

Waimea Men's Shed

Newsletter

March

2013

Welcome to 2013.

My best wishes to you all for the future. I don't have any photos of the shed (due to loss of several emails) but I expect to have several from the Conference for the next newsletter. In the meantime we are having a great summer and this photo records a bit of it.



Editorial

The Men's Shed movement is gaining momentum in New Zealand and has taken a big step forward with the establishment of a National Constitution and the election of a National executive.

However, while this is good news, we now need to re-focus on our own shed and its development. At present, the provision of supervisors for the daily activities at the shed is falling on a few shoulders. As we cannot open the shed without them we would appreciate if all members would re-examine their skills base and see if it would be possible for them to volunteer a day (or days) as a supervisor. If you think that you can help please contact Alan Kissell at mens.shed.waimea@gmail.com. Or ph 0272820185 ah. 5474303.

There is also (surprise, surprise) a continuing need for funds to keep the shed rolling ahead. We are about to construct the engineering workshop and we think that we can get this constructed with the assistance of various suppliers. However, for it to be more than a shed we will also have to buy some suitable equipment and for that we need funds (apart from the ongoing need to fund the shed operating expenditure). If any of you have fund raising experience then please contact either Alan Kissell or a committee member so that we can benefit from your expertise. Even if you don't have specific fund raising experience we would welcome your ideas

Membership

Membership now stands at 130 and rising so we have to keep moving ahead.

National Conference

The Mens Shed National conference was held at Club Waimea on the weekend of the 15,16 and 17 of February 2013. The primary business of the conference was to establish a National Constitution and therefore a nationally elected group to represent us all. I am pleased to report that this objective was achieved and we now have a national executive headed by Martin Cox as President.

In addition Alan Kissell (our own coordinator) was elected as the national secretary and with the exception of Southland all areas have an elected representative – as per the constitution. There was quite a lot of debate over the wording of the constitution but in the end common sense prevailed and although there is some tidying up to do the constitution has been approved. As a national body we will now be known as Menzshed New Zealand as against our previous name of Menzshed Aotearoa.

Apart from the official business we were able to visit several places of interest around the area including the Centre for Advanced Woodworking, the Pigeon Valley Steam Museum and (on the lighter side) a combined hop farm and boutique brewery south of Wakefield. We think that the visitors had a great time and I must thank Paul Sangster and his wife Gilda for their very polished and entertaining performances on stage at Club Waimea.



Our new National President (Martin Cox) trying out an electric bike (A bit tame after the 1400cc motorcycle that he normally rides).

Barbecue

There will be a barbecue at the shed starting at about 4pm on March 22 next. Food will be provided but additional salads would be welcomed. If you want a beer or a glass of wine you will have to bring your own. Wives/partners are invited to attend and check out the facilities.

Note this date in your diary.

Annual General Meeting

The Waimea Men's Shed annual general meeting will be held on Saturday May 18th commencing at 4pm.

Nomination forms for Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and committee membership will be available from March 22 next.

Australian Men's Shed Annual Conference

The 5th National Men's Shed Conference will be hosted by the Victorian Men's Shed will be held at the Ballarat Lodge and Convention Centre, Ballarat Victoria from the 27 - 29 October 2013.

This year focuses on sharing knowledge and providing practical support through the conference theme; Men's Sheds: A Sustainable Future - highlighting the success that men's sheds have achieved and looks to their future growth and development.

See <http://www.dccconferences.com.au/mensshed2013/index.asp> for more information.

If some of you find yourselves in the position of being able to attend this conference we would welcome a report of your impressions.

Cheers

John Rogers

Chairman

Email rogersj@xtra.co.nz

Telephone 5445097