



Mike's Mutterings -

Currently we have 65 members of all back-grounds, skills, and personalities. In my opinion we are probably the most successful community activity, and specifically involved in the wider Omokoroa community area. (I expect some argument from other groups about this statement!).

I am going to start with a grizzle. For some time we have been asking members to replace tools, and clean up spaces, in which they have been working. This hasn't happened in many instances. This means that the last ones in the Shed – usually supervisors – have had to stay behind and turn off machines, put away tools, and clean up, including off cuts. This is not fair! It doesn't matter if you leave before 1.00 – clean up when you finish. Your committee has discussed how we can resolve this. We do not want to ban a member from using a particular tool, machine or space, because of inconsideration towards others. We are all mature, and I am sure don't rely on our significant others to tidy up after us at home. The MenzShed is our home away from home. Please keep it tidy.

Now to be more positive. Member Peter Ehrlick has been doing a great job on heading the Cooney Reserve Bird Hide Project on our behalf. Some photos of the progress to date are shown below. Great work, Peter and those members who have also contributed time and skills to this worthwhile community project. Our association with No. 1 School has continued and a couple of new lads are starting work there very soon. We have had requests from Pahoia and Omokoroa Point School to also be involved, but because of space and safety considerations are unable to help them out at the moment. Vice-President Dick has been able to put together five steel boxes of tools which we no longer use, to help mechanics at Kiribati. These have been collected and should soon be heading towards that small Pacific community. Thanks, Dick.

We are aware that there will be changes needed in our Incorporated Society Constitution. With the help of MenzShed NZ we are looking at what this entails. We may be ready to present it to members at our AGM on 17th August.

Speaking of the AGM, would members please consider whether you would like to stand. Your committee is a governance one. That means it is responsible for a lot of paper work – finances, records etc, and decision making. The supervisors' role is ensuring that the activity part of the Shed runs smoothly and safely, and they are doing a great job in this. They find out from members what is needed and pass this on to the committee. When we are offered tools and machines, and timber, from the community, they will go to assess it with other experienced members. If it can be used by us, they have the authority to acquire it. If it is for sale, and the amount asked is fairly large, they bring it to the committee for agreement or otherwise. We have been able to receive some excellent machinery recently through the generosity of community members.

I know the AGM is still some way off, but there have been indications already that some of you are keen to be part of the decision-making aspect of our club. We will be asking seriously for nominations and agenda items in late July. Stay well.

President Mike

Just a minute..... Notes from the Committee Meeting on 19 March 2024:

- New member Tom Smith was approved – we look forward to welcoming and working with you.
- The AGM will be early August – possibly 3 or 17 August at Settlers Hall – followed by a light lunch. Details to be confirmed.
- Cleanliness of the shed is an ongoing issue. Members must accept that more needs to be done to clean up after using items of equipment..



COONEY RESERVE BIRD HIDE PROJECT

The bird viewing hide at Cooney Reserve has risen out of the ground with the flooring of the hide, and walkway, almost complete. It has been a busy couple of weeks at the reserve, with two 8 person Community Service crews, supervised by Peter Ehrlick, working hard to complete the boardwalk and platform. Peter says, "It's a real beaut!"

The photo taken from the hide platform shows oyster catchers, and terns, roosting on the Cooney sand spit. The other photo shows the walkway into the platform. This will be a great asset for the community, and there will be uninterrupted and close up views of the birds, the harbor, and wildlife for locals and visitors, who will be concealed behind and in the completed hide, so that the birds are not disturbed. The striking coastal wetland environment around Cooney Reserve is highly regarded as home to more than fifty species of birds. This includes many threatened birds such as the endangered dotterel, the very rare fern bird, and the elusive banded rail.

The lower photo shows the twenty metre board walk leading to the hide platform – which has now been completed. In the last week, the Community Service workers have completed their task, finishing the gravel path which leads on to the boardwalk.

The entire project will feature two separate buildings – the Cooney Observatory, and the Tinopai Observatory, named after their respective adjacent sandbars. In addition to these buildings, a prominent Godwit inspired bird sculpture will be erected near the accessway.

Peter, who directs and manages the project, is thrilled with progress. "We've come such a long way already. To date we've

installed Stop Digging ground screw foundations, constructed the sub-floor structure, and fitted decking for the access boardwalk, and observatory platform." This marks a significant construction milestone. Importantly it also celebrates a highly successful collaboration with WBOPDC, and the Department of Corrections. For the past eight weeks, teams of 4-8 Community Service workers arrived on site two days per week. After an induction they could choose from various tasks that needed doing that day. Peter says that many of the workers turned out to be enthusiastic project participants, and contributed to a great team spirit overall. "Many were super excited about their involvement – several asked to be rostered on to our project repeatedly, and some even returned to the site after work to show their families around. This is a fantastic social outcome that was unanticipated, and on a personal level it is incredibly gratifying. - it kept me on my toes." Stage one should be finished by early winter – this will see the Cooney Observatory built at the MenzShed by our members, and then installed on site - and stage 2 will focus on the Tinopai Observatory, and the fabrication of the entrance bird sculpture

The national newsletter for February 2024 is available to read. Go to www.menzshed.org.nz/newsletters, click on February 2024.

Thanks to our sponsors and supporters:



Similar shapes – different uses!

The ones on the left are cheese boards being prepared by Alan Lacey with food grade oil. These will be for sale at our Market stall.

The ones on the right are pickle ball bats made by Ben and Hiki from Omokoroa No. 1 School, and hanging up to dry after a couple of coats of polyurethane. Two new students, Daniel and Marco started this week. Another six bats are to be made for the school, and the students are now designing a trolley in which to store the bats, and the nets, which the students can move around the school as required.

Guess what it is



If you guessed a bean frame Wrong!
A request was received to see if we could help Labrador "Duki". Duki has cancer in his shoulder, and as a result his leg and shoulder blade were amputated. Subsequently he has had difficulty getting about with the strain starting to damage his remaining limbs. John Griggs was asked if he could make a walking frame. John prepared a wooden template and checked it for fit before shaping and cutting the aluminium parts. Dwayne a local boat builder and aluminum welder came to the assistance of the shed and bent some of the frame and welded it all together. John is now going to make some webbing straps – 3 under the tummy, one over the back, and one across the front. Wheels will be added to the front of the frame, and Duki should soon be mobile. Next month we look forward to Showing you a photo of Duki in action!

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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.

Trivia Questions –

1. What is the national sport of Japan?
2. What New Zealand rugby knight has the first names Bryan George?
3. What is the title of the 2021 James Bond film that was also Daniel Craig's last appearance as Bond?
4. Jorge Sandoval is a New Zealand promoter of what sport?
5. What is the capital of Australia?
6. Which New Zealand Prime Minister is commemorated by a memorial on Point Halswell, overlooking Wellington Harbour?
7. What large spider, originally introduced from Australia, takes its New Zealand name from the Auckland suburb where it was first detected?
8. In American football, how many points does a touchdown earn?



The shed has seen great improvements and expansion in the last month. through purchases and donations we have acquired a metal lathe, a drill press and mill, a saw and steel cutter, a metal folder, a steel work table, two welders, and a steel accessory cupboard, among other things.

Members have worked hard finishing additions so that the engineering shop is now supported by having a separate and noise insulated compressor shed, which also houses the ride-on mower. A shed to house the dust extractor from the main work shop has also been built.



A donation of a large amount of hard and exotic woods has also been made. Getting some of these heavy tools, such as the lathe, from their places of origin has been no mean feat, and would not have been possible without the assistance of John from Omokoroa General Carriers and his trucks and equipment. Many thanks to John and the respective donors.



- Answers –**
1. Sumo wrestling
 2. Bryan Williams
 3. No Time To Die
 4. Cycling
 5. Canberra
 6. Sir William Massey
 7. The Avondale Spider (aka The Huntsman)
 8. Six