



Odds and Ends
from the Shed

Thursday 1 September, 2016
NZ Charitable Trust CC46249
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Making Less Go Further

A combination of recent events has seen the Board of Trustees look at ways of ensuring our financial survival.

The two burglaries within days of each other has put a big dent in our funds in the region of \$1,500. The Police report makes point that there was no forced entry and access was gained via the rear door which has a security lock installed by Wellington Free Ambulance who issue keys to their staff and other service contractors.

We have told WFA that we have no cause of suspect their staff. However we suggested that perhaps WFA's public liability insurance might cover our losses since they have issued all the keys to that door. WFA just passed us on to their insurance broker who said we would have to prove negligence.

The Trustees are not happy at the WFA response but have agreed to let the matter lie in order to maintain good relations with WFA.

In the meantime we have changed the front door lock, put three bolts on the door to the toilet area and put the portable electric tools in a locked area.

Our major source of income over the past two years has been grants from Medibank. An initial approach for funds this year has been turned down because Medibank says it has changed its focus onto children.

Our application to the Tindall Foundation was redirected to the Nikau Foundation who say their next round of grant applications will be next year.

And to complete the trio of bad news, two of the commercial clients with whom we do business have not paid their invoices from much earlier in the year.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Trustees met last week to consider the situation. After a lengthy meeting it was decided we had to adopt a more formal approach to projects to ensure that they were viable, that we covered all our costs, and indeed make some income.

We already have a policy that clients must pay for the cost of all materials used in the project.

With commercial clients we also charge them for workshop hours involved in their project.

Where we have been overly generous is in the projects for non-commercial clients. Often we will suggest a donation for our labour, or if they can't afford it some scones for morning tea.

The result has been that we have eaten well but nearly gone broke.

From now on non-commercial clients will be also be charged for workshop hours. The exact charge will be determined on a case by case basis.

The Trustees are conscious that some non-commercial clients are like us, living very close the breadline. Other charities with salaried staff and high incomes can clearly afford more and will be charged appropriately.

Another screen for TBI Health

The three screens we have built for TBI Health have obviously been a success because we've been asked to build a fourth, this time for the Palmerston North Centre.

We thought we might not get this contract because the Fijian Kauri we had used for the previous three



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screens was no longer available and we have had to move to Western Red Cedar, which is more expensive. However the client has given the go ahead and the timber arrived yesterday.

Steve is pleased with the timber which is lighter in weight and much more stable, so less chance of warps. We hope to cut on Tuesday and assemble on Wednesday and Thursday. If you'd like get involved and help, Steve will direct you to a task within your skill range.

Medical Students Visit

Our links with the Otago Medical School base at Wellington Hospital came into focus again last week when we had 3rd year Medical students visit the City Menzshed. They

were on assignment to look at the various community facilities involved in health or care of the community so the Night Shelter and Womens' Refuge were amongst places they visited.



Miramar Play Centre

The Play Centre at Miramar has asked for a help in refurbishing some of their circular tables. This will probably involve making new table tops and painting them.

We're waiting for details of the tables but that project should be in shed with a week or two.

Wellington Hospital Job

A request has just come in from Wellington Hospital. Their outside tables in the courtyard where people eat lunch are getting rather tired and we've been asked to sand and paint them. The tables are embedded in the concrete so we can't take them back to the shed.

As a general rule we do not go out to jobs because we lose the shed feeling of working together and there can be problems in carting tools and people to an away site. However as several of our Trustees are regular patients at the Hospital we may be able to fit this job in between ECGs, EEGs, blood tests, scans and minor ops.

Do You Need a Grant?

That was the unexpected question on the phone yesterday from a woman at Internal Affairs.

"Yes, definitely!"

"Then I'd like to come and see what you're up to".

So next Thursday at around 1230 be there, be busy and help plead our case.

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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