

GREETINGS ALL! Peter R is still sunning himself in warmer climates so you've got me again. Buzzer!

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.

U3A KALIDESCOPE PRESENTATION AND OTHER THINGS

As soon as the May newsletter was done it was time to prepare a presentation about our MenzShed; who we are, where we are, what we do and a broad description of what we have achieved recently. The hard part is what to exclude because so much happens at the MenzShed. The success story is pretty amazing really. The one hour presentation was to the Kaleidoscope series for the U3A group of more than 100 people. No pictures of this but lots of positive feedback from people attending.

Peter and I usually do these things. Sort of our song and dance act. We also attended the June Waikanae Community Board meeting. It has become very obvious to me that we have some educating to do. Many of our decision makers don't seem to be aware of the significant contribution that our MenzShed members make to the Kapiti community. Over this past year our contribution on community projects would be 8000 PLUS man hours, not to mention the significant use of recycled material to provide cost free projects for the community. There are other groups who put loads of effort into raising money to then donate to needy community groups but we are the doers rather than the talkers. Need a helping hand? We're your men! The value is enormous.

RAUMATI SCHOOL CORRUGATED IRON LETTERS

One of our blokes, Ted has a daughter who is the Deputy Principal of Raumati School. She has a bunch of children with a school garden. They take lots of pride in their garden and designed a sign telling people about it. They needed someone to cut the lettering out of corrugated iron for them to then decorate with paint as per their plan and attach it to the fence around the garden.

Step up Skip. Armed with a nibbler and assisted by Frank and Bruce the letters became a reality exactly as the children planned.



I have had a fantastic email back with thanks for what we have done. Now next term they plan to visit us and thank the blokes who did the job personally.



Maybe we can make them a plywood butterfly to suspend over their garden while they are visiting.

ROSS'S BIRTHDAY BASH

Anyone who's been at the MenzShed workshop in the past month would know that Ross was about to achieve the magic octogenarian stage. In fact Ross was so excited about this that he even turned up at the arranged birthday celebration one week early. Woops! But the real celebration started on his birthday on Monday 19th at Fishermans Table. And then carried on for a second go on Tuesday with a cake to share with everyone at the shed. Kapiti Bakery at Coastlands made this special cake and we can all vouch for its yumminess.



MENZSHED GARDEN MAJOR PROGRESS

Where to you start to describe what those garden blokes have achieved. The pile of rubbish and kikuyu has been tamed and raised beds created ready for the growing season. You see Cliff is away and that means that Brett and the crew have a free rein to do their own thing. These few images can never do justice to what it now looks like. Our neighbours must be happy with the much improved outlook from their windows and outdoor areas.



WELLINGTON FREE AMBULANCE CARDBOARD BOX JIGSAW PUZZLE AMBULANCE

Wellington Free Ambulance are preparing to fundraise for a Peoples Ambulance and they wondered if we might be able to help them produce a cardboard box jigsaw about 2.5 metres long and 1.5 high to use during the public activities. Of course we said YES! It was going to be quite simple with hand painted boxes and a bit stylised. But then John visited PaknSave to accumulate suitable stacking boxes (ex Aussie Grapes) and Alan talked with Precise Print in Manchester Street.



Now the image is going to be a real ambulance made up of custom made sections that stick to the cardboard boxes (about 60 all together). Watch this space to see what this idea blossoms into.

GRANDADS MAKE THINGS FOR GRANDKIDS

The impending arrival of new grandchildren get the old fellas thinking of the things their dads made for their grandchildren and images gradually take shape in the mind.

First there is Ian P's baby cradle. The old sketches made by his grandad were dug out of those boxes of stuff and the idea became reality. Some pieces made at home and some at MenzShed. A very nostalgic family moment.



And Dave A had this idea of an activity board for his new family addition to get involved with. Bells, whistles, horns, counters, puzzles, pockets, rattles, handcuffs, shells, cupboard doors, catches etc all put together and his vision has become a reality too. A real fun play time device.

RASHID'S ARTISTRY AND BEDSIDE CABINET RESTORATION

Rashid is always busy working on something. This month he restored a beautiful mahogany bedside cabinet. The top was seriously scorched by something but after careful scraping and sanding the top was returned to its former glory with a fine new mahogany veneer top.



Then somehow he managed to complete another of his fine pieces of traditional Iranian Gereh Chini artwork.



A KINDERGARTEN WORKBENCH

When the sand table was delivered to the Kura in Tennis Court Road last month the supervisor wondered if we might have a workbench that the children could use when making things. Step up Paul, Rick, Dave and Murray. After all the Marine Hut is now done and they have spare energy. Lots of sawing, hammering and glueing later we now have a solid workbench at children's height ready for action.



TOTE BOX KITSSETS FOR NO8 WIRE WORKSHOPS COMPLETED.

Once again MenzShed Kapiti has put up its hand to support the KCDC No 8 Wire Workshop project. John R and his elfin friend Derek have prepared heaps of kitsets ready for the participants to assemble. We have garden tote box and small stool kitsets to choose from.



FIREWOOD/SHOE STORAGE BOX

Peter M has become the master of turning old plywood packaging into firewood boxes holding enough firewood in the shelter of a deck to last a few days. It seems that people have decided this same idea would be great to keep the children's shoes and boots organised, dry and out of sight. No2 is now ready for delivery.



WETA MOTELS DELIVERED FOR EXCITED CHILDREN

The month has been busy producing lots of made up and kitsets for school projects and fundraising. Our weta motels have been discovered by nature groups in the Plimmerton and Papakowhai area. All up we delivered more than 60 to that district this month.

KAKA NEST BOXES LINER RESTORATION HAS BEGUN

With the new Kaka nesting season approaching its time to refurbish the liners of any of the special predator proof kaka nesting boxes that have been occupied during the last season. This shows how the female kaka simply tears apart the timber liner to create chips of wood to refurbish the nest for the chicks.

This project has been ongoing now for several years and the design has evolved over time. Then this past week we had a request from Nelson asking if we could let them have details of our design so they can produce some for a sanctuary there. That means real plans so we have borrowed one back from DOC to draw up some accurate drawings for future repeat production in spite of memory loss and so the liners can be produced perfectly to fit the standard nest box unit. Step up Mark. Someone with CAD skills too it seems.



CONSTRUCTING A BEEHIVE FOR MENZSHED

We have all this 100x50 untreated packaging timber from a Transpower project in the area which means that there are materials suitable for sensitive insects. Mark knows something about beehives so there's an opportunity for MenzShed to have a handmade one to pollinate the garden produce. The beehive sections are done and the structures for honey production is under way too.



GRAHAM MAKES PROGRESS CREATING A DECORATIVE CANNON FOR HOME

Graham has a dream, or maybe it's a nightmare because it's all about a cannon to decorate his lounge. So far we have seen the wheels but I have heard he has several other parts ready including the barrel. The yellow wheels started life as an old sign that ended up in our donated timber pile for reuse.



CANE CHAIR RESTORER EXTRAORDINAIRE



Mary phoned up to say she had spoken to someone at MenzShed about repairs to some cane chairs. New to me, so my response was drop down tomorrow and we would have a look.

Well that was something new for John P. Then local business, Fibre Flair in Waikanae, knew a bloke in Porirua who had the right cane for the job. A few phone calls and a search on the internet for "How to repair canework" produced all the information needed. Chair number one is now like new and I guess chair two will be next.

BIRD FEEDERS FIRST BATCH COMPLETE

And in between old rockers, cane chairs and intricate tables, John P needs something to keep his hands busy. I started feeding tuis, bellbirds and wax eyes several years ago and a number of people have started to produce a batch of suitable feeders using large wine bottles. John is the latest and the result of his efforts are magnificent. Batch one is complete and I am hoping batch two isn't too far behind because I can see these being sought after items. Anyone would be happy to have one of these in their back yard. Works of art and the tui song makes mornings amazing.



LETTER BOXES TO REPLACE VANDALISED ONES

A few weeks back one of those unpleasant creatures passing late one night found it necessary to destroy a couple of letter boxes in the Fleetwood Grove area. But Tony is our man to the rescue this week with a new replacement completed ready to go into service. The second will be ready soon too. An unpleasant incident can now be forgotten.

LETTER BOX RUN OVER BUT A NEW ONE INSTALLED BY DAVE

Last week a woman dropped by looking for a man. We have lots and all in fine working order. She explained how she had a wee incident with her car that meant the letterbox needed to be replaced. She had managed to purchase a suitable replacement and a pole and the rapidset concrete to install it but physically digging the hole was just that step too far. Never mind Dave P to the rescue on his way home. Hole dug, post installed, letterbox attached and a satisfied customer.

GARDEN GATE PAINTED FOR A LOCAL RESIDENT

A lady came in the gate with a small gate. It had been all scraped and prepared but the final painting needed a subtle pair of hands. Very quickly one of the blokes sorted out paint and had the job finished to a typical high MenzShed standard.



SORTING DONATED HARDWARE CONTINUES

Doug C is taking a break from sorting all those strange bits that



people drop in just in case they might be useful. But the enormous task is being continued by Chris to keep the momentum up. What's more he's a man who knows his bits and pieces. Sorting is a thankless task and we promise to offer all sorts of yummy incentives to encourage those willing to continue to make it easier to find the things we need. But take a look. Some of the unidentifiable items can certainly attract an

audience and the suggestions can be at the very least a bit of a laugh.

FIREWOOD FOR THE LOCAL RESIDENTS

Winter is definitely the time to stoke up the fire and keep warm. Our fearless firewood team tirelessly cuts and bags the odd pieces of offcuts and logs to keep our firewood stall at the Rangihiroa Street gate stocked. This has been a good donation gatherer to help fund things at the shed. Three cheers to Ross, Barry, Charlie and numerous extra elves who add their weight as they can. They are legends.

This load, sold through Trademe, fetched a good price toward our building funds.



COMMUNIUTY BOARD GRANT TO OUR DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Talking of building funds reminds me that this month the Waikanae Community Board has given us a \$2000 grant toward the engineering design work for the approved development of the Amenities block and open plan workshop space at our Rangihiroa Street site. This will see progress toward the first stage of making things happen and a safer, much improved environment for our activities.

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.

Well that's it. Job done for another month. I'm off for a little knap.

Finally dwell on this thought for the month. I just did a check. The sunset time tonight was 5.03pm. That is about 2 minutes later than it was a week ago so we have turned the corner from midwinter and now heading relentlessly toward longer days, warmer temperatures and summer.

YES JUNE IS DONE AND DUSTED SO TEMPERATUREWISE THINGS ARE GOING TO GET BETTERER AND BETTERER.

Cheers

Nigel

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

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