



*Odds and Ends
from the Shed
Friday, 19 October 2012*

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Refugee Services to Merge

We got wind last week that Refugee Services was closing down. A check with the Wellington Manager of RS revealed that members of RS have voted unanimously to proceed with a merger with Red Cross NZ. Members will vote again in 30 days to ratify the decision.

At this stage we are not certain what this will mean for us. The Wellington City Council accommodation grant was based on ourselves and Refugee Services sharing the space at Southmark House.

Our Secretary John Shrapnell, has written to the Red Cross and is hoping to meet with them sometime next week to see if we can negotiate an ongoing relationship with Red Cross, similar to that we have had with Refugee Services.

We Get Inspected

Yesterday we were visited by Winifred Mahoa from the Department of Internal Affairs. Winifred is the Community Development and Funding Advisor for the Department and she came to check us out since we had applied to the Department for funding.

She was to have met with the usual Thursday group of members but, as others have discovered, we are not easy to find. She couldn't find us.

When John caught up with Winifred in the afternoon she agreed to drive back into Wellington from her Lower Hutt office to complete the inspection. She was shown around the shed and looked at the various projects with which we are currently involved.

Treasurer Ian Shearer turned up unexpectedly and gave his view of the City MenzShed and its work. This was quite useful because Ian's version was almost identical to John's and reinforced the nature of our claim for funding.

After an hour Winifred left saying that she was very impressed with what we were currently doing and our plans for the future. Her report to the Department will influence their decision on funding.

Small Funding Grant

The Wellington City Council has given partially approved a grant application we made to help with operational costs.

The Council only approved two thirds of what we applied for, but it will be sufficient to enable us to have a phone connection and will help pay the monthly electricity bill.

Trustee Meeting Decisions

The Trustees met last week to consider how we would cope if we were given a month's notice to quit the premises. The grapevine talk was the idea of a child care centre at our premises had been given the go-ahead.

The trustees concerns were that we have not yet found a suitable, more permanent home, and where could we store our tools until such a home is found.

In the meantime it was agreed that we needed to strip ourselves down by removing any materials not needed for a listed project.

Robin was asked to clear unwanted things from centre room. Ian renewed an offer from the Sustainability Trust to take e-waste.

It was agreed that we do not bring in things that "might be useful" on the off chance we may use them sometime.

It was accepted that the City MenzShed was not a place for members to store materials except those involved in a listed current project.

Dick Smith's Stuff

You may have heard that Dick Smith has closed its shop in Vivian Street. Jim Baltaxe had a contact there, and we were allowed to remove what ever shop fittings we could.

Thursday afternoon six members sweated and lugged large storage shelving units and various other storage devices out of Dick Smiths.

Some went to the Sustainability Trust, who lent us their truck, some went to the shed for immediate use and the rest are in temporary storage.

TradeMe Account

We now have our own TradeMe account and its been put to good use recently.

We acquired several large computer desks and John has been auctioning these on TradeMe. The first made \$60, the second \$50 and the last one \$100.

Thank you Jim B for managing to get the desks. The funds should enable us to buy some fresh biscuits for morning tea.

No Pictures

We usually managed at least one picture for each newsletter. We thought we'd have a good one when a certain member produced a sealed brown paper bag at morning tea.

He exclaimed that is reputation was almost in tatters when he'd made the purchase. The shopkeeper had given looks of disapproval and promptly wrapped the product in the brown paper bag.

With some ceremony the product was slipped out of the bag, and it was a copy of Playboy magazine.

The predictable Ahs, Oos and other ribald comments were made, but the member protested that he's bought it for the article on atheism. In the faced of much jeering he turned to the index and there was such an article.

Whilst there were other pictures in the magazine we could have used they came a poor second to the article - hence no pix.

The MenzShed is open to all Wellington men, but especially those in the older age group.

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.

We meet from 10 to 1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 12 to 3pm on Wednesdays.

You will find us through the loading bay at the top of Feltex Lane which runs beside Warehouse Stationery in Victoria Street.

