



# MENZSHED - TAWA -



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November 2021

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## Merry Christmas Everyone

This issue is so close to all our Christmas Festivities this will probably be the last issue this year – but you never know??

Its been a very busy year for all those involved with “our” shed. Lots of new equipment, new activities operating at the shed, alterations, tidying up and making room for more essential items, we are certainly getting more well known in the community and being approached more often for stuff to be made or repaired. Our aims for next year must be to continue to work safely – particular in light of Covid restrictions, enjoy ourselves and serve the community as much as we can.

On behalf of the chairman and all your committee I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and of course happy new COVID free year. □

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### SawStop Table Saw Emergency Blade Stop Triggered

The SawStop table saw safety feature was triggered in October. We got the saw operational again using a spare cartridge and saw blade – both these get destroyed when the blade is instantly stopped, saving fingers.

Our investigation indicated that the safety cartridge was triggered after the saw was switched off, but BEFORE the blade stopped rotating. The user switched the saw off and instantly reached across to retrieve the wood before the blade stopped spinning. Carbatec NZ, the supplier of the saw, told us that the majority of saw safety triggerings are caused by this instinctive reaction to grab the wood instantly after switching off.

The saw takes 3.5 seconds to stop after the big red switch paddle is pushed in. So this is not a long time to wait. **Wait for it!** This wait should be observed for ALL moving machinery we have – wait for it to stop before doing anything.

One further point – the small mains power on/off switch on the SawStop saw should **never** be used to switch the saw off whilst the blade is still spinning. **There is no protection then**, should the blade accidentally be touched. □



## Key Tags

Members have temporarily lost tool power cord keys from time-to-time. This can cause other members great inconvenience and drive the Shed Supervisor scatty. The missing keys may be found lying somewhere around in the Shed or in your pocket when you get home. **Faith Winchester** made these beautiful bright yellow, named key tags. Now if you put it in your pocket, you will certainly feel it's there. Or you will easily see the bright yellow tag lying around. ☐



### **Drill Press Stool**

The new Viking drill press is located on a fairly high workbench. You really need to be 6ft or more to easily see what is going on. **Joey Cabrera** made a handy stool for us. It has an innovative difference – it is height-adjustable with two hinged extensions. ☐

## The Thicknesser - Use and Abuse

The thicknesser became too blunt to use and the two blades have been removed and dropped off for professional sharpening. By the time you read this newsletter, it will probably be back in operation.

On removal, both blades were found to be chipped. This arises from people carelessly using wood with embedded nails. Recycled wood is the biggest culprit. Show the wood to the duty Supervisor before you use it - there should be mutual agreement that the wood is safe. Often fragments of nails are invisible in holes in the wood.

Chipped blades mean that you can't achieve a pristine smooth surface. It also means that the blades cannot simply be sharpened, but need to be ground down, thereby reducing the life of the blades.

To further maintain the life of the thicknesser blades, don't always plane wood in the centre of the feed slot. Plane on the left-hand-side, then the middle, then the right-hand-side. This will ensure the wear is evenly distributed across the blades.

Distributing wear should be a maxim for all grinding tools - ensure that you make full use of the grinding surface to extend its life. It can be quite damaging if you don't. One member ground something on a Shed grinding wheel. But the member held the item on the exact centre of the grinding wheel the whole time. This left a deep groove in the grinding stone. It not only required extensive dressing to repair, but also shortened the grinding wheel's life. ☐



**Stop Press:** This morning Peter Steiner came in specially to re-fit out newly shaped blades on the Ryobi thicknesser. thanks so much Peter - and for spreading your knowledge to 2 inquisitive bystanders.

## Wet Wood

Observation of saw blades and planing blades at the Shed indicates that we are seeing wet wood being used. The cutting surfaces become gummed-up. We will be introducing a prong moisture meter at the Shed to measure wood wetness. We will be feeling our way at first, but 6% to 8% appears to be the best moisture level for use.

The following is an extract from Wagner Meters website - <https://www.wagnermeters.com/moisture-meters/wood-info/too-wet-or-too-dry-woodworking/> ☐

## Tool Wear

Trying to put “wet” lumber through a planer, a jointer, a sander or even cutting it with a saw can cause both damages to the tools and danger to you. Wet sawdust or shavings catch on blades and other moving parts and can effectively “gum up” the works inside a machine or promote rust on metal parts (like knives) and shorten their lifespans. High moisture content wood is also more prone to catching or kick back. ☐

## Wood Damage

Wood with higher moisture content levels is also at risk of additional damage during the working process. Because the wood fibres are, in effect, softened with the additional moisture, tools are more likely to tear or rip the wood instead of cut it. Tear-out, checking, and gouging is more likely on high moisture content lumber. Even sanding can tear up the surface, rather than smooth it when the wood’s moisture content level is high. It’s also a must to remember that after the wood dries, the chances of cupping, raised grains, burring or dimensional changes mean the wood may only need to be worked again.”

It should also be noted that use of wet wood on our SawStop table saw is an absolute no-no. It may cause triggering of the saw safety stop.

In most situations it will be obvious that the wood is dry. But for all dubious situations, don’t hesitate - test. ☐

**We're Havin' a BAR-B-Q!**

**SHED BBQ**

**Saturday 4th December**

**Gold coin donation**

**12Noon - to 2pm**

There is to be a Shed BBQ on 4th Dec starting at 12 noon. Ian Harris has offered to “man” the BBQ. This is a good opportunity to get together for a natter without trying to concentrate on accurately cutting your wood!! Bring a friend - maybe get a new member?

Spring into Tawa was cancelled due to the Covid problem, we will still have to be aware to scan in, mask up etc.

We will have some of the goodies we were hoping to sell at Spring into Tawa available to purchase on the day so maybe bring some loose change and go home with something. ☐





Ben built this and transformed it into this



Completed Mud kitchen



On our trailer ready to be delivered

This is the Mud Kitchen built by Ben (and others). It was commissioned by the Rotary Club of Tawa, who are using it to raise funds for the Wellington Children's Hospital.

All credit has to go to Bens & helpers for the work put in, this is a substantial undertaking

The kitchen is the first prize in the Rotary Club's Christmas 2021 raffle. The raffle closes and will be drawn on 15 December 2021. All the proceeds will go to the Children's Hospital.

The winners will be notified by phone with prizes delivered in the Wellington region.

Of significance to the Shed, the raffle tickets have the Rotary Club of Tawa acknowledging the Tawa Menzshed construction of the kitchen.

Gary Beecroft has been conducting, - starting as a trial - but hoping to become a permanent thing, night classes for Tawa College at our shed 2 nights per week. This is a win-win for the shed as the shed gets revenue, the college still gets to hold its classes and there is a big benefit from the the interaction with the shed and the students - they become keen to join the shed, so there is good community benefit from this arrangement. Gary has written short report, see below.

### **Tawa College and the Men's Shed** **Community Education**



Gary Beecroft  
1/11/2021

#### Third Term Report

- The term started with 12 students in each class.
- However, the covid lock down stopped the classes, and adult students were offered options going forward. Only 8 in each class continue for the 8-week course.
- The timetable resulted in teaching through the holiday period, and the Fourth term course started immediately the third term class finished.

#### Adult Students

- Adult Student Response to the MZT has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Several students opted to join the MZT at the end of the 8 weeks.

#### Men's Shed

- Many MZT members have been very supportive.
- The night classes do increase the number of active paying members to the MZT.
- I think it is important not to use the class as an easy blame vehicle. I have heard the comments "it must have been done by the students, they are a lot of trouble".
- Rules for students really should be no different than those for MZT members.
- Both the early use of the router, and the blunting of the thicknesser, were done by MZT members not students. As for the table saw, I am unaware of who / how that became blunt, but we will blunten our tools if they are used.

#### Fourth Term

- This term currently has two classes of 12 people in each class.

#### Remuneration

- I have presented the concept that "if the cost of the tutor is deducted, and all other costs are accounted for at source, then the remaining "profit" should be split 50/50.
- The college are considering this proposal.

Regards  
Gary Beecroft

## Band Saw - Tension of saw blade

There has been some discussion at the shed recently regarding the tension of the band saw blade - it seems some say that when not being used the tension on the blade should be relaxed. If this is the case, then everytime we use then leave the m/c we would be tensioning the blade then relaxing it. That sounds good in theory but with every man and his dog doing it its never going to be at the same tension - unless we get a tuning fork and tune it everytime. We would all be doing it slightly different. One answer might be for Supervisor of the day to tension when opening up then relaxing it when locking up. Any foolproof methods welcome.

## Dust Extraction

Can we remind members when using the machines in machine room to observe the proper use of our dust extraction system. Most of the m/cs in there have a connection to the extraction sytem. To make it efficient the m/cs **NOT** being used - can you make sure their gates are **closed** and the unit you are **using HAS** its gate open.

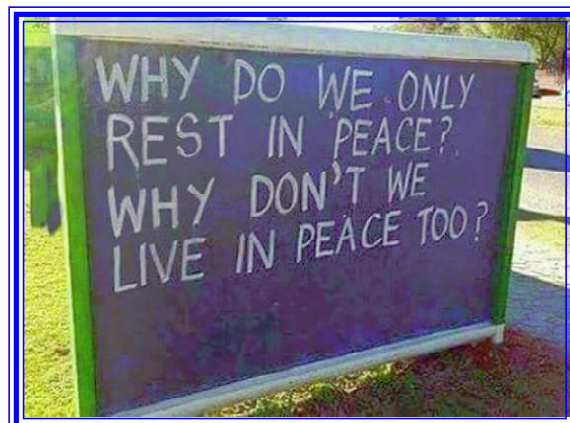
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## **New** Sheppach HF50 Table Router



We have installed and set up our new Sheppach HF50 table router in the m/c room. Before using it, its best to familiarise yourself with its operation and setting up rather than blindly turning it on and "having a go" on it. There is a manual to read - bloody read it!!

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## **A new Pulpit**

A much needed job (well) done. John Gibson has been spending his time well at the shed, hes been toiling away putting up the guard rail on our "mezzanine" floor, but to get there a hole in the wall was made and a doorway fashioned from his imagination - as was the couple of steps to get up and out to the mezzanine. The result is nothing short of brilliant. Now the excess stuff up in this area must be cleared away to make good use of this space.





Stripped -  
ready for  
action



Skippy waiting for a facelift from Faith



Nearly ready to hop on home!

My neighbour has  
waited patiently for  
his return



My neighbour who does lots of charity work for Plunket asked if I could "make safe" Skippy who had been donated for the children in Johnsonville. I of course said yes - thinking bit of glue, couple nails, screws etc. Well the Menzshed inspired me and I just kept taking bits off, gluing etc. Thankfully for me I had the help and advice of any and all shed members that were around over the time it took. I must particularly thank Faith for the "facelift" Skippy got, and help from Joey with advice on refitting the seat. It became a joint effort in the end - and I thoroughly enjoyed doing it, thanks everyone. JH



### **History of Tawa MenzShed.**

The Tawa shed has now been in existence for some 5 years and more in the planning prior to this time. It is therefore time that we began to consider putting aside information about interesting aspects and significant milestones in the early life of the shed before these are lost. If you have any reminiscences that you'd like to pass on please make a note of these and send on to the secretary for collection.

### **Fundraiser movie.**

The committee is planning to hold a fundraiser movie in February. Details will be confirmed in the new year newsletter.

### **Firewood fundraiser sales.**

With the cold snap in late winter we quickly sold out of firewood and with ongoing increment weather it has been difficult to replenish stocks with dry wood before the warmer spring weather curtailed demand. We now have some supplies of dry pallets and aim to over the summer build up stocks ready for next winter's firewood season. Note that the committee has approved an increase in the cost of firewood for next season to be more competitive with other local suppliers and so for next winter season the cost will be \$10 per banana box. Forward orders bookings for delivery in Tawa during autumn 2022 are welcome. Please contact Richard Herbert, 0274455942 or email [herbert.r@xtra.co.nz](mailto:herbert.r@xtra.co.nz), to place your booking.

### **Shed Supervisor reminders.**

- i. We are continuing to have issues with the shed not being locked up properly and alarms activated after sessions. Please take particular attention to these matters on your departure from the shed.
- ii. Following issues with the use of some machines the committee is aiming to make clearer some of the pertinent instructions - but it is up to all members using equipment to actually read the user instructions. If you're unsure or not confident about the use of a particular equipment please just ask for advice or guidance - there is normally someone else around who can help you.



Ryobi Bench saw is now operational, a new keyway was fabricated by Joey Cabrera and we have fitted it and is now all going ok. Please if M/c is not working ok, Please, please tell someone.

## MENZSHED TAWA DAY SUPERVISORS' ROSTER November - December 2021 - FINAL

Tuesday 02 November	Jack Fry
Thursday, 04 November	André Lategan
Saturday, 06 November	John Holloway
Sunday, 07 November	Richard Manning
Tuesday 09 November	Ian Harris
Thursday, 11 November	Bryan Hawkins
Saturday, 13 November	John Gibson
Sunday, 14 November	Neil Dalphin
Tuesday, 16 November	Nick Crocker
Thursday, 18 November	André Lategan
Saturday, 20 November	Stuart Lavin
Sunday, 21 November	Ben Chambers
Tuesday, 23 November	Jack Fry
Thursday, 25 November	Bryan Hawkins
Saturday, 27 November	John Holloway
Sunday, 28 November	Gary Beacroft
Tuesday, 30 November	John Melville
Thursday, 02 December	Ian Harris
Saturday, 04 December	Ben Chambers – plus Open Day BBQ
Sunday, 05 December	Richard Manning
Tuesday, 07 December	Jack Fry
Thursday, 09 December	André Lategan
Saturday, 11 December	Stuart Lavin
Sunday, 12 December	Neil Dalphin
Tuesday, 14 December	Nick Crocker
Thursday, 16 December	John Melville
Saturday, 18 December	John Gibson

**Shed operations Closed for Chistmas – New Year break**  
**Last day: Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021, back Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022**

NOTES: Shed Supervisor Volunteers so far are:

Gary Beecroft, David Bray, Jack Fry, Ian Harris, André Lategan, John Melville, Bryan Hawkins, John Holloway, John Gibson, Richard Herbert, Stuart Lavin, Ben Chambers, Preyanka Gothanayagi, Richard Manning, Neil Dalphin, Daneille Kanamala

If you cannot make your allocated day, please contact the persons rostered for the next couple of meetings to arrange a swap.

- Ben, David, Stuart and John Gibson can only do Saturdays
- Jack cannot do Saturdays
- Gary, Richard, Preya Daneille (unavailable for now), Richard Manning, Neil Dalphin, Daneille Kanamala (overseas until March2022), can do Sundays
- Gary cannot do Tuesdays
- Nick prefers Tuesdays
- Bryan prefers Thursdays, cant do Tuesdays
- John Hollaway cannot do Thursdays