



# MENZSHED

## - TAWA -



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Mar-Apr 2021

Another couple of months have passed and our shed has been very active, we have some articles to bring you up to date with our activities plus another “expose” of one of our committee members, but first there is some details of what we are trying to achieve.

### **Shed Projects**

Shed projects come in three flavours -

#### **Personal Projects**

Members build something for themselves. We see a lot of happy cutting and drilling going on. Just look at John Bertie's luxury cat house on the go now - toilet downstairs, living quarters upstairs. As they say, “Dogs have masters, cats have staff”. John's cat clearly has chosen his staff well!

#### **Community Projects**

Members build something for a community organisation at low or no profit. This is the Tawa MenzShed's contribution to our community which supports us. Usually one or more members will collaborate on the job.

#### **Shed Income Projects**

Here the Shed builds projects for people/organisations that approach us. The letterboxes is one example, another is the amazing children's mud kitchen that Ben Chambers is building at present. Or we make items to sell - like the Tui sugar water feeders, mahjong racks, etc. We make a healthy profit while providing value to the customer. These projects can be done by individual members or groups for the larger projects.

The Community Projects and Shed Income projects are fun to work on. It must also be realised that it costs a substantial amount to run the Shed - materials, tools and maintenance are not cheap. We also still have a substantial amount of money to repay for the establishment cost of the Shed - i.e., our building.

So come and spend time at the Shed more often - join in and help other members. You will soon get to be known as someone who wants to be part of our projects. That way, when people approach us to build projects, we don't have to turn them away for lack of willing people. You will also have fun and enjoy the companionship of many members who have a wide range of career work experience. There is always something to learn!

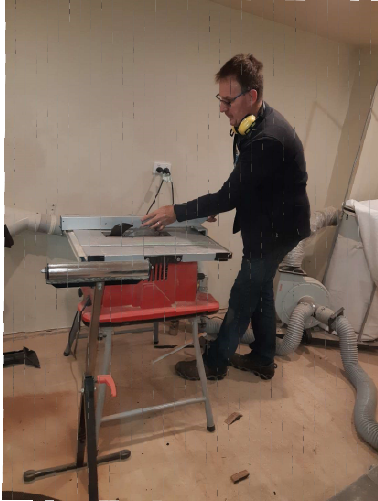
You can also put your hand up - talk to André Lategan - you will find him there most days. He is the Shed Project Controller and will note you down as a candidate for any future projects. ☐

Nga mihi  
André Lategan

## The new and the old

Our equipment is steadily being upgraded due to the shed being able to take advantage of the various and generous grants we are able to take advantage of.

On the right is the new very accurate programmable electronic drilling m/c. On the wall behind is some detailed instructions on how to use and programme it, plus some advisable speeds for different materials. We are very grateful to the Methodist Church Of NZ with a grant via St Davids Fund.



Left is a member using our original small - now seems - quite light-weight table saw. It has definitely served its purpose and will now sadly be retired when new m/c is commissioned.

To the right & below is our new Festool Plunge Saw or Tracksaw, this is going to enable faster, more accurate cutting of materials. Again we are very fortunate in being able to purchase this tool with a grant from the Wellington City Council



### A brief outline of how it works

#### **1. Monitor & Detect**

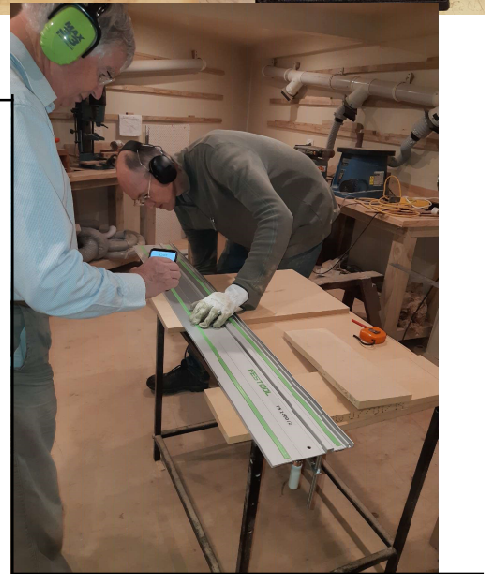
The blade carries a small electrical signal. When skin contacts the blade, the signal changes because the human body is conductive. The change to the signal activates the safety system.

#### **2. Brake Activation**

An aluminum brake springs into the spinning blade, stopping it in less than 5 milliseconds! The blade's angular momentum drives it beneath the table, removing the risk of subsequent contact. Power to the motor is shut off.

#### **3. Reset**

Resetting the saw yourself is easy. Simply replace the blade and affordable brake cartridge and your saw is operational. The entire reset process takes less than five minutes.



At left above is our new Grizzly, this would have been up and running by now but annoyingly it arrived with a broken part which had to be replaced. Part has now arrived and Jack & Andre will finish setting it up. We have been able to purchase this very substantial tool from a Lotteries Grant ☐

Click to see in action: <https://www.sawstop.com/why-sawstop/the-technology/#>

# André Lategan Career Synopsis

I was born in Cape Town, South Africa, home to the famous Table Mountain.



**W**hen I was 19 years old, I sailed from Cape Town to England, on the Edinburgh Castle, for my Big O.E. In those days, the rich flew and the poor sailed on passenger ships. Now it's the opposite!

I spent 2 ½ years working and hitchhiking around Europe, including a year in Finland where I was offered a grant to study at the Viittakivi Folk High School for their six months Winter Course. I spent another six months at the school, working on the school's farm in the summer.

*Guess who on the right?*



*Viittakivi Folk High School*



**A**fter returning to South Africa, I worked on two offshore drilling rigs, the SEDCO K and the SEDCO 135, in their storekeeping operations. This entailed working on land and regularly flying 80Km out to sea to the rigs, for days at a time. The rigs were based off Mossel Bay on the South African south east coast, and Lüderitz, off South West Africa (now Namibia).



*On the left, SEDCO 135.*

**A**fter working for the South Eastern Drilling Company for six months, I left and went to study Chemistry and Computer Science at the University of Cape Town. The SEDCO company kept employing me in a part-time role and flew me to the rigs during university vacations. This helped pay for my studies.

**A**fter uni, I moved to Johannesburg and joined the Argus Newspaper Group, working my way up to Deputy Group Technical Advisor. The Argus owned 21 newspapers in five cities and had offices in London, New York, and Washington.

**A**part from my Argus-specific work, I -

- Represented the Argus on the South African Bureau of Standards Committee for the Paper and Pulp Industry
- Acted as printing Ombudsman for the South African Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies
- Represented South Africa on a Working Group of the International Standards Organisation (**ISO**). (Specialising in colour measurement and paper testing standards.)



In my **ISO** role, I found an error in the operating instructions of an ISO-standard paper testing instrument. This resulted in the changing of five long-established **ISO** standards. The test instrument operation included compensating for laboratory altitude (i.e., air pressure). However, I demonstrated by reference to the components of gas viscosity, that this was unnecessary. This meant that hundreds of paper laboratories around the world had been introducing measurement errors by compensating for altitude. **ISO** accepted my argument.

After five years I left the Argus and joined the Atlas Aircraft Corporation as Senior Scientist – Head of Integrated Logistics and Support. I managed computer support for the life cycle of fighter aircraft manufacture and maintenance. I also carried out reliability failure analysis of fighter aircraft fuel and cooling systems. My office was in a maintenance hangar and I used to look down into Mirage fighter cockpits.



The war in Angola came to an end and accordingly the three major projects I was working on were halted. The Argus company offered me a more senior post and I returned to them.

I immigrated to New Zealand in January 1994 with my wife and three sons. I joined Tritec, the Dept. of Social Welfare computer arm, as a networking technical specialist. After 18 months, when I got my permanent residency in NZ, I joined an international consulting group, DMR, as a computer consultant, rising after five years to be Consulting Manager.

I designed corporate networks and consulted on hardware architecture, Operating Systems, and Disaster Recovery, all over NZ, Australia, and Malaysia. DMR eventually left NZ after being bought out, and I worked as a contractor for some years to my old clients. In my last years, before retiring three years ago, I worked for Transpower in various roles including heading up their SCADA operation and working for the System Operator, Information Technology, Grid Development and Grid Projects.

I have been a member of the Rotary Club of Port Nicholson since 2006.

I received a Keyway Award in 2010 and a Paul Harris Fellowship in 2013.

Though I'm less active these days, Rotary introduced me to tramping.

My hobbies include electronics.....



.....and amateur radio.



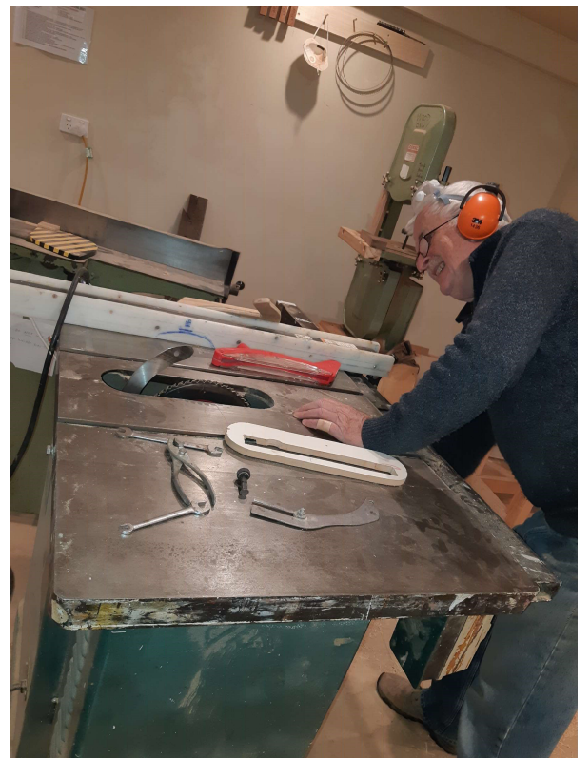
Now, one of my favourite pursuits is pottering around the **Tawa MenzShed**. ☐





Ben again took on the challenge of making another “mud kitchen” - I think he must love cooking ???  
Its looking spectacular and its not even finished yet. The children are going to have a great time mucking about with this. In the next Newsletter I hope to show the completed kitchen. ☐

Here is more of the old - and I am not referring to JG - he has fabricated a stronger, more durable riving knife for the “Old Grizzly”, here he is checking his fitting, clearances etc. ☐



A reminder to everyone, we still have some of our items for sale, we have boxes of firewood, Bird Feeders, Garden Stakes etc., a full list is available from Jack Fry or Andre, although stocks are limited at the moment. We are starting to replenish our stocks and we are taking orders. These things are easy to make and always in demand. Jack and Andre are always pleased with some help in producing them.

Regarding the firewood, winter is about to set in and the colder nights are arriving, we will be trying to stock up on our firewood as demand is sure to rise as the temperature falls. ☐

## Letterboxes

The Shed was approached by two people who wanted a triple letterbox for a set of townhouses. They gave us a photo of letterboxes they had seen elsewhere. They also gave us a very rough sketch - they wanted some modifications made to the design. Essentially there is no front and back to the letterboxes. There is only a front. The doors have gaps above which serve as letter slots.

Building these boxes will provide a good income for the Shed, whilst at the same time providing a reasonably economical cost to the customers.



Neil Strugnell took the sketch and drew up detailed plans - down to the millimeter - even taking saw blade thickness into account. To check angles, Neil drew up full-scale section of one of the boxes. Neil also worked out an economical cutout plan, which meant that we fully utilised a 1200 x 2400 sheet of ply - only a tiny amount of scrap left. He then drew out the plans on the ply.



André Lategan cut the pieces out using our new Festool track saw which we recently bought with a WCC grant. The tool enables highly accurate, clean-edged cuts over long runs (1400mm). Large sheets of ply are difficult to cut with a saw table. The track saw complements our new SawStop table saw perfectly.





Almost finished. The roofs need to be drilled and countersunk, then the letterboxes will be dismantled for sanding. On assembly, the countersunk holes will be filled. Bryan Hawkins has turned out three beautiful finials (like on the first customer photo), but he has improved on them. He is also turning out door knobs.

The boxes are made from 17mm H3 treated CD construction ply. Bryan has used H3 treated timber for his wood turning. So the letter boxes should see a long rot-free life.

The next newsletter will contain a photo of the final, painted product. □

### **Reminder.....**

Again, I would like to remind members about “personal” safety equipment. Some good quality Earmuffs Grade 5 or best you can get is advisable - you won't get that hearing back once it's damaged. Safety glasses are also a must if you are using tools etc. Stout shoes/boots are recommended too. Remember not to have loose clothing or hair etc that can get caught in rotating machinery i.e. drills, saws etc. The shed does provide some of these items - but it's best to have your own. When we get our personal lockers they will be stored safely. □



## The continuing story .....

..... well we plod on with “renovating” our storage container. Phase 1 - First the roof was repaired by covering it over with roofing iron, that certainly made it so rain wouldnt get in. Phase 11 - We have completed laying a false floor, we had to remove the original old plywood flooring - some of it rotten - we discovered that some of what the plywood was “secured” to was rusted through. It was decided that some joists should be laid and then we could replace half of old flooring sheets with new ply sheets and complete 2nd phase of new flooring. It was then up to me to pretty up around the edges by fabricating my fancy skirting.



The old and new flooring with glimpse of joists



JG screwing down the last of new flooring



There seems to be more rust than skirting in these pictures. This container has had a very hard life, there are bulges inward, measurements varied from front to back, top to bottom so its been a very interesting exercise - and the excitement isnt finished???



The next phase (3) has begun. The racking now has to be cut and assembled, after all this is the object of all this work. Its going to look fantastic and we will be able to store stuff in it, secure in the knowledge that all will be “snug as a bug in a rug” □