



## Weekly Newsletter for the 20th April 2026 (144)

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

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

## Projects

### Lladro for Vinnies



Stephen Petterson did an excellent repair job on a piece of porcelain this week for the Society of St Vincent de Paul Charity. He elevated something broken and worth nothing, to something worth many dollars towards the service run by The Society. In New Zealand it consistently achieves significant social impact through its grassroots network, supporting over 50,000 Kiwis annually. Recent highlights include distributing over 23,000

food parcels and producing 10,500+ Meals in Auckland, alongside 65,000+ youth volunteer hours. Vinnies also provides critical grants for hearing aids for seniors and operates social enterprises that support employment pathways.

## HiHi (Stitchbird) Boxes for Tiritiri Matangi

Last week the team finished an order for 50 Stitchbird nesting boxes for DoC to go to Tiritiri Mātāngi.

One of our most complex projects, with each box having 34 components. The pictures show the prototype, sub-assemblies, inside the box and the 50 completed and ready to ship.





The hihi (stitchbird) was both rare and poorly known until the 1990s, as few people had an opportunity to visit the single remnant population on Little Barrier Island. However, thanks to successful conservation management and research, the hihi is now one of the better studied New Zealand bird species, and can be seen at several accessible translocation sites. The hihi has a complex and unusual breeding system that includes pair and group nesting as well as promiscuity.

There are currently no mainland colonies and the principal NZ breeding location is Tiritiri Mātāngi in the Hauraki Gulf.

We are privileged to be part of this preservation initiative.

## **New Dust Extraction System Approved!**

At a recent special meeting of the Sheds Governing Board, a motion was passed to accept a recent quotation for the installation of a reticulated dust extraction system

Over the next few weeks a plan will be assembled to relocate machinery into the new space gained from extending the Mechanical workshop.

This will enable the design and installation of the new system.

This will dramatically improve the air quality in the shed.

The installation will be programmed into the suppliers work schedule and is expected to be completed in the next couple of months.

## **Large Compressor System to be Removed.**

Due to the considerable compliance and upgrading issues associated with the large

compressor, the Shed Management Committee has decided to remove this unit and continue the use of smaller units where required, in the shed.

## **Next Speaker**

**Tuesday 28th April.**

**“St Helena – A last Outpost of the British Empire.**

Douglas Ormrod has been working on a multimedia extravaganza:  
Everything you didn't know you needed to know about St Helena”.

**Tuesday 19th May**

**Don't leave a mess !**

**Leave a Legacy !**

**Estate Planning Presentation with Wendy Hampton – Lawyer, Speaker and Author**

We're pleased to welcome Wendy Hampton, BA.LL.B, an experienced lawyer with over 30 years in practice, to present an informative session on estate planning. Wendy has spent much of her career specialising in property law, including wills, estates, trusts, and relationship property matters. After running her own legal firm on Auckland's North Shore for many years, she is now travelling around New Zealand sharing her knowledge and helping people better prepare for the future. In this practical and easy-to-follow presentation, Wendy will cover ways to make the administration of your estate simpler, more efficient, and more cost-effective. She'll also introduce *The Estate Planner*, a handy booklet she developed to help you organise all your important personal information in one place—making things much easier for your family and friends when the time comes. Wendy is known for her clear, down-to-earth approach and her passion for helping others understand what can often feel like a complicated topic.

## **Last Speaker**

**Ric Thorne**

**Fun Games and Watermains**

Click [HERE](#) to watch the video.

## **Board Meeting**

**Tuesday 21st April.**

Talk to John Tattersall if you have anything to add.  
Last minutes are on the notice board in the meeting room.

## **Wednesday Mezzanine Workshops**

These have proven very enjoyable, with 9 presented so far with 75 members attending  
Workshops for the rest of April and May are as follows

22/04/26	Wooden toys and spoke wheels	John S
29/04/26	Wood dyes and stains	Snow
06/05/26	Power Planers and Sanders	Bob
13/05/26	Kreig Pocket Hole Jig	Don M
20/05/26	Biscuit Jointing tables and shelves	John E
27/05/26	Bread and Damper on the BBQ	Bernie and Karen

**All workshops are planned to commence at 10.45 am  
immediately following morning Tea.**

## **Video Workshop**

**Ultimate Cutting Board Tutorial**

**End Grain Cutting Board.. How To... [Click HERE](#)**



## **Next Barbecue**

**Friday 24th**

## **Situations Vacant**

**Here's your chance to get more out of your membership.**

### **Storage Manager.**

Your duties are simply to maintain the storage areas in the Shed. It only requires a short time each week to clean and sort the materials and ensure projects in motion are labelled and stored in the correct place. Very light duties.

Talk to Don Morrison, in the office, to register your interest or for more information.

## Project Leaders required

Looking for something to do in the shed? Walk to the office and talk to David Blackmore or Don Morrison about how to secure the leadership of one of the many projects flowing through the shed. You can decide what suits your skill base and enlist helpers to help with the project.

Most of them are not under time pressure, so you can fit them in between cups of coffee and a chat.

## SawStop, Stopped!



Last week The SawStop safety mechanism was activated by a member trying to saw aluminum -skinned foam.

The safety device is triggered by conduction of electrical energy, like, through people! BUT Metal and plastic (static electricity ) also activates the brake because of the sensor.

**YOU MUST NOT PUT ANYTHING BUT WOOD  
THROUGH THE SAWSTOP SAW**

**NOT WET WOOD Either !**

Not metal, not plastic, just WOOD

If the STOP mechanism is triggered, it costs hundreds of dollars for a new blade and arresting unit.

**WOOD ONLY PLEASE !**

**Eastern Bay Songbirds News**

**Latest update HERE**

**Panmure Business Association update:**

13 April 2026 CLICK HERE

**Learn New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL)**

CLICK HERE

**Reminder**

**Keep Drive Clear For Construction Crew**



Members are asked not to use the driveway to park cars or trailers during construction of the timber shed or the new mechanical workshop.

Trucks need to deliver concrete and materials, so they need clear access.

## In Memory of Peter Cooper



Peter passed away suddenly last week—just after purchasing a pack of 200 tea bags and collecting a pile of library books for a wet Sunday read. Peter had been a valued member of the Shed since 2018. He was a familiar and welcome presence, often dropping in for a song, a cup of tea, and a good chat. Our thoughts are with his large family and many friends at this time. A strong contingent of Shed members attended Peter's funeral at Purewa last Saturday. Our music group paid tribute by singing and sharing memories. Peter was an enthusiastic member of both the Shed and the music group, and recently travelled with us to the Australian Men's Shed Music Festival on the Sunshine Coast. We will miss his cheerful presence and friendly smile around the Shed.



## Mal's Corner

Albert Einstein said.

"Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition  
from mediocre minds".

My mind is like an Internet browser –  
19 tabs are open,  
three of them are frozen,  
and I have no idea where the music is coming from !

I told my wife I wanted to be cremated.  
-She made me an appointment for next Tuesday.

**Make it a great week!**

Kevin H (ed)

**MENS SHED AUCKLAND EAST INC**

Waatarua Reserve, 98 Abbotts Way, Remuera, Auckland 1050, New Zealand

Facebook: [Search Men's Shed Auckland East](#)

Website: [www.msae.nz](http://www.msae.nz)

Email: [mensshedaucklandeast@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedaucklandeast@gmail.com)

Landline: 09 880 9800

News or notices: send to: [editor@msae.nz](mailto:editor@msae.nz)

**MSAE BANK Account Number .... ASB 12 3618 0064616 00**

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

