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NEWSLETTER – December 2023

**From the Chair**

No. 149

Talofa lava

As Chair keeping oversight of the many activities and projects, at times having to balance difficult issues and managing strained relationships are part of the role.

What has helped me more than anything else is having a supportive team around me.

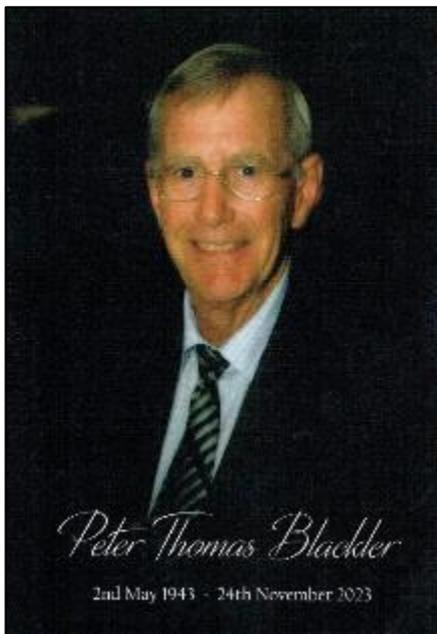
By that I mean not just those on the Committee but the many others of you who always put up your 'hand up' when help is asked for or those who just get on and 'do stuff'. To you all thank you for contributing to the wonderful place MenzShed Kapiti is known for, not just to us but to the wider community.

As we say goodbye to 2023 and welcome 2024 let's not forget but reflect on both the good and the not so good times we have supported each other through over the past 12 months. Supporting each other will not only get us through 2024 but will also ensure MenzShed Kapiti remains the wonderful place it is.

I wish you and your family a happy new year. Manuia le tausaga fou.

Soifua

Tony



As you probably know, Peter Blackler died in November.

Peter was a foundation member of our Shed, a member of the Committee and held the role of Treasurer for 10 years.

He dedicated the last 13 years of his life putting in extraordinarily long hours and energy to realise the vision he and early members of the Shed had "A safe place where men can come together for a cuppa and a chat, share their skills and knowledge in a collegial environment."

Peter will be remembered at the Shed for his drive, energy and single mindedness to get the job done. Hence today we have probably the best facilities of all the 124 sheds in the country

He only stood down from those roles in both organisations this year due to his failing health. In 2014 Peter was made a life member of MenzShed Kapiti.

Here are two video links to the funeral, they will be slow to download and the first one does not start until about 16 minutes in. [Funeral Service](#) [After the Service](#)

## Upcoming MenzShed Activities

Just a memory jog of what Menzshed Activities are happening in the foreseeable future. Make sure you have them in your own Diary.

Event	Date	Where	Comment
<b>Recurring Events</b>			
Committee Meeting		@the Shed	
Sharpening tools	Last Thursday of Month	@the Shed	This is a regular event
Fresh Scones	Last Thursday of Month and whenever there is a birthday shout or any other excuse!	@the Shed	Hans and his apprentices will be producing superb scones fresh from the oven, or for anyone's birthday shout
Menzshed Opening 2024	16 Jan 2024		There will be teams making Weta Motels before this date. If you fancy going along. Ring Dave W to check when they are working.

## Contact Details

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### **Random Thoughts**

- I too was once a male trapped in a female body...but then my mother gave birth.
- If only vegetables smelled as good as bacon.
- When I lost the fingers on my right hand in a freak accident, I asked the doctor if I would still be able to write with it. He said, "Probably, but I wouldn't count on it."
- It's weird being the same age as old people.
- I want a username and password prompt which says, "Close Enough".
- Last night the internet stopped working so I spent a few hours with my family. They seem like good people.
- After watching how some people wore their face masks, I understand why contraception fails.
- For those of you that don't want Alexa or Siri listening in on your conversation, they are making a male version....it doesn't listen to anything.
- I just got a present labeled, 'From Mom and Dad', and I know darn well Dad has no idea what's inside.
- There's a fine line between a numerator and a denominator. Only a fraction of people will find this funny.
- I have many hidden talents. I just wish I could remember where I hid them.

## Around the Shed



For a long time the shed had a disassembled NZ telephone box in the wood store. It has a long history, it was stolen from the shed but when the police arrested the buglar for another crime they found it deteriorating in his garden and returned it to us. As you can see it's in quite a sorry state but we do have all the parts including the window labels. John D is putting it back together but, as he says, it's a slow process. NZ telephone boxes are quite valuable, I found an ad in TradeMe where the current bid was \$2,500 and this was in 2013. Should we sell it or can we use it for something original?



An early NZ telephone box



Repaired spinning stool by John P, the seat was split and had to be reglued and strengthened



Alan C replaced the broken slat at the bottom of the chair now it's as good as new,



At last the pot hole has been fixed! That should keep some of the Sheddies happy. Thanks to Trevor Mc and Jim F.



Everlasting Christmas tree by Roger C



The angel for the top of the tree



*Roger C pulling nails out of a piece of oak saved from the bonfire.*



*John R & Jim W using the large table saw*



*Denis H with our folding work bench*



*Stephen M at morning tea prayers. Actually he was using his mobile!*



*Menzshed shortbread biscuit devoped by Peter H and his wife, could we sell these instead of Weta Motels?*



*You will notice that the battered old money box has been replaced by a nice new model. This box started out for a totally different purpose. Rather than collect, it was for dispatch.*

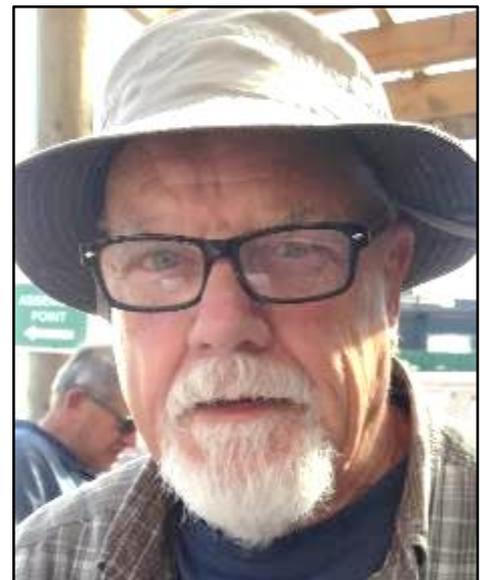
*The box was for the someone's dearly departed, It was an urn,.donated by a local funeral director.*

*The lid was the effort of Dennis G, with a little help from his friends.*

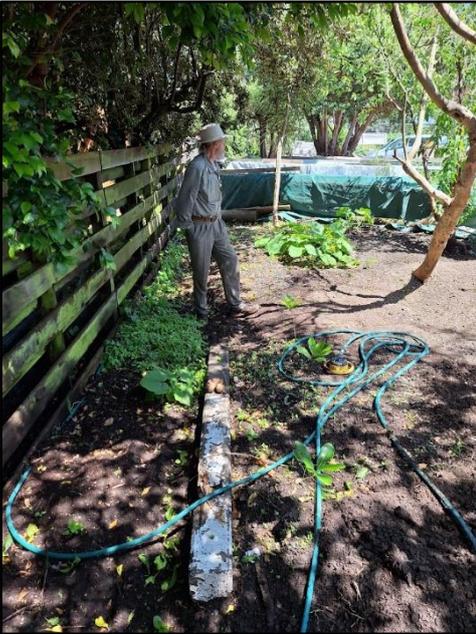
*So, when depositing your gold coin, think you could have been in there.*



*This glass topped table has wooden legs and the owner used it outside. Alan C got the job of putting plastic feet on the the table so the timber legs did not rot*



*Keith Heather moved away and had to leave the shed. He will be missed*



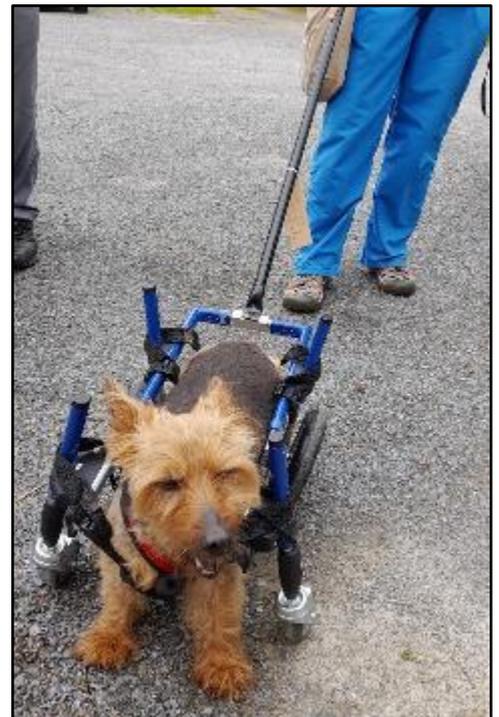
*There have been secret goings on at the South East corner of the shed premises! Anthony G and Peter F have been clearing the space and making collections of weeds and concrete for the shed. They have tilled the land and planted pumpkin, cucumber, broccoli, and kumera donated by members.*



*Kevin A overhauling a chain hoist*



*Pauline Biggs and Kirk from the Ministry of Social Development presented us with a donation of over \$500 collected from their staff to thank us for the community work that we do. Many thanks.*



*We had a visit of a real dog in a wheelchair, there's hope for all of us!*



*Tony A Presenting a Life Membership Certificate for Peter B to Peter's son*



*Ian H refurbished and installed the Raumati South Library Cabinet*

## **REPORT BACK FROM THE POLE 2023.**

(No not from pole #2023 as there's no poles in our street at all!)

Once upon a time Menzshed Kapiti had a Santa who lived not in an Ice cave up the North Pole but a Cave closer to the South Pole. He wanted to retire but couldn't till he was happy with a replacement. So, the search was on. with Peter B calling at morning talks for a candidate to step up. A voice from the back was heard, "I will", chirps Ray. Not waiting for the beard to grow Peter B races off, gets a new suit for a new Santa which he then delivers that night to another very surprised Ray Watling. Who seeing the funny side of his intro and with permission from his wife has grown his beard these last 4 years.

But before one gets into those sort of stories, (Roger asked for an extended report), - on a much more serious side of our SANTA Sleigh outings, I didn't realize, like many other of you Sheddies, just how bigger footsteps we are having to step up into with the passing of Peter B. The man behind so many of our Sheds activities, including our Sleigh outings, the maintenance and the pampering of Rudolph (Golf Cart).

Little did I realize when Peter B passed the cart key to me with the wise words, "Make sure the front tyres have plenty of air in as you will roll them off the rims ". Wether it was the shock of the 'passing of the key', moment or just what that meant. But the first thing I did was just that, I rolled the tyre off the rim.

Rudolph had something else in mind for me but something on that later alas.

Yes, Peter B not only was our go to man but also the communities', with the Sleigh being just one interest. He booked visits, helpers & transport to venues for a visit from Santa. Armed with some leads I was able to arrange some outings but alas Santa missed a couple of events partly due to missed communications, something we are all going to have to work on in 2024. So again, a BIG THANKS to all who came out and helped bring some joy to the Kids of Kapiti.

Firstly on behalf of the Little Fellow Santa Ray, with the beard - A BIG THANKS to all who came out , Oh that's who helped control Santa and all the little plus not so little Kiddies , their Minders and young Mummies.

A shout out to Elf, Grant P, who got the Sleigh ready and Allen W plus Nigel C *who remembered hidden batteries to keep Rudolph happy.*

Speaking of said "Rudolph", The one important thing Peter B in his "Father" to "Son" talk I missed was just how to mount Rudolph. For in a mad moment when trying to load him onto a trailer which he clearly wasn't happy about.

My moment of madness was jumping on the wrong side of "Rudolph" hitting his "Go" button to which he leapt backwards throwing me on to the hard Menzshed Yard on my back. Yes ouch. My wife thinks it great as I am assigned to trying to sleep in a straight back chair in another room while she and the cat have the bed to themselves, and the drugs I am on only give me nights filled with this laughing voice that sounds a lot like that of Peter B's.

I'll think I'll keep to them Weta Motels in future.. Broken Elf Dave W.

*P.S. Thanks to Colin Mc for the great photo of Rudolph & Sleigh with Kapiti Island in the background.*

Extra BIG THANKS TO RAY W.



*Santa, Ray W*



*Dave W – he has a hat for all occasions!*



*Get lined up and go forwards this time!,*

*here we go,*

*stay on the ramp,*

*nearly there*



*Keep pushing Pete, must stay on the ramp,*

*hold the trailer Charlie,*

*supervise me Charlie,*

*I told you I could do it!*

**Menzshed Christmas Celebration**

For a change the weather was kind, and we could all dress up in our Summer finery for the celebration. Our partners came along, and we could take pleasure in showing off how tidy we men kept the shed – “He’s not as tidy as this at home someone said!” Little do they know what the cleaning supervision of Trevor Mc can do! We had a barbecue and people were asked to bring deserts.



*We had enough space under the garage canopies and could extend into the Workshop*



*Music was provided by the shed resident band of Hans v d H, Ray W (of Father Christmas fame), Robbie Mc and Charlie L*

*We had guests of Peter B’s family*

*The visitor provided deserts table was very popular and almost overwhelmed*

**Paekakariki School**  
**Kapiti Coast District Council**  
**Nuku Ora**  
**MenzShed Kapiti**

**Play Gear Storage Wagon**

**Outstanding Community Project**

This is the story of an outstanding community project that has delivered benefits to all participating parties way beyond any hard cash involved. Truly a win win.



In September MenzShed Kapiti was approached by the Kapiti Coast District Council to build a play equipment mobile storage box for the Paekakariki School. This being an important step in introducing and exploring the real value of learning through play at school.

A meeting was held at the MenzShed involving the school children, the Menzshed team, and representatives from Nuku Ora and the Kapiti Coast District Council.



*Team design meeting*

Interestingly the children's input quickly overturned the Menzshed men's idea of a mobile box with a hinged lid, and while a box in the shape of the Paekakariki Express, suggested by one of the children, was considered, it was agreed that a box railway car would be a bit more within the MenzShed team's capability... for now!



So, with the design and budget agreed, the project was underway. Ongoing communication with the team and especially the children took place on a regular basis and the wagon was completed for delivery on Tuesday 12th December.



What made this project so special?

The end result was a team effort, greater being achieved than that of an individual. The children were fully engaged and no doubt they too saw the benefit of the team effort while not losing sight of their primary objective being to get a wagon to store their play equipment.

The children were great to work with and it was fun times meeting with them. The children came prepared, were polite and courteous well beyond their years and their input was well thought through.

For the Menzshed men it certainly more than ticked all the boxes of giving them value and worth in a caring supportive environment to participate in meaningful activities for the benefit of the community.

The ongoing enthusiastic support of representatives from Nuku Ora, the Kapiti Coast District Council and the Paekākāriki School teachers was outstanding and encouraging all the way!



End result, happy children with good storage for their play equipment, the Menzshed men feeling really valued and Nuku Ora, the Council and the School having in turn achieved their objectives.

Ian Barbour  
MenzShed Kapiti Dec 2023

## WETA MOTELS { CASH COW} PROGRESS REPORT

One minute you are saying “Wish I’d kept to Weta Motels,” next you are back doing reports on them!

Shut your trap Dave!

Goodness it’s all changed, I mean I once was drilling out the units, installing the beds, TV’s plus putting on the roofs. But now day’s there’s such a work force, I’ve been reduced to making sure the toilet roll holders are filled.

WETA MOTELS: unlike cleaning or painting workshops, these actually make us money which helps keep our Membership Fee down. Yes, there’s been lots of debate re the pricing of them and, yes like everything costs are rising everywhere, so a review is well overdue.

Unlike the rest of us, Weta’s only like non-treated timber Motels which are becoming harder to find.

Gov’t reg’s, are making such timber harder to obtain and in particular FREE timber. Our recovery crew of Dave & Mike are always hot on the trail of suitable Untreated timber. If we have to buy the timber our costs will skyrocket. Thats if we can buy any! We now must buy the windows, (once free). Luckily the roofs, where we have gone up market to Colour Steel (now in 4 different colours) can still be obtained FREE.

However, we look at it prices are going to increase, it’s getting the balance right of recovering costs and killing off the sales. Better news is Sales for December should net us \$1300. and January sales are heading that way as well with orders in for another 100 plus units.

All this is and any future sales are very dependent on the supply of untreated timber. We are not contemplating another 3-month drought without timber like we had in 2023. It’s onward and upward for 2024.

So it’s a BIG SHOUT OUT to all those that have stepped up to help; and hard as it may sound - Yes

Thanks to The Rat Pack who have chipped in also. Tony W reckons he is hoping to have them back as normal Human Beings by say Easter 2026. Oh, and thanks for the folk who have gone out of their way to deliver the finished Weta Motels to Zealandia in Wellington.

Chief Loo Roll holder Installation X Spurt Weta Motels Dave W.



*One of our Weta Motels at Zealandia*

Plus a special mention of support of our MenzShed Kapiti backers, local businesses, supporters, and sponsors.



A Roof Over Our Heads



Supply of toilet & Plumbing Items



Serious Site Earthworks



Amenity Electrical Items



A Heatpump For Our Comfort



Walkanae Charter Club Community Grant



Electrical Apprentice Manpower



We receive 10 litres of Cabots stains annually from Dulux



Printing Our Brochures



Driving The Website



Stair tread edges and trims

Plus that ongoing support for our projects and community activities



Boys Toys and Just Stuff for Community Projects

Remember these magnificent people when you plan your next special project