

Standby for the Mayoral Visit

On Wednesday 31 July at 1230 pm the Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown is scheduled to spend an hour at the City MenzShed.

We issued the invitation some time ago, but as you'd expect the Mayor always has a busy schedule so its a compliment to the City MenzShed that she's set aside an hour to talk with us.

This means that on Tuesday we must clean up - not that we're in much of a mess now, but a vacuum upstairs and a clean of the kitchen would help.

Talking to Celia's PA I suggested that as it was over the lunch period we could offer her a cup of tea and perhaps a scone. This suggestion got a very positive response. We hope all members will come and if its possible could you bring a small plate with some finger food. We don't need great heaps of food, just what you would eat at lunch time, plus one other.

At this stage we will probably have the food on a table upstairs where it's not so dusty.

The Wellington City Council helped us with a grant for rent money, and another grant towards general operating costs. In a sense this is our opportunity to show and tell the Mayor and Council how we have used those funds.

If you feel that being part of the City MenzShed has improved your sense of independence and wellbeing then let Cecila know. We are dependent upon publicity that spreads the news of the City MenzShed and upon grants for our survival. If we don't speak out, how will the rest of the community know about us?

The Glass House Project

A big thank you to all those who came to help with the Glass house project this week although perhaps we should call it the Bottle House Project.

Shane and Charles from Aro Valley approached the City MenzShed. They wanted to build two glass houses, one for the Aro Valley Community Centre and the other for the school. Could we build the frames and they would glaze the walls, not with glass but with recycled drink bottles.

Since neither Shane or Charles were builders the was a little tooing and froing about the nature of the design but in the end we came to an agreement.

On Tuesday 170 metres of 100 x 50 treated timber was delivered plus a package of hardware. Tuesday afternoon we worked out a cutting list and on Wednesday the work began in earnest to assemble the first house.



We are lucky that there's sufficient room in the old Chinese Mission Hall to erect the four walls of the glass house and even put on the roof.

Come Thursday and we were able to bolt the individual units together, and mark the bracing lines. We even able to cope with the arrival of a journalist, Robert Johnson, from the Independent Herald who took photos, and who will be writing a story for this coming week's issue. That's him on the right of the picture talking to Menzshed Secretary, John Shrapnell.

Others in the picture, left to right, are Garry Procter, Chair Don Matheson, Steve Vaney, Stuart Hudson inside the frame, and Jim Baltaxe.



They plan to join the columns of bottles with silicone rubber, and then hold the columns in place on the frames with recycled plastic strapping.

If a that goes to plan we then have to build them their second bottle house.



On Friday Aro Valley entrepreneurs Charles and Shane came to pick up the wall frames and roof for the house and take it to a temporary site in Aro Valley.



This morning (Saturday) a team of volunteers were busy removing the labels from plastic drink bottles and gluing them in columns to be fitted into the wooden frames.

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 at the old Chinese Mission Hall, 46 Frederick Street.

Email - info@citymenzshed.org.nz

Phone - 04210-3003

Website - www.citymenzshed.org.nz

PS don't forget to tell your friends about the City MenzShed. We need lots more members, and look at the fun you can have for an annual sub of only \$20