

# Further growth at MENS SHED

2021 is advancing rapidly and so is the development program at the Mens Shed Auckland East.

The long term vision for this facility is to create a community resource that will support many generations of retirees into their golden years. The mental health and physical wellbeing of our seniors are being catered for in an environment of supportive friendship while cultivating productive activities that benefit many younger members of our local community.

In the last couple of months we have been successful in obtaining and upgrading the old tractor shed next to our main shed. A Canopy has been constructed along with a vehicle accessway servicing the new roller door, providing direct access to Abbotts way.



This new shed is being used for large projects like our ongoing rat and stoat trap production for DOC and Songbird, the “Trees for Survival” Nurseries assembled and delivered to the region’s schools and one off projects like the “Wendy” Playhouse recently built and delivered to Point England Kindergarten.

Next on the agenda is an extension to the existing mezzanine floor in our main building. This will add substantially to our floor area, utilizing the high stud in the main building, to the maximum. This area is intended to be used for craft projects, where well lit bench space is required for intricate and detailed model making.

An innovative, laminated timber, engineered, interlocking, floor supported by heavy portal frames, is being erected by our in house team of skilled workmen under the watchful eye of Project Manager Alan Minson.

The construction method occupies the minimum amount of airspace while maximising the workspace for smaller activities, only requiring light hand and power tools.

The work is expected to be completed and ready for occupation by the end of June 2021.



Once completed, our Mens Shed facility will have the potential to accommodate many different activities, simultaneously. The seminar room, the electronics workshop, the technology centre, the timber machining and fabrication shop, the metalwork machining and fabrication shop, the ongoing production workshop and the handcraft shop.

Currently we have around 170 members from many different backgrounds with many different skills and interests. With such a wide range of activities to choose from, our founders feel we offer our local community many opportunities for engagement. Not only for today, but for future generations who will inherit the use of this workspace.

Among the many benefits our shed offers, are the new friendships it brings, the engagement with the local and wider community, the education provided by associating with other skilled members, the guest presentations and the improvement in mental health achieved by having an active focus on the world around us.

If you would like to join us or would like us to help your organization improve its service to our community then come in and see us. We are open 5 days a week from 9am to 12 am Tuesday to Saturday. We are at 98 Abbotts Way, Remuera, next to the Waatarua Reserve or online at [www.msae.nz](http://www.msae.nz). We look forward to engaging with you.

