



Menzshed Kapiti Incorporated

Reg Charity Inc No CC445795

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NEWSLETTER – August 2026 No. 165

Whispers from the Chair

Well, what shall we chat about which happened in June.

One could say that the weather in June was not very agreeable, especially when the flooding was quite extensive at the Menzshed site. I took photos and thought that it was the worst I had seen. The open soak pit behind the garage had been filled with concrete rubble and the water was 3 inches above the highest bit of concrete and was 6 inches or more where the bikes are parked. A few more inches and the ratters may have needed gumboots.

On the committee's agenda was the transition to Xero for the accounts and I now report that as of the 1st of July 2026 MSK are officially doing the accounts in Xero. The Treasury of Andrew, Greg and David have put in some serious work and learnings on getting set up with the accounting firm that will be doing our accounts in the future. Added to that is the fact that we have had to register for GST, which also involves some serious discussions on what does and what does not require GST and what MSK can claim and is payable.

The obvious items are the rat traps and weta hotels and associated items manufactured for contracted sales and, unfortunately, the recycling operation in the PB workshop is considered by the tax man to be a 'manufacturing operation' because it strips donated goods down to core items like copper which is then sold so GST is applicable.

Everything else, firewood, TradeMe sales, excess tools and machinery which was donated are GST free. If you want to ask a question on this check with Andrew or myself.

Also top of the agenda is the up-and-coming AGM (yeah, I know it is getting repetitive)

Three of the committee are stepping down at the AGM and need to be replaced so please step up. We have managed to get a number of members to job share on many positions, so the pressure is off having the nose to the grindstone for most committee members and MSK need your support.

At the AGM you will be voting only for committee members. This is under the new constitution you voted in last year. The committee will elect the treasurer, secretary and chairman from the committee.

To other things, you may well ask 'what is the building being built at the back of the garage'. Well, primarily, it is a portable building built as a pattern should anyone want a really solid building that can be dropped on site for any purpose and John Moriarty will be setting it up as a Makerspace with 3D printing x 2 and a laser machine. These have been donated to MSK and its play time.

The shift, to keep the council happy, of the firewood sales from the front gate to MSK site curtailed quite a bit of the passing traffic sales for some time but it is picking up again. Added to that the firewood guys are now selling trailer loads to make up the difference. You may have seen lots of cut logs coming in, and more to come yet, these will be cut up for firewood sales when dry. Stacking has already commenced behind the container which has been cleared of rotting old pallets.

Whoops, cup of tea time, see ya.

Mick

Upcoming events

Just a memory jog of what Menzshed Activities are happening in the foreseeable future.

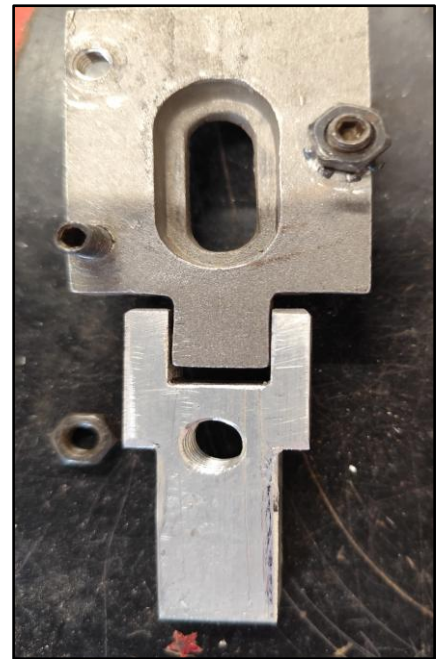
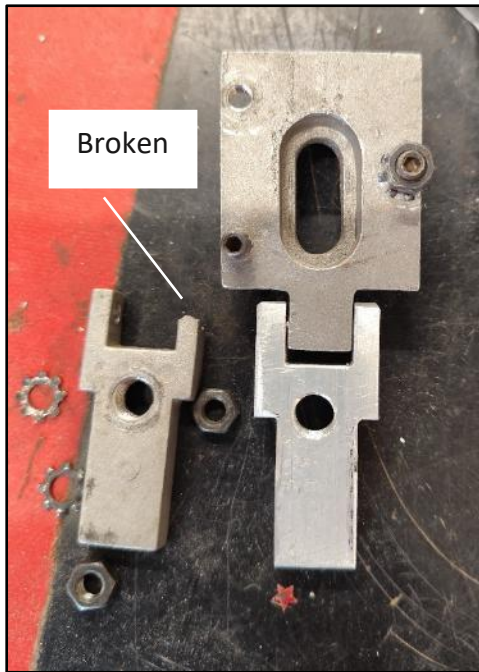
Make sure you have them in your own Diary.

Event	Date	Where	Comment
AGM	27 th August	Shed	Be there or be square
Recurring Events			
Sharpening tools	Last Thursday of Month	@ the Shed - regular event	By Ray Y 
Electric watch battery replacement	Second Tuesday of the Month	@ the Shed – regular event	Mick Mc will be bringing his wristwatch tools to replace batteries for a small charge 
Fresh Scones	Last Thursday of Month and whenever there is a birthday shout or any other excuse!	@the Shed – a fairly regular event	Hans and his apprentices will be producing superb scones fresh from the oven, or for anyone's birthday shout 
PLEASE NOTE One of the uses of the morning sign in is to record who is at the shed in case of a fire. If you leave early or on an errand please just tell someone so we don't have to search for you, that is if you have signed in legibly! All you have to say is "I'm Off"			

Contact Details

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Around the Shed



This week I finished making a new part for a dead stop on a Ryobi Drop saw.

A few weeks ago, a gentleman brought in the original dead stop with the broken part after he had an accident while cutting.

Doug our electrician had explained that Ryobi do not offer spare parts and I then offered to mill a replacement part.

Luckily we had some aluminium bar in stock which required milling down. After milling the aluminium down to the correct size, I drilled and tapped the M10 thread and the 5mm cross hole. Next I milled the central slot and the 2 side steps to complete the new part.

Ray W said he thinks this is the first time he came remember the milling machine being used!

Cheers Simon T



Houses for a sculpture forming a work of art. Made by Alan C



Sorry about the finger over the lens, another table restored with elbow grease, a sander and exterior stain ByChris W

GIVE THEM THE FLOWERS NOW BY LEIGH M. HODGES

If you are lucky enough to have children and grandchildren this poem reminds that you can lose them at any moment, they can become ill, get involved in an accident or even die. The poems doesn't really mean give them flowers, I leave it up to you to decide what you give them!

Closed eyes can't see the white roses,
Cold hands can't hold them, you know;
Breath that is stilled cannot gather
The odours that sweet from them blow.
Death, with a peace beyond dreaming, Its
children of earth doth endow:
Life is the time we can help them,
So give them the flowers now!

Here are the struggles and striving,
Here are the cares and the tears;
Now is the time to be smoothing
The frowns and the furrows and fears.
What to closed eyes are kind sayings?
What to hushed heart is deep vow?
Naught can avail after parting,
So give them the flowers now!

Just a kind word or a greeting;
Just a warm grasp or a smile—
These are the flowers that will lighten
The burdens for many a mile.
After the journey is over
What is the use of them: how
Can they carry them who must be carried?
Oh, give them the flowers now!

Blooms from the happy heart's garden,
Plucked in the spirit of love;
Blooms that are earthly reflections
Of flowers that blossom above.
Words cannot tell what a measure
Of blessing such gifts will allow
To dwell in the lives of many,
So give them the flowers now!



David D & Doug McC in their shed



David G & Ian D discussing a turning issue.



Anthony G in his garden Shed

Recovering an old oak desk

We were asked to repair an oak desk which had been left outside for several years. The desk was put together with dowelled joints and nails, the joints were coming apart, and the nails were rusting away. The boards were riddled with borer, some of which were so bad we threw them away, also the varnish finish was coming off or badly stained.

I suppose we should have refused the job; there was so much to do but you know what a glutton for punishment I am! Roger C



The desk fell apart with one blow from a hammer



Riddled with borer



Varnish stained and in bad condition



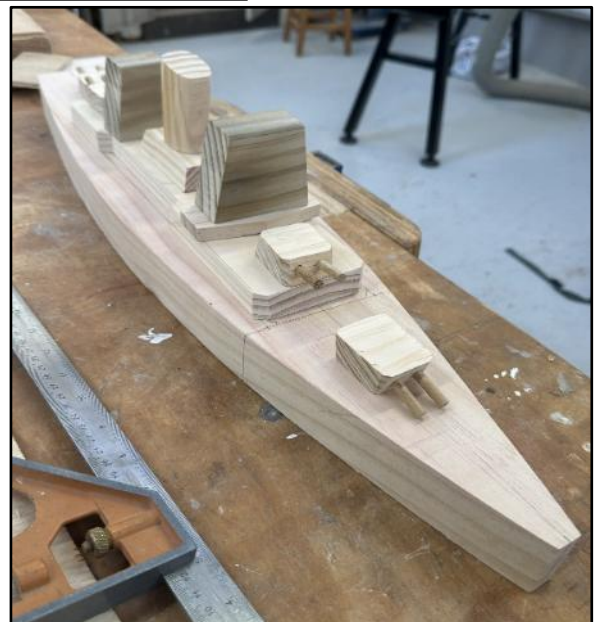
The oak panels were splitting and coming apart. They had to be biscuit jointed together including stressing to straighten warped timber.

Once the panels were together they were sanded to remove the old varnish and borer holes squirted with borer stuff.

Eventually it was re-stained with exterior quality oak stain



The finished desk



New Zealand's contribution to the war going on in the Straits of Hormuz



Gavin A taking the springs out of a sprung feather cushion.



Brian, Hans V and Roger K and others with their wares keep the shed going



How appropriate is it that a narcissist is losing a battle to a reflecting pool.



David S working with leather



Ray Y staying sharp!



Russel H looking very pleased with himself, deservedly so. He has made great inroads into dismantling circuits for scrap recovery



Mike E making a mechanical dog

The New Thicknesser

The shed has bought a new thicknesser which a series of many small cutters instead of the blades we had in our previous one. This means that if a cutter gets damaged it's just a question of rotating or replacing one cutter instead of a whole blade.

It's different and before you can use it you must be trained, and the shed will be arranging sessions over the next few months. We will be keeping a register of trained members.

If you want to put some timber through in the meanwhile just ask around for a trained member who will do it for you.



Mick on thicknesser guard duty



Charlie L & Wayne W continuing the process of turning pallets into coffee tables



Simon R recovering timber for repairs of a chair



So now we know who picks the Supervisor! It's Dave W

Kapiti Woodworkers Guild / MenzShed - New Woodworking Lathes

Most of you will be aware of the new woodworking lathes that have been installed and commissioned in the Peter Blackler workshop.

A few months ago, the Kapiti Woodworkers Guild commenced the journey to upgrade the four aging wood turning lathes at the MenzShed. A small team was set up to drive this initiative forward and fund-raising activities were commenced in earnest.

And as they say “the rest is history”

With contributions from the Woodworkers Guild, the MenzShed and external funding providers, we have now got three of the four lathes replaced with new modern machines. Fund raising for the fourth lathe is well advanced and we expect the fourth lathe to be in place over the next few months.

This now provides us with modern lathes for you all to use and enjoy. We encourage you all to use this outstanding facility with trained supervisors available to help you get started and cover off the relative health and safety issues.

A big thanks to all those that have worked to get this project up and running and to the Kapiti Woodworkers Guild, MenzShed and Pub Charities that have financially made this such a success.

See you at the Lathes! Ian Barbour



The new lathes being installed by Ian P and Marcel



One of the three new lathes

Most people have heard of Karl Marx, but few know of his sister Onya, an Olympic runner. Her name is still mentioned at the start of every race.



Robbie McK, John R & Jim W with our new router

Breaking News: Trump introduces a new advisor who will be in charge of reopening the Strait of Hormuz 🤔🇺🇸



Is Your WOF Due? By Peter H

Yep, it rolls around every year* — will I have to get new tyres, brake pads, or shock absorbers? Dollar signs dance annoyingly before your eyes as you wait for the mechanic to bring you that tick-box results sheet. But if you're worrying about that, then these things are certain — you're still alive and you can still drive!

But let's look at things from a slightly different angle. You've gone in for your WOF — and you're wondering will I need a new liver, is my heart playing up, is my prostate overly enlarged? If the answer to any of those is "yes" then whether or not you have a healthy car becomes much less of an issue. You are required to get a WOF for your vehicle to ensure that it is safe for you and for other road users, but there is no legal requirement to regularly monitor the state of your own health. And there shouldn't be, because as responsible adults we're more than capable of doing that ourselves without any prodding ... right? Well, sadly, no, that is often not the case.

Sure, a number of you will routinely get that annual health check, perhaps you've been doing so since your 50s — and you are to be congratulated! But far too many good Kiwi blokes don't. You know, "she'll be right" ... until she won't.

It's easy. Make an appointment with your doctor, and when you get there tell them you want a warrant of fitness. They will listen to your heart and lungs, measure your blood pressure and pulse rate, prod your abdomen and maybe your prostate, examine your skin, and send you off to get some blood taken. The blood will reveal your levels of cholesterol, blood sugar, prostate antigen, and iron, as well as kidney and liver function. And that all amounts to a comprehensive assessment for early detection of the most common 'senior man' health issues, particularly cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes. The examination and blood tests will take a small fraction of one day, but they could save you years. It will cost you less than a WOF at VTNZ, and it's far more important. And after all, you worked for your retirement, so do your best to make it a healthy and long one. So, if you don't already get a regular (at least annual) health check, change that now.

There is no doubt that regular health checks can improve your quality of life and even stop a premature death. None of us are getting any younger, but let's try and hang on as long as we can — if only to annoy the politicians! After all, they annoy you by making you get a WOF for that car you know is in pristine working order.

* Postscript: Yes, I know that a change is about to be implemented requiring most vehicles to get a WOF only every two years. But remember ... vehicles older than 14 years will still require an annual WOF! I doubt any of the readers of this newsletter are younger than 15, so an annual health check (like annual WOFs) is still definitely the way to go.

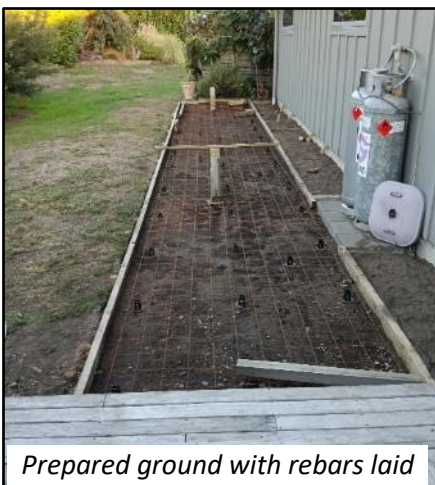


Phil M with a beautifully made sloping frame

Menzshed Miracles By Ray W

It started innocently enough...a comment from Alison in March this year about how difficult it was becoming to wheel the laundry trolley across the rough grass area around the clothesline. And it generated a bit of guilt as I had got rid of the old rotary line as it was in a ridiculous position and replaced it with an extending line close by the laundry. 8 years later the grass was really hammered, and only the coarse, really rough old grass, was left. It certainly was not a smooth surface, and I had no decent excuses as to why I hadn't done something about that when I put the line in, as I did know that putting the line in straight into the lawn was not really a long-term option.

Anyway, after considering options, I decided to concrete the area under the line. I figured I could do it for about \$800 if I dug out the old grass, did the boxing/reinforcing mesh, got in Ready-mix and enlisted some muscle from the Menzshed for the pour. Out came the wheelbarrow, a newly sharpened spade and, full of enthusiasm, away I went to dig out all the grass from a 11m x 1.8m area. I had done quite a lot of concreting in my time, but it's fair to say I was a lot younger then, and I had obviously forgotten that digging out a decent sized foundation for my clothesline pad was actually quite strenuous!



Prepared ground with rebars laid

I quickly figured out that I could not do it all in one hit, so I decided I would spread the digging over a few days. By the time I had finished digging, my back was most unhappy and at one point, on one evening, I could barely walk around. A rest soon fixed that. (thank goodness!!) Anyway, it was on to the boxing, and both Kevin A and Murray C came to check out how the job was going. I decided to put in a light reinforcing mesh even though there would be little pressure on the finished pad. Crighton's ITM in Levin (where we get our trap materials) was way cheaper than anywhere else, and as it happened, there was a load of scrap metal going up to Levin, so I carted a load of scrap up to Levin and bought back enough mesh from Crighton's to do the job.

Because I was leaving the stubs of the old clothesline posts in, Murray advised me to place some mesh at a diagonal to the posts (wired on top of the usual mesh) as that was an area that could otherwise easily crack. (If you look carefully at the photo with the mesh down, you will see what I mean). Having had a tick from the experts, it was time to get concreting! I had calculated that I would need 2 Cubic Meters of



Proud of their work

Readymix and around 6-7 guys from Menzshed to barrow, place, and screed/float off the concrete. I

figured I would ask those guys who were clearly fit/active enough barrow concrete, which is actually quite a difficult job unless you're used to it. I ended up with a Menzshed team as follows...Kevin A, Murray C, Peter H, Noel T, Simon R, Tim R, Chris W.

We got mucked around a bit by the weather but finally got a day that looked ok and worked for the Readymix guys and for the Menzshed team. The agreed time for the truck was 9.00am, and at 8.45 the guys were on site and prepped with an early tea/coffee, Dead on time the truck backed up to the



Final trowelling

garage and the lads were into it!! 45 minutes later the barrowing was done and the screeding underway. I ordered 2 Cubic Metres of Readymix, and that's exactly what it took to concrete the pad!! When I say exactly, it was just that...not a spoon full more or less...it was perfect!!! (Before I can claim all the credit for that, I had calculated we would have a little left over!) Morning tea of sausage rolls and hot cross buns with more tea/coffee followed and the barrowers headed home while the concrete finishers (Kevin , Murray and Chris) got to work with the trowels. The job was superb, as can be seen in the photo.

Once completed, Alison got cracking and put in a garden between the pad and the house, which has finished the area off very nicely. (again, see photo)



The finished job

In all, a great job well done! The guys from the Menzshed did a great job and certainly one I could not have done by myself. A big thanks to the Menzshed team!!

I guess if there are any lessons to come out of this for me, it would include the fact that I am not a young man anymore, even though I might at times think I am!!

Greetings from Kos in the UK

Greetings to my fellow MenzShed Kapiti Members. I am writing to you from Cornwall in the United Kingdom. In particular from the town of Penryn ,(where I now live), which is very close to Falmouth.

It was with great sadness that I left the beautiful Kapiti Coast; however, the management of my cancer compelled me to seek appropriate treatment here in the UK. Having my only son living close by is a major benefit.

Penryn was founded in 1216 and is one of Cornwall most ancient towns .it was once a thriving Tudor post and a medieval hub of the Cornish language and culture. It later became famous in the 19th Century for its granite industry and exports.

You could not pick a location more different than Waikanae with its Tudor, Jacobean and Georgian architecture. Built on a very steep hill it amazes me how the land was chosen to build on.

I live in a converted granite Chapel which was built right next to a The Famous Barrel Pub ~ which was established hundreds of years ago

The Chapel was allegedly built as a method of countering the goings on at the Barrel Pub! It's clear the pub outlived the chapel!



The 'Famous Barrel' pub



A proper pub bar!

An interesting legend has it that in 1596 the Spaniards attempted to invade Penryn, however at the time of the beach landing, a play was being performed in one of the many local theatres. When the alarm was sounded that Penryn was under attack, male actors who were dressed up as women rose to the challenge and hurled themselves at the Spaniards who were so shocked to be confronted by 'female soldiers' that they retreated back to their ships and never attacked again.

(At the time women were not permitted to act on stage).

The move for me to Cornwall has not been easy. Thankfully the locals speak a variant of the English language which to this day I still struggle with.

On many occasions I am totally perplexed by the words I am hearing ~ especially if the person talking is from northern parts of the UK.

I have found the NHS to be very thorough in their care and services. There is so much negativity towards the NHS however, I can say that in Cornwall at least their service is great.

As for the food, well I have found their diet a real challenge:

For example, finding a beef sausage is next to impossible as is finding a freshly baked Scone!

Hans I often think of you and your team of pastry cooks and recall the wonderful delights that you would prepare for us each morning?

Cornwall is the home of the Pasty, the quality varies greatly however I have managed ~ after much research ~ to source the Best pasty makers in Cornwall,

They still use cheque books over here which I find interesting.

A significant advantage of living here is the closeness to Europe. Here people pop over to European destinations without a second thought ~ even for just the weekend.

I imagine that many of you will have followed the political situation here in the UK.

Time will tell how effective a change of Labour leader will be received by the nation.

The 24 BBC News is brilliant for its authoritative news coverage.

I very much enjoy receiving the MenzShed Kapiti Newsletter and it never ceases to amaze me the scope and range of tremendous projects that the Shed undertakes,

My best wishes to you all

Kos

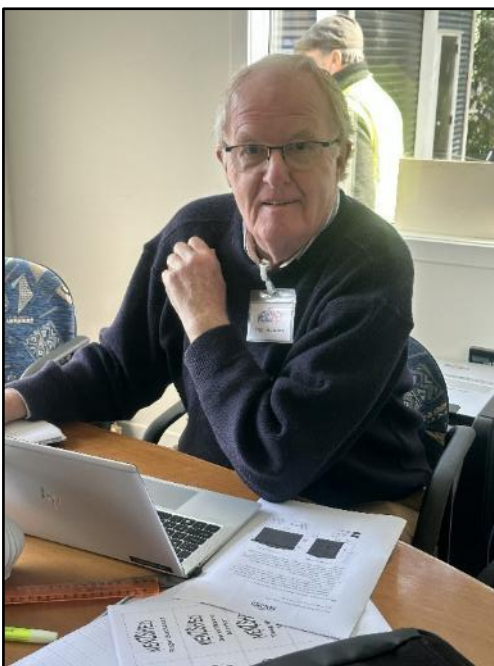


I wanted to send a big thank you for the awesome bench seat that Alf C dropped off at school earlier this week. I've positioned it outside my office, and it looks fantastic there. It's already receiving lots of positive comments from staff, students, and visitors walking by. We absolutely love it!

Craig Vidulich Principal/Tumuaki Kapakapanui School Waikanae

Alf C had tried to sell the bench to a couple of people, but they decided it was too small for adults, hence taking it to a school

Faces Round the Shed



Roger Buchanan



Alan Muxlow



Alistair Betts and Ian Barbour

Makerspace coming to MenzShed Kapiti

A few months ago, a generous donation by a local architectural company (Lichfield and Fields Ltd) paved the way for the shed to setup a very functional Makerspace.

The donation included two 3-D printers and a Laser Cutter/Engraver.

On further examination, the two 3-D printers worked perfectly, but the Laser – well, not at all.

Because an equivalent new unit would cost over \$6,000, your Treasurer decided to fix it. A new Laser tube and new power supply were purchased at excellent prices from Makerspace in Auckland (the proprietor loves MenzSheds and was generous with his assistance). The repairs were successful and we now have an “as new” unit for around \$700.

Our Laser tube is nearly a $\frac{3}{4}$ m long, needs to be cooled with chilled water & has extractor fans and flame snuffers. It is moderately powerful – sending out a 40-watt beam



of infra-red light that is focused to a dot of diameter less than 0.1mm. This is like to using a huge magnifying glass to focus the Sun on a piece of wood – it burns! This sort of power can cut 10mm soft pine easily and maybe up to 20mm with a bit of careful adjustment. It can cut or engrave Perspex, Acrylic, MDF, Paper, Cardboard, flat glass and more besides (not metal!).

Peter B

WORKSHOP

Now

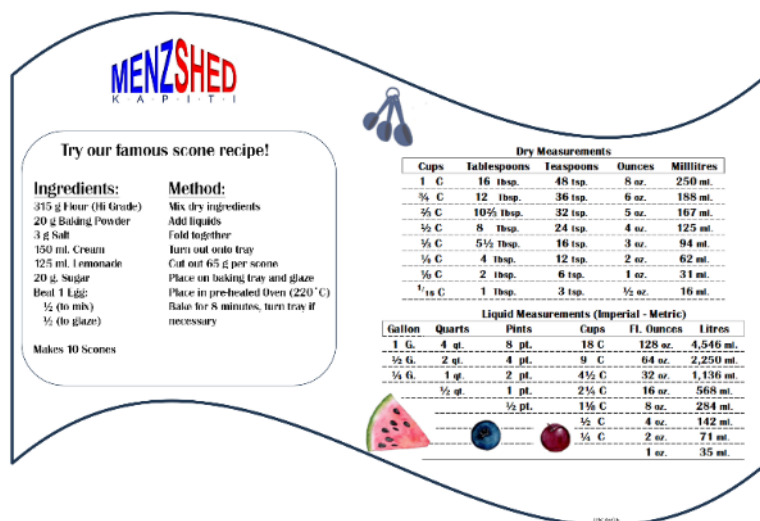
Han's famous scone recipe plus a few useful baking measures have already tested and printed on the new Laser:

Where will all this go? The Committee has authorized the construction of a new shed (roughly the size of a 10ft container) to house our Makerspace equipment. This new shed will be placed next to the garage and construction is in the hands of Murray Cardie and his apprentice builders. Expect to see it rise up over the next 3-4 weeks. It will be of cosy proportions, but big enough for one or two people to work on Laser or 3-D printing jobs that they've designed. See below:



There are already many laser-etched works around the Shed: our Peter B Workshop sign, the Founders Plaque and our Mailbox being a few examples – maybe you've noticed them.

there is another kitchen-inspired engraving:



Vents are needed to extract smoke from the Laser and Power + Internet will be available from existing, nearby sources. You can design your creations anywhere, but printing will be done in the Makerspace.

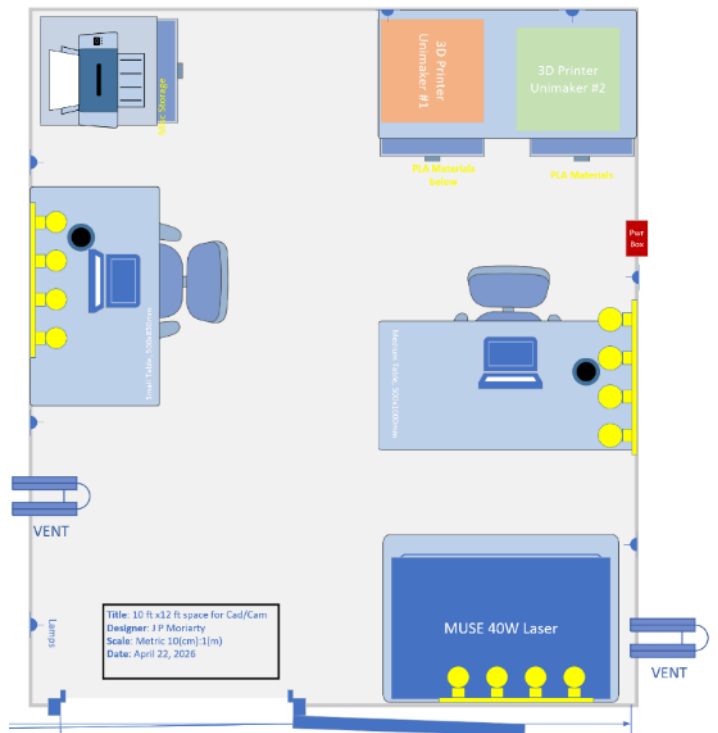
There are sure to be many opportunities to use the Laser on the community jobs we do.

Same with the 3-D printers – very useful for making simple plastic shapes for repairs or building objects (e.g. containers, hinges, wall mounts, etc. Have a look on “THINGAVERSE” (search for it).

There have already been a few articles on the Makerspace concept, but now is the time for members who want to upskill with computer-aided-design software to join in the Makerspace project.

John Moriarty

June 2026



Constructing the Makerspace shed



Murray C and Peter H doing the floor slab



The wall framing put up in a day



Roof trusses on with provision for a rooflights.



See what Murray C does in his spare time – Ctrl click on the Alternative pastimes link below

[Alternative pastimes!](#)

Plus, a special mention of support of our MenzShed Kapiti backers, local businesses, supporters, and sponsors which allows our projects to work for community and charitable activities



A Roof Over Our Heads



Supply of toilet & Plumbing Items



Serious Site Earthworks



Amenity Electrical Items



A Heatpump For Our Comfort



Waikanae Charter Club Community Grant



Electrical Apprentice Manpower



We receive 10 litres of Cabots stains annually from Dulux



Printing Our Brochures



Driving The Website



Stair tread edges and trims



Boys Toys and Just Stuff for Community Projects

Remember these magnificent people when you plan your next special project