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MENZSHED[®] MANAWATU



It is some time since we have communicated with our local community, and as we near the end of another year, we want to thank all those groups around our City who have asked us to assist them with projects. We are there to help and always appreciate a request for assistance. We opened ten years ago for one day a week, then a few years ago we opened for two days and now we are looking at three days a week. This provides us with logistical issues as one of the main reasons we exist is to provide companionship for men who have retired. We are working hard to ensure that all who attend feel part of the wider fellowship.

To give you a taste of what we have been busy doing, we have highlighted below a few of our recent projects.

Raising funds:

From time to time we get the opportunity to make some interesting toys etc and market these for sale. We have had a range of helicopters, planes and dinosaurs available through the Manawa, and these latest trucks are a further chance to bolster funds for everyday expenses.



School Projects:

Following an approach from a local school, we recycled a stack of pallets which we pre-cut and drilled all the panels to make bird feeders and weta hotels. We had two sessions to assist 80 pupils assembling the projects.

Trying to find 40 hammers posed some logistical issues, but with patience and perseverance we got through it well. The looks on the children's faces when they left with their completed projects was very rewarding. Clearly many of them have never had such an experience before. Other schools have heard about this and requests are growing for us to assist more schools.



Adult swing:

Menzshed is always keen to help community groups who care for those who desperately need help. We were pleased to partner with Community Connections - building a large and robust swing for an 18 year old young man who gains much tranquillity in his life through the motion of swinging. The family had limited financial resources, but we were able to complete the swing as we had all the required materials in stock.



Repair Café:

Menzshed Manawatu is enthusiastically participating in the newly formed Repair Café which began operations in September. The initial sessions, have been held at te Manawa, and there was certainly a good response. We had 8 members on board for the initial session and assisted in repairing a wide range of articles from children's toys to small furniture items. It is planned for this to become a monthly activity and will give us another community event to get involved in. The movement is designed to reduce the amount that ends up in landfills because people don't have the skills or time to repair them.



Supporting Neighbourhoods.



Menzshed has been a supporter of Neighbourhood Support for some time, assisting with erection of the signs on lampposts around the city. With support from PNCC we have been able to construct some seats for streets where the Neighbourhood Support group is active and where there is a need for a place of rest and also an opportunity to bring people together. Having developed a successful economic design Menzshed have also cooperated with the Palmerston North Horticultural Society to install some benches at Caccia Birch House. Assembling and finishing the seats proved a challenge, due to space restraints at the Shed premises, but thanks to good weather the final touches were able to be made in the adjacent park.



A major project for the year has been the construction of new shelving for the **RED CROSS BOOKSHOP**, who were forced to re-locate. The material has been donated by a local benchtop manufacturer, and because the shelves were to be edged in red, we approached another Kitchen firm, who agreed to edge the shelves at no cost. They in turn approached the supplier and they got behind the project and provided the material at no cost. True community support.

We are proud to have been able to contribute to such a worthwhile project.

As we approach the end of another year we would like to thank all who have contributed to making it such a successful one. Thankyou to our sponsors, and local firms who have been generous with donations of material to enable community groups to benefit. If you are part of one of those groups and think we may be able to help you achieve your goals – Please get in touch. *David Chapple Chairman 0274 514572.*