

AND NOW THE NEWS YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

MenzShed National Conference Mid March A Big Success

After all the sweat and stress the Conference at El Rancho was a great success and excellent exposure for our Kapiti and our Shed.

You can read the report about the conference on our website <http://menzshedkapiti.org.nz/> but for me the main highlights were all around meeting up with and doing things with people from about the country.

The Friday evening social gathering at our workshop. All that work paid off and our venue is something to be very proud of PLUS Kapiti's sunset that evening was a typical startling example for our guests.



The Saturday feature workshop visits were amazing boys and their toys experiences.

Jeff with his old aeroplane props,



His Norton motorbikes



His old car restoration



Then there is that outstanding collection of real old timers at Southwards Museum Workshop waiting to become centrepieces to remind us of days gone by. What a privilege to be allowed to view this backroom part of the museum. Thank you Stan.



Then the Saturday tour climax. Steam Incorporated, the ultimate boy's trainset.

The modern diesels and electrics can never stir the soul like the fire breathing dragon and hissing monster Ja 1271. As a boy I lived within 100 metres of the Napier/Gisborne line and cannot resist the chance to chase a Ja coal-fire loco in full steam.



PLUS Ab608 Passchendaele is now ready to roar down the mainline again in memory of the railway men who served in WW1.

You can tell I for one enjoyed the MenzShed conference Saturday experience.

Surf Club Trailer Handed Over

Yes it's all complete, in the Surf Club hands and the fit-out for action is well under way. Ray & Terry deserve a big round of applause.

The Hand over to the Surf Club



Special Cladding Fitted



And Back to Fit the Latch



Montessori Preschool Mock Cottage Project Complete

Another fantastic community project completed. Its things like this that make helping out at MenzShed very special. Thanks for your focus Peter D and Ian G. Finally the children's faces say it all.

Trailer Load Delivery



Installing at the School



Rainy Day Ribbon Cutting



And finally a great big THANK YOU from the children to top the project off.



Pest Trap Production Has Started

The latest round of restructuring has seen our lovely DOC contact Lisa leave the department but before she left she arranged for materials and mechanisms needed to complete the first batch of 18 stoat traps to be supplied. (100 traps planned)

So things have started to take shape and before long a full production run will be ready to go out into the field.



Ian put his hand up to help assemble these valuable tools. I think I have got enough bits for at least the first 10 lined up and ready for the hammer.



Weta Motels Ready For The Friends of the Park Nature Programme

Jan Nesbit, Friends of the Park, needs Weta Motel kits to use as a project in the school holiday Nature Programmes. We've done it before and once again turned out a batch for Jan. Now Walter, Gordon and Alan have put their combined heads together to come up with a new design that is simple to repeat using jigs for accuracy. Jan doesn't know it yet but she is about to receive another batch ready for the next Nature Programme series.

Large BBQ Table for Waikanae Volunteer Fire Brigade

Remember the large outdoor picnic table we made for Waikanae Kindergarten. John & Bill have been back into action and very soon we will be ready to deliver a man-sized version of the octagonal BBQ table for the Fire Brigade. Our friend Susie Mills (Best Practice Lawyers) looks after fundraising for the Waikanae Volunteer Fire Brigade and at the beginning of the year whispered to us that they badly needed an outdoor table. No worries! We can do that! Watch this space and the newspaper for a special delivery soon.

Chopping Boards Complete

George and Richard put in an enormous effort to glue together a large bunch of old rimu stair banisters so as to create blocks to be sliced up into 30mm thick end-grain chopping boards. The blocks were ready before Christmas but the man with the wide mouth bandsaw wasn't able to cut the slices until now.



Well the job has now been done and George and Richards efforts produced 17 slices that when sanded became amazing works of art.

By the way while this last stage was in train, Richard moved from Kapiti to the Wet Coast but I have tracked him down to send him a farewell block. Thanks for all your hard work for our Kapiti community Richard.

Cartridge World Shop Move

Our good friend Dee Fisher, who owns the Paraparaumu Cartridge World shop, needed a hand to move from the old shop in Te Roto Drive to a new location sharing with Pete's Printing & Copy, unit 6, 13 Te Roto Drive. For everyone's information Dee produced our first brochures free as a support to helping MenzShed Kapiti get started back in 2010. The word was spread and a great bunch of our guys turned up on Easter Saturday morning. The place was dismantled and reinstalled at the new place by lunchtime. Special mention of Wayne and Bede who did all the planning and knew what was needed.

And now Dee has made a very generous contribution to our funds for our help. Good friends make a difference.



This is the cartridge processing workshop in the new location.

Outdoor Seats For Rotary's Otaki River Walk Project

As a result of the very successful and magnificent oldies resting seat in front of the Waikanae Health Centre, we were asked if we could do something for a project the Rotary people were working on at Otaki. The question is then, as always, how high do we need to jump and next we knew the masters of the art of seats, Ian and John were onto it. Another fine effort and now a useful facility for the Otaki community.



Salvaged Material from Pritchards/Palmers Garden World Coastlands



The defunct garden centre at the west end of Coastlands is about to be redeveloped and thanks to some very generous people we have been given the chance to salvage a variety of things like pavers, water pipe, timber framing, guttering, electrical and plumbing items etc before the demolition people takeover. So far we have over 1000 pavers to improve the gravel area in front of the workshop. AMAZING!!! Anyone keen on landscaping please raise their hand now to help James make it happen.

Rebuilding the Salvaged Tractor Shed Has Begun



Peter sorted all the consent issues, Pub Charity granted our application for some money to replace the galvanised iron for the roof, the MenzShed conference is no longer in the way so there's no holding the team back. This photograph is about a week old so way out of date. This past weekend the last of the poles to support the roof were carefully installed. What a crew!!!! Get ready for the concrete floor pour. Your aching muscles

might be needed. Just ask Walter. He knows what one determined member of our group can achieve by sheer determination and a good set of muscles.

Holiday Snaps

I had a holiday recently so find it necessary to bore you all with a few pics. Firstly the million dollar view looking toward Chile from the Mahia Peninsular batch I stayed at.



Then the wee batch owned by a local farming family.



I enjoyed a soak in the quite unique Morere Hot pools to ease the pain of being on holiday. (They ease the withdrawal symptoms from being away from the shed too.) As a teenager I shot possums in the Morere bush here.



And of course a bit of Horsing around as well.

Which leads me too the next thought that I followed up while I was in the area.

A Cunning Plan For Restoring An Oldie

Last year I was watching Country Calendar, as a good Kiwi country lad does, and recognised the countryside as being where I was bought up. An old Maori bloke, Charlie, explained how some old machinery in a derelict woolshed was originally used. It's a long story but I wrote to the Trust operating the group of farms asking their agreement for MenzShed Kapiti to recover the machinery to create a display unit showing how early shearing was done.

While on holiday I found that the Board has approved my request and now we need to urgently



begin the recovery process before the things become unrecoverable. This stuff is way out the back of beyond.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A WEEKEND MENZSHED SOCIAL TRIP?????

The TARGET IS 23 to 26 MAY. Please let me know your interest. Ring me 904 2932 or talk to me at the shed.



A Great Big Thank You From the Relay For Life Organisers

After our volunteer support to assist with pitching and breaking down tents for teams taking part in the annual Relay For Life, we received an invitation to a social get together with those involved. We heard lots of nice things, had nice nibbles and we were presented with a certificate recognising our help. All those involved take a bow!

There's always lots happening at the shed; meeting new people; talking with visitors; exploring ideas; drinking coffee and tea; eating scones, cakes, muffins, etc, etc; telling stories; sorting bits and pieces; laying out the workshops; doing projects to benefit the community. Maybe you just need to get out from under the feet of someone who cares.

If you haven't been for a while, come along and share a cuppa.

Cheers to you all

Nigel Clough
MenzShed Kapiti
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