

Hard to believe we are a third of the way through 2017 but if April is past then I guess that is it!

April was expected to be a quieter month after the stampede at the end of March. Quiet seems to be a myth at MenzShed Kapiti.

And what did happen in April?

1. ANZAC Crosses

The outcome of our work over the last three years is shown at the Wellington Botanic Gardens where the crosses signifying the deaths in the first four years of World War I from Wellington area were displayed from 18th April until 3rd May 2017.



And that was after a late call for 6 extra boxes to hold the crosses - the team showed what controlled panic does to get these complete and delivered – another great effort.

ANZAC Day 2017 at 1740.

And when the sun goes down.....



We will be ready to process the 1850 crosses that will need to be completed for ANZAC Day 2018.

2. MENZShed Garden/ Landscaping



Thanks to our friends at **Goodman's** the gardening team had some assistance with the flattening of the site and the digging of a drain. These are wonderful examples of the community assisting the community and it certainly made the work a lot easier than by using the Armstrong method!



Thanks to Digger Operator Jamie from Goodman's for the superb job he did and our gardening team are keen to start the retaining wall and more raised beds.



At the same time Gus Evan's came donated and planted some plants for our lizard friendly garden. Thanks Gus for the kind donation.

Thanks also to Landscape Advisor of KCDC who visited MenzShed earlier in the month and advised the Gardening team on the proposed landscaping and plantings.



3. Firewood

Demand is increasing as we move into winter. Keep up the good work.

But for some it was a matter of two morning teas and as reported by one of those who helped stack wood for an elderly couple.

"My kind of job – 20 minutes stacking wood and 40 minutes enjoying tea and....!"



The crew was of 8 (Doug, Barrie, Frank, Derek, Gordon, Nigel, John P and one other) plus 2 wheelbarrows.

4. US Marine Huts

As the deadline approaches the action on this project is now on two fronts. At QEII Park Paekakariki A compacted base foundation has been laid and the team have attached heavy beams which are attached to the foundations with long anchors. The hut when it arrives will be tied to the beams and further bracing against the wind will be installed to ensure the hut is securely installed.



Meanwhile back at base Brent has been completing the painting subject to the mood of the weather!

Also, subject to the weather the roof should be covered in the first week of May.



5. Tool Sharpening

As the song says “and the beat goes on” or should we say “and the sharpening goes on and on”. Ray keeps up the good work of sharpening tools and reconditioning of those in poorer quality in between times.

6. Water bath

Skip continues towards completing this water bath for a local kindergarten. Skip is one of our advisors whose progress is frequently interrupted to direct those of us with lesser experience in working with wood.

7. Seed Rumbler

Ray has got this to the stage where electricians and other expertise are working on this to get the machine running under battery power.

One of the first tests was to couple the motor up to a battery to check it works. The Rumbler needs to rotate at 30 to 40 RPM and this was not achieved.



And now a cluster of experts are back to the drawing board to get the mechanics of the controls sorted. It could look like bees around the hive!! Watch this space in May to see the bees!!!

8. SunDial

John P’s masterpiece of a reconstruction and rework of a sundial.

Another very satisfied Kapiti resident.



9. Weta Motels

There must be wetas out there as we are getting plenty of orders for these. Keep up the good work team as we have an order for more weta motels, Penguin nests and Rat Tunnels (traps) from the Kapiti Biodiversity Group.

10. Equipment Maintenance

This is an ongoing issue and it is difficult to catch our dedicated group who do this as and when required but Doug W was observed servicing one of the band saws during the month.

Sorry to those who I have missed.

It may not be equipment but another routine task which keeps the grounds tidy is the mowing of the grass by Peter B.

11. Table Leg Repair

Frank completed the repair (or was it replacement?) of a leg on a dining table. This table when extended will sit six persons but can fit in a small flat. This is off to a young lady who is going flatting.

This type of work happens a lot and it is good to see members getting such repairs done with suitable machinery. This is in addition to similar jobs being completed for other Kapiti residents.

12. Age on the Go Expo

A team from Menzshed made our presence felt at this Expo.

Some great planning and preparation in the days before the event became evident when our display presented so professionally.



There were a lot of comments about the work being done and displayed at the stall. Such was the success that we had five visitors on the following Tuesday interested in joining Menzshed.

13. Fixtures for the Kapiti Disability Centre

The folk at the Kapiti Disability Centre were extremely pleased with the set of shelves and a display stand for walking sticks.

Great job well done Bruce.



The stand developed from this

to this



And Bruce completed the stand so it could present a wealth of information about supplies from the Disability Centre.



14. Emergency Water Tank Installation

We may have had plenty of rain over summer but it is good to see a recent flurry of requests for installation of these. John R has made a stock of the stands and Peter B and John R have been diligent in keeping up with the requests. Thanks Guys.

15. The story of a belt

Barry has a belt which he has had for a number of years dating back to World War II and had only had three owners. You may find it interesting and it is in the attachment to this newsletter.

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

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

Nigel C & Peter R

And don't forget to remember or sponsors and supporters shown below.

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



Powering MenzShed Kapiti



Printing The Brochures



Driving The Website



Stripping For MenzShed

And other supporters

1. Goodman's for their great work on the clearing the site
2. Gus Evans for the plants to assist in the development of the Lizard Friendly Area

MY OLDEST POSSESSION.

March 2017.

I've been asked about the German belt/buckle that I always wear. The buckle has started many a conversation and led to a number of discoveries for my collection. This is the story of how I got it. It is 1968 and I am working as a relief manager at a Newsagents shop in Church Road Willesden, London. I'm 20 years old. Into the shop comes an elderly regular customer. An Irishman who was still working for a building company.

Always friendly and cheerful he would stop for a chat before heading out to catch his bus. Me being me I could not fail to notice the German WWII belt he wore around his waist. I must add that it did not go through his belt loops but on top of his high pulled up trousers. As a budding collector, I decided to see if I could relieve him of his belt. I did not rush things. On one visit, I mentioned to him that I liked his belt.



He thanked me. On another I asked him if it was German. He said it was but did not proceed with the line of conversation I instigated.

I saw this man at least once a week when giving the Willesden manager his day off and it was months before out of frustration I asked him out right if he would sell me his belt. He politely said no. Every time he came into the shop I felt the frustration building. He was obviously not interested in selling and I knew it would be impolite to ask again but after many visits when the belt was not mentioned I thought I could at least raise the subject again. I asked him how he came by the belt.

He told me that his son had brought it back as a war souvenir from Monte Casino. The Monte Casino connection struck a chord with me and I wanted that belt more than ever. My father had seen action there as well and I felt a kind of bond with the belt. However, it was now obvious to me why the old man would not sell it to me. I smiled at him and said. "Ah now I see why you will not sell me the belt. Your son gave it to you and it must have great sentimental value". He looked a bit surprised and said. "No.no. That is not the reason". Equally puzzled I asked him what was the reason then. He replied talking slowly as if the answer was obvious and I was too thick to see it. "I use the belt to hold up my trousers. I need it". His simple logic hit home and I gave the clever response. "So, if I got you another belt you would sell me that one?" He answered "If you got me another belt you could have this one".

I was elated. Quick as a shot I left my side of the counter and escorted the old gentleman to the men's shop next door. Mr. Rayner was the manager there and I told him what we required. With

great speed, he ran a tape measure around his fellow Irishman's none too small waist and directed us to a display stand of leather belts. Without hesitation, the old man selected a wide sturdy and not inexpensive belt. He quickly undid the German one, handed it to me and swung his new belt into position. "Right I'm off. I've a bus to catch" he said and I got the impression that he wanted out before I changed my mind.

He left me rejoicing in and explaining my new acquisition to Mr. Rayner.

I was able to adjust the belt to fit my then much slimmer waist and since that day it has held up my jeans on an almost daily basis. Forty-eight years on I have had to replace the leather twice. The first time was with a strip of leather I cut myself but the current belt is a modified post war German one that will see me out. That buckle and I have never been separated apart from when I have been wearing dress trousers. It has been with me on all my travels and adventures and I have even taken it back to Monte Casino twice. I have plenty of old photographs of me with the belt. I don't see it as a collector's item anymore. It is my belt. There was certainly not much original finish on it when I got it and there is none at all now. I committed collector's sacrilege by badly engraving my name and the date I got it on the lower edge. It will always be mine.



An expert told me that the buckle was made in 1943 so the soldier it was issued to would have had it for no more than 18 months. The Irish gentleman had worn it for 23 years and I've clocked up 48. It is my oldest and in many ways my most treasured possession.