



NZ Charitable Trust
CC46249

Odds and Ends
from the Shed
Monday, 18 January 2016
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No Changes

So here we are at the start of 2016 and nothing much has changed. Our Secretary got a year older and now only has 19 years to wait for the telegram from the King - that's if there are still telegrams in 2034 and a King for that matter.

Our search for a new home continues and we wonder when Maurice's patience will run out.

In the week before Christmas we finally got a response to our request for a meeting with the City Council's Chief Executive, Kevin Lavery.

Our President Don Matheson, Secretary John Shrapnell and Treasurer George Sutton attended.

There was no sign of the Chief Executive, but we did get Mayor Celia Wade-Brown and a couple of her officers. After just under an hour of talking round the table about how difficult it was to find suitable space. We were told that the Council's commercial real estate person, Paula Comerford would take one more look.

On the day before Christmas Eve we were shown the ground floor of an old printing works in Marion Street. It did not impress as there were no lights working and the place was crammed full of the landlords old furniture, mattresses and washing machines from the flats in the floors above.

How much is the lease Paula?
\$23,000.

But we don't have that sort of income.

Then you'll have to find a income stream and apply for more grants. Use your membership subs.

They're \$20 a year.

Your lot are all middle class they can afford to pay \$20 every visit!

We were sent a lease document to sign on Christmas Eve but we said we needed more time and another look. We looked again last week and then sent this letter to the Mayor.

Dear Celia and colleagues,

Since we last met the majority of the City MenzShed Board of Trustees have explored the proposed new home for the Menzshed at 25a Marion Street. Our Board appreciates the effort the Council has made to find us a suitable home

The Marion Street premises has two points in it favour: its position in central Wellington and size of the rooms and facilities.

However there are sufficient negative points that the Trustees had no option but to unanimously rejected the proposal. We will detail these because it is important you and your colleague realise this decision was not taken lightly.

1. Money. The City Menzshed is a registered charitable trust set up to help the rapidly growing number of older men (and now women) in our society. We improve their health and sense of wellbeing by various building and repair works for community groups. We know from experience over the past four years that we can generate enough money through our work and through commercial sponsorships to pay for our minimal day to day operations. However we are all volunteers and have neither the skills nor the ability to achieve a regular income stream of \$23,000 a year necessary to pay for the lease.

We appreciate the Council's offer to virtually pay for our first year into Marion Street, but we need to look at future years. We have spoken to some potential funders and while some will fund rent money,



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their advisory staff said that continuous grants were not the norm. They also said that depending upon the call for grants, most applicants only received a portion of their requested funds.

Were we to accept your kind offer for this first year we would have to immediately start several applications for funds for next year then wait for six months for a decision. Just how much we would receive we would not know until October at the earliest. We would need an unpaid full time fund raiser.

2. Restrictions on use. Although we would be paying for a full time lease of Marion Street, the landlord has restricted our work to 6pm. This would mean closing our present evening sessions and would prevent any of our planned expansions to help other sections of the community.

3. Noise issues. The ceiling in the proposed premises is very low. It is less than the normal height required for residential purposes and the surface is metal. This highly reflective surface would only exacerbate any machinery noise and require people to wear earmuffs the whole time.

4. Light issues. There are only two windows at one end of the building and very little light coming in those because of another high building only a couple of meters away.

5. Dust issues. With only two windows at one end of the building there is no through draft of air. Apart from the lack of fresh air for breathing we would have buy and install a large dust extractor to keep the air of acceptable breathable quality.

6. Safety issues. There is only one exit from the premises via single door at one end of the building.

We would like to remind you of our interest in using the ground floor of the Kilbirnie Bowling Club building. We sent a letter of interest to the Council in the middle of last year, but so far there has been no reply. The grape vine however has so many stories it is difficult to know what to believe - a sport centre, a camper van park, too much repair work needed. Please tell us whether there is any point in continuing our interest in the KBC.

The result of this decision is that we once again are entirely dependent upon the generosity and philanthropy of our friendly landlord, Maurice Clark. He

has patiently supported us for three years. Without him there would be no City MenzShed. When Maurice's patience runs out and his development plans are firm Wellington looks set to lose its only MenzShed.

A Water Trough for kids

Away from the politicians and the real estate people life continues as normal. Our latest request, this time from the Karori Kindergarten, is a long water trough for the kids to play in. 1650mm long with 300mm sides and bottom.

The structure itself is quite simple and easy to build but the issue is the timber. Any timber around water would normally be treated to prevent rotting, but wood is treated with an arsenic salt and that would be fatal for the kids.

A suitable 300mm for 18mm untreated pine would be OK but its very expensive. Were now looking at buying rough sawn pine and putting it through the thicknesser to achieved a suitable surface.

All other good ideas welcomed.

PS

We are missing two stools. One white with a round top the other brown and rectangular. Please return if you've borrowed them

Wellington Anniversary Day will be celebrated on Monday 25 January

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.

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