

# MENZSHED<sup>®</sup>

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## NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2020 No. 128

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It's happened. Christmas 2019 has gone. New Years resolutions have all been forgotten (or abandoned until another day) and count-down to launching MenzShed Kapiti into the year 2020 is over.....

**10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1...BLAST-OFF!!!!**

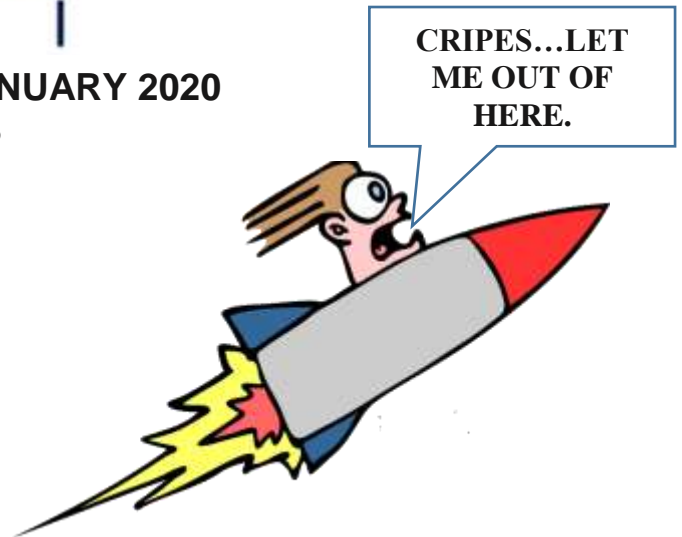
SCARY STUFF! By the way that bloke at the controls is Alan before the morning briefing.

**Now before we tell the story of what's been happening over January, some catch-up moments.**

In the rush to get the December Newsletter out to the Men Shed followers the odd moment missed the cut. Like the performance when Santa got special attention from the POLICE!



And by the look of the hands raised pose he may have even been checked for offensive weapons or such things.



But then as the Christmas Santa team completed the last of the scheduled performances, a call came in for “HELP!” from Warrick of Paraparaumu Beach Market fame. Hello! Santa Ray had had a shave so his face didn’t quite fit the character to be portrayed. No worries, out of retirement came Santa Ross for one more performance. And what a performance. Ross was in his element again and the kids just new this was indeed Santa.



What a fantastic round of outings the team made. Smiles on the faces of the children and the stressed out parents and grand-parents made the effort so worthwhile.

Now it’s over until next time. The sleigh is parked up and Peter B, the long suffering elf who is always there to organise the hardware and the people, can get on with the development project.

But before that happened we took time to celebrate with the other blokes, friends, family, supporters plus invited guests we just wanted to come along.

It was time to just relax together.





And what better way enhance the scene than a star studded performance from our very talented musicians, **The Shedmen**.

**Take it away.... Derek, Doug, Robbie, Ray, Charlie, Hans, Lex**

We expect the talent scouts to come through the door any day now. It probably took them a week or two to forget their Christmas dinner and get back to recognising talent when they see it.



One extra moment too was spent to accept a gift.

In the lead-up to our closing for the year, MenzShed Kapiti put their efforts into support for the team that organises the Kapiti Indoor Market events held in June and December at Waikanae's Memorial Hall. We were rewarded for this December's event by a very generous donation from the profits that accrued from the door donations plus the event stalls.

YES!!



\$2600

Thanks Rache, Stef and the bloke with a big smile.

One more last minute bit of good value came from the efforts of our "Action Man", Kevin. Talk of a thermometer to display the fundraising progress as encouragement for ourselves and the public had been common for a while. But Kev had completed his tasks at the Cancer Society Centre so he had time enough to make the thermometer idea real.

**"ACTION!"**



Kevin

## THE MENZSHED FUNDRAISING THERMOMETER - by Kev "Action Man"

Depending upon your eyesight you might be able to tell that the funds raised by our efforts have put over \$90K in the bank toward completing our amenities block. Then our application to the Lotteries Grant fund has resulted in a stage grant of \$100K conditional upon the Council granting us a lease for the land it is to occupy.



Wait, there's more! While we were attending that final, end-of-year BBQ celebration, a text was received from the KCDC lady responsible to say approval had been granted so the signed document was now a formality. That means the fundraising had reached \$198,000 of the total estimated complete development cost at \$350,000. Only \$150,000 to go. What an achievement that will be. A decent new workshop too.

## TIME FOR A CELEBRATION!!

You thought by now our 2020 grand opening had happened. **WRONG!**

On New Years Eve I needed to pick up something left behind at the shed so a quick trip to the workshop was needed. What did I find but a couple of elves just inside the gate completing the final brush strokes of green paint on the North boundary timber paling fence. What an amazing improvement.



The elves went by the names of Murray and Brent. It seems they needed a break from other home chores.



## **FINALLY.....TRUMPET FANFARE..... THE GRAND OPENING 2020**



It was quite a challenge for the blokes to wait for Tuesday 14 January 2020 to start the usual sessions. I had telephone calls starting New Year's Day asking "when does MenzShed start again"... AND on 7 January I believe there was a queue at the gate waiting for someone to arrive with the keys. Thursday 9 January the number was even larger at the gate. Finally Tuesday January 14 the relief began.

*And then things all started to happen again.*

### **First the big one .... THE MENZSHED BUILDING PROJECT**

The big one that you just could not miss coming in the gate is the progress toward completing Stage 2 of our Facilities Improvement Plan, the Amenities Block.

With KCDC making a decision pre-Christmas on the MenzShed Kapiti lease it meant we could once again take up the challenge of preparing the Amenities Block foundation formwork.



My first observation is David's determination to be involved in anything possible.

Making sparks is one of his specialties.

The foundation steel-work had to be fabricated.

Then just in time so bad weather didn't compromise the structure, the entire steel-work was installed in the already prepared ring foundation trench.





The main team, Brent and Murray never paused until everything was in place for the inspector to pass the work...



And of course there were always extras to go the extra mile in support of Murray and Brent.

They got their piece of the action and chocolate fish rewards for the effort next briefing session.

The efforts came from so many I would definitely miss names out if I tried to list them.

A fantastic effort from everyone.

And when the job got the stamp of approval the concrete pour was all on. Thank goodness our team knew what was needed because it was a real pressure job to get it right before the concrete set.

## January 31.....The Concrete Pour







The team leaps into action with trowels, vibrators and shovels at hand

The concrete under control of the experts...



**PERFECTION!**

The result.



Job done. Time to cure before starting on the next building stage.

**Now let's look at other January projects.**



## DEREK GOT BACK TO RESTORING GARDEN BENCH SEATS



This one is for Pam but we have another set of 2 benchseats plus a low table waiting for the special touch.

## JOHN P's AMAZING OAK COFFEE TABLE MUST GET A MENTION



The craftsman ship is just stupendous. The finish even more so.

All made from a stockpile of old oak planks saved by an old bloke for that special job one say.



## THE RAT PACK GOT BACK TO WORK

The first task was to complete a batch of 30 special stoat tunnels for DOC to use on the Wellington Region Islands.

AND we always need a supply of trays fitted with assorted traps to supply the local residents who come in the gate looking for a solution.



Ray, Jeff & David are the main ratters but avoided getting snapped in action this time but Roger and Trevor are experts at the trays.



## A SPECIAL – XTERRA TROPHIES

Late 2019 Trevor and Roger also took on the challenge to produce a batch of trophies made from old totara fenceposts recovered from Whereroa Farm. All part of the environmentally friendly theme of the Wellington Xterra Festival event held on the Farm, 1 February.

Roger escaped for a time so we didn't catch him in action but Trevor had the task of creating that special gloss finish on the engraved surfaces after all the other detailed work.



The 3 different styles of trophy. Below is the full set produced for the event. A Very special community support project.



If you want to know more about what the Xterra Festival is about do a Google. (Very active physical people are the target of such events.)

## **THE GARDEN CREW PROJECTS**

First it's the site landscaping and general visual improvements.

The plants have been enjoying summer so needed some trimming.

With the north fence painted the whole effect is just getting better all the time.



**The gardens produced well over the break so loads of produce have been delivered to Kapiti Foodbank. Special mention here too of the efforts of Cliff and Ron B who took the time over the break to make sure the garden got watered to keep producing over the break. Extra chocolate fish should definitely be on the briefing menu.**



**The rebuilt glass house donated by a neighbour is now complete (door included in spite of the photograph missing that occasion).**

**Special credit to Graeme C, Peter M, Peter D, Jim F with encouragement from onlookers Ron B, Grant and Cliff D.**



## **AN EXTRA SPECIAL - THE “HOW TO” HINT OF THE MONTH**

As new feature for our newsletter there has been a suggestion that we include helpful hints supplied by those in the know. This idea came from a source wishing to keep a low profile for now but his passport photograph is shown.

In fact our first submission is from “JET The Dog”. This hint says it all really.



### **HOW TO WASH THE CAT**

1. *Put both lids of the toilet up and add 1/8 cups of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl*
2. *Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom*
3. *In one smooth movement put the cat in the toilet and close the lid. You may need to stand on the lid.*
4. *At this point the cat will self-agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noise that comes from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this.*
5. *Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a “Power-Wash” and “Rinse”.*
6. *Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.*
7. *Stand well back, behind the toilet as far as you can and quickly lift the lid.*
8. *The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom and run outside where he will dry himself off.*
9. *Both the toilet and the cat will be sparkling clean.*



If you haven't been to the workshop for a while you won't recognise the place. Progress on improving the facilities has been startling. Just think when we complete the amenities block it will be possible to hold all sorts of extra session not involving hands on workshop stuff. Things like just talking through the problems of the world. Watch out Donald Trump.

Take a look at our website for an update too on the comings and goings of the place.

Cheers all.

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



Powering MenzShed Kapiti

**Harcourts**

Printing The Brochures



Goodman Contractors Ltd



Driving The Website



GUS EVANS NURSERIES

Plants for the Plots



Contributing To Provide  
Accessible Amenities



Boys Toys and Just Stuff for Community Projects

Remember these magnificent people when you plan your next special project