

2017 and what is in the pipeline for MenzShed Kapiti? A fast year as already January and February have passed before we get the first newsletter out!

There was the flow-on of projects started in 2016 and after the Christmas break it was all go from 10th January. 2017 with a full list of activities and our usual good attendance.

Sorry about the delay in publishing the Newsletter. My typing skills seemed to be on a protracted holiday.

So what has happened since December?

Weta Motels – Ian P, George and Bill have started production again with Nga Manu needing a top up of the stock of kits for sale in their shop and other groups showing interest in these.

There was after a major crisis when the templates were put away in a safe place before Christmas!! Fortunately the “safe” place was finally found on the return of a certain person who had been sunning themselves in Australia.



Cupboard Unit –Franks and Tony created a masterpiece for Ian F who is in a retirement village after suffering a stroke.

Great to see support for one of our members.

Lizard Shelters- Walter developed a prototype late last year and now these are likely to go into production. Thanks to DOC for their advice and interest in the prototype.

We may need one or two of these shelters for lizards or geckos which inhabit the land around the MenzShed Facilities.

Lizard Nest project for VUW – We are in the process of cutting some 180 sheets of Onduline for these. John R and Ian G worked on this.

As this is very large project it is planned that the vertical sheet cutting table will be used to cut the remainder of the sheets of Onduline when the boxes for the ANZAC Crosses are complete.

5 strips of Onduline will be cut from each sheet and we have a deadline of the beginning of May for distribution. No pressure really!!

US Marine Hut – After an extended time of preparation – rebuilding rotten frames and stripping decades of varnish the team of Dave, Murray, John M, Brent P, Paul F, Paul W and Ric have started the assembly of the hut. There are others who have assisted with the rebuild as time, interest or need prevailed

Progress over January and February is best shown through a series of photographs.



Up go the walls



End wall with roof profile



Watching paint dry



And Brent's blessing!!



And weatherboard is being fitted.

With the progress to date the deadline of May 2017 for the transfer of the Hut to QE2 Park should not be too challenging or stressful for the team.

MenzShed Garden

Have you noticed the new additions to the grounds of the MenzShed? Have you seen the fresh produce growing between the main car park and the upper car park? MenzShed Kapiti now has it's own garden boxes! After making several garden boxes for others in the community, we have now taken the time to make some for ourselves.

It all started with Nigel's strawberry planter (crafted by Nigel, Harry, Mike and Brent) and has now grown into 3-4 decent sized raised garden boxes. Thanks to the efforts of Cliff, Ron, Ian, Phil, Peter, Chad and others, we have vegetables and herbs growing right under our noses! If you look closely, you can see lemons, strawberries, pumpkins, lettuce, silver beets, tomatoes, chives, parsley, dill, just to name a few.



And the lemon tree has been successfully transferred.

Some members have asked what's the plan with the produce? I'm so glad you asked! The plan is that when we have our now famous BBQs starting around autumn, we can simply use our own fresh produce, picked from our own garden boxes!



Thanks to a generous donation from John O we also have our own rotating compost bin, for coffee grounds, tea bags and fruit and vegetable scraps. NOTE: Please do not put any meat or animal products in the compost bin, as that will attract unwanted rodents. Thanks for your cooperation.

Great contribution to the newsletter Chad.

The gardening team are now working on the clearance of the rear of the site. It is certainly bringing the image of the MenzShed yard up to scratch.

Work in progress in the creation of the Site Lizard Lounge, after due consultation.





And then there was the visit from the KCDC Green gardener to advise on setting up worm farms. The Gardening Trust showed great interest.

Firewood – As usual Charlie, Ross, Ian H and Barry with some help from others have worked to de-nail any untreated wood offcuts or pallets and then cut this up for firewood.

A thankless job which assists in keeping the site tidy, clearing our waste wood, and supplies firewood to Waikanae residents. This is one of our sources of revenue. Keep up the good work guys.



Water Tanks – Thanks to Peter B and John R for the good work in installing these throughout the Kapiti Coast.

Thank you to KCDC who advise people purchasing the emergency 200L tanks of our service. We also can supply a base which means the water can be filled direct into containers.

ANZAC Crosses

Now that all the supplies have been delivered and templates checked. John R and Ian G have developed a vertical sheet jig which will be useful for this and other projects around the shed.

Doug, Rashid and Peter R have been taking the burr off the rods which will hold the crosses in the ground. Team New Zealand has nothing on this team of grinders!!

And rumour has it there will be special work days on the crosses in March to ensure we meet the ANZAC Day deadline. There will be photos next month.

Toy Trains – There has been some interest in having these available for sale or for members' grandchildren. Rashid and Derek pre-cut 6 of these for kitset or for the assembled units. Thanks to Skip for the advice on the construction of these.



The trains are now ready for sale. But there is plenty of interest and we will need to produce some more soon



Furniture Repairs- John P has developed a reputation for doing these repairs and two happy customers are shown with their repaired furniture. Thanks John.



And his present project is rebuilding a ship's deck chair. Not from the Titanic but certainly a model from last century!!



Tool Sharpening – This appears to be an ongoing tasks and Ray Y is hard out keeping up with the demand for sharp tools.

Gordon M also contributes with the sharpening of garden tools and other equipment.

Thanks to Ray Y and Gordon McG for this service both to the MenzShed and the Kapiti Community. For members Gordon is aiming to sharpen tools every first Thursday of the month to fit in with other things he has scheduled.

Childrens' BBQ Tables-Alan J and Brian M have been working steadily over several months to build these tables. A great job and something that several Kindergartens and Child Care places are enjoying the benefit.

This one is just about to be delivered.



Clearing of excess nuts and bolts. From the depths of cavern Barry , James, Walter and Doug have sorted quantities of our surplus nuts and bolts ready for sale. Excellent job provided a contribution to our defibrillator.

Gate to MenzShed – you may recall that the gate at the entrance to our site had a bent gate which caused few challenges when opening and closing it. Charlie, with the assistance of a passing heavy vehicle, completed the necessary repairs to straighten the gate and making the opening a lot easier, particularly in the rain. Thanks Charlie.



Seed Rumbler

As mentioned late last year Paul F has been working with the Kapiti Biodiversity project and with our engineers, Terry and Ray, have developed a seed rumbler.

This has progressed to the stage that the drum and frame are ready, the motor has been sourced, some parts fabricated and it is now ready to assemble.

For the walkers among you the seed balls will be available for you to throw along the Escarpment walk. It may take some time for the seeds to germinate and appear above the present vegetation but something to look forward to in the future.

Raising a Marquee at Trentham Park

Some nine members turned up to help our friends at the Wellington Vintage Machinery Club to raise the 30m by 10m Marquee in preparation for the Upper Hutt City Carnival and enjoy a fish and chip supper afterwards.



Leader Board for the KCDC Civil Defence Challenge

Chad has coordinated the preparation of the leader Board for this.

Manson and Bruce put a big effort into building the Leader Board.

Unfortunately the Challenge was postponed due to bad weather and is now scheduled for 19th March. ■



Sand Pit for a local Kura Kaupapa

Skip, Gordon B and others worked to build this.

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Another great piece of work



Relay for Life

Thanks to our team who assisted the Cancer Society at the Relay for Life by helping to set up the tents and other facilities and in the clear up after the event.

Thanks guys.



Waiting for his Apprenticeship to start – It is good to see Manson back at MenzShed after the holiday appearances. Manson has finished school and is waiting for his Joinery apprenticeship to start in mid 2017. Nice to see you around Manson and thanks for lowering the average age of our members!!!

Defibrillator – Chad has been active in driving the fundraising for this for MenzShed Kapiti and he reports

Finally there's a light at the end of the tunnel! After gathering funds for purchasing an on-site defibrillator for MenzShed Kapiti, we've finally raised enough funds for acquiring a defibrillator through the AED Trust and Wellington Free Ambulance.

We were presented with 2 options for the defibrillator:

1. Purchase a private, on-site defibrillator for \$2800
2. Purchase a public defibrillator with lock box, signage, etc. for \$5000

We raised enough funds for option 1 above, thanks to all of your generous donations and Chad's efforts.

But then another option arose.

Wellington Free Ambulance offered to supply the security box for the defibrillator in exchange for two BBQ tables. Installation date yet to be confirmed.

Thank you Wellington Free Ambulance for such a generous and amazing offer and it means we will be able to support the Community by enabling public access to our defibrillator.

Members don't need skills

It's wrong to think that MenzShed members need specific practical skills. A majority of projects are completed in groups with the guidance of a leader. We share skills, look after and learn from one another. Members rally around to assist with "challenging" projects from home. And yes, we do have new members arriving with few practical skills who soon join a team, fitting in as if they'd always been present. Woodturning instruction, with supervision, has contributed to new skills, big smiles and some great results.

Summing up, while members talents range from expert to negligible, it really doesn't matter. We welcome all members to come and have fun helping out on community projects with a great group of guys.

Alan M, a Committee member, supplied this article.

It is pleasing to be able to have contributions from other members and we look forward to more of these in coming months.

So this was the start to 2017. We look forward to working with members and representing MenzShed Kapiti, working with our sponsors and supporters and for the Kapiti community.

There's always lots happening at the shed; drinking coffee and tea; sorting donated bits and pieces; having a laugh; organising projects to benefit the community and so on.

We even have visitors who are so taken with our shed that they take up residence! This Californian Quail enjoyed our accommodation for a few days.



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

Peter R & Nigel C

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



Powering MenzShed Kapiti



Printing The Brochures



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Stripping For MenzShed