MENZSHED - TAWA -

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www.tawamenzshed.org.nz

Oct - Nov 2026

A pleasing and welcome resonse to our request for a grant from the Mana Trust Board

"We are pleased to inform you that your application for a grant has been approved. The amount of $3,000.00 will be deposited into your nominated bank account on the 28-Oct-2026 for the specific purpose of this grant."

This more or less -- was our formal request put together by JG with lots of input from our members:

MenzShed Tawa undertakes a range of community projects which contribute to the health and well being of the wider community as well as enabling older members of the community to continue to contribute to their community. Recent examples include installing a community barbecue in a local park and building a raised garden for the Vulnerable Support Charitable Trust. We also host the woodworking courses for Tawa College Community Education. Our current major community project is making toys to donate to the annual effort by the Salvation Army to provide Christmas cheer for the less fortunate families in our community. In particular it is in support of these latter two community initiatives that we seek funding to provide enhanced and better quality precision tools support our members efforts.

Below is this list of items we have requested the grant for:

Proposed Hutt Mana Grant Kit List

Full Boar 750W Digital Bench Mounted Drill Press	$749.00
Ryobi 18V ONE+ Palm Sander RPS18	$89.00
Ryobi 18V ONE+ ¼ Sheet Sander RSS1814	$137.00
AEG 18V 125mm Brushless Sub Compact Random Orbital Sander	$339.00
Ozito PXC 18V Cordless Brushless Plunge Router PXBPRS-018	$198.00
Ryobi 400W Trim Router RTR400-S	$129.00
AEG 18V Brushless Hammer Drill (Qty 2)	$498.00
AEG 18V 6 Port Sequential Charger	$278.00
AEG 18V FORCE 5.0Ah Battery - Twin Pack	$329.00
IRWIN 150mm 2 Piece Quick-Grip Mini Clamp Set (Qty 2)	$91.00
Irwin Quick-Grip 30cm Bar Clamps - 2 Pack (Qty 2)	$93.00
Total:	$2,930.00



This is how it started all for a very good cause too.....

Tawa Rotary holds annual awards "Pride in Work" for employers to recognise those employees and/or volunteers who have demonstrated commitment to their job. I have attached a flyer, information sheet and nomination form which give more information on the 2026 Awards which will be presented on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at the Tawa Bowling Club. To give us sufficient time to have everything ready for the Award Night we need to have nominations back to us by 15thSeptember.

We would be delighted to have a nomination for your team member from Tawa Men's Shed – there is no cost involved in making a nomination and every person who is nominated receives an Award i.e. there is no selection process rather we rely on the nominator selection of an employee/ volunteer(s) they wish to have recognised

Hellie volunteered to give her account of the evening.....

The MenzShed was well represented at the Tawa Pride in Work event the other night, where eight of us managed to squeeze our way through the crowd to accept the award. It was great to see the community out in force, supporting local superstars both young and old. It was also my first time at the bowls club, and indeed my first real community event in Tawa; it really felt like a special place to be a part of.

We were well fed (and looked very smart in our MenzShed shirts), even if some of us struggled to hear what was going on a lot of the time. As the evening came to an end we all had a good chuckle when our revered chairman graciously represented for the group winners' photo. As I snuck away from taking a photo I heard a whisper from a nearby table, "Oh no, one of the certificates is upside down!" And low and behold…! So after some frantic gestures and much laughter the certificate was righted and we got the winning shot.A great night out with a great bunch of folks, and a good reminder that the Shed is about more than just woodwork. Let's do it again soon!

Cheers

Hellie



Menzshed attendees getting the award



Menzshed Crew - a late function shot



All the recipients of awards on the night





...it does look like they worked late into the night??

It was a cold, miserable day but Graeme wanted to get the roof on before more rain, Neville was up there helping (I took some pictures). Mike Robinson was a more than willing helper altho sometimes it got on top of him! as you can see .






Its made a world of difference inside container - *now dry.*





Gary was also a helper but at times wanted to give instruction?



Nearly there.....



Great effort guys

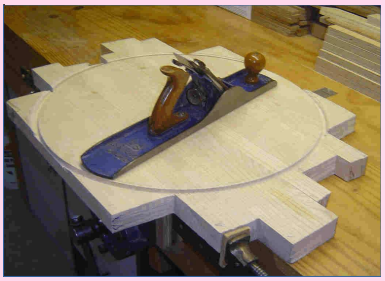
Creating Candle Holders & Cake platter



A while ago, we were asked to make some items for a wedding celebration; being a platter to take a wedding cake, and some candle holders. It just so happened, that a couple of years ago, a few of us went around to get some lumps of an Ash tree from Craig & Liz. A large portion of it had fallen over. Hence it was fortuitous that we had some of their logs in the shed to make the cake board.

Wedding Platter

We planed some wood off 2 of the logs, and cut part way through on the Grizzly table saw, then cut through them with a hand rip-saw to form boards 40 mm thick. We left them to dry for a couple of weeks and to move, they did twist & bend a little so we planed them again before gluing them up. The board does need to be very flat as a laser was used to burn some names & plant images onto the top surface. We used a No.7 plane - it does need to be really sharp, especially as Ash timber is pretty hard. A trammel was fixed to the underside of a router, to cut the board out - it is 500 mm diameter. We rounded over the edge to about 40 radius, and gave it a couple of coats of water based varnish after the laser image had been burned into the surface.









Candle holders

We also needed to make some holders for 52 mm candles. Where do ideas come from .... often people just copy someones other work. We have a few partly turned bowls & vases that have been donated; so we ended up chopping the top off one of these which gave us an initial prototype. It was a bit oval, as it had been turned when green wood, so could not really be used. I had collected some Walnut wood from Masterton, years ago, so some of those bits suited this project.

We drilled a 50 mm hole in the top to mount the pieces on the chuck in the lathe, to roughly turn them & finish the bottom, and drill 50 mm recess in the bottom. Then turned this around to finish the top. Later we added a ring of gold paint, and finished with water based varnish.



Thank you mainly to Nick & Graeme this significant project was taken on and completed for a very special occasion - the family were delighted and gave a generous donation to the Tawa Menzshed

Chance to learn new skills - very good skills.

The Guild of Woodworkers Wellington is pleased to invite registrations for our upcoming Learn to Turn: Beginners Woodturning Course, to be held at the **Tawa MENZ Shed**. This hands-on course is designed for beginners and will cover the fundamentals of both spindle and bowl turning in a small, supportive learning environment. The earlier course in October was sold out, so we have added a course in November.

Course Dates – 4 days of turning

Saturday 14 November - Sunday 15 November 2026 - Spindle Turning Basics
Saturday 21 November - Sunday 22 November 2026 - Bowl Turning Basics

Time

10:00am to 4:00pm each day

Venue

Tawa MENZ Shed

https://tawamenzshed.org.nz/

Cost

$335 per person and includes membership to the Guild of Woodworkers Wellington

All wood, tools, and materials will be provided.
Places are strictly limited to five participants. We currently have 2 spaces available

How to Register
Email info@gww.org.nz with:

- Full name
- Email address
- Mobile phone number
- Home address
- Previous woodturning experience (if any)

Registrations will only be confirmed once payment has been received by the Guild of Woodworkers Wellington.
Any questions, email or call me.
Regards
Michael
GWW Secretary – 021 1398913

Payment Details
Guild of Woodworkers Wellington
BNZ Account: 02-0500-0156706-000
Reference: Your Name - Tawa Class

To my surprise the new automatic gate worked in the shed. Its installed on the planer and I suggest we keep a close eye on it to see how it goes. Since the gate slides right out of the duct there really shouldn't be any issues with blocking anymore although it continuing to open and close properly is the real worry.

I'm not very happy with this mk because I know it jams under very low pressure suction (such as my shop vac). So, I'm working on a modified version with roller bearings to avoid the plastic on plastic friction.
Cheers,
Steve







The clean up has started..... lets keep it up it not only looks so much nicer its a lot safer when gangways, benches work areas etc are kept clean and tidy. Gary and Graeme especially appreciate it particularly for their night classes - where our image is front and centre with the students. Lets all be proud and tidy of our shed.









The pics now show a couple of areas, just inside the roller door where a massive clean up took place and space for storage is now available, likewise in the corner where the wood lathes are , room has been made for some storage to tidy this area somewhat. Again Gary and Graeme appreciate your efforts

7 Simple Jigs That Beat Expensive Woodworking Tools!By Biscuit Tree Woodworks
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXRkeh4wb24

Im Glad we sorted this - please use the hook!!



Here is a very useful video showing how to 'safely' use a table saw. Such as using the appropriate fence ...
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ih9FZBGQOVQ

I saw a lady at the gym on the exercise bike wearing a helmet.

So I put on a life jacket and got on the rowing machine next to her.

There are large hand planes, such as a Stanley no.8. And there are even larger ones, to make roof shingles, see this video clip ....
https://www.youtube.com/shorts/f8ZvyyNG-xk

Xmas Toys for the Salvation Army

There are a number of people involved with designing, making & painting etc these toys - we still need volunteers to help get them ready for Xmas.

As discussed at the last Menzshed committee meeting last evening on the update of the Christmas toys project and their painting.

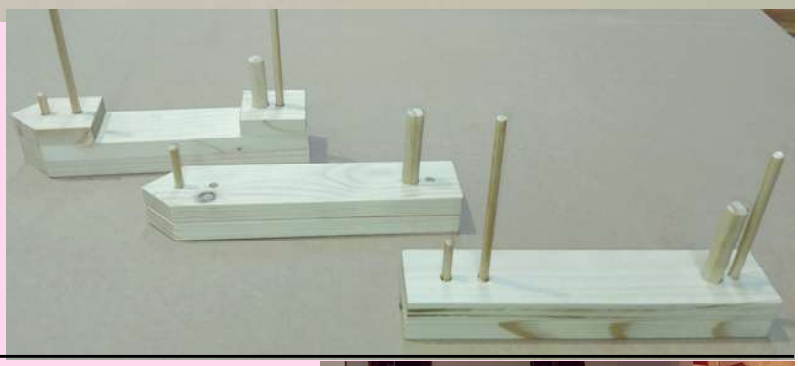
Richard Herberts wife suggests that their art group (that Jack engaged with last year) have a session for Thursday 15th October which would be suitable for them to help do some painting of the toys. If more time is required to complete they can probably also have another session in November. They would appreciate some of the brighter coloured paint please - as the paint they currently have is mostly pastel shades.

If the toys and paint could be gathered into some of the banana boxes that are in the garage then I can arrange to pick them up on the Tuesday 13th or the prior weekend and convey to the art group.



These were part of the result from this group

Peter Nalder is one of the ones involved with these “Kit Set” boats (still in the process of production). These will be painted up and will be able to assemble and disassemble as required.



My Ongoing saga.....

We are trying to keep tabs on when batteries are being charged (for safety reasons) the landlord (the council) made us put a metal safety shield around the charges etc. If we are not at shed we dont need them charging ..... so I installed an electronic timer, now a new one as I thought the old one was faulty?? but there is still problems. Its a simple timer, program when we want on and off. I recently moved it into the metal box - out of the way - still problems, I have now moved it out the box on to the wall next to metal box. I guess this is all aimed at the supervisors.

Its programed to come on 5mins after opening then off 5 mins before we leave.

Tue, Thurs, Sat - on 10:05am off 12:55

Sun - on 13:05 off 15:55

NightClass times Tue, Thur -on 18.25 off 21:00

I have been checking when I come in, thats when I notice it might already be on before time or sometimes its not come on??? but always when I leave it turns off correctly - its driving me nuts!!

Can those that open up check when it comes on (or not), same when you leave - Please let me me know.

John Holloway 021 100 2069





