



Mike's Mutterings

Allan, Des and I had an interesting visit to Paeroa MenzShed on 20th of November. We mixed with members from at least half a dozen other sheds from Morrinsville to Thames to Omokoroa to exchange ideas and a bit about our prospective sheds. Some of the sheds have been going for several years while at least one – Paeroa – has recently shifted into its new building thanks to Wayne and Chloe Wright - one of our benefactors.

Some of the problems were similar among several of the Sheds. Finding a suitable building or getting one built on Council land was one. This is something we shall have to face eventually. Also clashes with members' personalities. Some members don't understand what working with others in a volunteer situation is, and have to be "taught". This is where leadership is so important. I sometimes think that courses on leadership would be useful. And those who say they don't need it, are probably those who need it the most!

There was also an interesting discussion concerning women members. Thames has a Women's Shed which meets one day a week and other clubs have similar opportunities for women. A member of the Women's Shed is part of the Thames MenzShed Committee. I like this idea. A general consensus seemed to be that while men like to be working and socialising together, women also need the same opportunities and we should organise our Sheds to help this. Besides a women's-only day, some have a mixed day once a week. This would help couples who would like to work together on a project.

Des has done a lot of work on getting plans for stoat traps. We have the opportunity to secure a contract for thirty of them, and we need to have a cost-price analysis taken for this. We also need a small team to construct them, preferably under Des's guidance. Do we have takers?

I have been asked to explain how we operate by another MenzShed. I would prefer a supervisor and Allan to come with me. This would be on a Saturday morning, but no date has been set because I needed to get back to the team. It's good to see that what we have established – and are continuing to tweek as changes are needed – is what at least one other club may benefit from. We have a great team at MenzShed Omokoroa. I am very proud to be part of it. Take care of yourselves and others, Guys.

Mike



New members in November are -

Rob Galbraith and Keith Glass

Welcome guys – we look forward to sharing good times with you.

Member Profiles - Each month we normally profile our members. This month we discovered another gem, with hidden skills that we didn't know about. Meet Steve Raymond.

Steve was born and brought up in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia. His English Father and Kiwi mother were missionaries, first in Zambia and later in the Belgian Congo. He was there when the independence of the Congo descended into chaos and the State of Katanga seceded with the result that thousands of white settlers fled across the border to Northern Rhodesia. Streams of cars, some with bullet holes, passed the high school hostel where he was staying. He arrived in New Zealand at the age of 15 to complete high school. From school in Palmerston North he went to Victoria University in Wellington and then to the Otago Medical School. He left for Bristol in England where his father came from to specialise in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and become a Member of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists. That accomplished he returned to New Zealand and set up in specialist practice in Rotorua.



While in Rotorua he pursued an interest in singing, and was cast in the Rotorua Operatic Society's production of "The Sound of Music", in which he met his wife Eryl. After they married they went to South Africa, as the referendum for democracy had given the green light for the end of apartheid. The kwaZulu government had a large hospital in Ngwelezana in the heart of Zululand, which desperately needed another obstetrician. They were delivering 4,500 babies per year at that time. Over the course of the next 13 years while working there, those numbers swelled to 12,000. Some of the cases he met were not even in the text books.

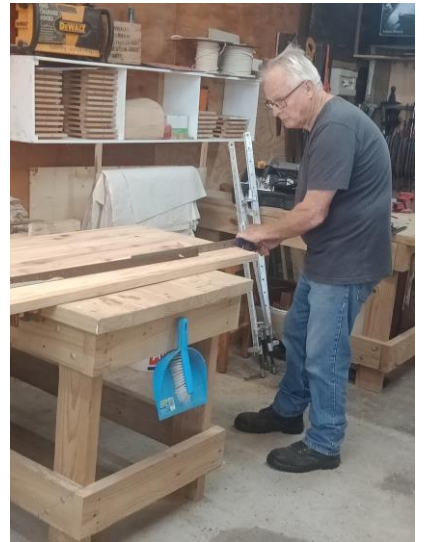
Steve and Eryl joined the Zululand Theatrical Society in Empangeni with gusto, and were involved with at least three stage productions per year. After thirteen years in Empangeni, it was clear that law and order and the maintenance of infrastructure were deteriorating, such that personal safety was becoming a concern so they decided rather reluctantly to leave, and go to Australia. A job came up for Steve in the Royal Hobart Hospital in Tasmania which was a chance to get up to date with advances in the specialty. This necessitated a 3 month "specialist re-entry programme" during which colleagues were asked to evaluate his practice. One was asked "Does he appear to be at least moderately competent?" He had a stint as Head of Department, and as Chairman of the local college committee. A highlight of living in Hobart was being a member with his wife of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Chorus. This led to performances in the Sydney Opera House, in Hong Kong, at the Adelaide Festival, and in Perth. Here, they have become members of the Tauranga Civic Choir, and recently the Kaikati Concert Band. He is also a First Responder with the Omokoroa Volunteer Fire Brigade.

On retirement in 2015 Steve and Eryl returned to New Zealand and bought a lifestyle property in Aongatete. Eryl's parents, now 90, live in Rotorua and three of Steve's children live in Papamoa, along with seven grandchildren. Soon after arriving in Aongatete Steve joined the Katikati Menzshed, and on moving to Omokoroa four years ago eventually transferred to this one. It seems that furniture restoration has been allocated to him.



Des, our oldest member, celebrated his 94th birthday recently, cutting his cake the day before at The Shed. He was treated to a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" led by Steve and Gerald, followed by the traditional "Why was he born so....." Happy Birthday, Des!

A day in the life of The Shed – as busy as.....



I am Ivan's cup. I was here before the other cups. Leave me alone!!! I am Ivan's cup!!!!

CONTACT US

President - Mike Hayden
Mobile 021 247 8057
mchayden@xtra.co.nz

Secretary - Allan Hughes
Mobile 027 757 7109
54days@gmail.com

FIND US

Address: 7 Prole Road, Omokoroa (first Driveway on the left).

And on line

[facebook.com/Menzshed/Omokoroa](https://www.facebook.com/Menzshed/Omokoroa)

www.menzshedomokoroa.org



The Shed is open -

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Brain Teaser

1. What year was Trade Me founded?
2. How old is King Charles 111?
3. How long does it take the Moon to orbit the Earth?
4. What way do hurricanes spin in the northern hemisphere?
5. What country drinks the most coffee per capita?
6. What is a single strand of spaghetti called?
7. Where do US vice presidents live?
8. How many legs does a lobster have?
9. What percentage of Earth's wildlife is found In the ocean?
10. Is non-alcoholic beer really zero percent alcohol?

Wood Turning at The Shed

On Wednesday 24th November, the second of three training days this month, four members met together at the Shed to receive some tuition in the art of wood turning.

Under the guidance of Len Rigger, we were taught the basics, and how to safely gain a few new skills, opening up a new dimension to the opportunities that are available at the Menzshed.

I personally have never tried wood turning previously, and thoroughly enjoyed the morning. I got so engrossed that I forgot to get some photos to show what can be achieved by a beginner like myself. The plan is to have some more tuition days in the future. I would encourage other members to give it a go - you might like it too!

Dick Megchelse



We will be holding our first stall at the Market this Saturday, where will be offering a range of goods, and hopefully taking orders.

We are looking for someone to manage the sale of our wares at the once a month market, and to set up a table of our products at The Old Library Omokoroa (TOLO), which they will sell for us.

If you are interested, or know someone who would like to help, please contact Allan Hughes as soon as.....



Brain Teaser Answers
1. 1999 2. 74 (birthday 14 November). 3. 27 days. 4. Anti-clockwise. 5. Finland 6. Spaghetti. 7. US Naval Observatory. 8. 10. 9. 94% 10. In NZ to be considered 0%, a beer must contain less than 1.15% alcohol by volume.