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## NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2020 No. 129

February went by in a flash so it's time to update everyone on the happenings at MenzShed Kapiti over the month. Things never stand still so if you need to be totally up to date drop down to the shed and see the progress and passion in action.

### **SPECIAL PEOPLE PROJECTS**

David never misses a MenzShed opportunity and even the background support people appreciate that they need to accept he needs to be at MenzShed and fit in. Our blokes can do most things but this extra support by caring people is special so our thanks go out to the "lady with a medical pack".

David has been involved with the place from day one so I reminded him just recently that he needs to add the 10 year Celebration to his bucket list for September this year. But he never misses the chance to participate in any community activity anyway.



As we all know some blokes work best in a team but some prefer to quietly plug away at the challenges of doing things by themselves. Derek is one of those blokes and his specialty in recent times has been turning derelict outdoor furniture back into the masterpieces they should be.

These cast iron seat formers are for Sue of Winara Ave. Just you wait to see what a masterpiece can morph from a pile of old bits.

I know that many others slaved away in their quiet way and corners doing amazing things but unfortunately I wasn't there with camera in hand. Sorry John, Skip, Frank, Rashid, Ian, Doug, Terry, Ray, Robbie, Hans, etc. etc.

## THE RATTERS MAKE SERIOUS DOC TUNNELS TO ORDER

Yes its DOC tunnels again. There was an order placed before Christmas for 30 special stoat tunnels for use in the unfriendly, salt laden environments of the Islands of Wellington; Kapiti, Mana & Matiu Somes. All materials had to be very resilient. H4 timber. Stainless Steel nails, mesh & bolts. No worries to our crew.

As that job finished in came another request for 100 more rat tunnels for DOC plus 10 of the large DOC200 Stoat Tunnels.



The Ratters just got straight to it and in no time the first delivery was ready.

This load below included the 30 special Wellington Island stoat tunnels plus the 10 x DOC200 stoat tunnels only recently ordered. Brilliant job.

I guess the current season is a bit demanding upon their efforts too.

I read that for clearing stoat tunnels you need to develop the skill of switching off your sense of smell to the rotting carcass smell.

Grosse!





## THE FIREWOOD TEAM PREPARES FOR WINTER



Firewood is a big contributor to our development fund. The team has worked constantly to keep a decent supply at the gate that people can rely upon.

As summer comes to an end it's important to prepare a decent heap ready to bag and deliver.

The regular job is dismantling pallets and untreated items.

Then this year we were given access to loads of pine and gum trees to saw into logs for splitting. The initial team making all the right chainsaw noises and heaving load onto trailers was Peter B, Trevor Mc, Keith H, Kevin A and myself. No need to go to the gym over that time.

Then the garden team took up the challenge of splitting and creating suitable trailer loads to suit people's needs. What a team effort this has been with the building fund growing nicely as a result.





## THE GARDEN CREW ALWAYS MAKE THEIR MARK



Just like all the teams the garden boys start the day with decision time; what's today going to bring.

Someone (let's call him Tony) once said "gardening requires lots of water.....most of it in the form of sweat."

Here Jim F and Ron B dig spuds from our Menzshed garden destined for the Kapiti Food bank.

When Nigel dropped off the first load of spuds to Kapiti Foodbank, an enthusiastic volunteer Adrian (pictured next to the van) ran up and said "are glad you have brought these in. We were down to our last potato."



Sweating it out in the garden is not all the gardening crew do. As told above they are also splitting firewood from Dave P's rural property.

They have so far made up two trailer loads which have been sold.....and there is more to come.

But wait there is even more.....They are about to get involved in the construction of a footpath for Volunteer

Kapiti. We shall report in greater detail in the next newsletter.

Aren't those gardening boys a talented bunch!!!!



## **THE SITE DEVELOPMENT MAKES GOOD PROGRESS TOO**

Power has been connected to our garage building. No more long power cables for work in that area.

And that means the security lighting could be installed and activated on the building too.

Lots of technical advisors here I note.



Parking has become very obviously a bit crowded with the need to have space around the building project. There is a large team attending now for every session so it is normal for lots of shuffling to get cars in and out as people arrive and depart.

This below view from the top of the garden area gives some idea of how busy the place is.





## NEW AMENITIES BLOCK FOUNDATION WORK PROGRESSES WELL



This month there was the opportunity to skill up with new boy's toys. Peter had a ball finding out what all the levers did.

The base needed lots of fill and what better than the pile of recycled roading that Cliff had managed to get delivered to us as the base course material.

Just perfect for the job.



Brent had a ball with the MenzShed compactor.

We were very fortunate to be donated this by Ozito. Another item "perfect for the job."

And finally of course the experts applied the layers of compacted sand to create the exact depth of base for the foundations to be poured onto. What a team here.



As a personal observation I think the entire MenzShed Kapiti team of blokes is starting to get a little excited about what this could all lead to.

Milestones keep rolling by.

MORE ACTIVITY OPTIONS ON THE HORIZON.



## **SUPER SCHOOLS 2020 - A KCDC SCHOOL GAMES EVENT**

About mid February there was a special request to see if the MenzShed Kapiti blokes might be able to create some special equipment to be used during a new event called “Super Schools” and based upon the TV “Top Town” style of games to be held very early March.

*The Super Schools event is designed specially to engage with our “reluctant movers” as well as our “sporty” kids, so emphasis is on movement and activity inside fun games, and team based activities rather than individual achievement.*

I don't think it's possible for us to turn down a challenge that aims to make school children enjoy schooling. So then the MenzShed Kapiti team moved mountains to produce special materials for the day.

### **GAME #1 A GIANT JIGSAW PUZZLE**



Picture a jigsaw puzzle made using 10 full sheets of plywood. That's right 5 sheets long by 2 sheets high. 12 metres long by 2.4 metres high.

Paint a background layer to give it a sky

Then a sandy beach foreground.



Add the image of Kapiti Island to the foreground

Then cuts the plywood sheets into lots of jigsaw pieces.





Finally fix beautiful stick-on images of native flora and fauna to create a complex image and make it difficult to piece the image together.

Now you have a decent game to challenge the participants at the Super School 2020 event at Waikanae Park organised through KCDC in very early March.

Challenging it was too and real fun for the participants



A team starts with the first of 10 sections to the puzzle.



Then it gets completely crazy as they work together to add the other 9 parts to piece the complete picture together.



And with loads of concentration and teamwork the picture becomes complete.

This is now a very popular piece of equipment for schools to borrow.





## Game #2

### 10 SETS OF GRASS SKIS FOR TEAMS OF 5, CO-ORDINATED, PLANK WALKERS ON EACH

After a hard session by a small enthusiastic team to create the planks described in very simple words, here some of the team have some light hearted banter.

Pretty happy to meet the deadline you might say.



Then after a cuppa it was load the jigsaw sets into wheelie bins and everything onto a trailer ready.

**The response to a call for volunteers to make these two lots of special items was nothing less than spectacular. What a great bunch of community minded blokes.**

I make special mention of Kevin, Tony, Ray N, Ray Y, Mike, John W, Graham C, Barry, Derek, Gordon, Trevor, Jim, John P, Jeen, Murray, Brent, Peter B and me... There is one more bloke with an American accent who is there when we needed him but I cannot remember his name. Sorry if I missed you. That's the best I can do from my memory of the days pandemonium. These people are the team that made Monster Jigsaw and Massive Skis happen. Cheers fellas!

Then the fun began.

First its line up the teams at the start.





Getting all the teams 10 legs coordinated and.....

.....Off they go....



...getting everyone together...



.....keeping the momentum.....



....one stumble and its  
TUMBLE TIME....





This month there were 2 critical projects needing extra attention; creating the Super Schools 2020 equipment and a team to prepare the new building slab plastic plus steelwork. Both these in quick succession. Friday the equipment, Monday the building. In both cases the job done by lunchtime.

Everyone doing their bit please give yourselves a pat on the back. MAGIC!

And to finish off I add thanks to the local tradespeople getting behind us with the building development challenges we can't take on ourselves.

In particular I mention Kevin Byers Electrical for connecting power to our new garage storage building. With that milestone complete signoff is almost complete.

Then magic men #2 is the help given by Rob McEwan Plumbing. When we asked, "...can you give us a hand...?", without a pause Rob was right there. And as we progressed toward being ready for the concrete pour stages, Robs blokes, Hamish and Alex pulled out all stops to make sure there was nothing in the way of things happening. You blokes are amazing.

Now finally in closing I would like to express a big thank you to The Law Connection for their long time support. Steven Tomlinson has retired from the business and for a number of years his business has contributed by paying much of our monthly power bill. That has made a serious difference to the ongoing operation of our workshop. The new owners have decided to now support another local community group and we wish them all the best in the future.

Happy retirement Steven. Cheers everyone.

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



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Remember these magnificent people when you plan your next special project