

Greetings all, welcome to Spring !!

If you haven't been down to The Shed recently you won't have seen the changes made to the working areas. A small group has been very busy tidying up and improving the upkeep of the rooms.

The wood workshop has had the floors painted and a lot of old material removed and useful resources reorganised. The floor painting has made a big improvement in the light levels and is much easier to sweep clean than the raw concrete surface that was there previously. (hint, hint)

The big changes have been down in engineering where a major throw out of scrap and unsuitable old tools along with some new work benches and storage is in progress. The floor is only partially painted but the improvement in light levels is already apparent over the oil stained floor that was there. There is planned work to modify the mill into a vertical configuration and add digital measuring meters to the bed. It will be a more easily used and adaptable setup for any future hobbyists or projects. Overall the engineering section will become more user friendly and we have several recent new members who have skills and aspirations to make more use of the improved area.

Membership:

Steve Leslie, our new coordinator has been working his way through the membership list contacting those who have not renewed. The last two years this has resulted in some people moving on but we are experiencing a steady demand of 3 or 4 applications a week to join. Current membership is just over 90, (our lowest was about 80) and shows no sign of slowing down. Our ideal is around the 100-110 mark and attendance is growing for all sessions.

Womenshed:

The Womenshed group that also uses the premises on Thursday and Saturday are doing well. Their kaupapa is a little different from ours as they are specifically a training operation with paid tutors. The separation of their group from us has allowed them to gain a council funding grant to carry on their excellent work. Already we have had an application of one of the graduates to join The Shed and we look forward to seeing more in the future. Well done Nikki & co for the effort gone into this operation.

Bunnings Fathers Day Event:

On Saturday 27th August we attended Bunnings Fathers Day Event at their Grey Lynn location. In the past it has been a Thursday evening 2 hour session (4:30 - 6:30) assisting young DIYers to assemble kitset tool boxes or similar. This time it was a 4 hour event from 10:00am till 2:00 pm ! With a bit of rearranging we managed to get coverage over the period with 2 'shifts' so most were only there for a few hours. An excellent outcome for all.

Community Projects:

Currently we have a Table Tennis Table for NZ Table Tennis in for repairs and a repeat order for a Kai Pataka for a Glenfeild Church. Don Hook has these under control, he will need some assistance with

the table tennis table. If you see him dragging it out lend him a hand please. These things are not lightweight and many hands make light work.

We also have a request from Te Tapui Atawhai, Auckland City Mission.to assemble 3 Bunnings supplied garden beds (2m x 1m x 560mm high) at James Liston Hostel in Freemans Bay on Tuesday, October 18th. Bunnings supply all tools, materials and soil for the beds, we would supply time and skills. The gardens are to supply medicinal plants and a therapeutic space for residents in the progress of them seeking permanent housing. Let me know if you are interested in assisting, the work will be reasonably energetic and probably be most of a day to do. I am unsure as to whether we can provide that level of assist off site.

RAT TRAPS: Tuesday SEP 20

Our perennial favourite. Urban Ark have urgently requested lots more rat traps for an urban spread to all houses backyards locally. Are you able to come along on Tuesday Sept 20th to get some of these assembled and out the door. Patrick and Ken are already busy cutting up mesh and I'm arranging wood delivery with Urban Ark. Let me know asap.

General:

Our leaking Hot water cylinder has finally been sorted. Both the reducer valve and the overflow valve were leaking but the 1965 cylinder is still going strong !!!

The drum sander has been fixed but it needs to be used carefully. It is a sander, not a planer and will not rip millimetres of wood off in a single pass. Please follow the instructions that are with the machine.

Committee Meeting:

Next meeting is on **Monday October 31st**, you all get to have a free Labour Day the previous week. Thanks to those who attended the last meeting, it was very productive and says we are all heading in the right direction.

Personally I'd like to say I'm enjoying the Chairman role more than I expected. The level of cooperation and willingness by all has made it an easier move than I anticipated. It's good to see progress in some areas that needed attention and I have to thank you all for your encouragement in getting things done.

Cheers

Brent

Chairman ACCS

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