

Auckland Central Community Shed AGM Chairman's Report 26th June 2021

Well despite stating the obvious...it has been a very unusual year. Many Members had contacted the Shed about paying their subscriptions because for the great majority they would normally have been due 1st April. Covid changed all that and as the Shed was closed for a couple of months over that period, in fairness we decided to push it out for a couple of months. Fees are now set on an individual anniversary date.

After Lock-down when the Shed began opening again attendances were significantly down on pre Covid times, perhaps members thought it best to continue to stay away from places that numbers of people gathered...who knows but for a core group however most were keen to get back to the Shed. Despite this though, interest in the Shed and new membership requests was high and have continued pretty much until now. This led the Committee to consider capping overall membership numbers to 100 and then later to extend that to 110. Also to look at keeping a ratio of retired member folk to those at working age. Foremost in our minds is that there is always a place for retirees and regardless of our numbers a Senior citizen will not be denied membership. This a cornerstone of the Menzshed movement and association, that Sheds just being open represent a place which provides mental and emotional support and general well-being for Men...Community Sheds fill that unique space.

The committee would like to thank Nikki for all her efforts over this last year. This was a new initiative for us to have a Coordinator in a paid position to take care of the heavy lifting admin wise and it was the only reason I stayed on as Chairman. To my knowledge only two other Sheds have paid positions

Nikki's first assignment was to give the Website a new look and I am sure you would agree its a great look for us and perhaps it is this that has contributed to the increase of interest in the Shed, both in terms of membership, as well as for things for us to make or repair for the community. Like it or not, Nikki has also championed the Health and Safety Strategy that the Shed has been embarking on.

I am very much aware that some members have grumbled and complained about some of the apparent restrictions that this has placed on members, however above all we want members to be safe whilst at the SHED. So we want to encourage amongst members a state of awareness of the hazardous nature of the SHED and not to become complacent about that fact.

Only a few of you would know that the Henderson Shed Closed down its operation last week. After a number of warnings about the lack of any Health and Safety framework and the total disregard to do anything to address their concerns the Sheds landlord terminated their lease. Some of our members and members from other sheds helped with the clean up and removal of some of the tools and machinery. So here we have it a stark reminder of what happens with a lack of proper legal authorities, structure, responsibilities and accountabilities. The Henderson Shed's landlord was one of the liquor licensing trusts, ours the Council who are a lot more demanding.

We have endeavoured to keep members informed over the last year with news, issues and developments at the shed with more frequent (we have tried for monthly) Newsletters. Dropping in from time to time even if its only for a cuppa is always a good way of catching up on the gossip.

Thanks to Neal for taking charge of the Engineering space its becoming a very 'usable' space now in particular the Welding and finishing area (tractor shed)

We have been holding meetings lately with Council and the Hub (Pascal) with the object of improving accessibility to the Shed and the Hub. This essentially in terms of the parking and lighting in the carpark. Plans to improve the lighting is underway and going through council resource consenting process. The parking however will continue to become an issue which aside from council providing signage indicating times to keep free for centre usage and posted threats of towage. They are not prepared to allow us to section off a part of the car park for exclusive usage...they do sanction our generous use cones. We can continue operating the Shed, as we have done in the past...Sunday opening until Rugby activities taper off which can be as early as August 1st and then switching to Saturdays through until March when Rugby resumes or we can simply keep with Sundays (ask for a show of hands)

We have just been sadly informed by The hub that they are placing a total restriction on vehicular access to the Shed across the Greens, the lock combination is likely to change ...probably dependent on our compliance. The trailer can remain at the present but will need to be man/person handled to the carpark and hooked up to the vehicle.

The Committee is committed to keep the Shed running in ways that will benefit members but we don't always see everything...so rather than just complain about it, talk to Nikki or any of the committee. I myself have been around the Shed from day one, as a founding member and have seen and been involved in the evolving of the Shed but I am sure I have blind spots too. Like the bathroom toilet which we originally did a lot of work on (believe it or not) but which could do with an upgrade...maybe a laminated 4 X 2 Sink top with inset stainless steel sinks.

Looking at the year ahead there is increasing interest from members to open for more days and the only way we can do that is to have more Duty Managers...so over to you!!

If we have enough interest we would like offer first aid training for members it would be free for Duty Managers and \$30 for other members. This would be a certificated half day course held at the Hub.

Don is kicking off some in-house training sessions with a brief course on measurement (over to you Don.) We have found from talking to other Sheds there has been a lot of interest in 'in house' training for members. We need members who have the skills and are prepared to give instruction. Please talk to, or email Nikki.

Just last week Gary, Ken and myself attended a National Menzshed meeting at the Glenfield Shed and was impressed by their electronic sign in system. If any of you has an interest in this kind of thing let us know, myself or Nikki and you could do some research, get costs etc. and report back. This kind of system would enable us easily to calculate attendances and Shed

usage which is essential for Funding applications and for Council for each lease renewal application.

Now we have had the experience of Nikki in the role of Coordinator this is something that has worked extremely well as she deals with the day to day 'heavy lifting' admin work, so happily will continue in that role.

Thanks to the Committee for providing the on going management of the Shed through our monthly meetings and correspondence during that time. And our team of Duty Managers who turn up at each session open and close the Shed and keep a watchful eye over the workshop and it is good to say we have only had a couple of very minor band aid accidents over the last year. And thanks to all the members who contribute in lots of ways that make this a truly Community Shed (mostly)

We have received no nominations as Chairman or Secretary so Gary and myself will nominate ourselves to continue in that role. (a show of hands needed to confirm that). Gary will also take over from Alex as Treasurer when Alex leaves town at the end of the year.

Patrick Harris
Chairman

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