



## June 2016 Newsletter

K A P I T I

Well it is time to bring everyone up to date with the news and activities of MenzShed Kapiti.

It has been great talking to a few people recently about what we do. For example the KCDC organiser for the Number 8 Wire week commented during his visit last week that it was great to see what MenzShed Kapiti does particularly as a lot of this is for the Community. He was very enthusiastic about all the goings on.

For those of you who are unable to attend our regular Tuesday and Thursday morning sessions we are now getting over thirty guys attending most sessions and there are generally some 10 to 12 projects being worked on at any one time. What a way to keep a group of old fellows off the street!!

So what are the Community related projects

10 poster stands for the Crows Feet Dance Group



Wheeled Cart for Scoreboards for Paraparaumu Petanque



40 Penguin nests for the Kapiti Biodiversity Group



Dental Technician's cabinet for a local dentist. The first one was so successful that another one was required.



Assembly of precut crosses and building storage boxes for Wellington City Council – in addition to completing the assembly of over 1000 crosses in both 2015 and 2016 we have designed and built over 40 stackable storage boxes for these crosses.



Above the Botanic Gardens in Wellington

Sorting the crosses

And away they go

Creating a slatted screen for the Cancer Society's new Kapiti office.

Magazine Rack for local business



- A puppet stage for the Kapiti United Church.
- Rotating Rubbish Bin repaired
- Installation of 200l water tanks. Many residents purchase 200l emergency water tanks from KCDC and have asked MenzShed to install them. Most times we put the tank on a stand and some of the offcuts of timber around the Shed are used for some of the stand construction.
- Wellington Free Ambulance – model for the rebuild of the Ambulance Station at Paraparaumu. Thanks to James and his team of expert model makers, MenzShed Kapiti produced a very fine scale model of the new station to be built at Paraparaumu for the Wellington Free Ambulance. This model was shown all around the Kapiti area and further afield for the million dollar plus fundraising appeal that has resulted in the new station being opened on 28 May.

And activities for the development of the MenzShed Kapiti facilities include:

- Building a bench for one of our dropsaws
- Building a bench for our tool sharpening activities



- Cutting of surplus offcuts as firewood for local residents

- Removal of four trailers of scrap metal which has accumulated over the last 12 to 18 months to a scrap merchant
- The sorting of Shed A getting the screws, bolts and amassed tools etc into a semblance of order. Thanks to James and the team for this great effort.
- Fundraising – MenzShed Kapiti has been engaged by Kapiti U3A for the past year or so to set out the chairs required for their Kaleidoscope meetings at the Parkwood Retirement hall. This is a good fundraiser for the Shed and thanks to the men who come to help with this on the Monday mornings. The next session for their meetings commences 3 Oct thru to end November.

And activities happening in the near future include:

- US Marine Memorial Huts – MenzShed Kapiti have undertaken to work with the US Marines Trust group to refurbish two of the original huts which housed the US Marines during World War II at Camp Mackay. The Trust was given a house in Raumait South which comprised 2 or 3 of the old army huts. MenzShed Kapiti have dismantled the house and transported the components of the huts (roof panels, sides and floor panels) to the Shed site. Works is about to commence to restore 2 of the huts to their original character ready to be installed as a US Marines Memorial at QEII Park at Mackays Crossing in time for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary remembrance activities in 2017.

Phase 1 – the demolition



Before



During



Before or After??!

- Kaka Nests – DoC have agreed with the prototype developed by Skip and Nigel . Last year we provided 6 of these nests to DoC for installing around the Karori area and in the last breeding season there was some successful kaka breeding. You may have seen the webcam of one nest on the internet. The nests that were used last year will need to be refurbished. As result Skip and Nigel developed the prototype which enables the refurbishment to be simpler and which will allow Victoria University Research access during breeding to tag each bird and to monitor their development. We will have 5 nests to refurbish and 10 new ones to build.
- No 8 wire community project at Kapiti College to take place in July
- Toolboxes for Pacific Islands – 6 toolboxes including hand tools are ready for dispatch to the Solomon Islands and 2 more will be complete in 4 weeks for Bougainville. Another project which is based on recycling of wood and equipment by Menzshed Kapiti.
- James and his team are now starting a model for the new building for ZEAL in Paraparaumu.

As we develop the Newsletter more details of projects, those working on the project and related photographs will be included.

This is a useful reminder of the good work completed at MenzShed Kapiti out of the seemingly chaotic activity each Tuesday and Thursday morning.

### **Our Sponsors and Supporters**

But to be able to do all these activities we should remember our supporters and sponsors.

Thanks to those local residents who kindly donate their stock of timber and tools as they downsize or retire their workshops. It provides a useful source of tools, equipment and materials which we can use to contribute to the Kapiti communities.

And then there are our sponsors (and our apologies to those forgotten at this stage. We will ensure they are acknowledged in later newsletters) without who we would not be able to be as successful as we are with our commitment to the community. These include:

- Law Connection – who provide funding for the power costs
- Local Timber Merchants – for their advice and discount on timber, tools, and fittings (Crichton ITM Building Centre)
- Resene Paints – for the supply of paint through a MenzShed NZ negotiated agreement
- Blackwoods – for safety and protective equipment also through a MenzShed NZ negotiated agreement
- Mainfreight for their processing of the export licence required for the toolboxes to the Pacific Islands
- Keyoisk for the supply of combination locks for the toolboxes
- Local IT – who provide hosting for our website

### **Biannual National MenzShed Conference**

Peter and Nigel attended the National Conference of MenzShed New Zealand over the weekend of 15 to 17 April in Kaiapoi. The conference is a two yearly event and some others might like to participate in 2018.

The opportunity to meet up with other similar minded people from about the country is fantastic and to visit some featured places. This conference Patience & Nicholson in Kaiapoi hosted everyone through their plant where they produce about 78,000 precision drill bit per day for the international market. Robotics and CNC machinery everywhere. Carbatec also supported the conference and demonstrated their table saw fitted with a Power Stop safety system to keep fingers on hands. A sample "Power-Stopped" sawblade was donated to our shed for display. Another trip to a private engineering enthusiast's workshop at Manderville, complete with steam engines, was a real man's world many of us might dream about. Spot prizes at the conference resulted in a nice Kawasaki battery drill and various other small items.

The theme of the conference was "Diversity, Collaboration and Health". Clearly there is quite a range of styles in the way sheds are run and the way they are organised. It was also very clear that our shed is a bit special in the way it relies upon no other outside group for its existence and for the non-structured way we operate.

As an observation two comments stood out from the presentations; "People before projects" and "Men before sheds". All our communities receive major benefits from a MenzShed in their areas.

### **Committee Activities**

At the recent Committee meeting the following items were discussed. This is in addition to the standard items of finance and administration of Kapiti MenzShed which are managed on your behalf.

- Site Usage – there are ongoing discussions with KCDC regarding development of the Rangihiroa St site.
- Disposals – the recycling of scrap metal, surplus and offcuts of wood and the sale of surplus equipment is monitored and approved by the Committee.
- Welfare Officer – the Committee has been concerned as have some members, that MenzShed Kapiti could be more pro-active in supporting members who are absent due to illness or adversity. It is planned that the Welfare officer will follow up on absent members. An announcement will be made on this shortly.

In addition if you notice a member has not been attending the regular weekly sessions or you are aware of a member who needs support then let the Welfare Officer or the Committee members know.

For your information the Committee are:

Doug Watson (President), Peter Blackler (Treasurer), Alan Muxlow (Secretary), John Robinson, Gordon McGavin, Peter Rendall, and Terry Twomey

### **Safety**

With recent changes to the Health and Safety legislation there is a need for us all to be conscious of safety.

It may be someone else as well as the machine operator who gets hurt through carelessness or incorrect use of equipment. For example recently there have been several instances when odd sounds were heard at the drop saw. It would appear the most common cause of problems at the dropsaw is cutting bowed wood that can cause the saw to jam and kick back. Please check you put the wood on the saw the correct way. If in doubt, talk to a Committee member or one of our gurus – Ian, Skip or John R.

The Committee wants to keep the informal relaxed environment which we have at the Shed but safety is very important. None of us wants an accident.

## Recycling

As mentioned previously MenzShed Kapiti have been keen to recycle wood, tools and other fittings and equipment. With this in mind we have been:

- Using woods received from others which is surplus to their needs or by converting offcuts to firewood for local residents.  
Thanks to Jean & Paul Morending for their recent generous donation of some great planks of Rimu. Paul – these will not be used as firewood!
- Supplying hand tools to the islands
- Passing on surplus tools to other MenzSheds
- Selling surplus tools, equipment etc to members and through Trademe (If any members want to purchase surplus equipment then ask one of the Committee.)

And if any members have ideas on how we can better recycle surplus stuff talk to a Committee member.

## Obituary



It was sad to hear of the passing of Eddie Davis recently. Eddie has been a long term member of the Shed and made a significant contribution to its establishment and activities. He was happy to get into anything and will be remembered for the painting of the shed as it was developed and his wielding of BBQ tongs at our Shed BBQs. Our condolences to his family.

To all members enjoy our MenzShed