



### **WESTERN BAY COMMUNITY AWARDS**

The awards were made on 20 March. We didn't win, but we were among some pretty select company. The awards bring together all those who are involved in the Western Bay's community and volunteer sector, to celebrate and acknowledge their incredible community work that is helping make the Western Bay of Plenty one of the greatest places to live. The awards are delivered by TECT, Acorn Foundation, Bay Trust, Tauranga City Council, and Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

We were a finalist in the "Heart of the Community Award", along with Brave Hearts, Good Neighbour, Otumoetai Social Supermarket, and The Elms Foundation Volunteer Team, with the winner being Good Neighbour. The award ceremony showcased some pretty impressive work, and it is a credit to our members and the work within our local community for us to be recognized after only four years, and be there. Thanks go to Alan for his work in arranging and promoting us during the event.



### **No – it's not someone's birthday!**

It's the membership number that we have now achieved – 81 members! Up 65% in eighteen months. We also have 356 followers on Facebook. This again reflects our standing in the community, when so many other service clubs are struggling to retain members.

But remember how it was – in 2021 the WBOPDC offered us these run down buildings. And after a lick of paint, and fifteen foundation members signing the required forms, we were up and running – and we haven't stopped!

Welcome to our newest members Clive Muir, Clive Davy, Theunis Joubert and Brien James – we look forward to meeting and working with you.



## COONEY RESERVE UPDATE - (Peter Ehrlich)

The second stage of work at Cooney Reserve is getting close now, with the Godwit/Kuaka sculpture, the second hide, and a revamped entrance into the reserve, on our books.

Our leading men on the sculpture, Andy, Richard, and John have given their input on the draft plans, and project engineers (MSC) indicated we'll receive the final plans and documents in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, there has been much discussion about sketching out our action plan and required resources, which will give us the oversight we'll need to fabricate and deliver this fantastic community site defining work.

The second hide location has been finalized at about 80 metres further along from where it is indicated on the concept drawing. From there it'll provide the widest viewing platform to observe the Tinopai sandbar from, as well as the tidal lagoon in both directions. The structure will be quite compact at 3.6m x 1.2m, while the three front panels will mirror the hide we've already successfully delivered. It'll also have easy to use access steps in consideration of elderly visitor needs, instead of a boardwalk.

For the entrance, Council has requested that we submit a design proposal and costings for an appropriate entrance area to the fenced reserve and observatories. This will be contract work, and will give our kitty a boost. Our concept envisions a new 7.0m wide fenced area being built 2.0m in front of the existing gateway, with 2.0m returns to the existing fence. The new gate will be a heavy duty steel fabrication with gravity hinges, whilst the fence and gate cladding is proposed to be salvaged pohutukawa raw edge timber between 50mm to 150mm in diameter. Ideally this sequence of work will allow us to deliver the replacement before removal of the existing fence and gate occurs.

All things considered, we have a number of exciting community contribution activities for our men to participate in, if they so desire.



*The hide – showing off the view – just as it was designed to do.*

## POLICY DECISION



Due to the potential risk of a member being distracted when operating machinery, which could result in damage to equipment, and personal injury, no dogs will be allowed at the shed. While this policy is implemented, the Committee has agreed to allow two members who have been bringing their dogs to the Shed, a period of grace to re-house, or make appropriate arrangements for their care on shed days.

*Thanks to our sponsors and supporters:*



## **President's Thoughts.....**

Welcome to the autumn edition of our newsletter, always a great time of the year for me. Our "Shed" here in Omokoroa continues to grow, we now have over eighty members. Although we may not see them all on a regular basis, it's great to know we have the support of members from our community, and that our facilities are available for those who wish to use them. We are continuing to try and improve the quality of our machinery, and utilize the skills that the members contribute. Special thanks go to those who have made donations, and for the grants that we have been given from various donors.

With several potential larger projects coming up this year, we look forward to being involved in enhancing the benefits of living on this peninsula. It's been a privilege to also undertake some of the smaller projects that come through the door for repair and/or refurbishment. Sometimes they look relatively straight forward but in actuality are a little more challenging. Requests from local businesses or personal requests offer the opportunity for our members to practice their skills and talents in creating a solution to their needs.

We are looking at joining in with some of the neighbouring "Sheds" later this year to hold a "Men's Health Expo" as part of our goal to reach out and support the health of men in our communities, both physically and mentally.

As I'm sure most of you are aware, MenzShed Omokoroa has been nominated in the current Western Bay Community Awards. The category is "Heart of The Community". There has been a lot of support for us for which we are extremely grateful. Even though, I hear, that we were unsuccessful, we are honoured to have reached a finalist position of the nominations, and we can be proud to have been recognized for the work that our members contribute to our community.

With the wide range of activities that our members can become involved in at the "Shed", I encourage those members who haven't been along as yet, to come along, join in, and be part of the support that we can give each other.

*Dick Megchelse*



## CONTACT US

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## FIND US

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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.

## Trivia Questions –

1. Which team won the inaugural Rugby World Cup in 1987?
2. What body of water separates Rakuiria/Stewart Island from the South Island?
3. Which Formula 1 team will Lewis Hamilton drive for in 2025?
4. On which beach will you find the Moeraki Boulders?
5. What is the smallest dolphin in the world?
6. What is 'cynophobia'?
7. What is the only native land mammal in Aotearoa?
8. Where does Buddhism fall in the ranking of world's largest religions?
9. What is the term for a group of flamingos?
10. In the context of email, what does 'cc' stand for?



It's small but a goodie! A local Playcentre requested some bike ramps which children can ride their bicycles across. Dick has obliged with two colourful ramps.



The school project is back up and running, and has finished three weeks, with the boys Akash and Micah quickly getting to grips with the tools. This term they are building bird nesting boxes. Next week they will be concentrating on sanding and finishing, and using the branding iron.

## Are you free, Mr Humphries?

On 18 March the committee discussed the results of our sales table at Settlers Hall markets – which have been poor. When the road works around the shed are completed, there will excellent visibility of our shed from the roadway, with high passing traffic numbers. The establishment of an on-site shop, which members take turns at manning has been raised. There are a couple of exciting options to make that happen. Watch this space.....

- Answers –**
1. The All Blacks after beating France 29-9
  2. Foveaux Strait
  3. Ferrari
  4. Keokohu Beach on Otago Coast
  5. Hector's dolphin
  6. A fear of dogs
  7. Bat
  8. Fifth
  9. Flamboyance
  10. Carbon copy