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NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2020 No. 131

LOCKED-DOWN HOW'S YOUR BUBBLE DOING

Like everyone I guess I too have been living a very different life to the normal. In fact from the bubble alongside you can see I'm a bit doolally from being locked down.

When that coffee at the local cart or good barista cafe finally happens my bubble will stress rapidly.

Just yesterday I searched the internet to find that Warrick has his coffee cart serving customers contactless heaven outside Bohanna Motors in Waikanae.

In the words of Startrek's Mr Spock, **"It's life Jim but not as we know it!....."**



LOOKING BACK

Recently your newsletter has often featured the progress being made to make our facilities more suitable for our members. A facility that truly supports the concept of a place for "...The health and wellbeing of mainly older Men."

The following are a few images from earlier times to accentuate how far we have come. You will find one or two familiar faces appearing in the activities recorded.

Facilities upgrade has been constantly a focus.

But take a look at when it all began back in 2010.

Back in 2010 it was a disused and generally derelict Council Depot site.

Piles of trimmings, surplus materials and things needing attention around the place



MenzShed only had the small 40 square meter workshop as an initial base.

Very basic and in need of lots of TLC

This image was when we finally had possession and access to begin planning how to turn it into a real shed.

Member working bees turned the wilderness into something habitable.

And since then with loads of support and goodwill on the part of many people in Council, local business and individuals we have gradually reached where we are at.

This was a typical session back in 2010. The grand opening was 3 September 2010 and we still just completing trenching and wiring to gain power and water connections for the machinery to operate and for having a morning brew. No Tinker Bell session from Alan back then.



This year will be our 10th anniversary and the first comparison to draw is the changes at the site by February 2020. About 200 square metres of MenzShed building space plus gardens, clear parking and many more members all busy.



NOW LOOKING FORWARD

So that was where we came from and how we are moving forward. The 20 Year lease is now secured so unless bad behaviour changes the status. our place is ours until 2039 before renewal becomes negotiable again. Think of what might be by then.

Completing the next stage of development, our Amenities Block, will give us a comfortable 76 square metre kitchen and meeting area plus 40 square metres of covered deck for the rocking chair brigade to supervise shed activities from.

Just imagine what this development will mean to our weekly activities.

Get ready for the all new Amenities Block to expand the option on what we can do.



AND NOW LIFE UNDER LOCKDOWN – APRIL 2020 LEVEL 4

NIGEL'S STORY

Withdrawal symptoms set in very rapidly for me and I am sure most of the blokes. That meant to some degree things almost carried on as though nothing had changed... except of course I was locked up at home.

Alan M had asked me to explore how we could respond to a request for help refurbishing a cast old fashioned letter box for a lady in Rimu Street. He even gave me a rusty old one he found in our pile of bits so she had something while we did the restoration.

But we can't put something like that outside a nice house so it became a job needing attention.

Now that letterbox is ready when MenzShed is finally able to have contact with a community member once again



And of course Alan and I had discussed the concept that we have surplus garden hand tools that will be very useful to people starting new lives in the area. Immigration NZ have decided that over the next 12 months an estimated 90 new refugees will be resettled in the Levin/Horowhenua area. What better than to support them with useful tools to give them a helping hand. We think a combined effort by MenShed Kapiti, Otaki and Levin should make a real difference.



So as we locked down a pile of garden tools needing a bit of work found their way into my car boot.

Now all ready for painting and oiling for use again.



A neighbour in the process of moving house into a retirement village needed some help. Problem was her garden seat had a couple of rotten rails. Not anymore.

But at a personal level, home is where I am locked away which means my home and my wife are central to all activities. You all know about those things on the Gunna-Do list. Mine is quite loooooooooong.

That list needs lots of thinking about, pondering and planning so being locked away and unable to move freely to Mitre 10 or Placemakers means you have to amuse yourself with some other things you haven't done in a long time.

The Clough family are pretty self-sufficient and even had the pandemic kit from back about 2009 when the H5N1 swine influenza threat was current. Full of good face masks, soap, disinfectant, wipes etc. My box of 50 face masks is even surgical grade. All still in good condition except the ties are ribbons difficult to tie and not perished elastic loops. There's even a large secure food container still full of noodles, Surprise peas, canned soup, flour, sugar and so on. We were in a good position to last at least a month.

It took me a couple of weeks to manage to register with New World for online shopping and get a delivery. All sorted, as long as I work with a week lead time. What next to do.

SHARING SOME FAMILY HISTORY

What most people don't know is that my working career was a very different life to my upbringing. Here are a few images of history to demonstrate that my family have been bakers and pastry cooks forever. Not a typical profession any more.



Hans take note. You can relate to these.

My grandfather is the bloke on the right of the cart load of bread in Upper Hutt ready for delivery.

The family pregnant belly look is very obvious. (From kneading dough I'm told.)

The health professionals never believe me when I insist my shape is due to my genes not drinking lots of beer. My grandad, dad, uncles, brother, all the same.

The family moved to northern Hawkes Bay and there the family business boomed while the Napier – Gisborne railway was being built.

First the family delivery van was a Model T



Then with busy times it upgraded to a Dodge van. (Damaged in this shot about Napier Earthquake time.)

That's my story for this month so you may understand that it seemed like a good idea to bake a nice traditional loaf of fresh crusty bread.

I had all the ingredients and 50 years ago I used to bake bread when the urge for a crusty loaf of bread came upon me.

So bread it was. What a success.

BEAUTIFUL!!! Lovely texture and the aroma of the baking bread and yeast. I still have the Clough baker touch.



A SPECIAL FOLLOW-UP REQUEST

Maybe we can get a personal contribution from another member for the May newsletter edition. I suspect there is a good chance we might be a bit constrained until the vaccine is designed tested and approved to make it safe for us at risk blokes to venture out into the big wide world. Open up!!

NEWS FROM ABOUT THE PLACE

The word went out for members to keep in mind supplying the odd picture and a few words about the things they have got up to over the enforced lockdown. Some great contributions follow.

ALAN W's HOME PROJECT DECK REBUILD

From Alan W.

Some photos of my lockdown project. The original 50 year old carport and veranda had disintegrated so I reconstructed them. Of course it was taking forever to complete but the lockdown gave me the spare time I needed.

And a view from above



A new place to relax in the sun and rain.

RAY W's STORY

A few years ago I purchased three old Vespas. One of them was in better condition than the other two, so I decided to restore that one. Two of them were the same model (150 (Super) and the other one was a 90. One of the 150s was a complete rust bucket, so I stripped it and scrapped the body.

I started the restoration by cleaning, de-rusting the surface and repainting it yellow and white. The engine is fine except new

clutch plates are needed and there are a lot of things missing e.g. headlight, speedo, cables and name plates.



Once Lockdown is over, I'll order the necessary items and hopefully finish the restoration in time for next summer when I plan to use it as transport to and from Menzshed. In the meantime I'm using the abundance of time spent at home to de-rust and paint the spare front guard and side panels in order to sell them at a later date.

I hope that everyone is tackling all those jobs planned for 'some day' and not pulling out your hair (if you have any) in frustration at the enforced isolation.

Regards, Ray W

PS Has anyone got any old redundant Vespa parts in their shed?

PETER B'S STORY - THINGS TO DO DURING COVID-19

So what does one do with all the spare time and nowhere to go during Covid Level 4 – get out the Round-to-it Wheel and polish off some of the projects.

One of the projects that has been on my round-to-it for some time has been to make up a new set of steerable wheels required for moving my big engines around when I go out on public display.



The present set of wheels were only a temporary arrangement made up 20 years ago from a bit of 3x2, heavy duty gate hinges, and light weight hand cart wheels.

The design for a new set of wheels has been on the go for some time – you know those great designs that come to the fore when lying in bed at night. The trouble is the design can change from night to night and those great ideas that are so obvious just as you are about to doze off can become a bit blurred in the morning.

Anyway the first task was to clear some of the working space. With some of the big engines still in the middle of the garage after being brought back from Upper Hutt on the last day of freedom in March, it would be wise to think about rearranging some of the machines into a more orderly fashion. The next few days was occupied moving the other big machines out and then uncovering some of the smaller engines and other good bits that were piled up in the corner. Came across a few motors that one had forgotten about.

After finding some heavy duty metal brackets, (the arm brackets off a swivel office chair fit the bill quite well), some suitable timbers, and fortunately that tin of oddments had some suitable concrete wall anchor bolts, some sturdy shelves appeared along the basement walls. This provided a place to put a number of the smaller engines and all those good bits and pieces. The big machines could then be put down the middle of the floor with space to get around each side.



The next task was to clear the work bench instead of trying to work in a couple of square feet in amongst all the other stuff that gets put down on a flat surface. Now the challenge is to keep the work bench clear of all those bits and pieces that might be useful or one does not readily know what to do with.



All this going on inbetween a 2Km daily walk down the river trail, some work in the garden to keep the peace, washing down the weather boards on the top part of the house, and spraying the lichen on the roof. So come ANZAC weekend at the end of Level 4, the work on the original project was able to start. I had had the bits for some time – those bits of steel that were always going to come in handy one day, some ball bearing races I had bought for the job some months ago, and dug out a couple of heavy duty hand cart wheels from the depths of the basement.

All those late night design concepts came to the fore, bits precisely turned up in the lathe to provide just the right amount of loading on the bearings, and time for assembly of the first swivel hub.



Top bearing and pivot bolt pressed in with precision fit, then came the BUGGER moment. The other end didn't look right. A slight misread of the vernier, 51mm instead of 56. The spacer section of the pivot bolt inside the hub was 5mm short. Turning up a new bolt was not a preferred option so a couple of 2.5mm spacers would fix the problem. Fortunately something that could be done accurately on my modellers engineering lathe.

A bit more cutting of steel bar and some welding, threading and turning of $\frac{3}{4}$ galv pipe for the wheel stub axle, and the first swivel hub done and wheel fitted. Now just have to duplicate the whole works for the other end of the axle and sort out a tie rod arrangement. This new wheel assembly will make it quite a bit easier to move the big engines around – after all they get heavier each year.

Peter B

AN ANONYMOUS NEPTUNE CONTRIBUTION

Last month we had the real life safety awareness item about cleaning gutters. This month the story is about mowing the grass when you live the “lifestyle” life. The anonymous contributor lives in that same area.

Lawns and garden have had a bit of attention over the last few weeks... the weather has been pretty good here, but of course usually is...

I took the ride on mower over to the other side of the lake... (around the lake edge...not thru the lake... no snorkel...no scuba gear, for either me or mower) and got on with mowing the long grass and crap over there..

all good until I had to go into the lake to get past a big tree that overhangs the lake..



Reconstruction scene with an embarrassed anonymous Neptune peering from the long grass.

Well the lake was a bit fuller than last time I was there...and the mower got a bit bogged, with back wheel in the water spinning n spraying water/muddy sand over me as I tried to drive the thing out...It did come out finally , but I was covered in shit!!...and more shit when I had to come back past that spot... dang...what a friggin mess...Quite apart from me doing a good impression of the monster from the swamp, the mower looked like it had just come through trench warfare in Flanders, and a bit shell shocked as well....



COMEMORATING ANZAC DAYALONE

BARRY'S ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day 2020 was a very different day to the normal. Although many of us don't formally attend dawn commemoration services most of us have some personal way of showing our respect. Well there was no opportunity to be part of any community service this year but Barry I and his wife shared the dawn moment respectfully before taking their dog “fluffy-bum” for a walk and photographed some images created by people in the community before returning to their safe haven.

A great beachfront effort to show the respect we have and our appreciation .



The beach sand made a perfect canvas to bear a most appropriate message for the day.

Before returning home to the personal commemoration.



I'm sure you all noticed some amazing community poppy displays too.

Thanks Barry. Those images express so much of what we feel.

As a personal addition to Barry's effort I add this.



My youngest granddaughter showed me a new side to her growth when she sent me this picture of what their family contributed at their remote Canterbury farm gate.

Her great-grandad would be very pleased to know she has some understanding and compassion.

ALAN M HAS BEEN THINKING

Yes something very different. Alan got to thinking about how he might contribute an idea to benefit humanity, mankind and all that. Since so many people went to extreme lengths to buy up every roll of toilet paper that Kawerau mills could produce, some of you may be looking for a good alternative use. How about this concept. Just imagine a paddock full of sheep toilet paper.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

There should be something here for everyone. Some personal background, some observations, some member projects, some nonsense. With being in lockdown you may be like me and looking for something different to read. That's it for April. Time to sign off and wish you all well in your bubbles. All going well we can now start to look forward to when they let us out again.

Any contributions for consideration to be included in the May issue would be welcome. Send me an email at nigel.clough.nz@gmail.com. Photographs full sized please.



Cheers Nigel

A special mention of important MenzShed Kapiti backers, local business supporters and sponsors



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