

GREETINGS ALL! Writing about things is not something that comes easy to me. I had a technical working life and reading specifications and diagrams was the essential trait. But what I know about myself is that I'm a talker and my mind pictures very clear images of what I talk about.

FANFARE!! TARAH! TARAH!

PROGRESS DURING THE MONTH OF JULY.

As I mentioned last month, the large projects of recent times have reached delivery stage and we were looking to a brief breathing space before launching into any new big effort. But we all know, things never go exactly to plan and June has produced a wide range of interesting jobs. Some for ourselves but many for the community and people coming in the gate with a "*..can you help please!...*" Some have got started and many already delivered. I will do my best to present as wide a range as I can get my memory to recall from the months activities. I'm supposed to be the observer not the doer so it can be hard to know what's going on.

Need a helping hand? We're your men! The value is enormous.

REWARDS REACH NEW HEIGHTS

As we all know, MenzShed Kapiti takes on all sorts of "can you help" projects for people who walk in the gate. Mostly the job is done using donated materials that we have in stock so there are no actual costs involved. In such cases we always make it plain that although a small donation is welcome towards our planned building improvements, what we would like most is nice food for our morning tea.



Feed your eyes on this amazing reward. A fabulous rich chocolate mudcake with gooeey centre topped with creamy ganache plus loads of soft balls of dark chocolate to dream about.

I have no idea what the reward was for. All I can tell you is that a young lady who seemed to know Ray Y quite well, arrived carrying a package then the moment she left we set about appreciating the rewards of whatever it was we

had done. We have had some fantastic home baking but this has set the bar pretty high for others to aspire to.

WELLINGTON FREE AMBULANCE CARDBOARD BOX JIGSAW PUZZLE AMBULANCE

Wellington Free Ambulance was preparing to launch themselves into some major fundraising for “Peoples Ambulances”; a bit of returning to their roots when that’s what the ambulances were.

The original request was “Can you make us a jigsaw puzzle of an ambulance for children to put together at our fundraising events.” Then they talked of the jigsaw dimensions being 2400 x 1200.



John R got his imagination into overdrive and a brief talk with the manager at PakNSave vegies produced a great bundle of Aussie Grape cardboard cartons that are designed to stack and interlock making for a stable structure. In fact we took delivery of about 60 cartons.

Initially we planned for a stylised, hand painted representation of a WFA but then Alan and John had a get together with the local print firm Precise Print. A conversation with WFA and Precise Print led to a sponsorship deal with each section of the jigsaw being printed upon an adhesive strip the exact size of the boxes.



The fantastic model is already doing its work.



The weather caused a delay in the Coastlands display but the team is in action throughout the Wellington region getting lots of attention.

I cannot say enough about the wonderful support we have had from Precise Print. They are real heroes for this project. The job would have been so much more difficult without their help.

KCDC COMMUNITY NO 8 WIRE WORKSHOPS

Each year KCDC organise various community events and the No8 Wire Workshops at Otaki College and Kapiti College are sessions we support. This year was no different. Our volunteers did their bit to encourage ordinary people to do something with a few bits of timber, screws and glue. Lots of fun for all.



PARAPARAUMU REPAIR CAFE

This year for the first time the KCDC Community people decided to try to introduce a Repair Café session as part of the No8 Wire Event. Of course we were there. Once again I was only there briefly so cannot name all those volunteering their time. This day David, Chad and John were there in support of Peter. I know Gordon and Ray Y also gave their time.

The concept is for local people with items needing some tlc drop in to get help or advice thus returning things to use again.

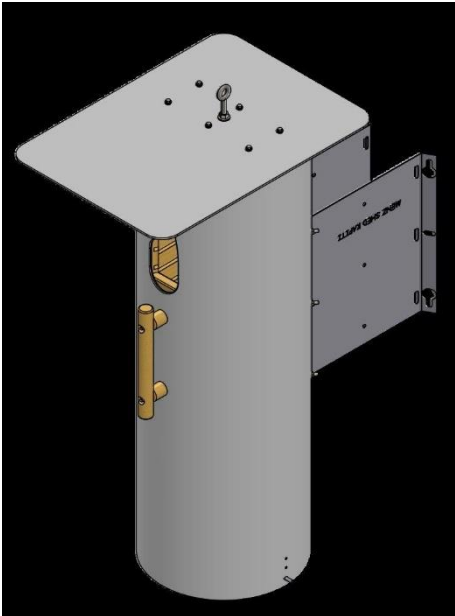
As a result of our participation the people at the Rubbishtrip website interviewed Peter B and it's well worth a listen as he explains what MenzShed Kapiti does within our community.

You might like to take the time to listen to this.

<http://therubbishtrip.co.nz/podcast/podcast-3-chats-at-the-repair-cafe-with-kapiti-menzshed-and-kapiti-community-centre/>



KAKA NEST REVISITED

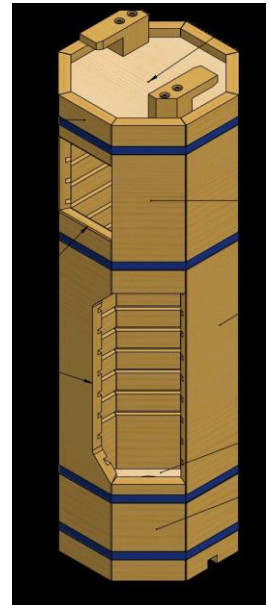


As I mentioned last newsletter Mark took on the task of turning the final Kaka Nest box into real CAD drawings so that first of all have a record but we can also supply other interested groups around the country with the details so they too can get behind Kaka Recovery programmes.

That sounds simple doesn't it, but Mark is a thinker and a new pair of eyes began to say we could do it simpler a different way.

Voila! Mark has taken our original production design and evolved it into a simpler inner design that is readily repeatable.

Then he put his mind to redesigning the mount that till now was an expensive, complex welded construction. Now that's 2 simple stainless steel plates. MAGIC!



MENZSHED GARDEN MAJOR PROGRESS

The landscaping has taken giant leaps and bounds even though the weather at times has been a bit challenging. My mind has just gone blank so to list the crew is bound to leave out some critical names. Just let's say that the whole team has earned loads of reward sprats



for their efforts.

And the vegie garden just continues to produce a plentiful supply of silverbeet and cabbages.

JOHN P DOES IT AGAIN – TABLE & MIRROR RESTORED

This bloke paid a visit to the Repair Café looking to see what could be done with a couple of furniture items. One a small kidney shaped table coated with red stain and old age. Our visitor had made the table and his daughter wanted it fixed rather than put in the skip. John set about scraping the top surface until all the unpleasant surface was gone and it was near good as new again.

And a lovely old antique mirror too. We have one happy customer plus he wants to join our band of happy men doing whatever he can do too.



GORDON B'S TILE HOLDER

Now Gordon B is known for always being ready to help with projects and home pickups. This month I think I captured him doing something for himself or more likely a neighbour. The image doesn't show what it is too well but I decided it is a stand for tiles; either scrabble or a similar game. Good on you Gordon.



FRANKS GIVES BIKES SOME TLC



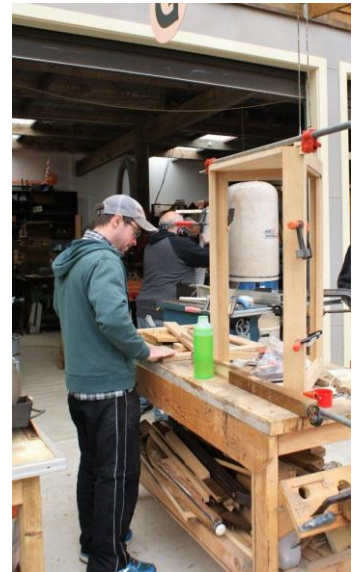
This month we have taken delivery of a number of old bikes to check out, tidy up and pass on to children who might value them. We have them in all sizes from tiny to giant. Frank is always ready to take on things like this. Come to think of it that might be because not many of us can get down on the ground like this. We need a handy pole to get up again.

PHIL'S OAK CORNER MASTERPIECE

Phil is one of our younger talented blokes who can give most things a go. As an example my tablet was pretty knackered and I had given up on it. Phil breathed on it and did what smart young people do and voila it works again like new. Which is good because that is what I like to use for public displays and presentations.

He's never slow to give a hand in the garden too.

But the big effort currently is a custom corner oak cabinet that is full of complex angles and features including handmade finishing pieces.



GRAHAM'S CANNON IS READY FOR A BIG BANG

You've seen the wheel and read the talk. Now see the whole thing. Graham has stuck to his ideas and personally made every piece to produce a black cannon to feature in his living room. If he's allowed that is.



CHILDRENS PLAYHOUSE GETS RENOVATED

Some time back a local bloke doing a sort out, decided that his kitset child's playhouse for his now adult grandchildren was surplus to his family and donated it for renovation and passing on to a worthy family.



Alan assembled the kitset and set about generating some enthusiasm. My suggestion was that it would make an excellent chook house but Alan wouldn't hear any such talk.

Then Rick and Murray finished the work on the army hut reconstruction and one thing led to another.

The Chook House is getting a new galvanised iron roof, mock weatherboard cladding plus a major strengthening to stand the rigors of children's playtime.

This will become a project to end all projects. And we might get some eggs.

GLASSHOUSE ASSEMBLED AS A FUNDRAISER



account.

Peter had a call from a local resident who had purchased a DIY Glasshouse. After many hours of trying to understand the destruction sheet, very little had been achieved.

The question was could MenzShed assemble and install this kitset for a donation to the building fund.

Now that sort of challenge is irresistible to Peter and his chief assistant Paul.

Over a weekend the job was done and a very happy local customer smiled on our bank

CHRIS CAN NOW SEE BEHIND HIS MOBILITY SCOOTER

Scotty Chris is a recent convert to using a bright red mobility scooter. It get him to and from MenzShed from the Charles Fleming village. The trouble was the rear view mirror support arm only allowed him to see himself. No worries. Ray W set about welding an extension to that arm and Chris is not only a happy man because he can see what's approaching, he no longer pulls out at the wrong moment.



RAT TRAP TUNNELS – A PREDATOR FREE NZ SUPPORT PROJECT

Our organising group took a look at what we might contribute for our community in the way of a project that might attract members of the public to come along to our workshop, participate in a useful activity and learn about who we are and what we do. Thinks.....Rat Trap tunnels.

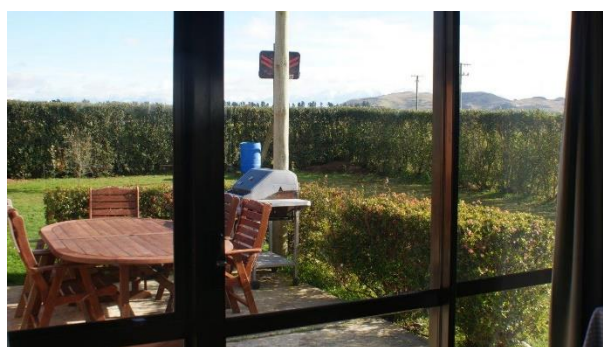
So Skip has worked up a suitable design, all the components have been prepared with predrilled holes, the trap mechanisms ordered have arrived etc. A good start right! Now we know that Predator Free NZ, the funding body for some of this project, operates a concept of groups of up to 200 households each. So now it seems that there are loads of community groups lining up to look after their little patch. Our first batch of 50 tunnels starts to look a bit light. This will likely develop into something much bigger.

THE LO.....NG STORY OF NIGELS BREAK

Now this newsletter has been particularly difficult to complete for several reasons. The main one being the place has been too busy to sit down and talk with myself about the goings on at our MenzShed. Admittedly some of that was caused by me fitting in a short holiday. Ten days away from the Shed and it takes some effort to get you head around what the crew have been up to.

You know. Peter R went to Northern climes for a several month break so I thought “...why not do something nearer home for my own health?” A cheap flight to Christchurch later and we took the role of granddaughter carers while mum and dad attended a conference. Great idea right! Well Mother Nature decided to just remind us that Nature Rules!

We were inland from Christchurch about 250 M above sea level and the winter has been very mild with ground temperatures remaining well above minimum for grass growth. Now since we were on a dairy farm that's pretty amazing because no need for expensive supplementary feed for the cows. The scene was fantastic. Peace. Pleasant views. Mild temperatures. Cows, sheep, horses and pigs all very contented. Just lovely. You can see in the photograph the foothills of the Alps are quite clear.



But then the scene changed. As we went to bed in the evening the wind switched around and temperatures took a tumble. Light rain set in, turned to sleet and finally snow. We woke next morning to a change of scene. Very pretty for us sitting by the fire but life outside was a bit more challenging. No problems though because everything was in place to minimise the impact. Food and shelter. The children had a ball with snow

fight while grandparents watched out the steamy windows. Tough kids those country kids. The snow only lasted a day and next morning the grass was green again and I was still on that side of it.

But that was not the end of it because the snow in Canterbury was part of the same weather system that brought 160kph winds to Wellington. Oh dear return flight CANCELLED. The text said “.....our team are looking at alternative options for you. If you do not hear from us within 15 minutes please call our Contact Centre”. That “Contact” took 1 hour 40 minutes of waiting in the cue. My Thursday evening return flight became a Sunday late arrival. But I made it and MenzShed life is back to normal again.

WE LOST A GOOD MATE JUST AFTER JULY ENDED

One more reason that writing this newsletter has been so difficult to start is that just as I was getting ready for the effort, our sheddie mate Walter died. Now normally I don't include news like this. My thoughts are just too personal and to be shared with just the family. This time I make an exception because Walter was driven in the gate to check us out by his daughter as an American migrant. He immersed himself in every aspect of the place and very quickly became a Kiwican. I make special mention of his support of Peter B when Peter was totally committed to completing the shed rebuild. Walter was there to make sure Peter was safe.



Wetas were a new creature totally alien to Walter but his efforts created the current weta motel design that we have produced hundreds of.

More recently when we began to develop some options for a predator safe garden lizard nest, Walter researched and listened to everyone who might know something. He developed an idea that just needs some minor tweeking to see if it is a good

option. We will make sure that happens.

Just one thing to add. Thanks for your friendship Walter.

JOB DONE FOR ANOTHER MONTH

I don't have an inspiring thought for the month but think about this observation on "... the meaning of life and everything...".

Take a look at this snowy back yard picture. The only ground free of snow is the two covers of the septic tank system.

Want warm feet go stand on the septic tank.



EARLY WARNING! EARLY WARNING!

It's that time of the year and our AGM is due once more. Set aside some extra time on Thursday 14 September. The AGM will be held following our usual Thursday session with a BBQ lunch for all who attend.

YES JULY IS DONE AND DUSTED AND THE TEMPERATURE IS RISING. SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. YEAH!

NOW THE FUNDRAISING FOR THE NEW BUILDING WORK NEEDS TO START IN ERNEST – If you or anyone you know would like to be involved with this fundraising – grant applications - perhaps set up a “GIVE A LITTLE” page - or other fund producing activities, then PLEASE CONTACT TREASURER PETER B. peterblackler@paradise.net.nz.

Cheers

Nigel

If you need to contact me try me at home 904 2932 or my mobile 0274 582 194

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



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