

# MENZSHED - TAWA -

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WWW.tawamenzshed.org.nz

Jan - Feb 2020

## Welcome and Happy New Year

As a MenzShed, we are still very young, and still heavily focused on doing the "urgent" things to get us established and properly set up.

Now we would like to add some emphasis on the "important" things we need to do to keep us viable as a MenzShed on a long term basis. So, SURPRISE, we are looking for volunteers to lead five key strategic areas. You don't have to be on the committee. You don't have to have any particular skills. You just have to "own" the leadership role, and make things happen. So roll-up, roll-up, we need your contribution.

The five key areas for long term strategic development are:

**Membership** - increasing Tawa MenzShed membership and enhancing the engagement of the membership we already have.

"We have over 100 members who have signed up to Tawa MenzShed. Impressive. For such a new shed that started out just over three years ago, and has been fully operational for just under 18 months. Only around 60 of our members have paid the current annual subscription of a mere 20 bucks. Not so impressive. We value the support of all of our members and look forward to your continuing support. So please, please, please, if you haven't already paid your subs, now is the time to act. That will be impressive."

**Funding** - developing new sources of funding and enhancing the effectiveness of existing sources.

**Community Engagement** - build upon existing relationships in the Tawa and surrounding area and develop new engagements, including a community education programme and engagement in community projects.

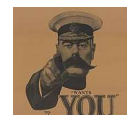
**Premises** - developing means to ensure long term security of tenure and planning long term facilities development as a community asset for Tawa.

**Health and Safety** - getting Tawa MenzShed up to best practice standards for every aspect of health and safety.

Each of these areas will overlap with existing operational functions such as finance, newsletter, web site, Facebook, etc., and the strategic leaders can expect to draw upon these resources to contribute to their strategic area. The leader isn't expected to do it all themselves. Just make it happen.

We look forward to being overwhelmed!

**Your Shed needs YOU!**



## Long awaited doorway access

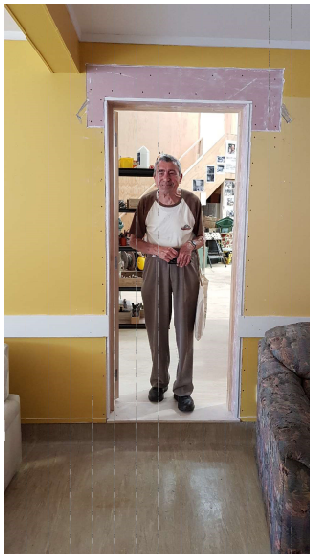
Over the Christmas season, Smartway Builders cut a hole through the wall to the adjoining kitchen and fitted a door. We just need to do a little Gib stopping to finish off the wall and painting to finish off the job. Jack Fry is seen in the photo trying out our new door, and John Gibson after he has nailed the architraves around door on kitchen side. It means that, in the winter, we won't have to brave the rain and wind to get to the toilet and kitchen.



From workshop side - be careful of the step!!



From kitchen side - just waiting for that architrave



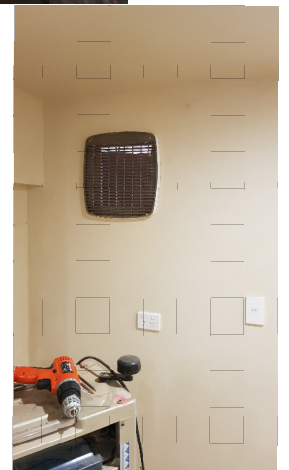
Jack Fry - over the threshold



John Gibson - did I do a good job??

## Dust Extraction Unit

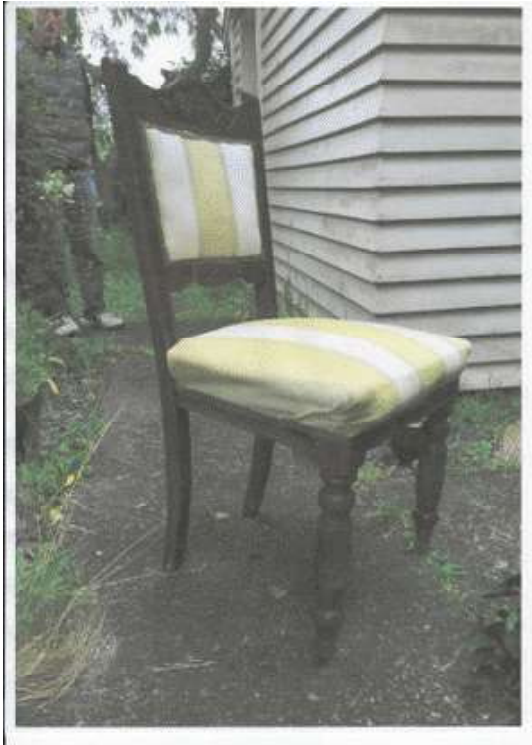
The Wellington City Council has kindly given us a grant which will cover a large part of the cost of building a dust extraction system in our machine shop. The system will vacuum sawdust from the machines during operation. We have also been suffering from a fine dust haze in the machine room when a number of people are working simultaneously. So we are starting off by installing a powerful axial dust extraction fan in the southern external wall, together with an air inlet vent cut into the entrance hall. You can see a photo of the air inlet in the corner of the machine room.



### **Kauri dining chairs.**

We have been given sufficient Kauri to build four dining chairs as illustrated. The legs and the two back rails are already shaped and one of the front legs turned round whilst the rest of the kauri is cut into billets waiting to be shaped. If any member is interested in making these chairs help can be given in preparing construction drawings and advice on their construction. At the present moment I am looking after the kauri timber to prevent its accidental loss through being used in another project. If by the end of March no interest is shown for making the chairs I will pass the timber onto another organisation who may have members keen to make the chairs

Jack Fry



### **Roofing the container**

Weather permitting during the last two Thursdays in this month I plan to carry on building the roof timbers on the container. Then we can move all the timber in the shed into the container once the roof is on thereby giving us more room in the shed to work . Can I ask for three other members to assist me with this urgent project before we get into the rainy season.

Jack Fry

### **An Urgent Plea:**

#### **Lost Rip Saw**

Has anybody seen a large rip saw which Nick carefully sharpened and rebuilt the handle. If you find it *please* give it to Geoff.

Thanks

Jack Fry

We have also purchased three new battery-operated drills, so no queuing any more when you need one.



## **Parting gift**

Before the Tawa Menzshed opened, before we even were able to get in to our premises, to keep us all in touch with each other David Bray organised a monthly “Mensgroup” at the Tawa Union Church. He always had an interesting speaker. This enabled us to get to know each a bit better and kept our interest focussed toward the Menzshed.

It seemed only fitting as the Union Church had been one of the conduits for bringing some of the Menzshed members together that when a minister at the church and I understand was a founder member of our Menzshed was moving on, that the Menzshed make the parting gift for Clare Lind. She is moving on with her family “down south”.

Clare has gone now and the gift presented. We wish her all the best for the future. It was discovered that what she would like was a “Communion Box” to give Communion when she visited her flock at their home. John Gibson and John Holloway volunteered and the result can be seen below.



## **New Table Saw**

We have purchased a new table saw. Our original saw was on loan and needed to be returned to its owner.





## Mission Accomplished

### Friends of the Tawa Bush Reserves

Andre had organised with members of the “Tawa Menzshed” and for “Friends of the Tawa Bush Reserves” to repair a seat somewhere off Peterhouse Street in Tawa. As can be seen by the photo the seat part is pretty far gone. It will probably need to have the wood replaced - just the sort of job the Menzshed like to get stuck into.



This was before Menzshed got to work



Part way through operation



The completed renovation



.....and Richard enjoying the completed job!

Below is the acknowledgement and thanks from Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves:

*John Gibson  
Secretary  
Tawa MenzShed  
1/2/20*

Dear John

On behalf of the Committee of Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves I am writing to thank Tawa MenzShed for renovating the FOTBR seat in Redwood Bush. It looks superb now – what a difference from the rotten old one! The skills and time that went into this project are much appreciated.

We have received some great feedback from other people out and about in the bush, including: “once again a comfortable place to sit in a beautiful bush setting.”

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your group for the benefit of people in Tawa and our environment. With warm wishes and hopes for further successful collaborations between our two groups.

Kind regards  
Carol