



*Odds and Ends
from the Shed
Friday, 6 December 2012*

Website - www.citymenzshed.wellington.net.nz
Email - info@citymenzshed.wellington.net.nz

Yes, We Are Open

We can almost match London's Windmill Theatre's motto *We never close*.

Apart from Christmas Day the City MenzShed has been open almost everyday. We felt the holiday period might be a time when some members might need a place to be we were there.

Now that things are getting back to normal we are returning to our normal open hours, Tuesday and Thursday 10-1 and Wednesdays 12-3.

Sustainability Trust Bench Top Ready

For the last few weeks our President Don Matheson has been working a pile of recycled matai floor boards, turning timber into an eating bench for the Sustainability Trust.

The bench top is now finished and has been coated and re-coated in Tung oil and is ready for installation at the Sustainability Trust offices in Forrester's Lane

Still No News on Roller Door

We regret to report that there's still no news on when the roller door will be replaced. It was supposed to have happened about three months ago. Here's hoping.

National Body for MenzSheds?

For the past year work has been taking place to try to establish a national body to represent MenzSheds throughout New Zealand.

Why do we need a national organisation? Three are three main reasons. First the menzshed movement currently has little clout with local government and none with central government. Where as across the ditch both state and central government have realised that menzshed improve mens' wellbeing and health and so help cut health costs the Australian movement get \$3 million support.

Second, some large companies who are our potential suppliers of tools and products, won't deal with local sheds, they will only deal with national bodies.

Third a national body could arrange bulk services for all sheds such a insurance.

There is a hope that such a national organisation will be established when MenzSheds meet in Nelson next month for a National Conference, but there is some doubt.

One group supports the idea of an organisation with a well paid chief executive. The opposing group believes that MenzSheds are essentially a volunteer organisations and any national body should be run on the same lines. Paying executive salaries would just suck up money desperately needed by the sheds.

The menzshed volunteer executives from the lower North Island are meeting in Plimmerton next Friday to try and work out a strategy for the National Conference. Our Chair, Don Matheson, and Secretary, John Shrapnell, will be representing the City Menzshed.

Watch this space. And let us know your opinion.

NZ's First Makertorium

City MenzShed is getting ready to display at New Zealand's first Makertorium, which will be hosted by Te Papa on April 27th.

The Makertorium is being jointly organised by Mowhawk Media, Makers.org.nz, Diatom Studio, PixelBrid, and The Wellington Makerspace.

Wellington City council have kindly sponsored the venue for the event, and there will be exhibits and events taking place in the Wellington Foyer, Icon room and amphitheatre areas of Te Papa. The event is a celebration of all kinds of making, and has several different areas and spectacles. There is expected to be 8-10000 visitors on the day as it takes place on

Anzac weekend.

The whole event is designed to be interactive, and the idea is to spread the message of maker resilience, to inspire people to get involved and have a go at learning new skills and creating a project, so as much as possible exhibitors are encouraged to have an element of interactivity on their stand.

This should be an opportunity spread the news about City Menzshed and what we do. It will be a success for us if we are overwhelmed with members who want to show projects that they are working on.

If all we have to show is a few pix of what we'd one and some leaflets then we are likely to be the most boring stand and no one will notice us.

Start thinking **now!** It's only a few weeks away.

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.

Email - info@citymenzshed.wellington.net.nz

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