



## *Mike's Mutterings*

As you will remember from the AGM, we did not have a secretary elected, and Tony has given notice that he wishes to vacate the treasurer's position soon. This leaves us in a position where we are already having governance issues.

The secretary's role is vital for the continuity of the management of the club. For example, at our last committee meeting there was no correspondence because no one has been given the authority to handle this. I have been acting as temporary secretary and Rob is Minute Secretary but we need someone to focus on this role. If necessary, training can be given to a member who is willing to step into this position.

The same applies to our treasurer. Tony, our current treasurer, is a Chartered Accountant and has been very thorough in his record keeping and advice. However, he would like to vacate the position as soon as possible. He is willing to train someone to take over this role.

Our constitution states that the committee are able to elect someone to fill these positions without going through a Special General Meeting process. Your committee will be asking members to volunteer for these roles. If we don't get a full committee, we shall have to go into recess until we do. None of us want to lock the doors but that is what will happen. We have too much to lose for ourselves and from our supporters if we do. Please consider if you have the skills and are willing to pick up either of these positions and contact either me or a committee member.

You will read below that our biggest project – the container one – is underway. The containers are on site but need to be adjusted and fitted firmly to the ground. Your committee has agreed to purchase the "roof" which will cover the space between them. Later we shall ensure a hard surface (concrete) there and connect a covered way to the existing building. Having spoken to a company which has a similar set-up, we should have a strong protection at the western end so that wind and rain factors are minimised. That company, for example, uses another container for this.

We have a policy that before we begin a project, especially of this size, we need to get the ducks in a row. A full costing has to be done, the quality of the asset/material has to be undertaken, a risk and safety assessment needs to be done by qualified personnel, full engineering plans must be drawn up. We are in the process of doing that. Richard has brought our MIG welder up to scratch and is costing the safety equipment and tools we need to operate it. I am hoping that it will be ready for use by November.

We are making good progress but I am not a supporter of "rip, sh..t, and bust" at the expense of good quality and long-term use. We shall get there but be patient with us and the team.

Cheers.

*Mike Hayden*



## **CONTAINER UPDATE (Rob Lyons)**

Work has begun to install shelving into one of our new containers. This is already helping with more space becoming available in the 'lower shed'. The second container currently has some sheets of MDF stored in it, as well as our BBQ, and ride-on mower.



The area where the containers are, is the right place for us, and we are in the process of getting posts, and in the right configuration for the shelter roof that is getting closer by the day. (A sample photo is at left)) We have to make sure that the containers are in the right location before the shelter arrives, to ensure that it fits nice and square.



Once finished, this area will increase our covered work area by adding 144 square metres of space. This will certainly help on those days when we have many members attending, and that number seems to be increasing every week. This also gives us cover for machinery use outdoors, which will help with the noise in the sheds.

Member Profiles - Each month we normally profile our members. This month we learn about John Knipe, and his roundabout trip from Leeds to Tauranga.....

"I was born in Leeds, England in 1945. After leaving school at aged fifteen, I apprenticed as a plumber until I was twenty one, to my older brother, who was twelve years older than me, and had set up his own business. I then emigrated by air to Canada. I took a three day train journey from Montreal to Prince George in British Columbia where I lived for eighteen months doing various jobs. I did a holiday trip to the Calgary Stampede, and among other things worked as a construction labourer on a road between northern British Columbia and Alaska. It was not uncommon to drink in a bar until 10.30 p.m., and then cross the border to continue drinking, as there were twenty-three hour liquor licences there.



In 1962 I left Canada on the SS Oriana, for Sydney, Australia, where I worked as a plumber, and then in Townsville. I then worked on a small cattle station (it was only 30 square miles) in the Northern Territory, doing roustabouting, maintenance, and pump checking, before moving to Geraldton, Western Australia to do cray fishing, and working in the meat works. I was then a plumber for a mining company in Carnarvon, before going back to the United Kingdom in 1970 for a few months. It was then back to Australia to work for the same mining company until

1971, when I came to New Zealand to Auckland, where I met my wife Margaret. We moved to Waitakere in West Auckland, and bought a ten acre block, running coloured sheep, as my wife was a weaver. I also started working for myself as a plumber. In 1989 we decided to move to the South Island, and we purchased a wool carding machine from Canada, and started up a cottage industry carding wool. Then in 1994 we decided to move to Tauranga, and bought a rural property in Esdaile Road, and I contracted to a plumbing firm, but also doing my own work around the area. In 2012 we built a house in Linley Park, and I semi-retired, but still doing some small jobs for three years. Now I am fully retired."



Year 4 students, who are 8 years old, at Bethlehem Primary School recently had their art work framed by Andrew. There is a students' art exhibition at the school. All the Year 4 paintings have been completed and have mysteriously disappeared. Teacher Rapua Timoti, as a surprise for the students has secretly brought their artwork to the Shed for each painting to be framed. The students got their inspiration for their paintings from a visit to Carmichael Reserve, where they observed the wide life, and have taken about six weeks to complete their works. On picking up the pictures, Rapua gave a big thumbs up!



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## Just a "minute"..... notes from the Committee meeting on 19 September...

- The container-shelter project was fully discussed and there is now no reason why the project cannot proceed to completion. A team will be set up to organise and run the project, and this will be actioned by Rob and Richard.
- A review of our Operational Rules for Health & Safety has been completed by Peter Smith. The amended version was accepted and will now become the Health & Safety Policy for the shed. A copy will be placed in the office. (Note that a PDF copy of the Rules will be forwarded to all members in the coming weeks).
- The committee approved applications for membership from -  
David Bagley  
Andrew Kirkness  
Ian Ritchie  
Greg Weeson  
Leslie Lilley  
Peter Haddad  
We look forward to meeting you all at the Shed.
- The Shed has been donated a Mig welder. This will require the Shed to obtain gas bottle, regulator, tips for head, and screens, shields and gloves etc. A sum has been set aside to enable these purchases.

### Some classy work!



Some bowls by Richard, and a table by John. Each looks good on its own, but put them together and they are all class. The table was made to order from kwila for a member of the community - timber which was recycled from old decking.



And then when the client got the table home, it looked just grand.

## 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.

## Trivia Questions -

1. What is the date of this year's general election in NZ?
2. Which animal is on the NZ \$1 coin?
3. Havana is the capital of which country?
4. Who directed the film *Pulp Fiction*?
5. What type of animal is a Flemish giant?
6. What is the longest river in NZ?
7. Kuri is the te reo Maori word for which animal?
8. What is the capital of Northern Ireland?
9. In which decade was the song *Don't Dream It's Over* by Crowded House released?
10. How long is a typical senior level game of hockey?

- Answers -
1. Saturday October 14th.
  2. Kiwi
  3. Cuba
  4. Quentin Tarantino
  5. Rabbit
  6. Waikato River
  7. Dog
  8. Belfast
  9. 1980's
  10. 60 minutes

## Food for thought .....

The Press, Christchurch on 9 September 2023 ran a story about the Rangiora Menzshed cashing in on one of the certainties in life which was keeping men in North Canterbury busy – and it's not taxes.

Some of the most affordable coffins in the region are being hammered together by Rangiora Menz Shed members and sold for as little as \$680 on Christchurch-based craft site Felt. So, if you are at a loose end this week, check out [www.thepress.co.nz](http://www.thepress.co.nz)>nznews>mens-coffin-project-taps-one-certainties-life



## Newsletter Goes To Top Of Norway!



Shed Treasurer Tony Pollitt recently packed the newsletter in his suitcase and took it on his travels. He is seen here at Kirkenes 15k from the Russian border, before boarding for a coastal trip to Bergen.

## Getting Ready for Spring



Spring is in the air. The kowhais will be flowering, and the tuis will be back. The bird feeders have been in mass production and will be ready shortly for sale.