

Found Dead

Following in last Friday's lead story in the DomPost concerning the man found dead in his flat after many months we felt it prudent to release the following to the media.

News Release

The Wellington City MenzShed Charitable Trust targets the older and isolated men in our city.

It has an active policy to check on the wellbeing of any of its regular members if they are not seen for a while. Secretary John Shrapnell says looking after each other is one of the advantages of being part of a group such as the MenzShed.

The "sheddies" as they are called meet at a building in Haining Street where they repair and repaint items of furniture and other things for local community groups such as Playcentres, kindergartens and the Refugee Services.

Mr Shrapnell says as well as reviving old skills or learning new skills, the MenzShed provides essential companionship for older men who often feel forgotten in today's busy world.

That brought the following heartening responses.

Thanks John, good to see this positive and useful response. If more isolated people joined in on community activities and groups such as the MenzShed offers, these sorts of unfortunate events would no doubt be fewer.

Rhylie Alexander, Refugee Services

Thanks for emailing this to me, it is a really tragic situation. I know that the Menz shed is well publicised through City Housing and is well regarded by those who use it. Keep up the great work.

Ngairé Best, Wellington City Councillor

Thanks John - good stuff - being involved in any group or organisation is what makes it more likely that people will miss you if you don't show for a while. Sounds like this chap wasn't involved in any-

thing and was a bit of a recluse. Warmest regards.

Andy (Foster Wellington City Councillor)

Good on you John. If I can be of any assistance let me know. I work hard on CCDHB and Council to try to ensure that action regarding older persons happens. This is a focus of mine and I make some headway but very very slowly...

Helene Ritchie, Wellington City Councillor

Have a bit to do with Mens Shed stuff here, and am about to see if they want some woodworking /tool skills from my former life as a guitar-maker!

Regards Ray Ahipene-Mercer

Relevant and timely, John ... thank you for being actively involved in this initiative - I suspect you will never retire from serving the community!

Warm regards Ian McK Deputy Mayor of Wellington

Well done. I met a sheddie today at croquet who said Menzshed had initiated a phone tree too. Well done!

Celia Wade-Brown, Mayor of Wellington

The MenzShed is open to all Wellington men, but especially those in the older age group, who for many reasons, may be feeling isolated or alone.

We offer a place where you'll find companionship, and a chance to revive your old skills, or learn new skills.

We help Kindergartens, Plunket, Refugee Services and other community groups by repairing and painting broken furniture. We have a great collection of tools. The workshop meets from 10 to about 1pm on Thursdays.

You don't have to work at the MenzShed. On Wednesday afternoons there's a Grumpy Old Mens session from 1 to about 3 when we just sit around drinking coffee eating stale biscuits and moaning about the world in general.

Come and join us. You're bound to find something that will interest you.

Gary's OK

A practical example of our caring policy came this evening when there was a phone call from Gary Proctor.

No one had seen Gary for a some three weeks now and there was concern that he was OK.

Members will be pleased to know that Gary is OK. He been away visiting relatives, and now that he's back he's readying himself for Philosophy Paper that he has to submit to the University on Monday.

Standby for erudite dissertations on aspects of philosophy that you've probably never even considered.

Approach from our founders

After a long period of silence the City Menzshed Trustees have received an email from John Gibbons on behalf of the Wellington MenzShed Trust.

It contains an agreement that they would like us to sign. Our trustees are considering the matter and will report to members on the proposed agreement and their decision in due course.

Press Visit

Tomorrow (Wednesday 7 September) the Chief Reporter of City Life Newspapers will be visiting to do story on the shed. It would be helpful; to have a good crowd on hand. We may even indulge in some fresh biscuits!

See you there.