

Just look at that. June has arrived so May must be over and that means one thing in particular for me. Our newsletter master writer, Peter R, has taken a time for a dose of overseas relaxing so guess you will just have to make do with my ramble on what's been happening. Here goes.

There have been lots of major projects reaching final completion recently so it's time to ponder those achievements and pause to consider what we focus our energies on next.

THE MARINE HUT IS NOW IN THE QEII MARINE MEMORIAL The first BIG ONE for the month and a most amazing result, is the old army huts rebuilt to the original design and now on display as a Memorial to the US Marines who were based at the Mackays Camps from 1942 until 1944.

Many of our blokes contributed at various stages of the project from the old house demolition in Tirimoana Road through to the handover to the Marine Trust for dedication on 29 May. It would be impossible to name every person who made a contribution but I must do my best to salute our MenzShed project main team.

Dave P, Mike E, Paul W, Brent P, Murray C, Rick O, Paul F worked on every crucial stage, beginning in February 2016 right up until the final touches on Saturday 27 May to be ready for the gathering of people for the formalities and the opening as a public display. **JUST MAGIC!**



Our organising committee does its best not to commit to a completion date but there had to be an exception for this because of the significance as a salute to US Marine 75th Anniversary on the annual US Memorial Day. We made it but only because of the commitment from the people named above.

The formalities were attended by lots of special guests including US Embassy diplomatic staff, military people, Marine Trust members, local & district Councilors, Brasso, the public and our lot.

Now don't relax too much because we were reminded during the speeches that the consent is for a group of about 12 huts with this first one as the focus.



MAY'S CELEBRATION BBQ

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. That's what I was told many years ago and at the workshop we have been guilty of too much work. So the moment the hut was complete there was no need to look very far for a reason to have a social gathering. If you haven't been along you don't know what you have been missing.

Good food. Good company. Good music. And you can forget the doom TV weather forecasting; that's about entertaining people on their sofas. Someone seems to always smile on our shed when we need the outdoor space.



This month the chef didn't have a fire to put out.

The salad was largely provided by our own garden group.

The wine was the good stuff.

The tea and coffee was top shelf.

The music was just the perfect era for our people to sing along to and know the words without a music sheet to mutter along with.

I presume you've heard the expression of being as happy as pigs in Sh.t.

It was a happy day and I slept well that night.



ANNOUNCING OUR AED IS INSTALLED AND READY

Yes after the fundraising efforts IT IS ALL HERE. In case everyone didn't know before, when we raised enough money for our own AED, the people at Wellington Free Ambulance offered to top up the not insignificant extra money to make our AED a publicly accessible unit. It's mounted on the outside of our workshop between bays F and G. We will be installing lighting to spotlight the AED very soon and make it easy for our neighbours to locate in an evening emergency.



Chad is arranging some special training for anyone willing to attend very soon so let him know if you would like to be included. Knowing that it's so easy to do something will take away fear of being helpless.

To get access you just need to telephone 111 to get the security code so you can open the steel box to remove the AED unit. The machine tells you exactly what to do and how to place the electrode pads. It then decides what action it should take. The main intervention is for someone to do cardiac compressions (no breathing needed) while another person dashes off and gets the AED from a nearby location. Then follow the instruction from the AED unit and let it do the worrying work. Of course while this is happening the emergency people are on the way because of the 111 call.

RAY'S REBUILT TOY TRUCK IS NOW A HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM TREASURE

After months and months of waiting for the right people to be available at the Paraparaumu Health Centre, Ray took the bull by the horns and made the delivery.

Take a bow Ray for the fabulous job you made of that item and for taking responsibility to see the results delivered to the children who it is intended for.

So when you next have an appointment at the outpatients clinic at the Hospital in Warrimoo St off Tutanekai Street check it out.



THERE'S ALWAYS LITTLE (AND NOT SO LITTLE) REPAIR JOBS HAPPENING TOO

Chad discovered a nice oak dresser on the roadside that he couldn't resist. Down at the shed the borer infested (non-oak) bits are being replaced with sound old timber and it is beginning to look just great. Ron Mc is the man of skill for this job.



John P takes on all sorts of very challenging jobs for members of the public who drop by with what have been fabulous old family pieces.

This rocker arrived with a totally collapsed runner and was returned to the owner just like new.

John might become our new master craftsman name Japetto. (That's Pinocchio's fathers name isn't it?)

Gordon has this intricate small table in need of fine repair work too.



But Gordon has too many little jobs on. A lady needed blocks to raise the head of her bed. No worries Gordon will fit that in too.

And Skip has been kept busy making special low tables for preschools and other groups. Phil and Chad help with displaying these for all to see.

The left is a water play table for the Kura Kaupapa in Tennis Court Rd and the right hand one is a sand therapy table to be used at Arohata Prison.





There are times when completed items like these special masterpieces can be at risk of damage so it's a good idea for anything ready for delivery to get to the final destination as soon as possible.

Skip did just that with the Kaupapa water play table.

Siggy of the famous pies is the contact person so we are hoping for appropriate rewards. We've just got to make sure Skip gets in before all the hangers on claim their reward.

(Skip, Just keep your eye on that fellow Nigel.)

Siggy also wants blocks of wooden offcuts for the children to use in their play. We have a large carton ready for when she drops by. All sorts of shapes and sizes that any child will have the imagination to know what it is.

BIKES REPAIRED AND PREPARED FOR REUSE

In recent time we have somehow accumulated a number of bicycles in quite good condition. The first task is to give them a good clean and general tidy up. Here Jase was just with us for a day and in the process made good use of his time sorting this lot out.



Then Frank gets into the detail of making sure all the mechanical bits do what mechanical bits are supposed to do.

Neither Frank nor Jase knows it but many of us have more of these old bikes at home waiting until we can bring them down for some TLC and passing to a child who might treasure it and at the very least enjoy the time they spend screaming around cycle track on them. Let us know if you know of any kids in need of a bike.

THE MENZSHED GARDEN AND LANDSCAPING PROJECT

To many of us, the home shed project making an enormous difference to our MenzShed environment, and to a small hard working group of blokes, is the development being achieved by the team cleaning up the southern slightly raised area of the site. Until now the general cleaning up and tidying made the place a more attractive outlook from the workshops. Now thanks to the reshaping work achieved with the help of Goodman Contractors digger, the crew has made major advances with retaining walls, to prepare the area for raised gardens and plantings with natives around the perimeter. Take a bow Cliff, Brett, Harry, Peter, Ron, and anyone else involved in this who have slipped my mind when doing this item.



AND NOW THE REAL LONG TERM MAY BIGGIE – OUR SITE DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED !!!!!!!!!!!

Yes 18 months preparation and negotiation has been completed and about a week or so ago Peter received the long waited letter from KCDC with the plans and documents stamped APPROVED. That means we now have 5 years to turn our plans into a reality.

The implications for MenzShed Kapiti are massive and the community in general will also have very important benefits. For us it means an amenities block to provide the quiet area with general kitchen facilities, toilets, showers for safety needs, first aid facilities, meetings, a place for our musicians, and chess players etc. Then alongside a suitable open plan workshop area to provide an excellent safe working space for our main woodworking activities, replacing the original old KCDC double garage that we started with which is in need of major structural work. The entry will also be upgraded and include a double garage able to accommodate the local Community Patrol car.

That's a very brief description of what's involved but you need to study the approved plans to fully understand the implications of this outcome of major efforts from Peter B on our behalf.

Take note it shows the garden development and how all the landscaping makes a special area from what was previously an overgrown wilderness.

An extra little item for your information. It seems that our weta motels have attracted some attention from a number of biodiversity groups. This week I received orders for more than 50 weta motels for school and kindergarten groups in the Papakowhai / Plimmerton area. The first batch of 22 is ready for delivery and the second order is for delivery in time for Matariki (starts June 26) which I hope is a few weeks away yet.

Demonstrating this interest is this short post below of what appeared on facebook this past week after we had a visit from two women from Pest Free Plimmerton. They bought 10 weta motels from us and passed on one to the Plimmerton Kindergarten. I hope their fence site suits the wetas.

Pest Free Plimmerton shared **Plimmerton Kindergarten's** photo.



Plimmerton Kindergarten

• 23 May at 13:47 •

Yesterday we put up our awesome new WETA HOTEL, gifted to us from the Pest Free Plimmerton legends. It was an exciting learning process, exploring all around our Kindy environment, discussing different spots, to find a place where the wetas might like to live. We decided on a shady place around lots of trees, on the fence, where we can get the door open to check who's moved in to the weta hotel. Leo and Carla did some learning too; figuring out the drill and all the bits needed to fix it on.

Can you give some thought to predator eradication too. We are considering a rat and rodent trap workshop for the public. To make any of these things happen we need people to get behind the projects and run with them. Any takers?

Looking a little further ahead I visited the Otaki Kite Festival last March. What a fabulous event. How about MenzShed participation next year. Do we have a kite specialist who could lead a team?



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

Well that's it for the month. Have a think about attending the AED training Chad is setting up for us. The more people who know how easy it is, the less stressed an emergency situation becomes.

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

Finally dwell on this thought for the month. It sort of reflects how we take on impossible requests from people and celebrate the results when the request is met.

**ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE
AND A HAMMER.**

Cheers

Nigel

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



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