminated in some other way, put it into a sealable metal container and fill the container to the brim with water.

Some years ago, the New Zealand Fire Service noticed a disturbing number of fires in early education centres, always at the start of the Christmas holidays. On investigation, it was found that common practice was for teachers to give wooden toys and furniture a coat of linseed oil then throw the rags in the rubbish before locking up and heading home for six weeks.

An interesting item that I read while checking my facts, and one that illustrates the danger, is that, in the US, it's estimated that 10 per cent of gyms that store their used exercise towels overnight in bins or bales for collection or laundering later experience a fire caused by the spontaneous ignition of natural body oils and products such as rubbing oils and sunscreen present on the towels!

Keith Preen - Senior Station Officer (Retired) New Zealand Fire Service

Click on this link!

I had positive feedback on the article in last month's newsletter on links to YouTube videos. 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 you may have to press Ctrl as you click on the blue text. It doesn't work on a printout!

The Citicorp Center in New York was the 11th tallest building in the world. After it was constructed, the designer realized there was a mistake in the design and the building could blow down in a 1 in 10-year hurricane. What they did and how it was fixed is a fascinating and true story of how an engineer owned up to his mistakes and fixed the problem. [Click here for link](#)



Here's a technique of creating hidden mortice joints in frames. It needs sharp tools and a good eye for fine cuts.

[Click here for link](#)



The largest arrest of scammers in the world. Jim Browning runs a YouTube channel where he exposes scammers. As a result of his research and other people helping, he assisted in the arrest of over 2000 scammers and the Chinese gang leaders in Dubai. [Click here for link](#)



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.

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



A Roof Over Our Heads



Supply of toilet &
Plumbing Items



Serious Site Earthworks



Amenity Electrical Items



A Heatpump For Our Comfort



Waikanae Charter
Club Community Grant



Electrical Apprentice Manpower

sponsors.



*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