



Weekly Newsletter for the 3rd August 2026 (159)

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.

Ribbon Cut, Sheds Opened...









Last Friday, 31 July, was a red-letter day for the Shed as we celebrated the official opening of our two newest additions—the **Engineering Workshop** and the **Production Storage Building (Wood Store)**—in conjunction with our monthly Friday BBQ.

The honour of cutting the ribbon fell to our Deputy Mayor, **Desley Simpson**, who officially declared the buildings open. Fortunately, she managed the task without needing a tape measure, angle grinder or workshop induction!

Desley was joined by members of the **Ōrākei Local Board**, whose continued support of the Shed has been greatly appreciated.

We sincerely thank them all for taking time out of their busy schedules to celebrate this important milestone with us.

Chairman **Alan Minson** welcomed our distinguished guests before leading everyone in the waiata "**Tūtira Mai**", accompanied by our resident guitarist, **Alan Simpson**.

In his address, Alan reflected on the Shed's remarkable progress over the past ten years. Membership has now grown to around **230 members**, more than **250 community**

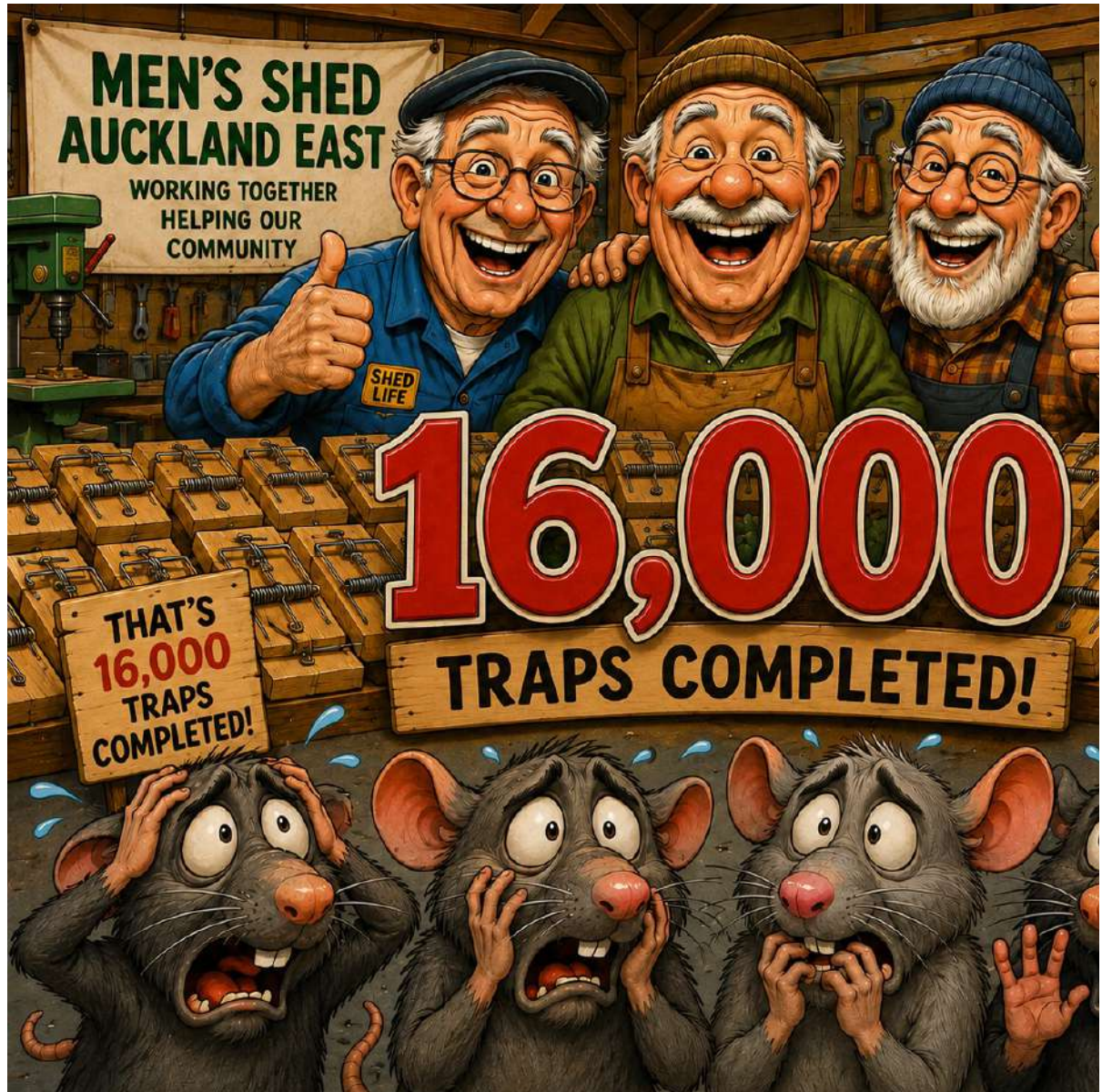
projects have been completed, and members have produced an impressive **16,500 predator traps**. He explained that the new buildings were constructed to relieve workshop congestion and support the Shed's continuing growth and popularity.

A special highlight of the day was the attendance of our centenarian member, **Basil Champion**, whose determination to be part of the celebration inspired everyone present. He came to the shed with his Walking frame – painted British racing green – same as his Jaguar, which is still sitting in the garage and hasn't been driven for six months

Once the formalities were complete, attention quickly turned to the barbecue, where **Graham Collie** once again demonstrated that he can handle a hotplate almost as well as the workshop crew handle power tools. Judging by the speed at which the sausages disappeared, his reputation remains well deserved.

The biggest vote of thanks, however, belongs to the many Shed members who devoted countless hours to planning, measuring, lifting, hammering and, occasionally, scratching their heads as they transformed an idea on paper into two outstanding new buildings. They worked through wind, rain and enough cups of tea to float a small boat.

The result is something every member can be proud of. These new facilities will serve the Shed for many years to come, providing much-needed workshop space and storage. And, with a bit of luck, they might even give us somewhere to keep all those pieces of timber that are simply **"far too good to throw away!"**



Projects



Our Men's Shed rugby team, **The All Blokes**, assembled in the workshop last week for another well-rehearsed move.

Like a perfectly executed rugby scrum, the **hooker** won the traps cleanly, the **halfback** whipped them away to the **first five-eighth**, who quickly sent them down the backline. After a series of slick passes, the **winger** crossed the line for another try—this time on the back of our trusty truck!

The "try" was another part shipment of a **1,000 rat trap order**, delivered to a customer, who had already paid in full.

It's a tremendous vote of confidence in our team. Our reputation for producing high-quality rat traps, delivered on time, to a consistently high standard, has spread across New Zealand.

After all, **how many suppliers receive large orders with payment up front?**

That's the sort of trust that has to be earned—and our trap-making team has certainly

earned it.

Speakers

Last week we had a speaker from Drowning Prevention Auckland

Talk to us about water safety.



Borrow a lifejacket for your next water experience.

Learn How to Float

Learn How to rescue.

Drowning Prevention Auckland presented some great ideas about how to

Stay Safe in the Water

Go [HERE](#) for the full story and a recap of the presentation.

Political Candidates Presentations

for the Tāmaki Electorate.

We have invited these candidates for a short presentation and question session, over the coming weeks.



**Max Harris
Labour**



**Mahesh
Muralidhar
National**



**James
Christmas
ACT**

Tuesday August 4th... Mahesh Muralidhar (National)

Tuesday August 18th,,,, Max Harris (Labour)

(unfortunately the 18th is the date of the Board meeting, so we will start early)

Tuesday August 25.... James Christmas (ACT)

Their talks will be during the morning tea break.

The political candidates are providing the morning tea food ;-))

**Members are invited to prepare and submit questions for the
speakers ahead of time
allowing them to prepare succinct answers.**

Hand your questions to Mal before the event.

Wednesday Workshops

Learn some useful stuff.

12th August Sewing Machine with Fraser E

19th August End grain and Pattern Board Cutting with Stephen P

26th August Chisel Sharpening with Pete M

2nd September Laser printing with Alan Simpson

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.



Welcome to another packed edition of *Shoulder to Shoulder*.

[Click HERE](#)

It's been a busy month for UKMSA and for Sheds across the UK, with plenty of news, exciting developments and inspiring stories to share.

From the UK's first university Men's Shed and our new partnership with Movember to health and wellbeing updates, opportunities to get involved and even a Viking ship!

Factory Tours



We have been invited to tour several factories in our local area and seek **expressions of interest** from members.

The first is, Milner Mobility , which is an engineering fabrication company in Mt Wellington specializing in the fit out of vehicles with wheelchair lifts.

They employ a wide range of engineering fabrication equipment, which will be of interest to most "maker" members.

Email Malcolm Hardie to register your interest at

malcolm.waiaupa@gmail.com

The second resulted from a visitor to our shed wanting to buy a no 5 Stanley plane. He is a joiner who specializes in bespoke woodwork projects, including staircases and cabinetry .

He works extensively with hand tools, in this age of automation.

Greg works in a woodworking factory in Otahuhu, which is one of new Zealands largest producers of architectural joinery, including lacework and a rich mix of early Colonial, Victorian, and Edwardian building componentry.

Members interested in visiting this factory should register with the office by emailing Don Morrison at.

mensshedaucklandeast@gmail.com

FOR SALE by Tender

TENDER CLOSES At 12pm TUESDAY 4th August

Be in to win....there are current bids on the table!

Heres a great bargain offered exclusively to Sheddies.

Raymond Cheung has donated this brand new, hard shell guitar case, to the Shed.

It is being offered on a tender starting at \$50, with all proceeds going to the Shed.

Put in a offer to the office, and you could be the winner.

(Note: Price in the shops would be \$150 plus)

(This is for the case only. The guitar is for demo only)





Please Deliver to Don Morrison...



Mals Corner

I can't believe I used to think people from my age were adults

Kleptomaniacs take things literally

COLD - go stand in a corner – it's 90°

**Watch how a couple in their 70's walked
500 Miles on the Camino (Pilgrim's Trail)
to Santiago in Spain**

[Click HERE](#)



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.