



# Merry Christmas



## MENZSHED - TAWA -



[www.facebook.com/tawamenzshed](http://www.facebook.com/tawamenzshed)  
[www.tawamenzshed.org.nz](http://www.tawamenzshed.org.nz)

December 2024

**Merry Christmas to all our incredible Men's Shed members.**

May your holiday season be as warm and welcoming as the environment you have created for me at the Men's Shed over all the years' we have been together. To you all, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



I want to make a special thanks to all those Tawa Men's Shed members who make that extra special effort to contribute to the running of the Men's Shed and the Tawa Community project we undertake. So it is also a very special Merry Christmas to our incredible Men's Shed volunteers, the committee, the supervisors and all the members who contribute projects to the Tawa Community as a whole. Your generosity and hard work creates' a very positive impact in our community. I hope you all enjoy a festive season filled with joy and relaxation.

**Toys for needy children in Tawa.** This was a significant MZT effort for this Xmas.

Simple colorful toys for disadvantaged children. Started by Keith Gibson and helped by Jack Fry (below left and a hard man to photograph). These two long term members were helped by MZT volunteers, and the Tawa Community Art Group (Margeret Herbert). The paint was donated by **P&Z Resene's Porirua**.



Jack

The combined efforts created a fantastic result with over 70 toys completed for children in Tawa. These will be distributed by the Tawa Salvation Army.

Diana Philips (below) a long-term member began her connection with woodwork in the MZT night classes. Here she makes a colourful contribution.

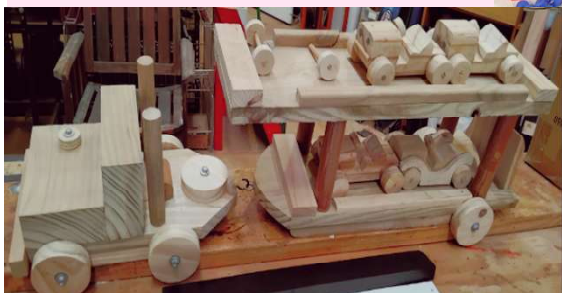


Diana

Painted by the Tawa Community Arts Group



Keith



Best wishes to you all.  
I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

**Gary Beecroft** Chair





## Containers - well they have arrived.

Thanks to the help of quite a few of our members we now have a container for our proposed "Dust Extraction" system, and just as importantly for storage.

The single one(right) by the entrance is the dust extraction one, and the double one? (below) is for storage. How long before we cant get in.....



..... like the one down the back (right).  
Are we going to shift this lot to our new empty container??

## XMAS TOYS



..... as a continuation to our Chairmans message, Jack has a message or 2 himself.

### **Firstly:**

Members of our shed together with the Tawa Community Arts Group have made and painted 70 + wood toys that are going to be given to the Salvation Army for distribution to under privileged children for Xmas.

This is going to take place at the **Tawa Community Centre on Thursday 19th December at 11 am. I would like some help in setting up a display and being in attendance at the gifting.**

With luck we may get a reporter along from the Independent Herald which will be good publicity for our organisation. Can you come along and help please?

Thanks in anticipation.

Jack Fry

### **Secondly:**

Missing from our tool store one Ryobi 165 mm Battery Skill Saw Model number RCS 18C Purchased by Joey 18th May 2023 at a cost of \$259.00. If anybody has borrowed it please return so it can be included in our inventory .

If you can shed any light please contact Jack in person or email:

[jackfry@nowmail.co.nz](mailto:jackfry@nowmail.co.nz)

Thanks, Jack Fry



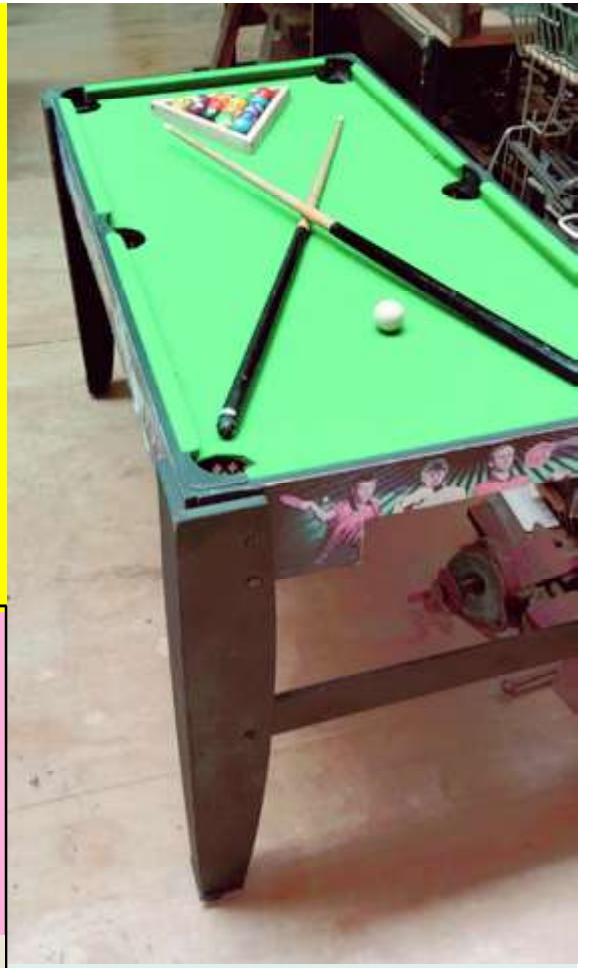


## OUR YEAR OF 2024

Well our year of 2025 has been a mixture of triumphs - some small, some major and dissapointment and sadly loss of some members.

We sadly lost 2 very active members who contributed to our shed in a no fuss, under the radar way, they were Neil Strugnel and Joey Cabrera.

We have recently donated the last item Joey worked on to the " Challenge 2000' youth organisation in Johnsonville - and they were very grateful too. I am sure Joey would be delighted for it to go to helping struggling youth in our community. Picture (right) shows Joeys last project just before pickup.



## End of Year Gettogether

Just a reminder to those attending our last official shed open session on Saturday 14th Dec - and for those not attending our last official shed open session - there will be a few of us going to "Sprig'n'Fern" for a small Xmas celebration - all welcome, please come along and help celebrate the end of another exciting year - especially if you follow politics!!



**Head for heights** - our centre lamp that has been out for a while has been converted to LED. We didnt have anyone game enough to get up there, the fire service were having some rewiring done and Graeme Chamberlain persuaded them to convert our light - and maybe a few others later on??

Just thought I would show result of my toils and tribulations of my poor old rotting bench seat - Im very pleased with the outcome - more importantly my wife is very pleased with the outcome



## A couple more reminders & pleas

I have been asked to put in a request for the last few sessions (if this N/letter gets to you in time) to maybe try to direct your efforts to cleaning and tidying up. Most of us do clear up most of the debris we cause but we are always in a hurry and its never quite enough, so if we could spend some of our time to this we would all benefit.

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Another request is regarding our various locks, combination and key.

Several members are reporting that different potential security risks we are opening ourselves to.

a) with the lock box, please scramble the numbers when key has been removed AND when key is replaced, the security risk is obvious if you think about it.

b) the same really applies to the combination locks, when opening the gates or door, please close the lock and scoble the numbers, of course same applies when you lock up.

We have the 2 systems because we only have ONE key - if we loose that we can resort to the combination lock - without them we would be breaking in. We must try to preserve our security, I think more so from strangers that are always around looking for an opportunity.

## And a plea of a different sort.....if anyone can help?

Sent: Monday, 25 November 2024 2:53 pm

Hi Gary,

Contacting you to see if you can help, or if you can suggest someone who can.

Hope you are well, and that your knee replacement worked ok last year.

I'm guessing that the way the MenzShed functions is that guys come in to work on their individual projects, using the collective tools and spaces in MenzShed?

We have a problem which we would really love some help with.

One of our gorgeous poodles has a degenerative neck/spine problem.

He's only four years old.

We're trying to stave off the inevitable, and somehow keep him going as long as we can.

A couple of weeks ago he fell down the stairs (even though he *knows* that he can't do stairs) and now he's been left unable to walk. If he could manage a doggie wheelchair/cart thingy then life might become bearable for him.

His front legs are largely useless, but his back ones can step ok. But also he doesn't have any balance.

Most doggie carts are made for dogs whose rear legs don't function. We've bought one such cart, but at the moment the only way it can work is for two of us to hold it up while he walks, one at the front and one at the back – and it's very tiring on our backs!!

Do you know anyone who could help us with trying to re-engineer something that would work for our doggie? I don't have the metalworking skills or equipment or experience to do this.

Many thanks!

Cheers,

Craig

Tuesday, 3 December Nick Crocker  
Thursday, 5 December John Melville  
Saturday, 7 December John Gibson  
Sunday, 8 December Diana Phillips and Ruth Pirie  
Tuesday, 10 December Jack Fry  
Thursday, 12 December Peter Nalder  
Saturday, 14 December Graeme Chamberlain

**CLOSED for Christmas – New Year holiday break**  
**Reopen on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
**Next Supervisors Gathering is scheduled for Sunday 16**  
**February 2025 13:30.**  
For changes and further info please contact Richard  
Hebrert [herbert.r@xtra.co.nz](mailto:herbert.r@xtra.co.nz)

## Watch out everyone.....

Gary B and Peter Manson have managed to “persuade” Peter’s boss to donate a security camera system for us to install at our shed. This is a very generous offer from ONLINE.

Clark Meister RCDD | Director

[Clark.Meister@onlinecommunications.co.nz](mailto:Clark.Meister@onlinecommunications.co.nz)

**M:** 027 4430222 **T:** 04 4770000

**C:** Online Communications

**A:** 92 Abel Smith Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011



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We cant thank them enough, as I understand it, there will be 5 cameras, installed to get best coverage of our premises. Peter will install them - with any help he needs from any members - in his own time and we certainly appreciate that. We have a few obligations to fulfill that we will do willingly to show our appreciation.

## Just so you are aware.....

there has been lots of discussion regarding the wood that is in the shed - not surprising, the problem, is a lot of it we dont know who it belongs to, this is to give you fair warning **IF NOT CLEARLY LABELED** its going to be shifted, used or even thrown out , this is to tidy up and make the shed to be a safe place to work in. After XZmas we will be in a better place to used our “new” containers to store stuff.

## An update on our Sign-in system,

Ian Dennison has done quite a few “behind the scenes” changes that I think the Supervisors should be catching up on, hopefully in the new year Ian will be able to give us a run down please.

## Lastly for 2025

I would like to thank all those people that have helped me not only with the N/Letter by sending in articles etc. also advice on the woodworking side of things, I am a complete novice on hand woodwork but am getting used more to he m/c’s in m/c room - a bit scary at first. One learns to “respect” the great work they can do but also we have to be aware of the dangers. Everyong have have a lovely Xmas and all the very best for the New Year

