



Menzshed Kapiti Incorporated

Reg Charity Inc No CC445795

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NEWSLETTER – April 2026

No. 163

Whispers from the Chair March 2026

Well, what a full-on time since the last whisper. There was a huge effort by all to get ready for a very successful Garage Sale. Apparently, income was in the vicinity of \$10k. Nicely up on the previous sale. Alf is already building up stock for the next one. The whisper is that it could be in September.

Menzshed New Zealand have sent out advice that their AGM will be held on 6th May 2026 at 7:30 pm. It will be on Zoom if members wish to participate. If any of our members wish to stand for any position, then see me for the forms. Remember, if you are not happy with MSNZ the only way to change things is by participating so get on board.

Talking about Menzshed, MSK has been doing a bit of communicating with other local sheds lately. A team went and visited Tawa Menzshed; Otaki Menshed have visited MSK as have Upper Hutt. I have visited Plimmerton MS. The general feedback is that most want to have more local communication and I intend to foster this by also visiting Levin and Porirua sheds then potentially hosting a group meeting (Cluster) at MSK. Which is something that Tony A also did a couple of years ago. More to come on this.

Some of you will note a bit of filming around the shed by Arron (Levin Supervisor) and Roger C (not unusual as he gathers Newsletter items) This is being done to set up an Induction Presentation for new prospective members. If you do not want your face to be filmed, please advise those doing the filming.

The end of the MSK financial year is quickly arriving (30th June) and it will also mark our current treasurer stepping down. Another important financial matter is that the accounting system that John M put in place in 2023 is no longer capable of handling the workload MSK place on it so we need to investigate the alternatives.

I AM CALLING ON ALL MSK MEMBERS WITH ACCOUNTING BACKGROUNDS TO COME TOGETHER AS A GROUP TO CHAT WITH JOHN AND I AS TO WHAT WE REPLACE IT WITH.

Please contact me directly so I can call a meeting. This is quite urgent.

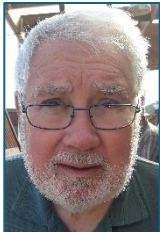


Finally, all our visitors consistently comment on what a great shed we have and they are amazed at the variation of jobs that the members get involved with, they also comment about the noise in some departments and how much dust is in the air at times. These issues concern me also and I think we need to consider how best to reduce the cause of the noise and dust without reducing the work of the shed. Masks and ear defenders are not the only answer.

This newsletter is a great place to have a forum for discussion on these matters.

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
New Member Induction	Tuesday 7 th April	@ The Shed	
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

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Around the Shed

A client came in with 6 rattan chairs, 4 dining chairs, 1 lounge chair and one sofa. The rattan needed fixing on them all! What do you do? Panic? Or rely on luck that somewhere in the shed there would be guys who could repair them. There were, two of us, both self-taught one in NZ and one in the USA with two different styles – why was that was it due to the sun travelling to the North or South?

Anyway, David Coplon and Peter Rendall got together and, surprisingly, managed to produce the goods and satisfy the client – a father and daughter. Though we had to admit there were sighs of relief when the dad said he was happy to do the staining and finishing.

During the repair there were times when it would have been great to be an octopus, but fortunately adjustable clamps were a handy alternative.

In the end DC and PR were happy and were still speaking to each other!

Rattan is derived from the rattan palm, a vine-like plant native to tropical regions. It has been used for centuries in furniture-making due to its strength and flexibility. The long, sturdy stems of the rattan palm are harvested and woven together to create intricate furniture pieces.



Peter R & David C working quietly in the garage fixing new woven rattan panels in furniture where the old rattan has had it's day.

Before and after repairs to a rattan chair seat.



The octopus scenario

David C showing his artistry





A lady brought in a letter box she had bought without realising it was intended to be incorporated into a brick wall. Roger C fixed timber panels to the top and sides and fixed it on to her old letter box post.



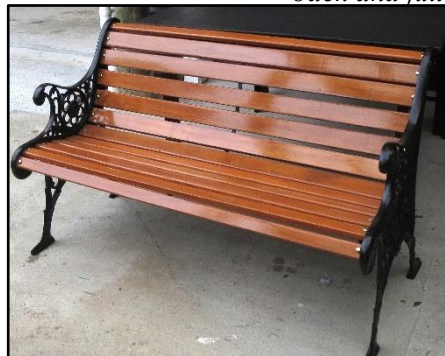
Will the person who ran over Doug, please admit it. You have damaged our trailer. or was he just having a snooze after fixing the lights?



A rather nice letter box made by an art student, unfortunately he had omitted to provide an opening to get at the letters. David M did a good job cutting into the back and fixing a hinged door



The bottom of a restored lazy susan which was falling to pieces and the roller was rusted solid



Another lovely chair by Derek C, it didn't sell at the garage sale but later it went for \$350



Was it my Canadian ancestry – some say 'tighter than the Scots' or? an attempt to recycle?



Painting the High Chair

Lessons learned:

2 Coats of undercoat gives better coverage than 1 undercoat and 1 topcoat.

Highchairs are very fiddly things to paint.

If well done, it results in a very happy client.

The work entailed sanding, gluing splits, undercoat and 3 topcoats

By Peter R

When the wheel of my barrow rusted through while the body of the barrow was still in venerable condition, I bought a new wheel – again at a reduced price as the shop was clearing stock, (barrow was purchased 1980).

But it did not fit easily as the wheel was not only a slightly larger size, but it had 25mm axle rather than the original's 19mm. Thanks to the efforts of Chris W – a superb job. Well done

Peter R



A planter bed made by Kevin A, Geoff N was holding down preventing it from floating away!



A screw recovered from the wind damaged roof of the Amenities deck. It has a fine tooth hole saw to enlarge the hole to allow for expansion and contraction in polycarbonate roofing as well as a rubber capping to seal the opening.



It's a coffee table that has come apart and needs some welding /soldering together - fancy the job?



Another very nice refurbished high chair. What is it with high chairs and the Menzshed!



NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Recently we had a visitor, interested in joining, who was given an application form, and relieved of \$50. From that he probably had the expectation that he had joined.

There's a bit more to it than that. There is a New Member Process, requiring us to explain the considerations to be made by both the applicant and the Shed, culminating with Committee acceptance of the application, and only then paying the fee.

If you know of an interested applicant, by all means refer them to me, or Jim Walls, or a committee member, who will then discuss the application process and get them to fill out the form, and I will track them through the rest of the process.

Currently we are very flush with members, with a waiting list. Acceptance of new members is not just on a first come basis, but also considers what the applicant is looking for, and what they can contribute to the functioning of the Shed.

I'm happy to discuss this further with you if you wish.

Allan Cannell

The Garage Sale

It poured down the night before but slowly recovered in the morning, by 9:30 the weather was passible and improved the rest of the day. As usual a



The security team making sure no one gets in before the gun goes.



The're off looking for bargains public – but it was successful, we made about \$10k.

crowd gathered on the drive to the shed, all, no doubt hoping to sneak in early to get that bargain. But our intrepid security team kept them waiting and panting for the startup.

When the startup happened there were some people who ran to the stalls to get the bargains.

For months Alf Clear and his team had been gathering cast offs and stuff that was no longer wanted – including some very good stuff which we kept for ourselves. Despite this, there was plenty left over to sell - sometimes we just have too much stuff to keep it all for ourselves despite members sneaking stuff off to the store or their work bench.

We had teams of stall holders skilled in haggling, barbecue wranglers selected for their sausage turning skills, electrical certifiers who were certified and scone magicians! We were all equipped with a float and little forms used to certify they had paid.

It was a busy tiring days for the Menzshed members never mind the

MENZSHED[®]

K · A · P · I · T · I

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Saturday 14th March 9-12:30pm
22B Rangihiroa street, Waikanae Beach

Come along to our annual garage sale where you will find:

Tools	Hand Tools, old & new(ish), Planes, Saws, Toolboxes, Socket sets, Spanners, Wrenches, Hammers, Antique tools etc
	Automotive tools, jacks etc
Power tools	Saws, Drills, Sanders, Planers, Grinders (all checked and certified)
Electrical Items	Light Fittings, Extension Cords, TV mounts
Garden Tools	Shovels, Rakes, Spades, Shears, Axes, Sack-barrows, Sprayers Etc
Garden Implements	Weed Eaters, Lawn Mowers, Irrigation parts
Garden Embellishments	Weta Motels, Rat Traps, Bird Feeders
Household Items	Games, Cycling accessories etc
Fishing Tackle	Rods, Reels, Line, Hooks, Floats etc
Furniture Tables	Garden bench seats, Chairs, Tables etc Pictures & Frames
Plants Succulents	Bromeliads, Plectranthus etc.
Building Equipment	Brackets, Metalwork, Screws, Nails, Plumbing Fittings, Aluminium Ladders
Other	Benches, Workmates, Wallpapering Tools, Painting tools and consumables
Refreshments	Tea, Coffee, Scones, Barbecue

Please bring a bag or a backpack. We will have facilities for transporting larger goods. Eftpost & cash payment accepted. Parking strictly on the Street



The selection of goods that were too big for the stalls. The tent was the woot turners stall



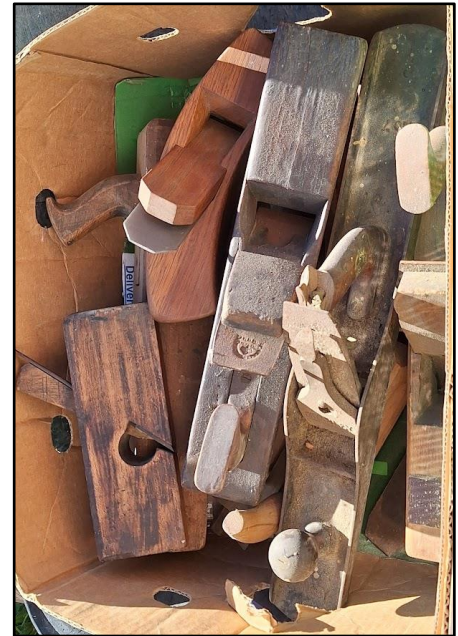
The front of house stall with two images of David W – who must have moved pretty fast to get in the panoramic photo twice.



The barbecue wranglers, Ray N & Frank E



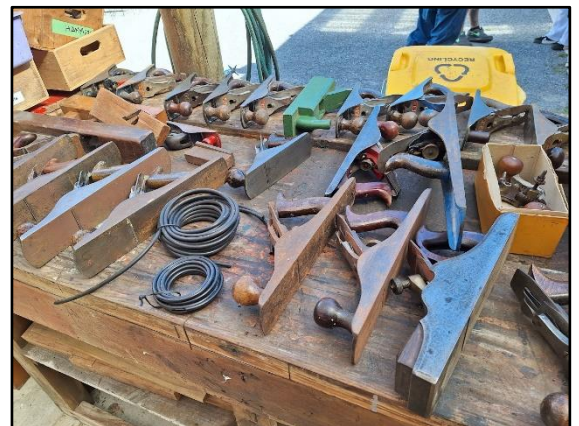
Refurbished garden tools by the score



A cardboard box full of planes, the wooden ones are far to valuable for the garage sale. They went to TradeMe.



The workshop was a cornucopia kitchen equipment, children's toys, electrical goods and screws



A stall full of planes

Pitfalls of Buying a computer from China

Please don't take this as a generalisation as I have previously bought computers from China without and problem. But this one went wrong.

AliExpress is a very big Chinese company that sells goods manufactured throughout the world but mainly in China. AliExpress does the advertising and handles the financial transaction and the delivery. Quite often, through AliExpress, I have had deliveries from several companies all in the same courier package, this gives them an economy of scale.

I ordered a mini-computer through AliExpress and it quickly arrived in full working order. I set to, setting it up as I wanted it. The computer I ordered was to run Windows 11, have the latest I9 Intel processor and 32Gig of RAM (memory). I confirmed the computer matched my requirements using a setting in the Windows 'Settings' (Settings/System/About).



Mini PC Computer Windows 11 Pro Core i9 9900U 16GB RAM 1TB 2TB SSD Gaming Computer Wifi 6 TypeC 4K 60Hz Portable Mini Desktop PC
★★★★★ 5.0 30 Reviews | 45 sold

ANNIVERSARY SALE Ends: Mar 26, 19:59 NZST

NZ\$558.16 Save NZ\$456.68
NZ\$1,014.84

Tax excluded, add at checkout if applicable

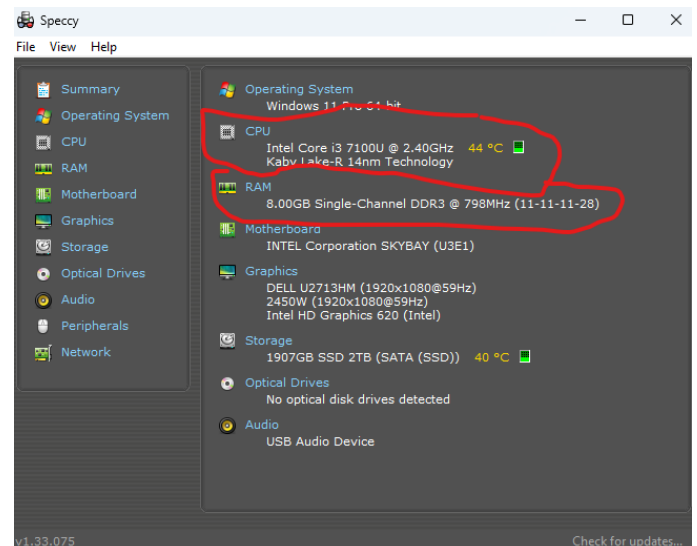
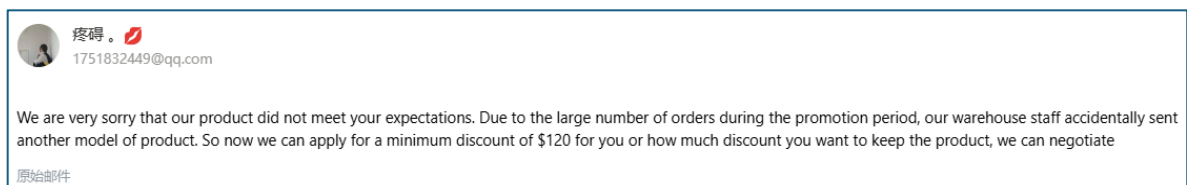
NZ\$578.00 off on NZ\$550.00

Size: 32GB RAM 2TB SSD

16GB RAM 256GB SSD	16GB RAM 512GB SSD	16GB RAM 1TB SSD
16GB RAM 2TB SSD	32GB RAM 512GB SSD	32GB RAM 1TB SSD
32GB RAM 2TB SSD		

As I was using it the computer felt slow and unresponsive so, to cut a long story short, I used a testing program freely available on the internet called Speccy. Speccy told me the computer only had an I3 processor (made in 2010) and had 8Gig of RAM. I investigated this further and found that the Windows software had been altered to show the wrong processor I9 and 8Gig of memory and the software was modified to prevent accessing the system repair function.

Got back to AliExpress who referred me to the manufacturer who were very apologetic and blamed the error on their warehouse staff – see their message below.



I knew they were lying because I had investigated the pc and seen how the Windows software had been modified.

I put this to AliExpress and they refunded everything even telling me not to return the pc.

There's a lesson here. I was able to check the computer spec because of my computer knowledge and using Speccy so I could resolve it. But I wouldn't have done it if I had not got suspicious.

All I have to say is carefully check whatever you buy from China, and if buying a computer check it with an independent source such as Speccy. And do it as soon as you get it.

Roger C

Bad breath is bad for your heart

Halitosis – a topic nobody wants to talk about. But, like shit, it happens! I must stress that I'm not talking temporary bad breath here, the minor affliction that you might get from munching through a bowl of pickled onions. "Halitosis" (a mixture of Latin for "breath" and Greek for "disease") refers to persistent bad breath. It was first used as a medical term in 1874, but was popularized in the 1920s by the marketing gurus at Listerine to sell mouthwash and turn bad breath into a social taboo.

So, what's the problem, you ask? The warm, humid nature of the mouth provides a perfect environment for bacterial growth. Amazingly, more than 500 bacteria species have been recorded in human mouths and most of them can produce odorous compounds which can cause halitosis. In these conditions, poor oral hygiene is a major factor enabling the multiplication of these stink-making bacteria. But having a breath that makes anybody you interact with suddenly take a back-step is only one part of the down-side of halitosis. There are some much serious implications. Halitosis is strongly linked to heart disease through the common factors of gum disease and chronic inflammation.

The mouth is a gateway to the body, and poor oral hygiene allows harmful bacteria to thrive and then enter the bloodstream. Those bacteria subsequently contribute to heart issues, like strokes and heart attacks, by triggering inflammation in the heart and calcification of heart valves, and contributing to plaque build-up in arteries. Shockingly, reliable medical studies have shown that people with untreated gum disease are significantly more likely to have cardiovascular issues, with some reports suggesting up to a 50% higher risk of heart disease. In short, persistent bad breath should be treated seriously as it can be a warning sign of much more dire health issues.

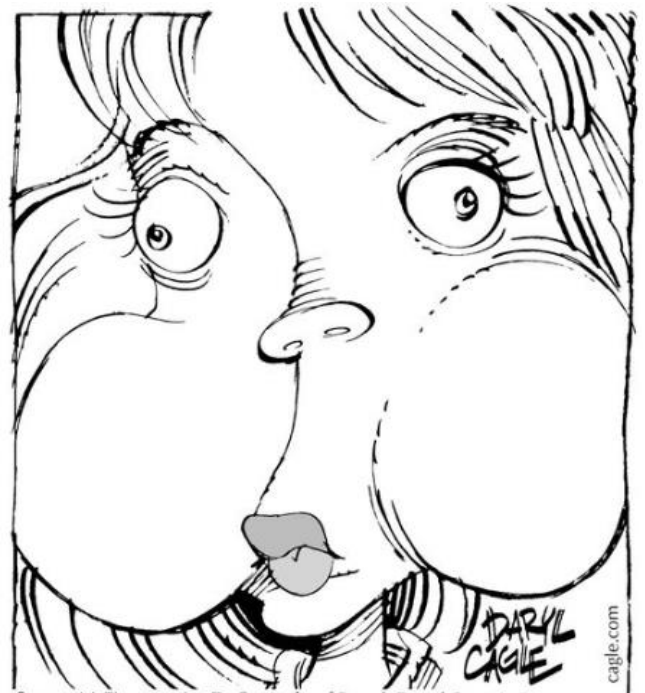
Fortunately, halitosis is easy to eliminate in most cases – its cause is often clear, and a treatment simple. A visit to a dentist or doctor will probably be all it takes. But the social taboo of bad breath makes it an unsuitable topic for discussion (like many medical issues), especially so for "she'll be right" Kiwi males.

So here's a challenge. If you think you might have halitosis, ask a mate, your wife, a random stranger, anyone, if they think you have that affliction ... hopefully at least one of them will be brave enough to truthfully say "yes" if you do. And if you have a mate or relative with persistent halitosis, then summon up the courage to tell them (and send them this article) ... they may cross you off their Christmas card list, but you could very well be prolonging their life. Wouldn't you like to do that?

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath.

This made him

A Super Calloused Fragile Mystic Hexed by Halitosis.



Source: LA Times quoting Dr. Socransky of Forsyth Dental Center in Boston

The number of bacteria living in your mouth can easily exceed the number of people who live on the Earth.

Further comments relating to Doug McCrone's article last month

In my previous life I had over 500 pieces of electrical hire equipment and electrical tools in my business which required electrical test and tagging every 6 months. I became qualified to carry out test and tagging although not an electrician by any stretch.

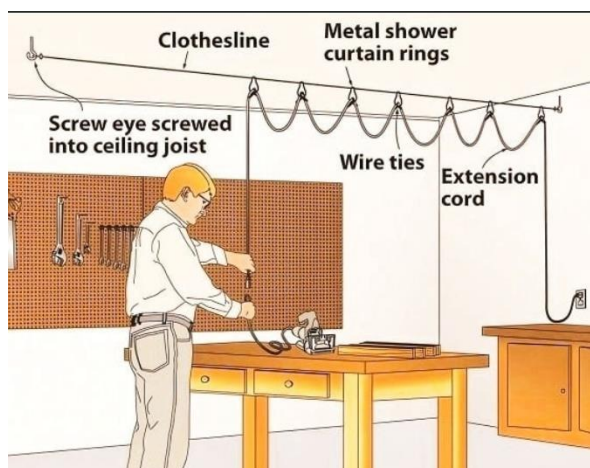
My testing made me acutely aware that 99% of test failures were at the initial cord inspection phase. Primarily failure of the cord grip in the electrical plug exposing the wires inside the insulation where the cord has been trimmed back to allow the wires to be stripped to connect to the plug terminals. This applies to extension cords as well as the appliances themselves.

Every week as I use different equipment in the shed, I see exposed wires where the cord grip has failed, and exceedingly dangerous use of poor-quality untested extension cords. I would like to suggest an urgent review of power point improvements for all areas of the workshops. A concerted test and tag programme of all hand tools, fixed equipment and extension cords with particular attention paid to removing poor quality overloaded multiboxes. I believe this should be made a priority this year. We have plenty of past electricians to sit down and make a workable plan.

Barry Timms

ED. Further comments from Barry T relating to trailing leads and a proposed resolution

That would be perfect for the outdoor covered area so we have flexibility but can be pulled back out of the weather when finished with. I would recommend using stainless wire, (*presumably for the support wire ED*), plus there need to be multiples so that for every outdoor waterproof plug, there is a wire and cord for each. Otherwise, we will have poor quality donated multi boxes hanging from cords, where there are two Sheddies per work table. We must be safe right to the tools.



Peter H making paint trays for school children

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 special project