

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017



MENZSHED MANAWATU



The efforts of Menzshed Manawatu were recognized again last year with a Commendation in the Trust Power Community Awards. The judges commented that:

.....Manawatu Menzshed brings men together in one community space to share their skills, enjoy fellowship, have a laugh and work alongside each other on practical tasks..... Their work is undertaken on a voluntary basis. You guys give so much

back to the community and it definitely does not go un-noticed, thank you.



Raising funds is not easy for any group, but often a project done in one city can be replicated

elsewhere.

Sandra from **LaLeche League** had seen small trays made by a Menzshed group and asked us if we could make some for them to sell as a fundraiser. Ross Quayle produced 20 trays all of re-cycled Rimu, and we were happy to contribute

Another project that captured our imagination was in answer to a request from the child care group at St Andrews Church. Brian and Warwick got stuck into these and we were able to present a couple to other groups as well.





The Crossroads Childcare group had a climbing box frame that had deteriorated, and we were asked if we could make a new one. We did and it stands alongside the other boxes, resplendent in its bright red colour.

There is now no missing the Senior Citizens' Building in Main Street. Letters cut out of plywood and fixed to the wall give a sense of place to the building. A number of members participated in cutting out the letters, painting them and installing them.



MUD BENCH We were not sure what a mud-bench was, but we soon found out, and

under Jim's direction the units were fabricated and installed at Terrace End Playcentre. A lot of attention was paid to the detail of the benches with "real" oven rings, and knobs and dials. A clear oven door completes the picture. It was very



LEADERSHIP COURSE A feature of our programme towards the end of 2016 was being part of another Leadership Course at West End School. Thanks to the expertise of Bob Pettigrew we were able to fulfill the school's objective of making some "step trolleys" with boys of the school. Being part of the school environment and working alongside the boys was very rewarding.



SHED IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to a grant from the Central Energy Trust the Shed now has a heat pump in the meeting room. As we said in our application – the room is hot in summer and cold in winter – and this should solve both issues, and provide a more pleasant atmosphere for members to meet in.

JIM PULL – To many Jim Pull was the face of Menzshed – to us he was the Go-to guy, someone with a wealth of experience in woodworking and machinery. Jim has built a small caravan and is touring around the North Island. We wish him all the best in this new stage of his life.

OUR NETWORKS

We value highly the gifts of materials and tools that we receive from members of the community. These enable us to carry out the work we do, and to keep our costs at a minimum. We are also grateful to those bodies that support us financially. Typical of the support we receive is from supply firms such as Cabots, who recently gave us a load of stains and varnishes. Some of these were put into use finishing the rabbit hutches for the SPCA.

Fellowship House is a well-established accommodation for men released from prison. "We



believe that if people have got support and people that they can refer to when things start getting rough that the chances of sorting it out are so much better." Menzshed have been pleased to assist by providing a workbench so that residents can turn their hand to simple projects. It is intended that we share some of

HOUSING CRISIS?

Menzshed is helping SPCA with the fabrication of 4 rabbit hutches. We are part way through making these at the time of printing. These 2 storey "apartments" promise to be warm and comfortable, but are also very secure. As mentioned above they are finished in Cabot's stain. John Allardice has spent many hours painstakingly staining the frames.



LOOKING FORWARD

We are pleased to continue working in partnership with the Mana o te Tangata Trust, who are using the shed again this year to run a programme to assist those in the Manawatu Region with mental health and addiction problems. The programme under the guidance of Gordon Strong runs on a Thursday afternoon, and Shed members are encouraged to help where possible.