



### ***Mike's Mutterings***

A new year. A new start. New ideas for the MenzShed this year? What should we focus on this year? Any ideas - then please email them to me at [mchayden@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mchayden@xtra.co.nz).

Other than first setting up about three years ago our biggest project to date – the Engineering Workshop area – is practically finished and ready to go. The success for this must go to the team which has worked hard on this. For this I know I speak for the club when I say a big “Thanks, Guys” to Richard, Rob and Paul (the Team Leader) with assistance from secretary David. We also need to remember that funding for this would not have been possible without the efforts of Allan Hughes who was able to pull together the grants we needed, and the generosity of member Wayne Wright who provided much of the funding for the canopy.

To celebrate this achievement we plan to hold a barbecue at the Shed on 3rd of February where we shall invite representatives of those organisations who assisted us with grants. It will be a good chance to show our appreciation to those who have made it such a success.

Bill Cahill does a great job at the Market, often on his own. He needs help in erecting our stall early in the morning and removing it after the Market, as well as company during the day. The sales at the Market bring in an average of several hundred dollars monthly and now that we have Eftpos, this will make handling the sales easier. Please contact Bill (021 023 09491) if you can help out. We need the stall for income and promoting ourselves to the community.

We received a plea for help from MenzShed Tauranga who have their rates demand planned to increase by the Council by nearly 300%. This follows a licence to occupy increase in 2021 of 500%. If the Council's Long Term Plan is passed, the MenzShed there will have annual costs of nearly \$70,000 per annum. As this is unsustainable, the Shed there believes it will have to close. We are so grateful that Western Bay District Council are so supportive of the MenzSheds in its district. Please support the Tauranga MenzShed in any way you can as these increases also pertain to other groups on Reserve Land as well, we believe.

This leads me to remind us all that MenzShed was originally established to assist in men's health. I believe our Shed is doing a great job in bringing together men in our community to socialise, learn new skills and contribute to the community. With over sixty members MenzShed Omokoroa is accomplishing this well with our supportive atmosphere and camaraderie. Thanks, Guys.

*Mike Hayden*

### ***Just a minute.....***

#### ***Notes from the Committee Meeting on 16 January.***

- A social event has been proposed for 12.30 p.m. on Saturday 3 February. This will be combined with an invitation to grantors of funds, such as TECT, to inspect the new canopy etc. Dick will be coordinating arrangements.
- Despite requests for help at “smoko” times, Bill Cahill remains the “lone soldier” when setting up and manning our stall at the Omokoroa Market. It is suggested that we establish a roster with names on the whiteboard. When volunteers do one Saturday their name will be crossed off for this year.
- Approval was given to continue to work with Omokoroa No. 1 School to encourage students to participate in project activity at the Shed.



This month saw on-site work for the Bird Hide Project commence. The project which is run by the Omokoroa Environmental Managers Inc, whom we have partnered with, along with other volunteer organisations. Fifty-one ground screws were delivered to the shed – each being 3.5 metres long, and **heavy!** The tops of the screws which will be above ground were painted, and the screws delivered down to the site at Cooney Reserve to provide the foundations for the project. The screws were installed under the supervision of Peter Ehrlich and other members, by supplier **STOP DIGGING**, who have supported the project. Each screw was drilled into the ground with a power augur, and all were installed in 2 days. This generated huge time savings, no need for holes, heavy equipment or concrete. This avoided digging holes and mixing concrete, and provided an environmental friendly solution. Whether the ground is soft or hard, the screws are fully functional from the moment they are installed, and there is no need to waste time by waiting for wet concrete to set. Peter says that the next few months will see the construction of both the accessible gravel pathway, the 20 meter boardwalk, and hide platform, which is essentially a large deck under a meter above ground level. At that point, the finished platform will be created in our MenzShed yard. The idea is to give members ample opportunity to be part of this wonderful community project, from the convenience of their familiar surroundings.

Half of the plywood panels will have viewing portal cut outs, and internal sliding shutters fitted. Then together with the bracing element panels, rafters, and roofing, all will be assembled into the finished hide, and camouflage painted.

When all the boxes are ticked, the structure will be disassembled, transported on to site and reassembled in its permanent position.

The school children and visitors alike will be able to use and enjoy the hide to observe and learn about the 52 plus bird species that are found at Cooney Reserve.

# STOPDIGGING!



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## CONTAINER UPDATE - Rob Lyons

The container project has grown. It was established early on that a third container was required for storage as our timber supplies have grown exponentially – so it was essential. Member Wayne Wright was approached with a request for assistance with funds, and the next day the funds were in our account – amazing – thanks Wayne.

So the concrete was laid by Fiskrete. Discussions were had with Sea Containers, and Omokoroa General Carriers, and it was agreed the third container would be delivered and at the same time, the three containers lifted into position. The nice row of containers look great. Richard, David and myself started the day with welding the brackets onto the sides/tops of the containers – it took all morning and Richard went above and beyond in the extreme heat. We had all the frames made and erected by the end of the morning. On the next Tuesday we started the day by opening the box for the roof. It took some grunting by the three of us, but we got the roof onto one of the containers. After putting a metal rod through on one side, we installed the ropes and put them over the frames. Next we pulled the roof over the frames, and before you know it, we had the roof secured, and started to tie it down with ratchets, and rope that laced both ends to the frames.



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The whole area looks amazing. Thanks to Paul the containers have been fitted out with power needs, including outdoor lighting. Now it's time to carefully make plans to make the best use of them, by giving lots of thought to their layout.

The containers are named – North is for finished projects for sale etc – South is the engineering container – Stewart is for storage of timber, panelling etc.

Thanks to team members – Paul Zeeders, Richard Wilde, and Rob Lyons, - and assistance from David Bagley.



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## PHOTOS

1. The frame between the containers going on.
2. Roof's on!
3. Some of the equipment obtained for the engineering shed – compressor, power

hacksaw, and plasma cutter. Mig welder which has been donated, not shown.

4. Welding shield for protection of work area.

5. Air belt sander shown off by Richard. It is also planned that a sheet metal folder, a bench, and a metal lathe will be installed once the final layout has been decided.

To add to this complex a 2.5 metre square shed is being built to go at the back of the containers, which will house the compressor, and provide a home for the ride-on mower..



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## 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 a group of crows called?
2. Compared to their bodyweight, what animal is the strongest – dung beetle, ant or cow?
3. How many dots appear on a pair of dice?
4. Which is the only body part that is fully grown from birth?
5. What is acrophobia a fear of?
6. In what country was Elon Musk born?
7. Who performs the voice of Homer Simpson?
8. What country has the most islands?
9. In Australia, what is commonly known as a Bottle-o?
10. How many hearts does an octopus have?

## FOR SALE



We have five refurbished walking frames, as shown by Gerald for sale. All have been serviced and prepared by Gerald to be in good condition.

We also have a collection of Meccano parts, books and plans, which are currently in Dick's care.

Please contact the Shed if interested.

## JOB INTEREST?

The Shed has been approached by a local person who is considering opening a bike sale/repair shop in Omokoroa. It has been asked whether there may be interest among MenzShed members, being mostly mature adults, to undertake part-time work (learning to be a bike mechanic), on a paid basis for the odd half day or so per week. There could be a number of persons doing a half day each.

If you are interested, please contact Secretary David.

## NOW HERE'S A THOUGHT .....



## This is how we started!

**We've come a long way. Take a moment to pat yourselves on the back! Well done everybody!**

- Answers -**
1. A murder
  2. Dung beetle
  3. 42
  4. Eyes
  5. Heights
  6. South Africa
  7. Dan Castellane
  8. Sweden - 270,000
  9. An off licence/liquor store
  10. 3