



Menzshed Kapiti Incorporated
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NEWSLETTER – February 2026
No. 162

Whispers from the Chair

I hope you all have had an excellent Xmas and an enjoyable New Year. Another year has ticked over, and I felt it was high time I reviewed the period since the AGM at the end of August 2025, so the last 4 months.

With my Chairmans feet under the table I was able to consider the changes that were made at the AGM. The largest of those was the new constitution. The previous committee had done a tremendous amount of work to get this to a condition that was acceptable to the membership and met the requirements of the Incorporated Society. Well done on both counts.

I was a bit concerned and still are that new committee members who held up their hands and were elected by the membership were then dropped into the deep end and had to learn to swim without any training. Setting up training new committee members is one of my goals in this first term.

What do I mean 1st term! Well committee members have to be re-elected each year and can only do 3 years in the same role. I'm sure you all have read the constitution closely!

It has been a busy 4 months for me coming to grips with all intricacies of a new computer system and especially taking over Tony's laptop which refuses to give up putting Tony's name on all my emails. Perhaps Tony needs to retake the chairman job to keep the chairman's computer happy, yeah right!

I have a lot of thanks to go out to a wide number of people and a major hurdle for me is to know who is doing what in the shed. So far it is an impossible task as MSK does many things in the committee and I do not know the half of them, and I apologise for not getting everything on board and if I miss you out so let's make a start.

- Derek is up to about 43 cast iron and wood garden chairs. Well done and an excellent earner for MSK. Frank has documented over 200 jobs in the first 4 months of this year and Peter R has been working a pile of older jobs (2022/23) that should have been done previously. Some of our customers have been very patient. Well done to the whole team. This is a very important aspect to MSK and aligns well with our core tasks
- We have a list of continuous projects that a significant number of shed members just get done, no fuss and no bother (I get lost trying to remember so many different jobs) so here goes. The rat traps, the weta motels, the birdnesting boxes, chairs out for the church, signs out and back in for numerous events. The Santa sleigh with Santa and the elves, the kitchen staff, those who collect timber for MSK and the firewood guys who chop up and sell what MSK does not need.
- The teams that go out and do community jobs like for the Cancer Society and mini put hole posts, install water tanks, and many other jobs. The supervisors, first aiders, Committee, Alf's numerous runs to clear out garages and the team that support getting so much stuff ready for the garage sale. Then there are the repairers of toys, chairs, tables, the gardeners, etc, etc, and everyone else who contributes to the shed. Don't forget the E-waste recovery which is and turning into a quite

successful operation that is meeting all of the expectations MSK had of the major clean up crew working to clear the back of the site.

- We also have the support of many in the community who do not get enough thanks for what they do for us.
- A big thanks must go to Roger C who produced this newsletter, thanks from all of us.
- A final thanks must go to those who have come and visited us especially those who gave a talk on matters of men's health issues and last but not least Tim Costly and Chris Luxon and their teams who had a fantastic visit to our shed.

2026

MSK are looking out for some larger community jobs for 2026. ☺

- Nga Manu need some outdoor furniture for their volunteers (70) who have nowhere to sit for smoko. ☺
- I am talking with WECCG on a possibility ☺
- I'm talking jobs like the garden shed that was built recently I need help in identifying more that we can do

Upcoming events

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

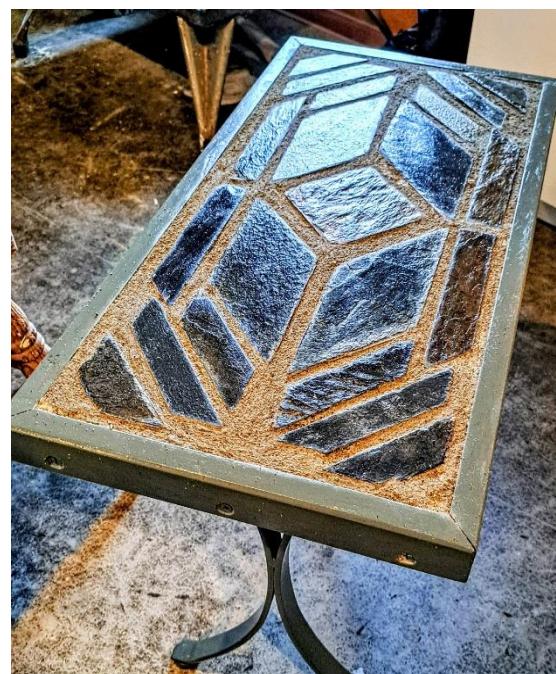
Make sure you have them in your own Diary.

Event	Date	Where	Comment
Menzshed Garage Sale	Saturday 14 th March	@ The Shed	Tell your friends and rellies
Recurring Events			
Sharpening tools	Last Thursday of Month	@ the Shed - regular event	By Ray Y 
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 – a fairly regular event	Hans and his apprentices will be producing superb scones fresh from the oven, or for anyone's birthday shout 
PLEASE NOTE <i>One of the uses of the morning sign in to record who is at the shed in case of a fire. If you leave early or on an errand please just tell someone so we don't have to search for you. All you have to say is "I'm Off"</i>			

Contact Details

Name	Position	Phone No	Email Address
Michael McKelvie	Chairman		Chairman.MenzshedKapiti@outlook.com
John Moriarty	Treasurer		Treasurer.MenzshedKapiti@outlook.com
To be appointed	Secretary		Secretary.MenzshedKapiti@outlook.com
Roger Currier	Newsletter Editor	021 991617	Currier.Roger@Gmail.com
Dave Netherclift	Assistant Editor		Dave.Netherclift@gmail.com

Around th Shed



Allan W and Ray W rebuilt small patio table re-using a pair of steel legs and some slate pieces recovered from the original table that was rusted out.

A pair of steel plates was added to allow for fixing a timber tray for the slate/stone pieces to be grouted into place, roughly like the original.

Client was happy with the result, so I think we got a few Brownie points for this one.



One of our rat traps worked – thanks to Alan C for the photo



Kevin A with some of the trestles he made



Murray C with the proposed ceiling fan for the PB workshop



Marcel VD with a bird feeder on a post



Neck of a guitar which got split at Kena Kena school repaired by Dave M. The client was delighted



Garden shed made by Murray C and team



The top of the shed garden is being taken over by pumpkins



New worktop for the metal recycling gang made by Trevor Mc & Noel T

The Prime Minister's Visit to the Kapiti Shed

On 11 December the Prime Minister, Christopher Luxton, arrived for a visit arranged by our local MP, Tim Costley. Members were briefed the day before and asked to smarten up—to wear Menzshed T shirts where possible and duct tape the holes in their shorts—so we could show the shed at its best.

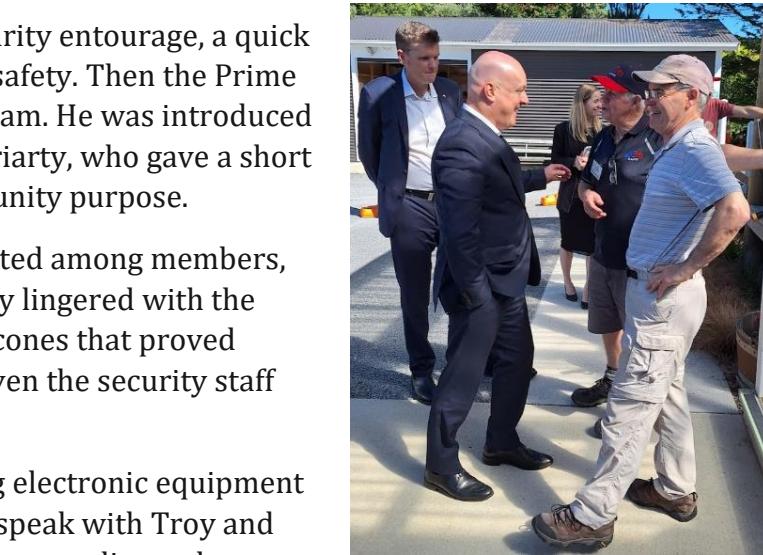
The visit began quietly: a black car, the security entourage, a quick sweep of the premises to check access and safety. Then the Prime Minister arrived with his PA and security team. He was introduced our chairman, Mike McKelvie, and John Moriarty, who gave a short history of the shed and explained its community purpose.

Christopher Luxton and Tim Costley circulated among members, chatting and watching demonstrations. They lingered with the baking team—who produced blue cheese scones that proved irresistible (three were consumed)—and even the security staff joined in the mutual consumption.

The PM met the gang who were dismantling electronic equipment recycling including him crouching down to speak with Troy and discussed the practical challenges of plastic waste disposal.

Steve F presented the PM with a timber pan stirrer, and Sergey thanked him for New Zealand's support for Ukraine.

We persuaded the visitors to assemble a Weta Motel, which turned into a light-hearted moment: Tim Costley showed more carpentry confidence than the PM, whose strengths lie elsewhere. The PM insisted the Weta Motel and a donated rodent trap be put in his car so he wouldn't forget them.



to

for



Steve F gave the PM a timber pan stirrer for the PM's wife.

Sergey thanked the PM for NZ's contributions assisting Ukraine in their conflict with Russia.



Assembling Weta Motels



Hurrah for Trump he wants to make the All Black Great Again

A group photo captured the moment—proof that the PM can still get down on his knees, a feat some of us envied.



Group photo of shed members with the PM and Tim Costley. The PM can still get down on his knees which is more than many shed members can do!

After the photo the PM gave an impromptu speech that left a strong impression. He said he'd visited several Menzshed before but was astonished by the size of ours and the variety of activities that were going on. He thanked us for our hospitality - especially mentioning the scones, he praised our recycling work and singled out our contributions to the Cancer Society and the Food Bank. He also noted how members bring a wide range of former occupations and adapt those skills to shed life.

As his staff checked the time, it was clear he was enjoying the visit and reluctant to leave. His PA rallied everyone for one last photo and he reluctantly moved on.

The visit showed the PM's ease with people and his genuine interest in community projects. He mixed well, listened, and has a good sense of humour. We thank Christopher Luxton and Tim Costley for making the day memorable, and we're grateful to the protection squad for their quiet professionalism.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the visit a success. It was a proud day for the shed and a reminder that the work we do matters.



Noel T and Marcel VD with the PM



Denis G with Tim Costley

3D Printing and Design Group

A small group of people identified themselves as being interested in a CAD design group. A note was sent out to those people, and the next steps involved the establishment of a working relationship with MakerSpace Kapiti and each of you looking at either 2D or 3D design tools (examples of which were provided).

Makerspace Kapiti has responded to me, as Convenor, and as we're both away on "safari" during February, March will be the month when things speed up!

So, in the meantime, don't hesitate to surprise/astonish yourselves - and me – by deciding which aspect of design suits your immediate needs (2D laser or 3D Print/Carve) and do some online tutorials to get your bearings.

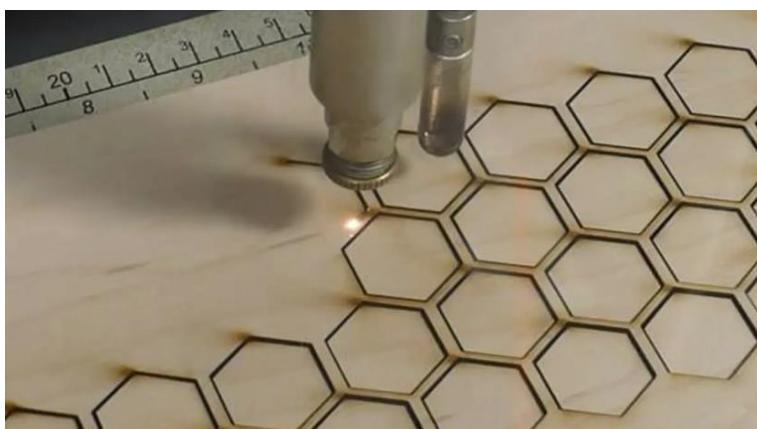
If you are interested in joining the Menzshed group and interested in, or intrigued by 3D printing and its possibilities contact Roger Currier at the shed and we will put you in the mailing list. Our intention is to visit Makerspace at Kapiti library and see what the possibilities are.

John Moriarty

Makerspace

Makerspace is at Paraparaumu Library and is a place for people of all ages to explore, create, innovate and engage with all kinds of maker technology.

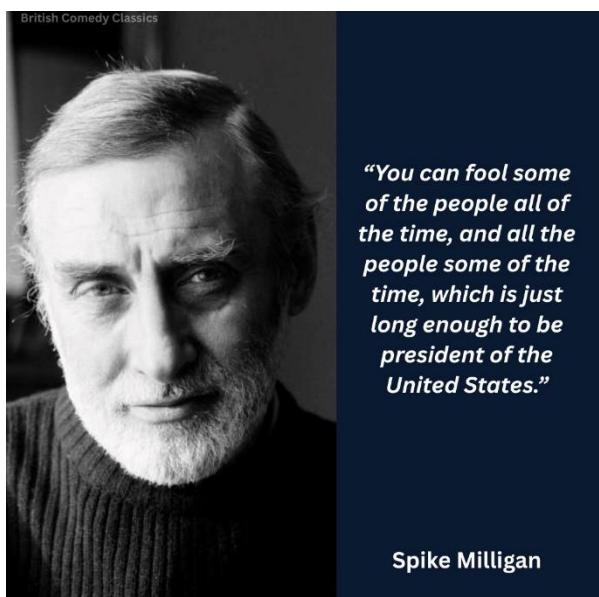
They have 3D printers, vinyl and laser cutters, sewing machines, hand tools, an expanding library of electronics components, as well as a helpful team and workshops to help you get inspired and create. Drop-in during our opening hours or any time you see our door open.



Laser pattern cutting



The Makerspace workshop



Spike Milligan



Kevin A has just completed a first aid course and was persuaded to demonstrate his new found skills using our home-made heart recusitator on Tony A who was the supervisor for the day.

Volunteers needed for U3a Kaleidoscope Meetings

The Kapiti Menzshed has a group of men who put-out and pack-away the chairs before and after the U3A Kaleidoscope meetings on a Monday morning (starting 23 February). We need an optimal number of six volunteers... this allows, given absences and other commitment, for us to field four people each week.

The task is not difficult and is usually completed in about 20 minutes if we have four men. We start at 8:45 to put the chairs and tables out and return about 11:30 to stack them away. We are welcome to sit in on any talk if we wish. U3A pay the Shed a generous donation for this task.

The 2026 programme is as follows:

Term 1 23 February to 30 March

- **Term 2** 15 June to 20 July
- **Term 3** 5 October to 23 November (excluding 26 October and 9 November)

Contact Jim Walls at +64 21 485-892 or jim@21edgewater.nz

Ed - I was the Chairman of Kapiti University of the Third Age, (U3A), for several years and Kaleidoscope always was their leader programme. U3A gets informed speakers along to give talks on various subjects at and it's well worth attending, even if you do it for free as a volunteer!

To give you an idea of the range of subjects here are some that they had in talks last year:

- *Making room for rivers,*
- *The influence of oceans on climate,*
- *The need to increase urban tree cover,*
- *Restoration of Mana Island.*
- *How our health system got into the poop and how we might get out of it,*
- *Challenges as seen through the eyes of the recently retired Chief Ombudsman*
- *A fascinating consideration of tribes of Ethiopia,*
- *Frighteningly, views from the ground in Ukraine.*
- *Unlocking potential through involvement in the Shed Project Kāpiti,*
- *Working with metal' in terms of designing contemporary jewellery.*
- *Contrasting musical topics related to the composition of hymn music at one session and 'Jumping Sundays of the 1960s' at another.*

As you can see there is a diverse range of subjects, most are well worth attending.



Trees from the adjoining park were overgrowing our sheds so the council's lumberjacks cut them back, resulting in a supply of firewood which Kevin A chainsawed to size.



New shade house for propagating seedlings



The shed donated \$2,000 for the Mary Potter Hospice Kapiti build fund received by Roger K



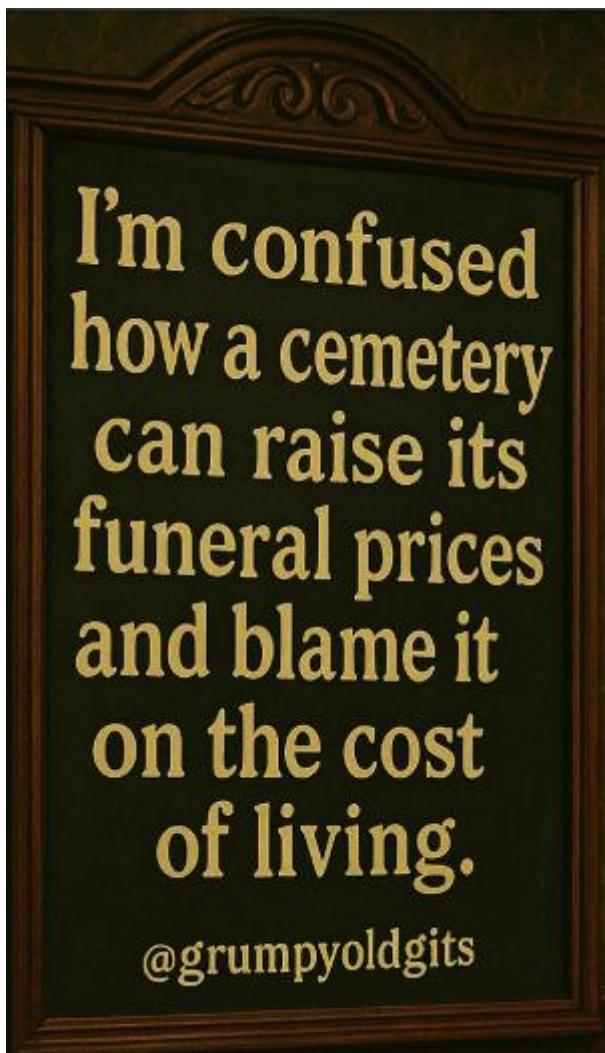
Father Christmas on patrol looking for his sledge! By Ray W



A client brought in a table with a broken foot on a cabriole leg. It also needed a new top. A new foot had to be turned using eccentric turning. The middle picture shows the original foot and the fixed new foot, you can't see the join. Good work by Kevin A & Ian O



The original glue to some parts of an antique carved German Door Head failed due to weathering and parts started to fall off. Roger C reglued them on with an external quality glue and put a canopy over to provide some protection.



Ve also ave ze Menzshed in Paris – Says Barry I

Power cord safety

A common fault on electrical equipment is the exposure of the primary insulated wires becoming exposed by the secondary insulation (or jacket) being damaged in some way exposing the primary insulated wiring. I am incorporating some photos of these instances as I am sure that people are unaware of just how dangerous it can become... Simply applying a piece of "insulation tape" to the affected damaged cord will not make it safer as that is not what insulation tape was designed for. Primary insulation is the insulation in contact with the bare wire; a secondary insulation covers the primary



Primary insulation is just to stop the bare wires from shorting together while being thin enough to negotiate the internals of connectors/plugs and appliances. It is not electrically rated to prevent being damaged or protect from electric shock.

Let's start with a common one that most people don't give a second thought to. As can be seen this picture shows a plug/socket with the primary insulated wire exposed. This is a NoNo. It is caused when repeatedly disconnecting by pulling the cord, instead of grabbing the plug the cord is pulled to disconnect. It is common because it is easier to grab the cord than the plug and 99 percent of people will at some point have been guilty of this. If you have a situation like this get it fixed.



This next picture shows what happens when "plastic" plugs get dropped on concrete or have smacked into a solid hard object with a bit of force. This is the reason why outside equipment and extension cords be fitted with Rubber plugs/connectors. People buy plastic connectors because they are less expensive say \$7-\$10 compared to a rubber one that could cost \$28. Plastic is fine for internal/domestic situations where the chance of damage is reduced.

The connector shown in picture is electrically unsafe and needs to be replaced. Given the damage I would go with a rubber connector because the damage indicates that this cord is prone to a high likelihood of impact damage.

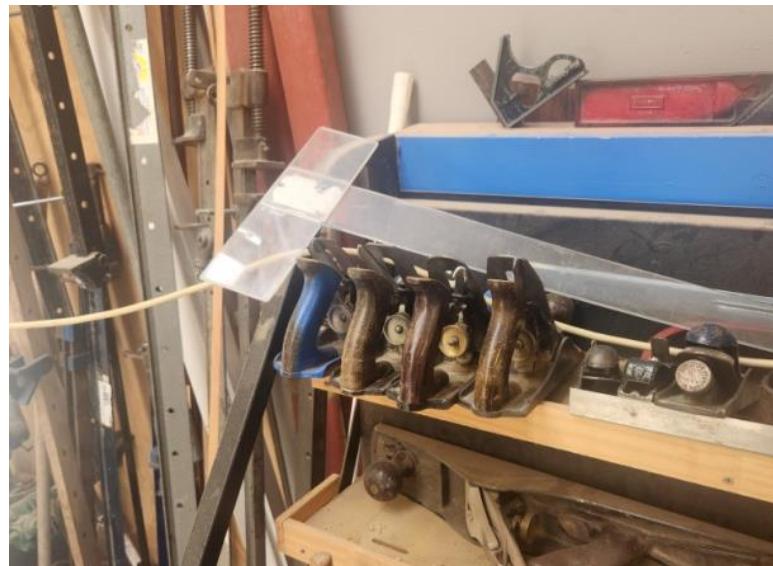


The only time Primary wiring should be exposed is inside of the appliance or connector where the wire is connected to a terminal and it can be securely covered by the outer cover that can only be removed by use of a tool. i.e. Screws requiring a screwdriver to remove them.

This is standard for all electrical terminations as covered in the electrical codes in AS/NZS 3000.

The tool shown here is a “Random Orbital Sander”. The cord has come away due to the cord saver/stress relief sleeve having broken and the primary insulation is now exposed. Someone has used “insulation tape” (again not what insulation tape is for) to effect a repair, which hasn’t worked.

This tool should have been removed from service, tagged as “dangerous” and been put aside for repair. In its current location, anyone could just take it off the shelf, plug it in and risk getting an electric shock.



I've used this picture to illustrate how hazardous situations form. It is common to find extension cords/leads running in places that could cause or become a potential hazard. The extension cord in this case lies in front of some hand planers and other instruments that could damage it. If the cord was caught on something and dragged under the sole of the planer the planer blade would then be able to cut into the cord creating a possible electrical hazard. When laying out extension cords always try and give some thought as to what might damage it. This is a common problem and one that is not always easy to avoid. Just do your best.



While this really isn't too much of a hazard, I've used it as a reminder that before using any extension cord; unwind it totally. This is because whenever electrical energy passes through a coil it causes a heat buildup and the greater the load coupled with other environmental things like sunshine the greater the heat buildup. To explain this in greater detail would possibly require a physics lesson and at our age that's probably going to be too much. Just remember to unroll the extension cord fully before plugging it in.

Click on this link!

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 To open up these links press Ctrl as you click on the blue text. It doesn't work on a printout!

Videos made by AI

There are a lot of videos on YouTube which are made by AI. Many of them use AI to pretend the video article is being presented by a trustworthy newsreader when in fact it shows an AI image derived from a video of the newsreader which can be made to say anything.

Here are a couple of examples:

First the trustworthy newsreader: Lawrence O'Donnell from MS NOW, talking about Greenland and the Epstein files. Don't bother watching the whole 12 minutes of the video unless you wish.

You may need to press the white start triangle to get the video to play after you have clicked on the link.

[Ctrl & Click here for link](#)



Now the AI produced one.

This one is made by AI, the image is slightly distorted and watch his right hand for conjuring tricks with his pen

[Ctrl & 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 sponsors which allows our projects to work for community and charitable activities



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



We receive 10 litres of Cabots stains annually from Dulux



Printing Our Brochures



Driving The Website



Stair tread edges and trims



Boys Toys and Just Stuff for Community Projects

Remember these magnificent people when you plan your next crucial project