



*Odds and Ends  
from the Shed*

*Thursday, 23 January 2014*

Website - [www.citymenzshed.org.nz](http://www.citymenzshed.org.nz)

Email - [info@citymenzshed.org.nz](mailto:info@citymenzshed.org.nz)

## A Shaky Start, But We're Fine

While others in Wellington had various degrees of damage, our earthquake risk rated City MenzShed just shrugged its 109 year old cloak of bricks and wood. As though to say "So what? Had a few of those in my time".

We couldn't find a crack or a broken window, just one piece of wood that had slipped sideways off the pile.

But we must not get blasé. The building has been yellowed stickered, and it is part of our agreement with our friendly landlord that we each sign in the book each visit thus acknowledging that we are using the building at our own risk.

Our search for a new and more permanent home continues, but so far nothing has been found that provides the space we need in the city area at a cost that we might be able to find from a sponsor. Keep looking and asking about.

## New Projects & Fund Raising

Although we only formally opened last week, there's been activity in the shed almost every day of the Christmas New Year period.

Don Matheson is in the process of completing an agreement with a local club to build them three new Honours Boards for their club room. This is a premium job with expensive timbers so Steve Vaney is taking the lead on this one.

A meeting of Trustees this week agreed that we needed to be more proactive in fund raising. Although we have been successful in obtaining grants to our operating costs, one major sponsor refused

to help us because they claimed we were not sustainable because we didn't run sausage sizzles etc to gain funds. We pointed out that even weekly sausage sizzles would only produce a few hundred dollars whereas to lease building would require several thousand dollars.

Nevertheless the message was there and the Trustees decide even though that its not our raison d'être we must become more proactive in fund raising.

We decided we should have at least two on going projects where we produce a number of items that we can sell at events around Wellington, or on the internet. Two that have been suggested as starters are wind mobiles and novel coat hooks.

The concept is that we will have plans or templates for the components of each project. Anyone coming to the shed and wanting to be involved can make any of the components parts that may suit their skill level.

When there are sufficient parts made we will assemble and finish the items ready for sale.

If you have any suggestions for projects please talk to any of the trustees - Don Matheson, John Shrapnell, George Sutton, John Wilson, Stuart Hudson, Jim Baltax or just email [info@citymenzshed.org.nz](mailto:info@citymenzshed.org.nz).

## Haining Street Shed

A possible solution to finding a more permanent home came from the City Council who would like us to amalgamate with the Haining Street shed.

Haining Street has much less space than us, and we wouldn't fit into their premises. We agreed we



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could accommodate Haining Street with ease and invited them to join us on the same conditions of all our members. The Haining Street trustee, John Gibbons agreed to this at a meeting with the Council, but then changed his mind. He put it this way.

*The membership fee to \$20 a head from \$2, will cause an issue with some of our members--an unacceptable situation which needs to be sorted out when we amalgamate.*

*We have evidence that the City Shed has in the past been very negative towards the less fortunate in society which we see as a critical purpose of Sheds, so this needs to change also.*

*We have no intention of amalgamating in their current location and shutting our premises as either of us could be given notice tomorrow.*

The City Council is considering the situation and we may hear more next week. We'll keep you in touch.

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.

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