



When the cats away, the mice will play. So when Peter (our newsletter volunteer) headed off to the warm climate of Bougainville (working), the organising committee said "Don't worry about your August newsletter Peter. We'll take care of it." Yeah Right! That means we need to be a bit disciplined and plan what we need to focus our attention on and gather photos and keep an eye on all the activities around the workshop. Now those of you who come along regularly know how keeping track of what's happening is not the simplest task in the world. MenzShed Kapiti IS the place where "...men do what men do..." so there's not so much fanfare about what's being done as just doing it and then doing something else. Just ask Scotty Chris. There is always someone who could do with a small something that will make someone's life so much better.

We know that Ian #1 will take care of any timber with nails that need pulling, Charlie will stock up the firewood sales trolley at the gate, Alan and Brian will keep those children's picnic tables coming, Tom will sort things that have been dropped off, James will organise bits and pieces so we know where to look, Ross and Dennis will be quietly gathering up some of the rubbishy bits we have squirreled away and stuffing them in the rubbish, Gordon #1 will quietly sharpen garden tools for visitors (and a small donation), Ray has also upskilled and cleans and beautifully sharpens tools donated too, John #1 will help people with small (and not so small) joinery jobs, Ian #2 will make sure the machinery is working properly, John #3 will test any electrical item that has come in before we use it, Terry and Ray will sort out any mechanical jobs that need their special touch and the ongoing quiet/noisy things go on without any fuss or fanfare with the help of lots more Johns, Ian's, Bills, Bobs, Pauls, Alans, Brians, Gordons, Peters, Walters, Pauls, Chads, Ricks, and uncle Tom Cobley and all. IN fact let's burst into the chorus.



*Wi' Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, Peter Gurney,
Peter Davy, Dan'I Whiddon, Harry Hawk,
Old Uncle Tom Cobley and all
Old Uncle Tom Cobley and all*

What is more there's lots of work in the background by Alan preparing his Dinga-Ling windup at the start of each session; handing out the chocolate sprat rewards to show that someone noticed the extra mile a member has gone to get a project through to delivery.

Then there's Dennis's shortbread and peanut cookies, John #4's scones, Gordons "hot cakes", Ted's wife's fruit cake. All that contributes to the shape many of us are in. (In my case the little round fellow). While I have the chance to add a few more mentions in dispatches I'll add the constant consulting and planning by Peter working to make the place a better and safer place to be. It's below the horizon so mostly goes unrecognised. A great big thank you.



Also a big thank you to those who clean up the kitchen after we all endeavour to mess things up. Maurie is a living treasure and recently several others have leapt into the role when Maurie hasn't been fast enough to take control of the smoko room. Tom, Chad, etc a great BIG THANK YOU!!!

Now for the special mentions of the things I personally know about and have taken time to photograph since the July Newsletter.

THE AUGUST BBQ

If you missed it keep your eye on any notices about the next one that should be next month.



Hooray it will
be warmer
from now on!

About 40 members, friends, wives, partners and bods took part and thoroughly enjoyed the warmth of our atmosphere. We even had a heater to add to the warmth of the occasion.

MENZSHED MINSTRELS ENTERTAIN AT THE BBQ

Our music group led by Andrew have been working hard to hone their talents for a couple of months now and by special request they agreed to tickle the eardrums at our BBQ.

They even managed to perform my special request of Cripple Creek on the Banjo by Charlie.



MAGIC!!! APPLAUSE!!!!!!

(Andrew tells me there is still room for a few more if anyone would like to give it a go. The group meets at the workshop smoko room on Friday morning from 9.30am. Present numbers about 5 to 6)

SOLOMON ISLAND TOOLBOX PROJECT

The Solomon Islands and nearby Bougainville have recently risen above the horizon as places that can make good use of some of the excess low technology hand tools that we need a home for. They had work crews going out to jobs where the crew of 6 to 10 people might have a single set of tools. So firstly we sorted out tools for 6 toolboxes with basic things like claw hammers, handsaws, screwdrivers, chisels, brace and bits, pencils, rulers etc and made up suitable wooden boxes with a place for everything. Because NZ has a presence in the Solomons helping the locals out, every now and then the Navy has a boat dropping in with supplies. Just the thing to deliver a bunch of large and quite heavy toolboxes.

Frank, Ron, a Peter and various other worked tirelessly to make this happen.

The 6 boxes shown here are now in the Solomons and ready for action.



This second photograph shows the tools and how everything has its place so missing tools will be obvious.

Then soon after a new batch of 2 more were made for use in Bougainville. Peter R has personally taken one box for delivery to the team training locals to do repairs and maintenance for themselves. You may have seen a recent TV programme that featured an Aussie teaching a group of Bougainville locals to give them basic carpentry skills.



RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION FILED

Peter B has been preparing an application on behalf of our MenzShed for a Resource Consent from KCDC to develop the entire Council Workshop site to provide facilities for ourselves and other community groups. This is a major thing because the property is zoned open space with existing use and that limits development on the site without an exemption being granted. So to facilitate any development of the site it is essential to work with Council and the community to agree to a development strategy. The submission went to Council on 30 July and some further clarification is now sought to satisfy the application requirements before the next stage is triggered. Viz assessments against various plans and Acts plus a layout of vehicle parking, plus circulation and manoeuvring of vehicles.

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the general site plan so you all know what's proposed.

THE NO8 WIRE PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROJECT

During July we were invited to support a Community project of No8 Wire Workshops. Another opportunity to get some public exposure so 5 or 6 of us put together some kitsets for participants to assemble. Mike Fuller a local joiner donated us some excellent plywood that was absolutely perfect for the task and the whole thing was very successful.

Take a look at these families working together at Raumati and finding out just what they can do if they care to have a go.

I find this picture of a young lady concentrating hard on driving in nails while somehow managing to miss Terry's fingers shows what a great thing it was.

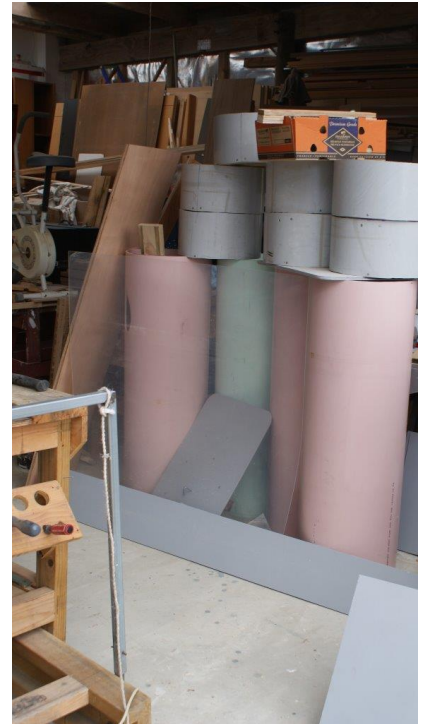


And the smile of achievement when it was all done was fantastic.

The workshops were held at Kapiti College one weekend and then Otaki College the next weekend.

PREDATOR PROOF KAKA NESTING PROJECT

Our support for the DOC Kaka recovery programme took on special emphasis since June. We undertook to redesign the earlier predator proof nest box design to make it simpler to refurbish annually. It also involved adapting the first 6 with the changes and adding an extra 6 new nests to the network. These nest boxes support Kaka nesting outside Zealandia from Karori to Porirua and we hope eventually the population will spread to Kapiti. The 2016 DOC component is now delivered.



Blank nest tubes

Brent carefully assembling critical bits



Plastic roofs to keep stoats and rats out.

The liners made as a bayonet type fitting so replacing them every year is simplified. The Kaka destroys the timber sides during nesting to constantly freshen up the nest for the chicks.

This was a major effort and this montage of images might give some idea of the fabricating and storing issues this caused for the shed space we have. Twelve plastic tubes 1200 x 400 with all the liners, roofs and other bits takes up a lot of space.

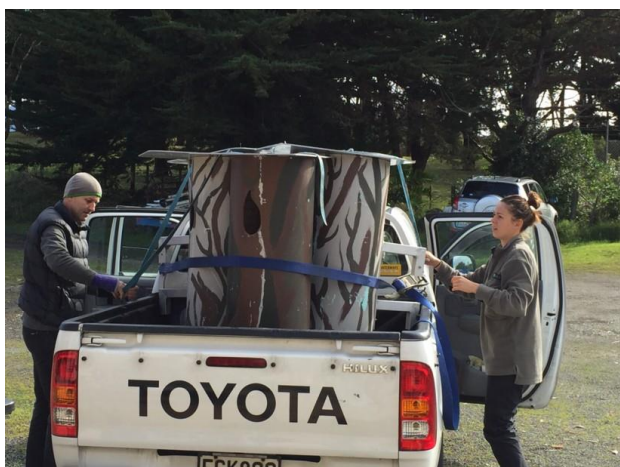


Then when put together it was the opportunity for our artists to demonstrate their skills by camouflage painting the nests to disguise them in the trees. So good that Barry vanished in the photo. Hooray for Barry, Chad, and Gordon. (Only one smiley face)

We finally had a bunch of people very pleased to see the end of the present stage of the project.



And a very happy bunch of DOC people just itching to install the nests in the trees before nesting begins early September.



My personal salute to Skip and Brent for their total commitment to seeing this through. If we could bottle you we could make a fortune at the local market on Saturday.

And how's this on the left for going the extra mile by Ian. You can recognise him by the tool belt. Of course lots of others like Dave, Terry, Ray, John #5 plus others who I just haven't remembered can take a bow too.

PROGRESS ON MARINE ARMY HUTS

Things are moving ahead with some useful decisions made that allow our team to start the task of rebuilding the Marine Memorial Hut to an agreed plan. Mike, Dave, the two Pauls and Rick have taken giant strides on this project now that they know the right wall height, where windows, doors and louvres will go.

At this time the floor has been repaired and made ready plus the side frames are refurbished. This leaves the end frames and roof the next target for progress. So the team is going gangbusters.

The photograph shows how a ute tray is proving to be a good workbench for the framing stage.



Some extra news on this project is the significant support given to the project.

The US Embassy has stepped up with funds to support the initiative so that it can be done properly.

Fletchers were the original manufacturers of the huts so through Placemakers they have made a sum available for materials and presently our team is expecting delivery of a special run of weatherboards to the correct profile for the entire hut exterior cladding.

A great big salute to this team. We will all be proud that our people made a contribution when it becomes part of the Marine Memorial at Mackays Crossing.

JAMES' RESOURCE ORGANISATION VISITED

Everyone must have noticed how James has tirelessly worked for months in Shed B making sense of the large quantity of donated hardware and resources. What he has achieved for me is just amazing. By using a bit of common sense you can now find the things you want. James has also taken some time to explain what he has tried to do and how he has set about it in a written article to explain the system. I think you will find it well worth reading and what's more should make finding small items so simple. No more sorting through buckets of assorted screws. Hooray! James' MenzShed Resources article is attached as a special item.

A SPECIAL PLEA TO ALL

Just a little reminder that our AGM will be held on Thursday 22 September. Can I ask that you give some thought to getting more actively involved in the organisation of the place. New blood on the committee is always welcome and it will help give us extra depth so that when people are away or incapacitated the place still functions well.

FINALLY I know when I send this off I will remember all the other titbits I should have included so sorry about that. Let's blame it on AAADD, (Age Acquired Attention Deficit Disorder). *I wonder if there's a pill for it.*

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.

Cheers to you all

Nigel Clough
MenzShed Kapiti
904 2932

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



Powering MenzShed Kapiti



Printing The Brochures



Driving The Website