



Odds and Ends
from the Shed

Saturday 10 October 2015

NZ Charitable Trust
CC46249

Website - www.citymenzshed.org.nz
Email - info@citymenzshed.org.nz

We Try Again

Once again we have formally written to the Wellington City Council asking for help in finding us a safe reliable home.

We are now in our third year at the old Chinese Mission Hall, but it's an earthquake risk building and we are there on a month-by-month lease



Our friendly landlord, developer Maurice Clark, was persuaded to let us use the building while we sought a permanent home. Because of the possible risk of injury in an earthquake, Mr Clark requires us to sign in at each visit acknowledging that we know we are at risk. We also cannot open our doors to members of the public.

For our part we must continue to seek a safe reliable home for the City MenzShed. Because we care for the older men throughout Wellington that home needs to be somewhere easily accessible for men from far afield as say Island Bay, Karori or Newlands. That virtually means central city and on a bus route.

We believe our members need to know what we say to the Council and the arguments which form the basis for our seeking Council help.

Mr Kevin Lavery
Chief Executive Officer, Wellington City Council

Ref. 151005WCC
Copied Mayor & Councillors

Wellington City MenzShed Needs a Safe Reliable Home

Our secretary wrote to you in June last year about the above matter. Your Executive Assistant, Linda Vekula, replied on your behalf "Council Officers have been asked to respond directly". Apart from one brief meeting with your property people there has been no progress. Nothing has happened in over a year.

The Board of the City MenzShed asks again that you consider this matter.

All countries in the develop world are facing the same problem of a rapidly ageing population as the "Baby Boomers" begin retiring. New Zealand is no different.

"At the national level, the main concerns are the sustainability of a taxpayer-funded superannuation, and the increased cost of providing health services for older people. At the regional and local levels there are planning implications for health-related issues (eg disability, mental health), for housing and accommodation, and for the provision of aged-care, transport, and community support services.



Supported by



There is a need for studies of older people in terms of life and health satisfaction, and in participation in leisure activities, etc.” (NZ Statistics 2015).

The Menzshed movement in New Zealand is providing some solutions. Did you know that in the Wellington Region alone there are Menzsheds in Masterton, Carterton, Greytown, Martinborough, Featherston, Otaki, and Waikanae. Sheds are in the planning for Porirua and Paraparaumu.

Lower Hutt City Council supports three Menzsheds in Naenae, Days Bay, and Wainuiomata. All of these MenzShed are substantially supported by local Councils with donated land, buildings or peppercorn rentals and thousand of dollars in set up money.

Wellington had two sheds, but the Council said it would not support two. The Wellington MenzShed wound up earlier this year. There is now only the City MenzShed, which has now spent three years on a month-by-month lease in an earthquake risk building.

We are supported not by the Wellington City Council, but by a private property developer.

We have scoured the city for possible premises, and have put forward many suggestions to the Wellington City Council for a new home, but all have been rejected.

Can your office help us in any way so that we can continue our work? We would like to discuss the issue with you or your staff at any time.

The attached document lists a few facts about the City MenzShed, you could also check out our website, www.citymenzshed.org.nz especially the newsletters.

Don Matheson, President

John Shrapnell, Secretary

George Sutton, Treasurer

Board members:

Jim Baltaxe

Stuart Hudson

Don McKenzie

Steve Vaney

John Wilson



The Wellington City MenzShed Charitable Trust cares for the older men in our city: we need your help to find a safe reliable home in the central city.

Policy Fit

Our efforts fit very clearly with the objectives of the Positive Ageing Policy of the Wellington City Council and those of the Ministry of Social Development.

Our members fall into two broad categories.

- Men who have retired, or have been made redundant, who now find the world thinks they are past it, and so have nothing to contribute.
- Men who have lost their partner, the kids have moved away, and are now isolated and lonely.

We provide companionship and share new skills.

- We restore men's sense of wellbeing by undertaking community work:
 - We make and repair toys and furniture for child care centres, and other community groups.
 - We encourage men to work on their own projects – home maintenance

We provide health support

- We bring in experts to talk about health issues such as prostate cancer, gout and osteo arthritis
- We take part in studies on ageing with Massey University.
- We encourage men from care homes to visit our Shed

Our work is recognised internationally:

• British National Health Service ran an international search for means to help socialise the elderly. Ten ideas were short listed from around the world. Nine of them were at the concept stage. “If did this, we should get this outcome.” The tenth entry, from the City MenzShed, described what we have been doing for three years and our success.

- We won the first prize of \$2000. We do not just think up ideas; we act on them.

Our work is recognised locally:

- Adult and Community Education Aotearoa national award 2013
- Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards – commended (Health and Wellbeing 2013)
- Visits from the mayor, Celia Wade-Brown; all but one of the Wellington City councillors;
- Visits by the Director of MSD, Sarah Clarke; Minister of Internal Affairs Minister Peter Dunn.

We need your help.

We are now in our third temporary home. It’s the right size, in the city, on bus routes so we can use our Gold Cards. But it’s a yellow stickered earthquake risk building. The risk doesn’t worry us: we’re too old to worry, and the building has been around since 1905 and shows no sign of damage.

We are there through the good will of our friendly landlord who owns the building. He is awaiting Council consents to reinstate or demolish. Neither option will include the City MenzShed.

We could do so much more

- We get regular requests to run DIY and basic home maintenance sessions.
- We get regular request to run basic carpentry classes for young people.
- We get regular requests to run furniture restoration classes.

All of these activities would help us to become self-funding.

Thank You

Our thanks to Janet Williams and son who called to drop off some Rimu that she found when clearing out the garden shed.

If timber of clean and borer free we can use it to repair or build items for child care centres and community groups.

Another Screen

Next week we are due to pick up some Fijian Kauri to build another office screen for a commercial company. It’s the occasional job like this that helps us to keep our membership fees to a minimum.

The City 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 Thursdays some Fridays, and 12 to 3pm on Wednesdays at the old Chinese Mission Hall, 46 Frederick Street.

Email - info@citymenzshed.org.nz
Phone - 04210-3003
Website - www.citymenzshed.org.nz
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