



## Mike's Mutterings

There has been much discussion for some time over acquiring a container or containers for our Shed. This has resulted from:

1. Being offered one by Te Puke MenzShed,
2. Needing more space for storage
3. A desire by some members and potential members to be able to do metalwork and engineering.
4. The Council not allowing us to add any building structure to the existing buildings.

A problem has arisen concerning space inside the sheds for the activities we are involved in. The front shed (Shed 1) has the heavy machinery in it and has little room to add more work stations.

Shed 2 has all our light tools and benches for working on, a lot of storage of the items we have contracted to do as well as personal items. It is becoming very crowded.

As we are becoming more popular, work space is at a minimum.

The advantages of having two containers, which is what your committee has been considering, is that one may be used for the engineering section, while the second one would be for storage, especially those finished and unfinished items currently being stored in Shed 2 by the lunch room. The intention is to cover them with a fixture similar to a Boranda type roof which will allow outside work under shelter. Probably a concrete pad would be laid between them. They would be situated outside the back of Shed 2 as the Council doesn't want them seen from the road.

For safety reasons such as fire, and because different tools and machines are used for engineering, it is important that the woodwork and metalwork areas are separate.

The identified risks in obtaining containers are:

- the cost
- a lack of interest within the membership and the community
- trained supervisors and trainees

We are hoping the costs will be covered through grants. Once purchased, the containers become our assets.

Members' thoughts are being canvassed before we ask the community for its interest.

As you will realise, this is a process which will take several months but, if the club and community are supportive, we might have it up and running before winter. All depending on grants, of course.

*Mike Hayden*



Member Profiles - Each month we normally profile our members. This month we learn about Jerry Hale, one of the founding members of the Shed .....

“I was born in 1944 towards the end of the 2nd World War. It was a time of austerity, not much in the way of luxuries. My home was in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England. I was really lucky, having a father who was a plumber – trades people were generally a little better off than most families. I had a basic education, but always did well when making things with my hands. In my teenage years I became a Boy Scout, and this was the most important activity of my youth until I was eighteen. It taught me how to look after myself, cooking, and outdoor activities like camping, working with ropes, knots, lashing, splicing, map reading etc.



My working life started at 15 years old, when I left school and took up an apprenticeship in engineering at a factory which made gears and gear boxes for industry. When my apprenticeship ended at the age of twenty-one, I went to sea as a Junior Engineer Officer. This was like starting another apprenticeship again – everything on board ship was so different to anything I had known up to then. After eight years of sailing around the Americas, with the occasional trip into the Mediterranean, I decided on a change – I enrolled in another company and found myself sailing to the Antipodes. I liked the look of New Zealand, and applied to emigrate here, while still maintaining my job at sea. I eventually rose to the rank of 2nd engineer, and decided to come ashore, and settle in New Zealand permanently

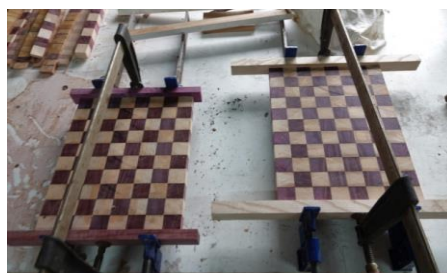
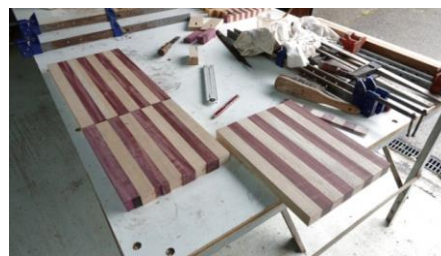
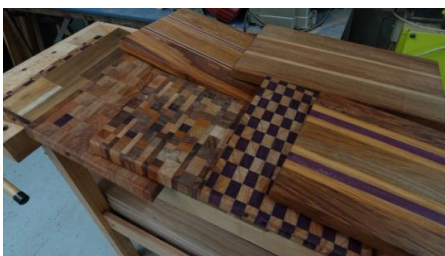
Jobs were easy to get in those days with my qualifications – working mainly in the freezing industry, and at NZ Industrial Gases, where I ran the plant making liquid oxygen, nitrogen and argon.

In 1979, I married Valerie, who was born in Omokoroa, and after being made redundant from the Aotearoa meat works in Cambridge in 1989, we moved to Omokoroa where we opened the cafe above the beach store, the Wharf Cafe,

We built a house on the end of Myrtle Drive, where I assisted the builders in its erection – learning even more skills in wood working. We sold the cafe and went into a period when times were tough and work was hard to find. We eventually decided to sell the house, and buy a job. In 1997 we moved onto our kiwifruit orchard in Te Puna, which we worked successfully until our retirement in 2003.

After eighteen years of retirement, living back in Omokoroa, enjoying playing golf and later being a member of gyms to pass the time, the opportunity arose to start the MenzShed. We worked hard getting the place up and running, (see photo of Jerry as part of the team painting the Shed), then we had to get some ideas of what to make. YouTube taught me how to make cutting boards, and I thought it would be an interesting project – and since we had the machinery to assist, I have made several designs which have been most interesting to make. We have sold a few which is always good for the ego – at least you know you are making things that people will buy. The MenzShed has added a new vitality to my life when things were starting to get a bit dreary, and the camaraderie is terrific.”

### *Jerry's cutting boards*



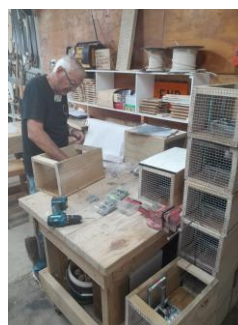
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## Just a "minute".....

Some notes from the Committee Meeting on 17 January -

- Consideration is being given to having a social gathering once a month. A tearoom discussion suggested the last Thursday of each month, starting at about 12.30 with a sausage sizzle and BBQ – but nothing has been decided. Please share your view to the Shed Supervisors next time you're having a cuppa, so that they can express those views back to the committee.
- Six sash clamps have been donated by a member of the Community.
- Rob Lyons is in the process of finalising the running of a cable between The Garden and the Shed, which will enable Wifi in the Shed, and the use of a laptop which is being acquired second hand.
- It had been recommended that new wood lathes be purchased so that better quality work could be achieved. Agreement was reached to purchase one lathe, and other options to acquire second hand lathes are being investigated.
- It has been found that a trailer is regularly needed. Rob Lyons and Bill Cahill are following up options on TradeMe, and other sources.
- Our Operational Rules require the appointment of a Health & Safety Officer to ensure that our procedures would comply with the requirements of other organisations that we might work with; and a Privacy Officer to oversee the use of social media and the safekeeping of member's information. Peter Smith has agreed to fill the Health & Safety role, and the committee will be seeking someone to take on the Privacy role.
- Over the last few months there has been discussion on extending the premises with containers for storage and engineering equipment. This will now proceed to a grant application to acquire two 20 foot containers, a roof structure, concrete pad, and electrical installation.
- Orders from three sources for pest traps (including the Whakamarama Pest Library, has pushed the number required to nearly eighty. Des Gardiner is working on these with help from others, like Michael Galloway (pictured)



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

[www.menzshedomokoroa.org](http://www.menzshedomokoroa.org)



The Shed is open -

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

## Brain Teaser.....

1. Can the brain feel pain?
2. What colour are the sunsets on Mars?
3. How many noses does a slug have?
4. What is a seamount?
5. What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
6. Where is a shrimp's heart located?
7. In which two countries can you not buy Coca Cola?

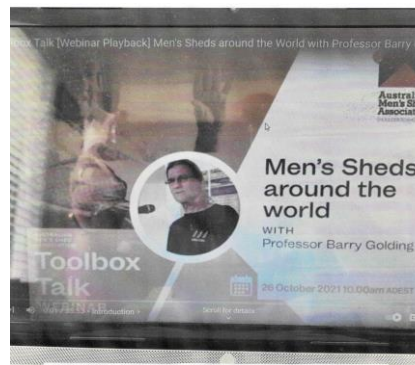
1. No. 2. Blue. 3. Four. 4. An underwater volcano. 5. Short. 6. Its head. 7. North Korea and Cuba.

Answers -

## Food for thought .....

Each month it is planned to feature a YouTube reference, to show what is happening in Sheds in New Zealand and overseas, and to give some information on items that members might find useful.

This month we feature a webinar from The Australian Men's Shed Association, which discusses sheds around the world. The discussion is with Professor Barry Golding who has written two books about Sheds. His first book in 2015 was entitled "The Men's Shed Movement – the Company of Men." His second book in 2021 is "Shoulder to Shoulder – Broadening the Men's Shed Movement" and looks at what has happened in the six years between his books. To view the webinar, Google "AMSA Toolbox Talk - Men's Sheds Around the World." This webinar is 35 minutes in length, so get a cuppa first .....



One of the aims of the Sheds is to provide an environment where men can discuss issues, such as health. We will refer to some of these in future editions where there are discussions on dealing with the health of members at the Shed, or in supporting shedders who may have a partner with an issue. All food for thought.....



## An odd job ....

Sometimes we get asked to do something different. Local resident Hanneke de Graaf brought in this pottery head, "Eveline" which was a bit worse for wear after having been in her garden, wanting to give her a new life. With the help of Richard Wilde

a new wooden base was made, and a metal pin holds the two parts together. Hanneke is delighted to be reunited with Eveline, and to discuss with Richard the pros and cons of filling some cracks in the wooden base, and the use of paint or stain. Eveline will now have pride of place inside Hanneke's home.