

Well 2016 is almost over. It has been very successful as was mentioned at our end of year BBQ by Peter B and is summarised in the 2016 statistics article later in this newsletter.

But firstly Doug and the committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2017.

To our members thanks for their contributions both in the numerous projects and their part in the “community” spirit and comradeship we enjoy at our regular weekly sessions.

To our sponsors thank you for your support and interest in Menzshed Kapiti.

To the Kapiti Community thanks for your support and the projects you ask us to complete. We recognise our place in the Kapiti Community and without you we could not be as successful.



Thanks to Kapiti Coast District Council for our occupancy of the old depot at Rangihiroa St. It is a fantastic site that has enabled MenzShed Kapiti to develop into a very successful and well respected community activity.

### **This Month's Activities**

Another busy month.

### **Moths and Butterflies to Decorate Nga Manu's Enclosure Entrance**

One thing leads to another. When we delivered the volunteer staff table to Nga Manu, Sarah, the publicity person told us how she had these patterns that needed to be cut out of plywood for installing at the entrance to the special enclosure. Skip and Nigel thought that's for us and very soon Sarah had the patterns marked out and the plywood sheet waiting to be picked up. Skip and a decent bandsaw made the cutting out job a breeze then a bunch of good guys made up small flapper sanding tools and chamfered all the edges for easy painting. We did it again!



### **Waikanae School Workbench**

John has finished this project off, painted the school colours across the backing board, mounted all the tools and got everything ready for delivery to be achieved before the end of term. A crew of 4

heaved it onto our trailer and made delivery to the hall off Hira Street into the hands of staff ready for the children a week or so ago.



A great job by John M and Brent and we look forward to the prospect of supporting those using the bench in 2017.

If the wood work completed by the students is as good as the cake they sent as thanks then we have something to look forward to.

What a problem that poses – more cake or successful woodworking – a real dilemma!!!

A wooden locomotive was given to the school as well.

### How About A Playtime Water Table for Kids

The people from the Kura Kaupapa in Tennis Court Rd dropped by to see if we might be able to make them a special table for their little ones to enjoy playing with water or sand at a suitable table height. What a good idea! So a week or so later Siggy drops by with a plastic insert to base the table around plus a box of Siggy's savory pies. (Yes she is of Siggy's Pies fame.) We sent her away with another one of the wooden trains. Happy customers are a specialty.



### Chads Bowling Kneelers Delivered



Now we all know that if you're into bowls you need to get down to it but that means getting up again after. So Chad with the help of anyone who knew the "how to do" has enthusiastically completed the batch of standing up aids for old bowlers. This lot especially created for the Waikanae Bowling Club. More happy chappies in the community

### The Firewood Crew Never Sleep

Winter and spring the demand has been there. Ross, Ian, Murf, Dennis and Charlie have turned caboodles of rough old pieces of pine and offcuts into bags of firewood for a constant stream of clients to keep them warm. Our firewood stand at the gate produces a regular income to help with the finances. As the weather gets warmer the demand has dropped but people continue to need the service. The firewood crew is up to that.





### Children's Performance Stage Scenery

John P arrived with a special request for a door in a frame to be part of a stage set that would be the entry and exit point for the players taking part. It had to be just 1.4 metres to suit the children, the set and light enough to move about but sturdy also because of the amount of use. Murray became chief assistant to the assistant chief. He knew exactly how to put the plan into a fine looking doorframe.



### Delicate Furniture Repairs



John P is a sucker for a challenge. Older ladies come in the gate with all sorts of damaged pieces of furniture. Last month the dog had chewed a chair arm. This month the leg of a delicate old table fell off. Not a problem. John will attempt anything that

involves fine detail. Very satisfying to see the end results.

### Weatherboard for the Playhouse

Alan M with support has started the painting of the weatherboard for this donated child's playhouse.



Eventually the plywood cladding will be reconstructed to appear to be weatherboard cladding for realism. Any other ideas welcome.

Someone has already suggested it would make a good chicken run. But don't say I told you this.

### US Marine Hut

The project team are enjoying the stripper and it certainly removes things very effectively.

Thanks to Coopers – some beautiful wood is emerging from the grime and varnish as they apply the stripping system.



**A New MenzShed Development – Landscaping**  
Cliff, Ron, Chad, and others from time to time are making good progress in the site tidyup and establishment of gardens for MenzShed Kapiti. We look forward to our own produce at the end of season BBQ!



**Clearing up the pile of scrap metal**  
Peter B, David and various hesitant collectors of men's stuff have been doing a good job sorting and disposing of carefully accumulated scrap metal. Already there have been 4 or 5 trailer loads of scrap sold with the funds going into the account for future activities. So far that's raised over \$450 for the coffers.



### **Rumbler for Seed Balls**

This is a new idea that Paul F has been working on with Kapiti Biodiversity Project. The purpose is to create a machine to make seed balls. How does this work?

The idea is to mix clay, compost, seeds and water which will be rolled into balls. The balls will be sold to walkers on the Paekakariki Escarpment Track to throw along the slopes beside the track to vegetate the escarpment. This is similar to self-seeding by bird droppings. But I wonder what stops the moist seed soil mixture in the drum from germinating before scattering. At least the clay balls will be selective in the types of seeds which will be distributed.

This project is due for completion early in the New Year. Watch this space for photos.

### **Dennis Has Departed Kapiti**

Yes guys the master of yummy shortbread has moved to Greymouth. That means a change in diet and Nigel's yapper zapper water gun can take a break because Ellie May has gone with him. Dennis has been a very active member of our MenzShed and always one to put his hand up when we needed a good pair of hands. He knows he will miss us too so he already has plans to make the Greymouth division a reality. All the best Dennis and we look forward to a visit when you holiday on the Non -Wet West Coast.

### **Tools to the Islands**

The next shipment to Bougainville will be leaving Auckland early in the New Year. This includes extra saws and a plane for the Nazareth Centre (Chabai) to supplement the toolbox delivered in August and a tool box for the building of a church in Siwai in South Bougainville. They plan to then train others in the community in the use of the tools once the church has been completed.

## Gereh Chini

Apologies to Rashid. The spelling of this was incorrect in the November Newsletter. Was the scrawl which represents my notes the cause of this? Most likely!

## A Special Mention - The MenzShed Kapiti's Almoner

What is this?? Our definition is a person who is interested in the welfare of our members, keeping tabs on those who have not attended for a while or who may be sick. John O has accepted this role and is making a good fist of it. He has written the following:

*A couple of months ago the committee decided that an Almoner could make a useful contribution to the shed. Such a decision was brought about by the desire to take a closer interest in our members, especially those who live on their own and may have few contacts other than their Menzshed friends.*

*The job of the Almoner is to contact anyone we have not seen for a while to see if he is OK, and if not to offer any assistance he might like, especially visits and companionship.*

*To date several sick members have been visited in hospital and at home and practical help has also been given.*

*Everyone can play a part in the Almoner's role by letting me or a committee member know if someone has been missing for a few weeks. With over 80 members it is easy for someone's absence to go unnoticed but if we keep an eye out for each other we can all play our part.*

Thanks John for the good work.

## AND NOW FOR THE BIGGIE OF THE SEASON

### Santa Appearances

The Christmas Parades and visits by Santa have become an increasing demand on Menzshed Kapiti and the responses have been excellent. The first on the agenda this year was Raumati Beach Christmas Parade at Raumati School held at the end of November. That attracted attention from many directions. You saw some thumbnail images last month.

That appearance resulted in an URGENT request from Paraparaumu Beach Kindergarten –

**HELP MENZSHED PLEASE HELP!!!**

He looks a natural and he did this at short notice. But which Santa Ray is this??

This story will need your total concentration to follow.

The story goes like this. On Friday Peter B was doing a Waikanae River walk that is a regular community update when he received a phone call that our regular Santa Ross had been taken off to hospital. Not able to deal with it he telephoned





Nigel who with the usual “No Problem” got on the telephone to arrange a substitute. (“Who on earth...Mutter! Mutter!”)

In recent months **Ray Y** had cultivated a grand Santa beard so with a bit of arm twisting he agreed to make an hour available to be the substitute Santa before rushing off to Wellington and then 10 days in Melbourne. Ray just had to wait for a call from Peter who would drop off the spare Santa suit and then be ready for a 5.30 pickup.

The arrangements were all passed to Peter and after the river briefing he collected the suit from the workshop, knocked on the door of **Ray W**’s home and handed the Santa suit with the comment he would be picked up at 5.30. A Surprised Ray W said “but we have dinner at 6”. Nonetheless the crew was on time and in form for the Paraparaumu Kindergarten in Raumati Marine Gardens. A great show by all reports.

About 7pm **Ray Y** spoke with Nigel a bit confused. Nobody had turned up to get him for the Santa job. No worries. Off Ray Y went on his holiday. Now how amazing is that for a well organised response. Only at MenzShed Kapiti.

Thanks to the Santa’s Ross, and Ray W. And to the Santa patiently waiting to be picked up – Ray Y.

Not sure if this was mistaken identity, breakdown in communication or a committee members brain fade!!! It certainly has made for a wonderful story.

### **Next There Was The Paraparaumu Underwater Club.**

A HELP! phone call came in when arrangements had met a bump in the road. Standby Santa was double-booked so could MenzShed Kapiti help.

Fanfare !!!!!

### **MENZSHEDS SANTA COMES TO THE RESCUE**

And this one is Ross and he does have the kids looking rapt. A wet but wonderful time.



### **Then Waikanae Beach Carols In The Carpark**

This event later the same day was at St Michaels Church but the weather made that a serious challenge to keep smiling but dry. Sorry but photos were the last thing on our combined minds. But we will keep the search up so we have some for the record. Somebody must have some we can acquire as our own.

### **The Santa Climax - Waikanae’s Mahara Place Carols and Brass Band Event**

Once again we provided the feature appearance of Santa and sleigh rides with Santa moved by our now famous Electric Reindeer, Rudolf. The Elfin support crew was magnificent, the business support fantastic and the crowd very appreciative. Describing this performance is near impossible so we leave that to the images below.



A special thanks to Peter Venner Motors for their support again this Christmas with bright mobility scooters for our aged elf escort at both Raumati and Waikanae. After all, escorting Santa can be very energy sapping for us older elves. And thanks in particular to Michelle for her efforts decorating the scooters so they couldn't be missed. The MenzShed Kapiti Santa procession and supporting elf crew was a sight that just cannot be described without pictures.



Destination Waikanae's Sue Lusk can be very pleased that her efforts are appreciated by the community.



## MenzShed Kapiti's Christmas BBQ

As usual a good one even if there were aspersions cast on Terry's cooking. (But aren't flames the norm at a BBQ.)



The evidence of a well done patty does not do justice to the superb spread including the BBQ cooked food.



Thanks to Terry, Ray W and Frank, Chad et al for another excellent BBQ for us all to enjoy.



A great evening celebrating achievements and being in the company of good friends, family and special guests.

Telling the tales of how things have happened and special moments during the year.





Entertained in style by our own live musical group - Domainz

Take a bow

Ray  
Charlie  
Hans  
Andrew



CHEERS TO ALL SHEDDIES, THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Enough for this year**

If you haven't been for a while, come along and share a cuppa. But enjoy the festive season first and we will see you early in the New Year. **10 January 2017 is the date for good company but no serious projects until a larger support crew is back on deck.**

Peter R & Nigel C

And a special mention of very important MenzShed Kapiti outside support people; our sponsors -



**Printing The Brochures**



**Driving The Website**



**Powering MenzShed Kapiti**



**Stripping For MenzShed**

## EXTRA! EXTRA! - TIME TO BLOW YOUR TRUMPET

### **Menzshed Kapiti Activity Statistics for 2016.**

We have all felt there has been a lot going on in 2016. Just how much is amazing. Peter B has collated some activity information. See the list of projects below.

And for another approach to statistics for the year 2015 –2016 we had 2973 shed attendances written in the attendance book.

That is an average of 30 men per day for the 99 sessions but the actual numbers will be a bit higher because everyone does not always sign in. (Another type of memory fade!!)

Taking an average of 2.75 hours per person per session that gets up to around 8200 plus man hours at the shed for the year, (most of that on community projects and does not include the offsite projects) plus the additional Committee time.

Seriously it is a great Community effort.

### **MenzShed Projects 2016 our regular weekly sessions**

**80 Members 35 – 40 at Shed in**

US Marines Memorial Huts refurbishment

WWI Commemorative Crosses – 960 assembled this year plus 20 boxes  
– Next year 1500 crosses plus 30 boxes

Kapiti Youth Motivational Trust – 7 sheets ply cut into 110 x 110 mm square tiles (1200)

Work bench - Waikanae School equipped with tools

Toy Trains – Refurbish one but made about 5

Model for Paraparaumu Ambulance Station

Model for ZEAL Building

Repaired broken chairs for local person

CD Rack unit for Charles Fleming Retirement Home

Table for Nga Manu Staff lunch area

Nest box for Grey Teal at Nga Manu

Plywood Moths and Butterflies for Nga Manu

Tool Boxes for Solomon Islands(6) and Bougainville(2) stocked with hand tools

Childrens Holiday programme

Otago Medical School students visit

Sharpening Garden tools for public



## Conservation projects

Kaka Nesting boxes refurbish 6 from last year, 9 new, new design  
Penguin Nest boxes 40  
Weta Motels  
Working on a Lizard lounge  
Stoat traps Rat traps

Cancer Soc Office screen

Emergency Water Tank Install 15

Childrens BBQ Tables 8

Trolley for Petanque Club score boards

Poster Display stands for Dance Studio

Refurbish Table and seat for local Tennis Club

Rashid's (Iranian) Gereh Chini Iranian traditional lattice work panels

Raumati Village Street Party

Raumati Xmas Parade – refurbish Sleigh, Golf Cart, Snoopy Bi-plane, provide Santa

Paraparaumu Beach Kindy Xmas Party – Urgent request to provide Santa

Kapiti Underwater Club – Urgent request to provide Santa

Waikanae Beach Residents Carrols at Rangihiroa St – took Santa and Golf Cart

Mahara Place Sat 17 Dec - Santa Sleigh and Santa

Garden Group started

Clean out numerous garages and sheds. Thanks for the donations.