

Auckland Central Community Shed (Inc)

SHED NEWSLETTER



September 2021

I thought I was going to have to fill up the space with my ramblings but already (Wednesday) we are starting to get good responses to our request...for 'what's goin on'....in your world...so I'll try not to ramble on too much.

My first ramble today was in fact a ramble...I am fortunate to live close to Oakley Creek which affords me bush walks and the cycling tracks through Unitec... and already around Unitec I see a lot of activity with construction workers and tradies buzzing about, although I don't actually see a lot of buzzing (work being done). Rather the guys seem to be happy just sitting around in groups n' having a yak which made me think about the Shed and what I have missed about it during lockdown. That it's a place to hang out and do a bit or not... to talk about all the things that are wrong with the world and then come up with some really neat solutions to fix it all (usually not). I think this is why we have been resistant to opening the Shed up more to younger members (those not retired).....like there is just way too much going on...like people do.

Some time ago a member came up to me and said that he would come more often to 'hang out' but members always seemed too busy doing things. I look around my place at what I have made during lock-down...it's bugged all. I did make a complicated (to me) kitchen shelf....I must have thought at the time I will make this the most complicated I can because I have all this time on my hands. I made it out of like trellis wood pieces and connected the slats to each other using glue and cocktail sticks...why, I have no idea. I have mounted it on the wall but at this stage am too afraid to put anything on it...I need to figure out some kind of bracing.

See... if I was at the Shed I could have asked Ross and got some ideas, then asked Don and got some ideas then asked Ken and got some ideas and by then the day is just about over...and I would have still no idea how to do it...ho hum. No that's not actually true, I have gained so much knowledge from other members of the Shed. The problem is, this ole bugged still has to DO it!

I've been hitting my credit card abit over the lock-down, just buying ESSENTIALS mind you, items like these nice striped bamboo socks that I put on for the first time today and the pink track pants that I really needed and some Skechers lightweight shoes for summer that were so heavily discounted that I couldn't resist, and not to forget the table saw I bought two weeks ago and have yet to use...'because this lockdown is gonna go on for.....ever'.

You know I have often wondered if I am a pessimist or an optimist...I was considering this when I was out walking today and then I realised I was carrying my umbrella so I think I must be a pessimist. But then I decided to walk a bit further today because my knee which has been playing up for the last two months is feeling alot better today which makes me think....oh it must be on the mend now so that's optimistic right...ah well.

You know people say 'life is a journey not a destination' and getting older is a bit of a discovery that you find you still can do alot of things and then maybe not others but it's the forgetfulness that can be a right bugger at times. Like when you head off to another room or shed in search of something and then when you get there you can't remember what you went there for.

OK, that's your lot... no more ramblings but to more relevant matters...all being well the Shed will be open again in a couple of weeks. I expect we will have to keep numbers to about 10 at any one time initially and will probably have to wear face masks...but we will keep you posted.

We will keep membership anniversary dates as they are unless specifically requested by a member, this appears to be inline with other groups and helps with our running costs.

Cheers, see you at the Shed soon (hopefully)

Patrick Harris

Chairman





LIFE IN/AFTER LOCKDOWN. Menzshed East have been giving advice out during the latest lockdown. They offered their latest tip to all Menzshed Members who wear specs:

“Like you I have issues with glasses fogging up. I was shown a clever trick to stop this and it works...

Twist the elastic so that they cross over this causes expelled air to vent out each side see pic

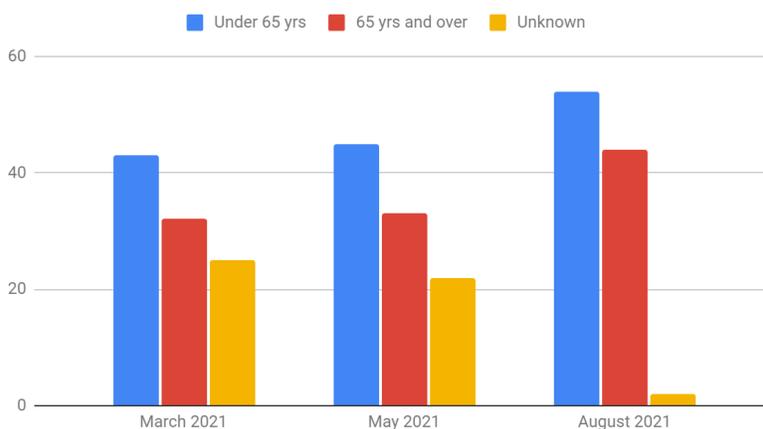
Thanks to our secretary for the helpful hint. I can see again.”

Who knew?!

SIGNING IN/QR SCANNING. The Shed already has a QR code and sign in sheet. However, as contact tracing is one of the strongest tools to stop the spread of Covid-19, minimise lockdowns and keep friends and whānau (family) safe it'll be really important not to forget to use them. We'd just add that as there are quite a few Members with the same first name, please remember to add the initial letter of your last name and, very importantly... *make it legible please!* This also helps Helen when she records Shed usage statistics.

BLUE SEPTEMBER. Don't forget that September is the month that the [Prostate Cancer Foundation](#) runs its annual awareness and fundraising campaign. Perhaps next year when we're all jabbed up and out of lockdown, level 4 at least, we can hold our own event to support this.

SHED MEMBERSHIP AGE PROFILE TRENDS (%) 2021



MEMBERSHIP PROFILE. In August's newsletter we included a graph for Membership. However looking more closely at this it didn't really make much sense so here is a revamped version in case you're interested. The upshot is that retirees will remain the new Member priority for now!

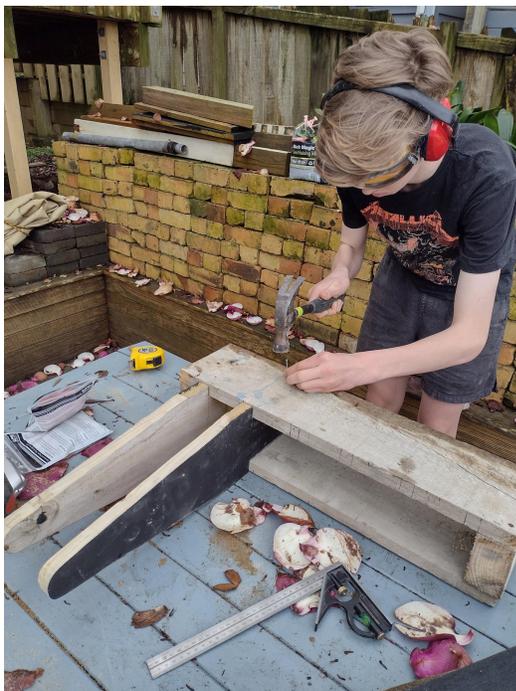
DONATE YOUR OLD COINS. If you are like many people who have a stash of old coins or banknotes hanging around the house, please gather them up and bring them to the Shed (when we eventually open). If we get enough we can use them as funding [to replace the oft broken bandsaw blade!].



HEALTH AND SAFETY. Thank you to everyone who's read the [Member Guidance](#) and had a go at our electrical safety [online 'test'](#). Not only do we have legislation to consider, we have lease requirements to fulfil and Auckland Council love to see their tenants doing the right by safety. As the lease is coming up for renewal next year, it would be a real boon if we can show them how seriously we take our responsibilities so if you haven't had a go already, please do. Lockdown is a good time for getting 'those' jobs done 😊

YOUR PROJECTS. Thank you for all the project photos everyone. Lockdown clearly has its upsides too! Getting creative with what you've got lying around at home can help fill the void of visits to the Shed and queues at DIY stores.

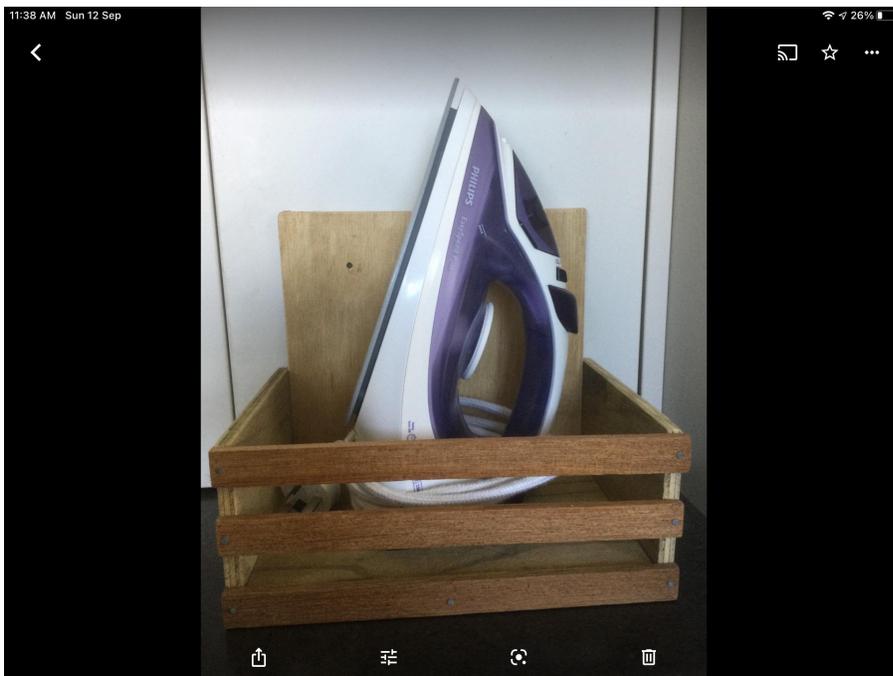
Often underrated, pallets are always a good source of creativity as shown by Brenton who recently enlisted the help of his son to create a stand for his gum boots....



From Brenton... *“And also here's a couple of pics of a knife and sheath I made during lockdown. The knife is made from an old Bastard File that I annealed and shaped before heat treating. The handle is stacked brass, black leather and red G10 liner with Puriri wood. Lots and lots of hand sanding while listening to podcasts when finishing it off.”*



From Mary F... "a little table made from scraps for my sister's family bach"



And a stand for her husband's iron 😊

From Dermot M...*"I saw a nice [video](#) on YouTube from a guy called Doug Linker which inspired me to do some whittling over lockdown. Fortunately I had one small piece of wood soft enough to carve and had fresh blades for my old Stanley knife. Definitely a meditative pastime:)"*



From Aru... *"I finally finished my coffee table! After the sanding and oiling and attaching the legs! It used to be an old dining table :)"*

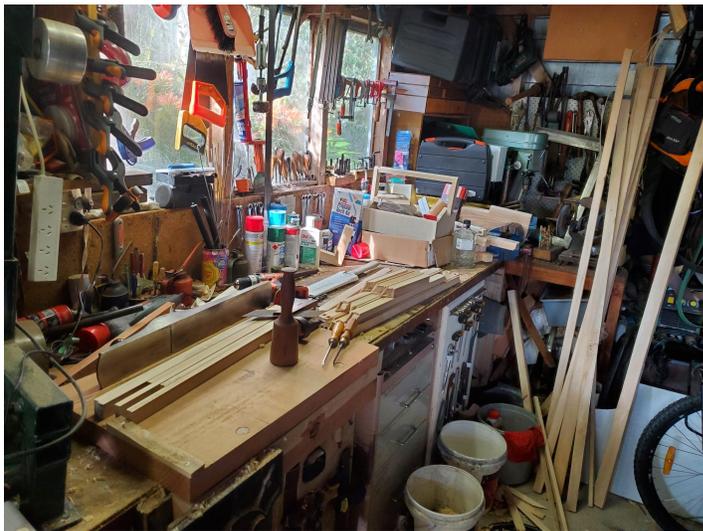


From Andrew C...

"The first thing I did when we went into lockdown was tidy my workbench in my Garage - there was much rejoicing from other members of the household. I then proceeded to use it to make a display cabinet to go on the legs I made at the shed a few months ago - I was wondering what to use them for.

I had a few bits of poplar timber lying around so I cut them to width and then hand planed them square to size. The joints on the display cabinet are 3 way mitre joints, a lot of fun and a bit tricky to make, all cut by hand. I learnt to make them from that font of all knowledge - Youtube.

I am just in the tidy up stage with this at present, dry fitting and getting ready to glaze them for use in my office."



Chris S has been so busy we could dedicate a whole newsletter to his lockdown projects alone... but alas just room for a few this time...

Before and after printer table...



And *“This is an ongoing piece of work. 2 years in the making so far! “*



From Didier... *“Hope you are all well and virus free. I spent quite a bit of time in my micro man cave, damned I missed the space of the shed. I managed to finish one of my projects to scale with the space available.... A wood box custom-built to size. The lid is the highlight with its intricate wood pattern, the sides are just recycled pieces of wood glued together to match the required size. 3 coats of oil to finish. Unfortunately a bit too dark for my liking. I leave it to your appreciation.*

See you soon; all well.”



And last but definitely not least, Ken has recently come up with a great way to keep his tools handy...

A Covid Lock-down Project (by Ken B)

I always have plenty of projects to keep me occupied. Always models to finish, start or renovate, but I often have trouble putting my hand on the right tool at the right time. They seem to migrate around and never stay where I last used them.

So, in desperation I built a “Lazy Susan” to give them a home without taking up too much bench space.

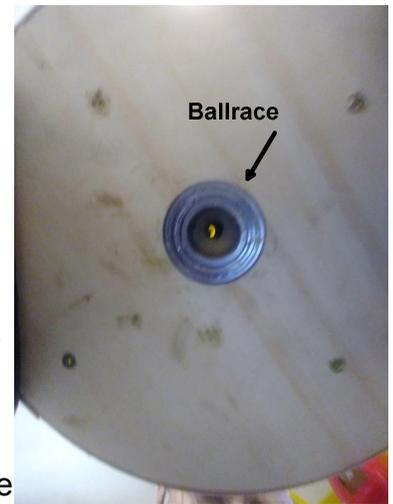
Dimensions were largely a guess determined mainly by the material on hand.

The base of the “rotator” is a 300mm disc of 15 mm ply with a large piece of dowel (broom handle) to engage the bearing and the dividers were cut from an old model club sign board (a bit grubby on one side, but that is mostly hidden) I didn’t want to use plywood for the dividers as they would take up too much space and I didn’t have any! There is an 80mm square of ply top and bottom of the central core to attach the dividers.

I had some “bendy ply” that I glued and tacked around the base to give some small spaces for little items. The pens and pencils kept falling over so I put in some long screws as separators - that helps a bit.

The under base was the remainder of the 15mm ply with a ball-race pressed (hammered) into a hole made with a holesaw that was almost the right size. The bearing was in my junk useful items drawer.

So it is working out pretty good. Looks like I need to make something similar for my assortment of adhesives – Gorilla Glue, PVA, Exopy, Superglue, etc.



Don't forget Operation Clean Up day...possibly. We know everyone likes nothing better than a good clean up so pop the **Saturday 23rd October** (corrected date) into your calendars/diaries and keep those fingers crossed.

NIKKI
Newsletter Editor 🤘



The Shed is proudly supported by:

