

MENZSHED

- TAWA -

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www.tawamenzshed.org.nz

February 2026

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2026 - hard to get going again after Xmas & New Year – however, here we are. We hope you have enjoyed the festive season and are now thinking of what is ahead in this new year. There has been some discussion already at our first “meeting of the committee” What direction do we want our Shed to head to in the coming years, for some that is a challenging prospect. If any of you readers have any strong views or suggestions we would welcome them. We have approx 10% of membership deciding 100% of our future, more input probably means more interest for more members.

Kapiti Menzshed Visit

Kapiti Menzshed have a visit planned for **28th Feb.** It is most certainly a social visit but one of their reasons for coming is to find out more about our “super Sign-in and sign-on to m/c’s” system

We have recently had several queries from Supervisors of how to deal with a valuable service to our community, and to be fair to all it must handled under a strict policy for safety reasons.

We have had several members over the years with various disabilities and we do recognise the merits of encouraging them to engage in community groups. Not all of these engagements have been successful from the point of view of these people. However our policy is to welcome those that do want to join in.

That can be as simple as them turning up and having a cup of tea and a biscuit or two, and listening to other shed members rabbit on about various trivia. But their involvement can extend to personal projects and getting involved in various community projects.

We do have one golden rule. Our Shed is a dangerous place. Any member who has a disability which may lead them to endanger themselves or others, **MUST** be accompanied by a minder at **ALL** times.

These minders must be organised and provided by the person sponsoring a disabled person as a member. This does seem to work well for all involved. Please note, this is a judgement call (the need for a minder) which sponsors are best qualified to assess. We are **NOT** qualified to make such assessments.

The best first step is for a sponsor to bring the disabled person along to the shed for morning tea when we are open for a look see. Then he/she can make their own judgement as the merits of the shed for them?

Staying Safe Refresher Driving Course

Staying Safe is a classroom-based refresher workshop for senior road users. **Age Concern** runs these workshops in partnership with **Waka Kotahi (NZTA)**.

The workshop aims to maintain and improve safe driving practices and increase the knowledge of other transport options available to help senior road users remain safely mobile.

The free interactive workshop runs for around 4 hours, with morning tea and a light lunch provided. **Spaces at each workshop are *limited*** so please register in time

To Register go online to: **Staying Safe workshops for senior drivers** then select your course and fill out on-line form

18th February 2026 - Cossie Club, Upper Hutt

25th February 2026 - Seaton Village Hall, Seaton

18th March 2026 - Summerset Aotea, Porirua

06th May 2026 - Khandallah Community Centre, Khandallah

About the Course

Had your licence for decades but never refreshed your Road Code knowledge?

Feeling unsettled because you have a medical coming up to renew your licence?

Curious about what all the changes to road layouts and new signs mean?

Come to our **FREE** classroom-based driving refresher. All drivers over 60 are welcome.

During the course participants will re-familiarise themselves with traffic rules and safe driving practices. The course will increase their knowledge about other transport options available to help keep them mobile for as long as possible, whether behind the wheel or when they stop driving.

The aim of the **Staying Safe** programme is to provide evidence-based education to help older drivers and road users:

- Increase their knowledge about driving and ageing

- Assess their current driving behaviour

- Adapt their driving behaviour

- Build an appropriate level of confidence on the roads (without instilling false or over confidence)

- Build their awareness of alternatives to driving so they can maintain their independence when they reduce or cease driving

The Staying Safe curriculum consists of learning modules grouped in four themes:

Keeping safe: thinking about driving safety

Aim: **To build participants' confidence and commitment to driving safely**

- Assessing driving safety

- Statistics about older road users

- How ageing affects driving safely

- Being responsible for driving safety

- Being safe: driving skills

Aim: To build participants' knowledge of safe driving skills and commitment to using them

The six key factors affecting driving

- The safe driving rules
- Driving analysis and decision making
- Route planning
- Safe journeys: managing road situations

Aim: To build participants' knowledge and confidence in managing common road situations

Give way rules and intersections

- Traffic lights and roundabouts
- Motorways and open road driving
- Other road situations and rules
- Keep moving safely: safe alternatives to driving

Aim: To build participants' knowledge and confidence in other safe transport options

Safe alternatives to driving

- Walking safely
- Cycling safely
- Using a mobility scooter safely

You can find more information for senior drivers including a self-assessment quiz on the NZTA website.

To reserve your space now, fill in the on-line form

IMPORTANT

Project manager needed for the 2026 Xmas toys project. We need to start this in June. This time we will have a "sub" project = Making, sanding and painting ALL of the wheels BEFORE attaching them to the toys. Only two sizes please. Make lots. C'mon y'all! Volunteers please!!



Graeme (and Nick) are evaluating external options for milling logs into pieces of timber that can be further processed on our shed equipment without breaking our stuff. To remove any doubt, it is NOT acceptable to cut logs on any of our inside tools. ALL logs must be dried, and milled square first.



We welcome on to our committee two of our newer members, co-opted on to the Shed Committee:
Steve Hollywood and Hellie Hadfield.

Project manager needed for the 2026 Xmas toys project. We need to start this in June. This time we will have a "sub" project = Making, sanding and painting ALL of the wheels BEFORE attaching them to the toys. Only two sizes please. Make lots. C'mon y'all! Volunteers please!!



We had a need to replace some of our batteries for portable tools - they dont last for ever (bit like us) - we hoped the Tawa Lions might come to our rescue.....

c/o 2 Ashfield Grove
Churton Park
Wellington 6037
<https://www.tawamenzshed.org.nz/>

The President and Members

Tawa Lions Club
Tawa
Wellington 5028

Dear President and Members,

Request for Support – Battery Purchase for Tawa MenzShed

On behalf of the Tawa MenzShed, I am writing to request your support with funding to purchase replacement batteries for our tools and equipment.

As you know, the MenzShed provides a valuable community service by bringing people together to share skills, work on local projects, and support one another. Our activities range from repairing community items to building resources for schools and charities. Reliable batterypowered tools are essential to keep these projects running smoothly and safely.

Currently, many of our batteries are reaching the end of their useful life, limiting our ability to complete projects efficiently. The cost of replacing them places a strain on our limited budget. With your assistance, we would be able to purchase new batteries, ensuring our tools remain safe and effective for the wide range of community projects we undertake.

We are seeking funds to enable us to purchase two AEG 5Ah FORCE 18volt batteries which can be obtained in Wellington as a “twin pack” for \$329.00 and three Ryobi One+ 4Ah 18volt batteries which can also be purchased in Wellington as a “twin pack” for \$259.00 and a single Ryobi One+ 4Ah 18volt battery for \$149.00. The total grant request is thus for \$737.00.

Should our application be successful the granted funds can be paid directly to the Shed’s bank account; **Menzshed Tawa Incorporated 02-0552-0040123-000.**

We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of the Tawa Lions Club and the role you play in strengthening our community. Your contribution would directly benefit not only our members but also the many groups and individuals who rely on the work of the MenzShed.

Thank you for considering this request. We would be delighted to acknowledge your support in our communications and at our Shed.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Nalder
On behalf of the Tawa MenzShed Committee

Thank you for considering this request. We would be delighted to acknowledge your support in our communications and at our Shed.

We are very grateful for donation from our very own Tawa Lions that helped us out with money for replacement batteries - see letter below:



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11 February 2026

The President and Members
Tawa Lions Club
Tawa
Wellington 5028

Dear President and Members,

Letter of Appreciation – Battery Funding Grant

On behalf of the Tawa MenzShed Committee, I wish to formally acknowledge and express our sincere appreciation for your generous approval of our funding request submitted toward the end of 2025 for the purchase of replacement power tool batteries.

Your support has enabled us to acquire the AEG and Ryobi batteries detailed in our application, ensuring that our tools remain reliable, safe, and fit for purpose. This assistance directly strengthens our capacity to continue delivering practical support to community groups, schools, charities, and individuals who rely on the work of the MenzShed.

The Tawa Lions Club has a long and valued history of contributing to community wellbeing, and we are grateful for your continued commitment to organisations such as ours. Please be assured that your contribution will be acknowledged in our communications and recognised at the Shed.

Thank you once again for your generosity and for the positive impact it has on our members and the wider community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Nalder", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Peter Nalder
On behalf of the Tawa MenzShed Committee

A bit of humour mostly supplied by our member Jerry Ball - great to see you still have your sense of humour Jerry

