

# MENZSHED

## - TAWA -

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

March-April 2026



### Jack Fry

A Remarkable Committed Contributor to the Tawa Men's Shed

I first meet Jack in 2015 at the Union Church where a group of old blokes there were trying to form a Woodworking Group and they needed some premises. Contacts in the Wellington City Council had asked me to go along and take a look to see if



I could help. There were a lot of questions about what woodwork would we do, what tools would we need, how would we get them, how would we store them?

One of the oldest guys in the room, Jack Fry, don't say much, but he seemed to have a lot of answers for many of the questions. I learnt later that was because he was a restorer of ancient wood and a wood conservationist. As time was spent together, over coffee or a beer, I learnt, from time to time that Jack was not just any "old wood" restorer, he was the restorer of World War II fighter planes, the restorer of the 600 ton sailing ship the 'Inconstant' sunk in Wellington Harbour, the restorer of Shackleton and Scott's huts in Antarctica, the restorer of Wellington's floating crane the Hikitia, and a thousand other smaller things. This man was a rare breed of ancient wood conservationists. His modesty meant I had to drink a lot of coffee to learn just some of his outstanding history.

It took all this coffee because Jack is modest. In the shed he just got down to doing things that needed to be done. Without fanfare he sorted all the wood we were donated into categories of soft and hardwood timbers and wood types. He catalogued, numbered and described every tool and piece of equipment that was donated. He made a book of them, indexed. Whenever our Men's Shed had a community project, from big ones like BBQs to the smallest, wooden toy cars to donated to children at Christmas, Jack was there, helping to build them.



Back in 2015, John Melville nominated Jack for the Men's Shed Executive Committee. Jack said, "well maybe". Between 2015 and 2026 Jack attended 109 committee meetings, valuably contributing knowledge on wood and machinery to all of them. Insisting we keep his catalogue up to date. He has spent thousands of hours helping our shed run smoothly and efficiently, repairing and maintaining our power tools and equipment.

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That's why, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March this year representatives of our Men's Shed committee visited Jack, now 96, at the Malvina Major Retirement Village and gave him a "Special Recognition Award - For his outstanding contribution to the Tawa Menzshed community as the Chief Equipment and Machine Tool Manager". In response, Jack invited us to attend the next "Happy Hour" with him for a drink together. None of us were surprised by the invite.



Gary Beecroft, Chairperson, Men's Shed Tawa.

### Nice craftsmanship

The item below is being made by Mike Robinson, he's one of our members and also member of the Woodworkers Guild hence the high quality of the Laser-Cut inlays and the rest.



Below is a clock belonging to Jack Fry, its unusual as you can see, driven by a cogged dial - it looks broken at first! - keeps good time. Jack's daughter Trudy bought it in to see if we were interested. If anyone would like it a small donation will secure it.

Contact: John Holloway [021 100 2069](tel:0211002069)



Someone wanted a repair done on this figurine, Jeff Scott came to their rescue with some help from Bryan Hawkins.

Between them it was all back together with a new foot looking quite sprightly - and so was Jeff





# Firewood

**Tawa MenzShed** Firewood For Sale.



Winter will soon be upon us and the evenings are already getting cooler. Need to build up your stocks of firewood? Tawa MenzShed is running a fundraiser project to sell boxes of firewood to assist with shed development and as a service to the community.

Banana boxes of firewood sell for \$10.00 each and can be delivered within Tawa. The firewood comprises cut up pallets, and off-cuts from other MenzShed activities.

To place your orders please contact:

**Faith on:** 027 322 1372,

or email

**Richard at:** [herbert.r@xtra.co.nz](mailto:herbert.r@xtra.co.nz).

Payment either on delivery or to the MenzShed bank account: 02 0552 0040123 00 Reference "your surname" "firewood" "your address" (house number and street name only).

**Stay safe. Keep warm**



## **Bryan Hawkings**

### **Downsizing my wood collection**

Includes :-Kauri, Rimu, Jarrah, Matai, Acacia Burls, Black Maire, Totara, Rewarewa, and others.

Mostly lengths but some bowl blanks of various sizes for turning/carving

Smaller pieces are free to a good home, not firewood, other pieces more valuable and fair offers taken, the more the better the deal.

Have a look is best, located in Tawa.

Contact Bryan Hawkings on 021 238 9845 or email [bryan232nz@gmail.com](mailto:bryan232nz@gmail.com)

Pictures of my wood shed as a sampler with other items are in my workshop.



MENZSHED TAWA DAY SUPERVISORS' ROSTER April 2026

Saturday, 4 April	Stuart Lavin	EASTER weekend
Sunday, 5 April	Neville Wong	EASTER weekend
Tuesday, 7 April	Jeff Scott	
Thursday, 9 April	Jeff Scott	
Saturday, 11 April	John Gibson	
Sunday, 12 April	Diana Phillips and Ruth Pirie	
Tuesday, 14 April	Nick Crocker	
Thursday, 16 April	Bryan Hawkins	
Saturday, 18 April	Mike Robinson	
Sunday, 19 April	Peter Manson	
Tuesday, 21 April	John Gibson	
Thursday, 23 April	Graeme Chamberlain	
Saturday, 25 April	André Lategan	ANZAC Day
Sunday, 26 April	Richard Herbert	
Tuesday, 28 April	John Holloway	
Thursday, 30 April	Peter Nalder	

Suggested Supervisions meeting catchup Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

For changes and further info please contact Richard Hebrert [herbert.r@xtra.co.nz](mailto:herbert.r@xtra.co.nz)  
phone 0274455942

Slightly political



## Just a reminder.....

I stumbled across some pics of our shed while browsing our website/facebook?? - anyway i thought it would be interesting to see what our shed was like before we got our hands on it. A lot of work went into preparing it for us to occupy and we are very lucky to have it.

