

Empowering hands and minds: Wānaka Community Workshop's MenShed

The MenShed is not just for Men but a cross section of people from the Upper Clutha area that come together to volunteer and enjoy each other's companionship.

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, the Wānaka Community Workshop (WCW) is buzzing with activity thanks to the MenShed, a local group of Upper Clutha volunteers that come together to upcycle building materials that would otherwise have gone to landfill, into products needed within the community.

Developed as a community resource, the WCW provides the MenShed access to tools, materials, and the space to build and repair projects; and creates a



place where new skills can be learned and fostered. To date, the MenShed group have made a variety of items from waste timber including rat traps, skink and gecko hotels for Te Kākano, a battery recycling station for QLDC, and a picnic table for Bike Wānaka.

As the WCW relies on sponsorships and grants to grow and maintain the workshop, the group applied to the Queenstown Lakes District Council Waste Minimisation Fund to help purchase a thicknesser planer machine to add to the existing suite of machinery with the purpose of increasing membership, participation, capability, and waste diversion.

“The benefits for our trust are massive. The WMCF provides us with the cash to purchase bigger items that have a huge benefit to our ability to complete projects.” Said Ben Acland, Wānaka Community Workshop Trustee.

This initiative not only benefits the environment but also has a positive impact on the wellbeing of many people in the Upper Clutha by providing a place to learn while forming friendships and connections over a shared love of DIY.

QLDC is proud to support wonderful initiatives like the Wānaka Community Workshop which are essential for building sustainable and resilient communities.

To learn more about the Wānaka Community Workshop visit their website: wanakacommunityworkshop.org.nz

