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NEWSLETTER – February 2023

From the Chair

No. 144

Talofa lava

Since starting back in January this year, it has been “full steam ahead” at the Shed.

The teams working on the new workshop have made great progress getting wall paneling up ready for painting, the electrical fit out nearly completed, and decisions made on how we will set out work benches, machines, and project storage area.

The garage sale at the end of January was a great success. The various teams on the day did everything from selling items to ensuring the safety of the public. In the lead up a huge effort went into clearing stuff out that had been stored away for many years in the various ‘nooks and crannies’ around the Shed. It was then sorted, checked, cleaned up and displayed ready for sale.

Following the sale another huge effort was undertaken to sort the stuff that didn’t sell. Some went free to community groups, some went back into storage for our next garage sale, some was recycled and the rest went to landfill.

The net result of this effort is we have in the vicinity of 5K in the bank, and a much more decluttered and usable space. I thank all those who contributed and continue to contribute to this effort.

Sadly, other Sheddors and in some cases their Sheds in Northland, Auckland, Gisborne and the Bay of Plenty regions have not been as fortunate. Cyclone Gabrielle and other weather events have seen some have their personal and/or Shed property destroyed or damaged.

I know I speak for all of us when I say we will do anything we can to support them.

Hans V, our Shed’s Master Baker suggested that he bake scones next week for morning tea. We have been asked to donate when we take a scone. All proceeds will go towards supporting affected Sheddors. Thank you, Hans, for suggesting and leading this initiative.

On the subject of support, several members are having their own battles with health related and other issues at the moment. Guys, your mates are here to support you even if it is just to keep in touch with a phone call. So if you need a ride etc or just need to chat, please reach out.

And, if there are any wives or partners reading this and your dearly loved grumpy stubborn old ‘so so’ won’t or can’t reach out please contact me and I will get one of their mates to get in touch. You have my word I won’t tell him you made contact!!!

Soifua

Tony A

Upcoming MenzShed Activities

Just a memory jog of what MenzShed Activities are happening in the foreseeable future. Please make sure you have them in your own Diary.

Event	Date	Where	Comment
Recurring Events			
Sharpening tools	Last Thursday of Month	@the Shed	This is a regular event
Fresh Scones	Last Thursday of Month	@the Shed	Hans and his apprentices will be producing superb scones fresh from the oven, or for anyone's birthday shout
General Meeting	Thursday 16 March 1130	@the Shed	At the AGM last September there was a request for a General Meeting so the Committee can bring members up to date on what is planned during the next few months.

Around the Shed



A lady has had a new bench put in next to her washing machine and it required an 850 mm leg to match much shorter legs on the old bench on the other side of the machine, - so the new leg had to be extended by about 150 mm but retain a similar design, so the long tapered centre section required modification.

The leg was made from a branch off a rimu tree from her's property which proved to be excellent for the job.



They say Menzshed is a place to learn new skills and here's proof you can teach an old dog new tricks! Barry I can tell jokes at the same time!



"No, you weren't downloaded.
Your were born."



One of a pair of Jaguar emblems had an accident and needed a serious operation. Can you tell which?



A delicate process during the operation by Ian P



One of the perks of being on the Kapiti's Menzshed committee is the "fish & Chip" with tomato sauce lunch at every committee meeting. Despite all the asking they won't share even a chip with any of the members still around when they meet but I don't think they are going to get extra members on the committee with that bribe!



Models demonstrating the Menzshed shirts and caps. If you or other Sheds want one please contact Peter Rendall



A good looking peloton about to set off on Wed morning



Bike group refueling at Plimmerton on the way into Wellington today. Beautiful day on a great ride we'll managed by Tony A

The cycling group did a trip into Wellington managing to do most of the journey off the main roads or on cycle tracks except for Ngauranga Gorge which had to be negotiated carefully so as to keep their speed down and not burn their breaks out.

They sensibly stopped for refreshment on the way at their favourite venues – I suspect there was more stopping than cycling!

The return journey was of course by train getting a pie and a pint at the Trax café at the Wellington Railway Station before the 'ride' home.

Below: Shed members photoshoot for National Menzshed Newsletter





The Chair had a rotten / broken rear leg which we fixed



Doll Stands for making & dressing Dolls, starting with a head at the top of the pole.



Battery recycling cabinet for a KCDC library – recycled from a bedside cabinet

Job stats for the six months July to December 2022

Job Category	Job Count
appliances	4
conservation, traps etc.	2
firewood	1
furniture	28
games/hobbies equipment	5
garden tools	3
ornament repair	8
toys	4
traps and conservation	5
water tanks	3
garden furniture	14
garden structure	5
garden (small item)	3
Grand Total	85

Owner Category	Job Count
community/sports	9
conservation ngo	3
donation to MenzShed	1
education	2
governmental	1
health ngo	2
member	1
private	66
Grand Total	85

The Garage Sale

At last, we were able to hold the garage sale, rain stopped play on our earlier attempts. It still was slightly wet, but we persevered and managed to make \$4,000.

We accidentally sold the cast iron ends of an antique bench but managed to intercept it and get it back before it was sold on TradeMe. Here are some pictures of the event.



Noel T and Ray W providing true Kiwi refreshments.



Someone with a bargain – not just the dog!



Very intent shoppers in the Workshop



Serious haggling going on with Barry I, Frank E, and Gordon Mc, Barry would have no chance against Gordon!



Another load of junk to sort out for the Garage Sale.

Followed this Chinese Balloon for 150 miles.....turned out to be bird shit on my windscreen.



An elderly man thinking his wife was losing her hearing went about 20' behind her and asked "Can you hear me sweetheart?" No reply. Moved to 10' and inquired again. No reply. 5' and not a word. A few inches behind ear, he asked "Can you hear me now honey"? His wife said "For the fourth time, yes."

Skip has gone!



It is with great sadness that we have been advised this morning that our friend and Shed colleague Brian Skipper did not survive the heart surgery when admitted to Hospital this week.

He will be missed from our shed for his wide range of knowledge and his skills set. In many conversations and dealings with Skip... he was a devoted dad and grandad and never missed an opportunity to update us on the grandkids in particular.

Our shed will have a large hole in it.... Skips family will have a chasm. From our perspective, a giant totara has indeed been felled in our forest. Age does not need to inevitably bring health issues but sadly so often it does.

Other deceased members

Two other members also passed away John Talbot and Harold Smith



John Talbot

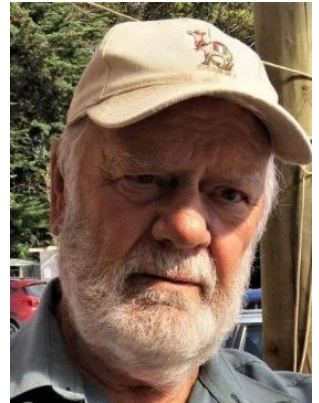


Harold Smith

Seats from the Athletic Park Millard Stand

For any red-blooded, rugby-loving Wellingtonian bloke of our generation the mere mention of Athletic Park and the Millard Stand is enough to generate a whole session of stories and lies about the wonderful game. Certainly, any attempt to explain to rugby buffs the significance of memorabilia connected with that place and those times is more than futile but for anyone who is not so familiar the following may be of interest.

The history of Athletic Park goes back to 1896 and the early years of the last century but in or about 1961 a big new stand was erected and named for a well-known rugby administrator named Millard. It was quite a massive undertaking housing row upon row of wooden seats with wooden backs with no concession to comfort and exposed to the worst elements of Wellington weather imaginable. But it was the home of "blokes" and regarded with almost religious enthusiasm.



To the wooses in the halls of power it was always regarded as a bit dodgy and by 1999 the park was closed as a sporting arena and the Millard Stand had to be dismantled. But an edifice of such distinction could not be allowed to simply be turned into matchwood and someone had the brilliant idea of turning the hundreds of yards of stand seats into garden bench memorials. Each seat carries a brass plaque commemorating the occasion. Each bench also carries a selection of the original numbers that identified seating positions.

I have no idea how many such benches were created but we have one in our extended family purchased in 1999 by my son-in-law who, as a senior referee, controlled many games at "The Park".

That became my first first-hand experience of the seats.

About 3 years ago my second contact with this piece of history arose when a badly rotted bench came to the shed for resurrection. I took on the task which, on that occasion, required quite major surgery involving the removal of some of its length in order to be able to salvage some elements of historical significance. I have since learned that the unit belongs to a friend of a fellow Kapiti Sheddie who tells me that it is still in usable order but that the cancer has spread.

Then, just before our Christmas break, the Shed received a plea for help from a lady whose partner is the proud possessor of a bench which has been attacked by the elements so that the two front legs had been shortened and an arm had completely rotted away. Closer inspection revealed other damage to unseen elements.

When volunteer help was sought, I put my hand up and thus made contact with my 3rd Athletic Park bench.



The lady's bench before and after

This one required quite a major rebuild but at least the seat and back elements which carry the numbers and the original plaque have been salvaged. The remedial work is now complete and the bench has been returned to its grateful owners. They have expressed sincere thanks and satisfaction for the resurrection of their prized memento.

Derek Cavanagh. Jan 2023

Derek tells me this is the 19th bench he has done. I suspect the benches will become collectable and develop considerable value. Roger C

Staying Safe Driving Refresher Course

Age Concern Kāpiti is running Staying Safe Driving Refresher courses (Waka Kotahi– New Zealand Transport Agency approved) for older drivers in Kāpiti. Staying Safe is a free four-hours of classroom-based learning. It is interactive and will answer any questions you might have. Workbooks are provided – the presentation is informative, easy to follow and makes people think about their driving skills.

It covers four key themes:

- ❑ Keeping safe: thinking about your driving safety
- ❑ Being safe: driving skills.
- ❑ Safe journeys: managing road situations.
- ❑ Keep moving safely: safe alternatives to driving.

Age Concern Kapiti has offered to run a course(s) at the Shed, depending on numbers. Each course has a maximum of 15 participants. This is an opportunity for you to attend and to invite your friends, wife or partner to join you.

The courses run from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Snack and nibbles and a cuppa are provided however you are asked to BYO lunch. The course will be held outside of the Shed days.

Please see Tony A if you are interested.

A long time ago in Israel..

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy.

Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?". Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums.

The drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent. To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew.

It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drum heads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began...



Graham, Frank, Molly and Craig (both honorary Sheddies) inspecting the catch of the day - a baby stingray.

Regrettably no snapper that day, but an interesting day on the beach on a classic Waikanae summer day.



BREAKING NEWS

Demand for Bandsaw Jewellery Boxes falls well short of expectations!

“but Grandad you need to ask us what we want before you go off making things we may not want”

Aww that was a bit of a set back to my enthusiasm!

Lessons learned and helpful hints, step by step.

Step One

Join the **Menzshed** and the **Woodworkers Guild** and get very excited about meeting lots of new people, the camaraderie, and the endless new ideas for things to make, and spend more money on new tools.

Step Two

Volunteer to investigate a person’s life-long collection of wood that is offered to the **Menzshed**.

Step Three

Get excited about having this wood and what you could make out of it

Step Four

Get onto YouTube and watch endless hours of video and see exciting things you can make that enables you to use your newly acquired bandsaw. (ref Step One)

Step Five

Set about making a Bandsaw Jewelry box from the newly acquired wood.

Having reached this stage one's excitement and enthusiasm starts to fall on less than interested family member ears. One of my grandchildren said "Grandad read the room" which washed straight over my head filled with bandsaw box excitement.

It was later explained to me that I was acting like a new politician that had not learned to "breath thru the nose" In other words, shut up and listen."

Step Six

Start showing off the completed Bandsaw Box to your family that by this time are thoroughly sick of hearing about bandsaw boxes.

Step Seven

The penny drops, tame one's excitement and do not get carried away in your own enthusiasm. Find out what your family wants you to make before launching into projects.

Step Eight

Ignore step seven and enjoy making what you want! I loved making this Bandsaw Jewellery box.

If we have any interested Menzshed members who would like to learn about making bandsaw boxes let me know. We could run a small workshop on bandsaw boxes if we have any takers.

Ian Barbour
Feb 2023

Nursing Home Plan - Part G

If you're an older senior citizen and can no longer take care of yourself and the government says there's no Nursing Home care available for you. So, what do you do?

You opt for Part G.

Part G gives anyone 65 years or older a gun and four bullets. You are required to shoot four politicians.

This means, of course, that you'll be sent to prison where you'll receive three meals a day, a roof over your head, central heating & air conditioning, cable TV, library, and all the Health Care you need.

Need new teeth, new glasses? No problem.

Need a hearing aid, new hip, knees, kidney, lungs, sex change, or heart? They're all covered.

As an added bonus, your kids can come and visit you at least as often as they do now!

And, who will be paying for all of this?

The same government that just told you they can't afford for you to go into a home. And....you have got rid of 4 useless politicians while you're at it. It's a win/win situation.

And now, because you're a prisoner, you won't have to pay income tax.

Is this a great country or what?

I find these articles shocking and worrying, I will explain later – Roger C.

The difference between hardwood and softwood with reference to NZ timbers.

Hardwood and softwood are terms used to describe the botanical classification of trees based on their physical characteristics, rather than the actual hardness of the wood itself.

In general, hardwoods come from deciduous trees, which lose their leaves annually, and softwoods come from coniferous trees, which have needles or scales instead of leaves and often remain green year-round. However, there are exceptions to this rule, such as yew, which is a softwood despite being a deciduous tree.

In New Zealand, the most common hardwood species include tōtara, kahikatea, mataī, and rimu. These trees have a more complex cellular structure, which makes their wood harder and denser. Hardwoods are typically more resistant to wear and tear, rot, and insect damage, making them a popular choice for furniture, flooring, and construction materials.

Softwoods in New Zealand include species such as radiata pine, Douglas fir, and spruce. Softwoods have a simpler cellular structure and are generally lighter, more flexible, and easier to work with than hardwoods. They are often used for construction, paper products, and packaging materials.

It's worth noting that some softwoods can be harder than certain hardwoods. For example, the wood of the Douglas fir is harder than that of some hardwoods, despite being classified as a softwood. Ultimately, the terms hardwood and softwood are used more for botanical classification purposes than for actual hardness.

The difference between hardwood and softwood with New Zealand humour

Kia ora, mate! When it comes to trees in Aotearoa, we've got two main types: hardwood and softwood. Think of hardwoods like the All Blacks - they're the tough, reliable, no-nonsense trees that you can always count on. Softwoods, on the other hand, are more like the All Whites - they may not be as flashy, but they're quick on their feet and they get the job done.

Our hardwood trees include tōtara, kahikatea, mataī, and rimu. These are the big guns of the forest, with hard, dense wood that's perfect for building everything from sturdy furniture to solid buildings. You could say they're like the Richie McCaws of the tree world - legends that have stood the test of time.

Softwoods, on the other hand, are more like our up-and-coming athletes - they may not have the same reputation as the hardwoods, but they've got plenty of potential. Radiata pine, Douglas fir, and spruce are some of our most common softwood trees, with wood that's lighter, easier to work with, and more versatile than hardwoods. They're like the young bucks of the forest - still finding their feet, but with plenty of promise for the future.

So, whether you're building a new deck, crafting a piece of furniture, or just admiring the beauty of our native trees, remember that both hardwoods and softwoods have their own unique strengths and charms. And who knows - maybe one day we'll see a softwood tree on the cover of the NZ Rugby Almanack!

The difference between hardwood and softwood for a 3 year old

Trees are like people, they come in different shapes and sizes. Some trees have really hard wood, like a rock, and we call those trees hardwoods. Other trees have softer wood, like a sponge, and we call those trees softwoods.

In New Zealand, some of the trees with hard wood are called tōtara, kahikatea, mataī, and rimu. Some of the trees with soft wood are called radiata pine, Douglas fir, and spruce.

Hardwood trees are good for building strong things like tables and chairs, while softwood trees are good for making things like paper and cardboard boxes.

Why it worries me.

The three articles were written by a computer using AI. The program I used is called ChatGPT and is created by Google and is free to use. I have never used it before and once I got through the registration process it took me less than 5 minutes to produce the articles – the computer taking about 3 seconds to generate each article.

To get the program to produce the articles all that was required was the text shown in the article headings.

I imagine in reading the articles, you thought the first article a bit light but slightly informative written by a first year university graduate or similar. The second obviously written by an ‘over the top’ New Zealander with a weird sense of humour. The last well – what’s going on?

I tried the humour version with plain humour and a similar article came up that was obviously American; then English humour and it talked about Cricket and Rugby; Russian humour, Putin and his strength and comrades, “trees that are hard as Siberian winter “ and Indian “the mighty banyan to the delicate jasmine”, “just like with a good plate of aloo gobi and naan “ -so it’s very responsive. All were different but still talking about hardwood and softwood with reference to New Zealand.

It could be written in French, in Maori or any other language.

Whilst the office of the Administration building, Tony A was writing the eulogy for Skip’s funeral. I ran up ChatGPT and asked it to write a eulogy for Skip - giving it an appropriate instruction. It wrote a lovely eulogy that Tony thought was better than his. Give him credit though – he still wrote his own eulogy. But it’s so tempting.

I spent about two weeks writing a speech for my daughter’s wedding – I could have done it in 3 seconds. Ah well next time....

The world is changing, as you see people can be replaced by machines. Apparently some university students getting ChatGPT to write their assignments, so it is causing problems which we will have to adapt to in the same way we have to adapt to change..

But, don’t worry about the Menzshed newsletter, - I will still accept articles from members, (so long as they can verify they are human!), and so long as they make spelling mistakes – which I will leave in to prove they are not AI created!

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



Amenity Electrical Items



A Heatpump For Our Comfort



Waikanae Charter Club Community Grant



Electrical Apprentice Manpower



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