



## Mike's Mutterings

One of our main activities at the Shed is to fiddle around with bits of wood. We decide on a project, find the timber which suits our purpose, initially form it to the shape we want, tidy it up and stand back and admire it. Often it is not quite what we were aiming for, so we chisel a bit off that wasn't needed, and add bits which we hadn't noticed were missing when we first started.

Our organization is like that. We started with a concept and decided how we would like it to look. But over the short time we have been operating, we have found there are parts of our policies which need re-writing as we realised they were not up to the standards we are trying to set, and we added some as we found that there were sections which we hadn't realised at first were necessary.

This is a continuing process and, with suggestions from both the committee and the membership, this will keep our club improving. So, in saying this, please remember that no one member should be able to ignore what we have agreed on, even if some of us may not agree on the decision. We run a safe and democratic club.

So guys, a reminder – to keep on friendly terms with your fellow club members, please tidy up after yourselves, and don't hog the tools and machinery if you see someone else wants to use it. If you see that your use might be long term, talk to the supervisor to book in time.

Membership is important. So your committee has agreed that it would be good to have a small group, say three to five, to plan how we can attract more members, and consider why some of our members leave. anyone wanting to assist and join myself and Allan on this please, contact Allan.

We would also like to have some members focus on a plan to extend our social activities. While morning teas are a vital part of our companionship, we feel that a monthly barbecue would be a good idea, among others. We hope that you would invite a friend or two along with you. Again a small team of up to five could meet and plan a programme for these, which might include guest speakers, visits to other clubs, ten-pin bowling, family picnics – whatever. The variety is large. Have a chat to one of the supervisors, especially Dick, if you are interested in helping.

Finally, some great articles on the MenzShed website/Facebook. There are great ideas there that we could adopt. Cheers.....

*Mike Hayden*



## Grant Application Approved!

On 18 April we received a message from TECT that our application for a grant to assist in the purchase and installation of containers to be fitted out for metal working and storage has been approved in full. We currently have an application into the Lion Foundation for a similar amount, and a decision on that is due mid-May. Any shortfall will be addressed by other applications. Thanks to Allan Hughes for his efforts on these grants.



Member Profiles - Each month we normally profile our members. This month we learn about Richard Wilde.....



“Born in Lower Hutt in 1969, I have two sisters – one older and one younger. My mother used to tell me that I was a very active child. Soon as the sun rose in the morning I was gone, off with my mates, and wouldn't be home till dark – riding my push bike and skateboard. At the age of 11, we moved over to Greytown onto a farm, where I soon learned what work was. Work was hard and never dull - planting trees, fencing, shearing and dagging sheep, making hay, milking cows – after school and on weekends. I only went to school to eat my lunch, play rugby, and chase girls. School wasn't really for me as I was more interested in doing things.

I loved sport and played rugby in Greytown from the age of five to twenty-one. I also played softball. I started BMX riding at about 8 years old, and that led to my biggest passion in life, which was motocross. I started riding at 13 years, and if I wasn't working I was riding. Other interests included snow skiing, water skiing, mountain biking, and go-karting.

I left school at the age of 15 years, and for the next three years I went and worked full time on our neighbours' dairy farm, which had about 600 cows and 4000 pigs.

I had a major car accident at 18 years – I went through the windscreen, and woke up on the bonnet several hours later. Luckily I had no broken bones. After recovering from my accident, my father took me to Lower Hutt to Titan Cranes, where they were offering a fitter and turner apprenticeship. I got the apprenticeship, however the bosses were a bit sceptical as to whether or not I would 'stick it out', as I had a 2 hour drive to and from work everyday, six days a week. I successfully completed my 9000 hour apprenticeship, and quickly climbed the ranks within the company, and was soon running the engineering shop, which was purchasing and modifying Volvo trucks for the customer.

At 28 years, I was out on a Sunday motocross ride – I ended up having a detrimental accident and broke my back. This accident was a tragedy. I waited 3 hours for an ambulance, and the doctors diagnosed me with severe bruising and sent me home. After about a month, I returned to the hospital due to crippling pain. They then took x-rays to discover I had broken my back – compression fracture of two vertebrae. Doctors didn't actually know how to treat me moving forward – so they put me in a brace and sent me home. Another month later, my sister talked me into going and seeing a specialist. He looked at the x-rays and immediately booked me in for surgery, stating I should have had surgery the day I went to the hospital. The delay in having surgery left me partially paralysed, as bone chips were scratching my spinal cord. Four surgeries later, 15 screws, couple of cages, couple of plates, and the removal of a rib, I started an extremely long and rocky road to recovery. I fell into a deep depression, and turned to drugs as a coping mechanism. After many years I realised I couldn't continue living like this. I had to leave the life I was living behind, which brought me to Omokoroa where I had family.

Over the next ten years, I took my two nephews to school every day until they went to Tauranga Boys' College. During that time I met the love of my life – next door. She jumped the fence and moved in. I am now the step-dad to a teenage girl. My partner has been very supportive over the years, and over a period of time I managed to come off an 18 years dependency on morphine.

I joined the Menzshed just to bust Ivan and Jerrys' balls (that means to seriously irritate them - Ed). And the rest is history!!!!”

On the recent shed visit to Matakana Island, Andrew took his camera along .....



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

Items from the minutes of the committee meeting on 29 March -

- Cooney Reserve Bird Hides – Peter Ehrlich reported on discussions held with interested parties, draft design, costs and funding options. The committee approved the draft proposal and to continue discussions. To come back to the committee for approvals.
- John Knipe is working on our stand for display of Menzshed products for sale, at TOLO.
- Tony, our Treasurer will be overseas later this year. We need someone who can assist in operating MYOB while he is away. Please contact Tony if you can assist.
- A proposal to work with Omokoroa No. 1 School to mentor some students in making bean bag games for the school was accepted. This will be a trial for future activities. The programme will be supervised by Len Riggir.
- Proposals to review our Health and Safety procedures were approved, Peter Smith will progress the work.
- Applications for membership from Simon Priest and John Belgrave were approved.

And from the meeting on 18 April ....

- There was discussion on a policy about the costs of private work that members bring to the Shed. Such works should be costs neutral to the Shed. Small jobs are not an issue, but for bigger jobs, or where a member regularly does private work – then this should be discussed with the supervisor, and a donation would be appreciated. Where members are queuing to do jobs, then community jobs are to take preference. Members doing private work are encouraged to be considerate of others waiting to do Shed jobs.
- Bike repairer. There was discussion on inviting a bike repairer from Athenree, to see if he wants to set up at the Shed once a month and offer his service to our community. He will be approached to see if interested.
- It was agreed that we would again support the Blue September Prostate Cancer display at Tolo.



It's a pretty good place where we live.....

## CONTACT US

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



The Shed is open -

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

## Some trivia observations.....

The term 'billion' and "billion dollars" has had a lot of air time lately – and however you try to conceive it, it is a very large number. For some perspective-

If I give you \$1 billion, and you stand on the street corner handing out \$1 per second, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, you still would not have handed out the last of the \$1 Billion after 31 years.

Or another view -

- A. A billion seconds ago it was 1959
- B. A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive
- C. A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.
- D. A billion days ago no-one walked on the earth on two feet.

## Food for thought .....

The webinar to think about this month relates to something we should know about – dementia – and how it can affect shedders (and their partners), and looks at how it is not a bar to membership. In fact membership can be a benefit to those affected. And as the webinar shows - "Are you sure its dementia". The camaraderie of the shed, and the opportunity to talk to others is high in a shed's ethos. This was evident in our own shed this month. One member happened to mention at the shed that he had been referred into the health system for skin cancer treatments, and how well the system had worked for him. Another member heard the comments and had a chat with him. His experience had seen him referred to a private clinic, which charged him \$400 to be assessed, and quoted another \$4000 to get it fixed. As a result of the shed talk he went back to his GP, and got redirected down the same path as his fellow member. He has been fixed in the health system for free. The cuppa at the shed has proved its worth. But in the meantime, google "*AMSA Toolbox Talk It Might Not Be Dementia*".



The following message has been received from Scott Pickering - "to the Artisans of the Omokoroa MenzShed".

"On behalf of the organising committee of the Omokoroa Junior Easter Classic Bowling Tournament, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Omokoroa MenzShed on the donation of a wonderful taonga for our club, The Omokoroa Junior Easter Classic Championship Trophy.

The craftsmanship of this trophy is really a sight to behold and will be valued by the Club and respective winning teams for many years to come."

The trophy is shown alongside a Patu awarded to Plate Section winners.

The trophy made by the Shed was awarded to the winning team from Waihi Beach.

Well done guys!