

Auckland Central Community Shed

February 2023 Newsletter

Greetings all,

Well, it's been an interesting start to the year for sure. As you all know we had a half metre of dirty flood water through the building a month ago leaving a huge mess of wet wood and saturated equipment. The good news is that it's all gone and we are back up and operating again.

This is in no small part down to the incredible efforts by a group of members who, despite some having their own flood issues at home, managed to find time to come down and help clean up the mess and remove a lot of water damaged rubbish. A big thank you to you all for your efforts in getting this valuable community asset open once again.

Equipment & Materials:

Obviously we lost some equipment, electrical mostly, to water damage. Some of it we are now just finding as gear that tested ok previously is failing through internal contamination and corrosion. So far we have dust extractors, grinders, vacuum cleaners and similar all being replaced. We also lost a lot of wood, mostly particle board and custom wood and some paint and fastening losses through spillage and rust.

The good news is that we were well insured, have already been paid out and are rapidly replacing and repairing. We are taking the opportunity to do some upgrades and dispose of older gear no longer required.

Bunnings have been kind and our trusty Ozito drills which have started to fail after 5+ years of heavy use have all been replaced with new units. They also supplied carpet tiles to replace the sodden office carpet.

Several of our dust extractor units went underwater and have since failed. We are reevaluating how we will replace and arrange these in light of the new belt sanders we will shortly have and this area will be reorganised to give better

access and safety for users. The large extractor that serviced this area has been repurposed to serve the thicknesser and panel saw as it has more capacity and air flow. The belt sanders were already in our upgrade plan before the flood. There are still some repairs to do, the panel saw and bandsaw both seem to have bearing issues and are being worked on.

Workshop shelving has been changed to provide more project storage capability and a lot of old wood that was deemed unusable been turned into firewood. We are also ordering led lighting systems to replace the last few flourescent tubes over benches and improve our work areas..

Electronics has had a big cleanup and will get a new temperature controlled soldering station and digital multimeter. It also lost some credenza storage which will be replaced.

Engineering is only just finally drying out now and a lot of scrap has been taken away. There are some equipment plans being investigated now. Also the welding bay will be dumping the old water soaked welders and a new multifunction unit has been purchased.

For all areas we are rearranging equipment storage to be above possible future flood waterlines. Most damage was done to gear on the floor in the tool room and other storage areas. Extractor fan motors were all floor level based and the result is obvious. We don't anticipate having another flood at that level in the near future but taking precautions is a good option.

Projects:

Community project enquiries are already coming in so we should be getting busy again. We may also have an ongoing donation of quality off cut plywood in quite large pieces handy for future projects.

Members:

We are still getting a steady number of membership enquiries and a number of new members have joined recently. I'd like to welcome them all to The Shed community and ask long standing members to make themselves known and

keep an eye on them as they become familiar with our equipment and practices. If you are working on a community project get them involved

Duty Managers:

We had planned a DM evening to update and discuss duties and other matters for last Wednesday 22nd but this obviously got sidelined. We will reschedule this and let you know. We are also looking for a few more DM's as a couple have stepped down due to other commitments. This is not a difficult task, it involves more of keeping an eye on members for safety and good workshop practice and ensuring building security at lockup. You also have to make sure the tea urn is full of water and turned on first thing ! Let us know if you are interested, with enough people listed it only needs a half day turn or two per month and you get to wear the dayglo Hi Viz vest.

Local events:

The Hub is having a Market Day on Sat 4th March from 12.00 till 5.00. They have asked do we want a gazebo to sell some of our projects or gear. I will be there with Meloyelo Ebikes as a separate stand. This event and the April 1st one will tie in with the local March Ecofestival.

Cheers all

Brent Russell

Chairman

**Albert-Eden
Local Board**

**Auckland
Council**
Te Kaunihera o Tamaki Makaurau

