



Weekly Newsletter for the 1st June 2026 (150)

Our Purpose - To Sustain or Enhance Members' Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Read the whole newsletter before clicking any links.
Otherwise you could get lost and miss out on some vital information.

Projects

Doll's House for Starship





A beautifully crafted doll's house, originally built by shed member Colin Watkins as a fundraising project, has found a very special home.

Alan Simpson 3D-printed furniture and installed LED lighting, then the Shed donated it to a young girl at Starship Hospital through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

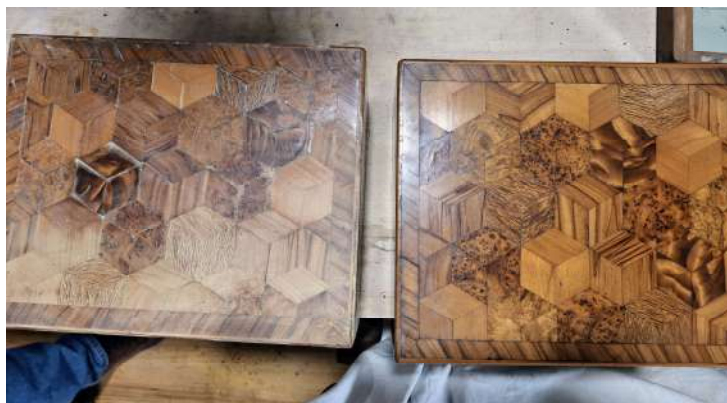
Baby Caskets



New Zealand has excellent maternity services, yet sadly around 700 babies each year are stillborn or die within the first weeks of life. Along with their grief, many families also face funeral costs. Last year, Aroha Funeral Services asked our Shed to make caskets for parents experiencing financial hardship after a perinatal death. With funding support from St Johns and Ellerslie Rotary, arranged through shed member and Rotarian Peter Buchanan, we built 10 caskets in three sizes. The response from families was deeply appreciated, and we were recently asked to make another 10.

Rotary again provided funding, and the caskets are now with Aroha Funerals ready for gifting. A great example of the Shed, Rotary, and local business supporting the community together.

Latest Restoration Project



Stephen Petterson is refurbishing these marquetry sewing boxes

They were made by James Henry Chappell circa 1880's, in Wellington NZ. It was made as one of a series – possibly up to 5 and probably as gifts for each of his 5 daughters on the event of their marriage. Two are known to remain with family descendants – this box (2), which was made for Kate Hayward Chappell and the one made for Ethel Margaret Chappell (1). When placed side by side similar pencil numbers can be seen on the inside bases: 1 & 2. Both boxes were fitted with inner sewing accessory trays; however box 2 retains only the outer case. James Henry Chappell was a carpenter & cabinetmaker who arrived in Wellington in 1841. Information collated (2025) by Kathryn Weaver – great granddaughter of Kate Hayward Chappell.

Roger Van Kuylenburg's Farewell





Last Thursday we held a special event for Roger and his wife Teresa, to thank him for his outstanding efforts in the Shed over many years, and to wish them well in their new adventures in Whakatane.

A wonderful morning tea was served. The excellent range of food was brought along by members contributions, even cakes were made by some members, Sheddies spoke to wish Roger well and thank him for his help, friendship, and dedication to the Shed. Several stories were shared about how Roger had taken new members under his wing and helped them develop both their skills and confidence within the Shed environment. Roger was also commended for his remarkable ability to learn new skills. Despite having limited formal education, he taught himself many building trades and eventually became a computer technician, operating his own repair business in Whakatane.

Teresa spoke about the opportunity they had been given to work at a retreat centre near Whakatane, and how rewarding it was to receive such an opportunity at this stage of their lives. Roger will be responsible for building maintenance, while Teresa will manage the kitchen and cater for guests as required.

Within the Shed, Roger was instrumental in creating and selling more than 30 water walls and many other teaching aids for local schools, as well as handling all the computer-related

issues around the Shed. He is truly a man of many talents, both in making things and in connecting with people. The Shed Music Group also gathered to sing a special song for Roger and Teresa.

Roger will be missed, and we all wish both him and Teresa every happiness and success in this exciting new chapter of their lives.

Progress on New Engineering Workshop.

Last week we finished the roof and started cladding the walls.

Even relocated the window from the existing workshop.

Another roof shout too!

The sheddies are going to have to have a workshop on dieting soon!





June BBQ's

Tuesday 9th

Friday 26th

A midwinter celebration with roast lamb ! :-))

Wednesday Workshops

Last week...Breadmaking

with Bernie and Karen



The outcome of this session was served up at our Barbeque last Friday to the absolute delight of sheddies....some of whom can now bake their own.

Dont miss these events, you can learn some really useful stuff.

Coming Up -

June 3rd

Winding, Ticking, Storey and Pinch Sticks -

Presented by Pete M

You can't buy these and some call them "Magic Sticks"

June 10th

Pocket Hole Jigs -

Presented by Otto

A great piece of shed equipment and a very knowledgeable presenter

June 17

Sewing machine demonstration -

Presenter to be confirmed

Awesome piece of shed equipment. Learn the skills to operate

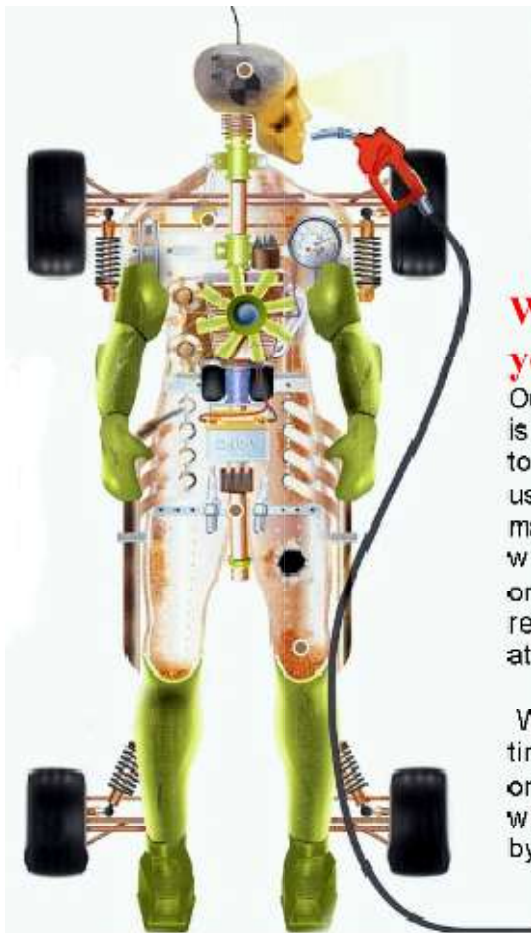
June 24 Knife Sharpening -

Presented by Pete M

Back by popular demand. Care and maintenance of your knives

Also please contact Pete Montgomery 027 4966 901 or peter@montgomery.org.nz if you would like to present a Workshop (30 to 45 minutes) on a topic of your choice.

Workshops are planned to commence at 10.45 am immediately following morning Tea.



When did you have your last tune-up?

Our most valuable piece of machinery is our own health. But when it comes to looking after our machinery, most of us don't have a 'service and maintenance schedule' and tend to wait and see. If we get aches or pains, or go through a tough time in our relationships or emotionally, our attitude is often 'I'll battle through this'.

We get away with this most of the time. It's only when the aches, pains or emotions get the better of us that we decide to get things checked out by our mechanic (our GP).

Spanner in the Works, is a Mens Health Initiative

Promoted by the Australian Mens Shed Association
and the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care.

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and learn all about extending the enjoyment in your life.

Winner of The Healthy Blokes Awards 2026:

Sponsored by The Australian Mens Shed Wireless Podcasts

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Wireless. HERE



It's Clearout TIME !!

The Sheddies



In preparation for reorganising the main workshop we are having a clear out of old and/or abandoned projects from the project shelves.

Some go back a year or more. They have been placed on the centre bench. Any not claimed next week will be returned to stock or binned.

Mal's Corner

**There was no reason why my glasses fogged up –
I was mystified .**

**My doctor said jogging could add years to my life –
he was right. I feel 10 years older already.**

**Mae West said –
too much of a good thing can be wonderful.**

Enjoy Your Week!

Kevin H (ed)

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**Donations gratefully accepted and go towards building a stunning Shed for Members, for
today and far into the future.**
