

Poor Journalism at Capital Times

Last week's Capital Times ran a very one-sided story on the MenzShed situation. We don't know what caused the story to be written, but John Gibbons said he was going to put something in the newspapers, and he is the only person in the story to be quoted in the story.

The nameless reporter who wrote the story did ring me but spent about half minute on the phone before going away "to do some more reading".

Capital Times received a number of comments from readers who were critical of the poor reporting, which to the credit of the paper they have published. If you want to read the story and comments here's the link: <http://www.capitaltimes.co.nz/Whose-shed-is-it-anyway>

Norman sent the following letter to the Editor, which at this stage has not been published.

*To the Editor of Capital Times:
Re: Wellington Menz Shed Trust*

Be it known, that I Norman Kabak am a former member of the trust established by John Gibbons known as the Wellington Menz Shed Trust. My resignation was that I did not wish to be associated with a trust that was not performing according to the regulations established by the Charities Commission.

Some of the regulations not abided by were holding an AGM, voting for officers, filing financial information in a timely manner.

Further reasons for my resignation are the numerous attempts to contact the Chairman, Mr. John Gibbons, with nary a response from him or other members of the trust in order to ameliorate a situation that was becoming more and more untenable.

Yes, there was a request for professional mediation. By the trust. However, no notice of reason for the request was given by the trust, nor was there any co-

operative effort to meet informally with participants of the shed to discuss matters.

There have been other transgressions, such as decisions being made on a unilateral basis that affect the participants of the shed, and the not for profit organizations that the "Sheddies" support in the way of doing repairs for Refugee Services, and local schools.

Being suddenly locked out of the shed by Mr. Gibbons, is not evidence of an understanding individual who helped establish the organization to provide a comfortable environment for "Gentlemen of a certain age" to meet, socialize, learn new skills, and be of assistance to others.

While I have no qualms about Mr. Gibbon's personal integrity, he is a busy man who perhaps should continue to occupy his professional and volunteer life with those things less disruptive to others, and where he needn't relinquish the controls that it would seem he thrives on.

Sincerely, Norman Kabak

See Rolf's Great Workshop

This week's "at home" meeting will be at Rolf's place in Newlands. There's a map overleaf. If you're using your Gold Card take a No 52 and alight at Black Rock Road. Rolf says it's a 7 minute walk from there.

If it helps, I could pick up anyone from the Railway Station, but ring me to make a time, 473-7128 John

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.

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

