

It's been a long long long time since we published a newsletter, nearly a year, mainly because we are just too busy with other things, as this edition will show. This is one person's collection of what has occurred.

To those who are miffed by non-inclusion of any project please feel free to write the next one.

While there's in excess of 50 members turning up at most sessions, request for those offering their expertise in the newsletter production falls on deaf ears. Love to hear from those who could make a contribution. Maybe a team could produce it rather than depending on one or two.

**Yes you read that right, 50 plus members at most sessions.**

This, coupled with the excellent response and support from the local business community, is resulting in many successful projects and allows us to continue our on-site development.

Our **on-site shed** constructed by our members is almost completed. As the shed progressed a most generous offer by JD Edser and his team at Hurricane Roofing fixed for free the roofing to our new shed. The end result is as very impressive building on our site so thanks to all involved, and especially the project supervisor, Murray C.



Hurricane roofing team



Shed cladding



Completed garage Aug



**Inside the shed** has already been taken over by the team building the Lions Annual Dolls house raffle project, lead by Brian D.

## Our Main Building Program

Full documentation for our main building program, that gained resource and building consent, required targets to be set for on-going fundraising. Completion of the garage has allowed us to set our sights on completing the next stage, the well overdue amenities block to provide proper toilet and kitchen facilities, meeting room and even an office.

This started with fabulous support of our local heroes, civil engineering contractor Goodmans , who, as a donation, broke up and removed the old slab and foundation that covered the area where the amenities block is to be built. Their equipment made short work of the slab and foundations as the photos show – thanks Goodmans



We now have the official location of the amenities block extension marked out and a datum point from which we can establish our floor heights. Now the focus is setting up the boxing for the perimeter foundations.



.....and where to from here

As we go to publish this newsletter we await the outcome of two major sponsor applications, namely the McCarthy Trust and Lotto. Both have required extensive documentation that has been assembled by Peter B and Cliff D. In the meantime we have sufficient funds to continue with the amenities block foundation and floor slab.

**Landscaping of the site** has continued along the east boundary and the shrubs planted are already showing signs of steady growth.

**The Landscapers also are** the group maintaining and extending the vegetable beds with surplus items being given to the food bank. The worm farm in the corner continues to provide a steady source of worm wee and at \$2 for two litres is a steady fundraiser. Unfortunately there are no photos of the worms creating their magic. The two reasons are that the worms are shy and we do not have an underground camera!!





The firewood box out at the main gate has been doubled in size and in the recent batch of cold weather has seen an increased demand on this regular fundraising venture. The regular firewood crew led by Charlie and Barry have been kept very busy and we never seemed to run out of supplies suitable for cutting up and bagging for firewood. When there is surplus we even sell it by the trailer load.



**DOC projects** continue to keep different groups busy, their continuing large orders for **rat-trap tunnels** have resulted in a production line that would win awards. Groups do the wood-cutting (three different sizes) and then the sides are grooved. Another team cuts the mesh to two different sizes, one lot bent. Then its assembly of the wood tunnels and the mesh stapled to one end and set in the groves at the other end. Finally our logo is hot branded on and then it's away by the ute load.

A recent request for two rat-mouse trap game cages kept Mark busy and, at times, scratching his head. The technical explanation is a challenge. Anyone who is interested talk to Mark.



Requests for new kaka breeding boxes are on-going and Mark has the latest version under control. He also manages our annual project for DOC of relining of the Kaka internal liners and nest area that we have separately developed. The photos below show how destructive the nesting habits of these small birds are as they peck away at the lining during their nesting.





**Weta Motels** are as popular as ever as a fundraiser, so production continues with a great team, although nobody is sure who is the boss.

A request from a client for a weta motel that's something a bit different, more natural, resulted in Nigel's latest version – the trick is getting the right piece of wood!



### **Personal projects**

While there is a major focus on doing things for others, members are encouraged to have their own projects as well and these appear from time to time with some excellent results.





**Refurbishment** of various items continues at most sessions and examples of such work exposes the talents of our members



John P hands over the Wesley Support chair  
And has the rewards in hand.



Frank's latest restoration



A table with a split personality  
was rejoined and refurbished.



This dresser was restored

While John P makes a major contribution to refurbishing and repairing items it is not often that there is a chance for John to use his skills in the design and construction of complete item. It was a delight therefore for John to be allocated the task of designing a coffee table that is made out of oak that had been stored for many years by the clients father. The end result was presented to the granddaughter at her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party and was admired by all parties concerned. John appreciated the help of Gordon on this project.



**Donated items** come in all forms and the offer of a boat was too much a temptation for some to resist. Bob the boat had been around for a long time and other MenzShed members had been involved in its history, usually in its next temporary location as it had not been in the water for many years. Its arrival was as the photo shows, via Peter Blackler's vintage fully restored tractor that was probably the same vintage as the boat.



It didn't take long to dismantle the hull after a member was allowed to tackle it with the sabre saw.



What's left is a power full motor and direct drive unit and the whisper is the motor does still turn but it's hiding off-site at the moment and listed as a future do up and sell project.

Another very grateful **donated item** was through a contact in Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) who were about to demolish two platforms in the Mahara Place upgrade. Outside normal work hours our team set to work dismantling the platforms, the result being some very nice timber that we organised to be stored correctly, some of which can go towards the decking for our new building.

The stage almost intact



Going







Timber stacked and ready to go



timber is gone



And stacked at the shed!!



And another **offer of timber** needed some extra muscles in the loading & unloading - no doubt this resource will be just right for that future project.

This came from the refurbishment of the Raumati Community Hall

Last year we supported a **fundraiser for a new Wellington Free Ambulance** by creating a jigsaw puzzle made out of 55 recycled grape boxes from PAK'nSAVE Paraparaumu. The Graphic Garage (of Precise Print & Design) produced a free stencil of the side of an ambulance laminated on sticky back material that formed panels for each box face. The next time we saw the puzzle was when it returned with the newly purchased ambulance and we could compare our work and the new arrival – adult and junior!



Jigsaw assembly crew – yes they did pass the challenge



Ambulance puzzle with blokes



One **recent fund raiser** that bought out some hidden talents (or tension release opportunities) was the request to remove a tree – some firewood and some mulch was all that was left.





Bonfire ready to go

**Guy Fawkes night** is almost upon us and, as a reminder of the great night we had at Dave Porters farm; check out the photos from last year's event. We will also need some volunteers to help load some more of our burnable rubbish, including Bob the boats rotten hull, onto Dave's ute to add to the several loads that have already been removed from our site, Thanks Dave for the hospitality and helping keep our site clean.



Is this the welcoming party???



The Bonfire



And the group experience

Unfortunately, **Xmas is also not that far away** and as a reminder the photos show last years range of outings.



Santa arrives in Mahara Place



Special guests to ride with Santa



PP Beach Kindy at Marine Gardens



PP Underwater club





Childrens ride with Santa



|Carols on the coast



Best Start Kindy



Kenakena School

Several members have been involved in organising **cinema outings** that have been successful fundraisers. This has been a chance for members, wives, partners and friends to mix at a social event.

Films seen include Peter Jackson's "**They shall not grow old**", The ***Dam Busters*** classic WW2 movie with the wonderful Lancaster bombers.

The most recent film for certain connoisseurs was "***Scotch – A Golden Dream***" the story of *Uisge beatha* - Gaelic for "water of life"



A fundraiser for a **holiday school group** resulted in some lateral thinking from John R who designed stilts that could be easily adjusted to change the height. By the end of the session all 15 youngsters had assembled their stilts and had mastered the skills of using them.



Stilts busy time in assembly



Practice with the finished item



Stilts easy  
Even for Grandma



**Projects for community groups** includes 4 sturdy seats constructed by John Daly for the **Kapiti Golf Club** that will be a resting place at certain Tees on their course.

PRM Golf Club Seats -John is done



And a happy Customer





**Kapiti Youth Support (KYS)** store needed more coat racks so Trevor and Roger stepped up to the challenge and produced the 6 units required.



**Some enterprising youngster from Paekakariki School** produced and sold shopping bags. They decided the \$1,000.00 funds raised should go towards outdoor tables at school where they could eat their lunch. Menzshed produced four small, three medium and two large tables in kitset form which were then assembled by the students involved.



**Visitors** to our site include the recent annual visit of Otago Medical School students who come to see how we cater for the retired and for them to get feedback of how Menzshed Kapiti impacts on their lives. It was a very proud moment for one of our members to acknowledge that his grandson was one of the latest groups members.



Well that's enough catch-up for this edition and apologies for anybody's special project that is missing. While the originator of this editions content wishes to remain anonymous because he has enough to do with out this extra role, we look forward to offers of help in producing future newsletter on a more regular basis.

Don't forget to support our sponsors that are displayed below.

From our writer – A. Nony Mouse

And a special mention of very important MenzShed Kapiti backers; local business supporters and sponsors -



**Powering MenzShed Kapiti**



**Printing The Brochures**



**Driving The Website**



**Stripping For MenzShed**



**Goodman Contractors Ltd**



**Plants for the Plots**



**Boys Toys and Just Stuff for Community Projects**

**Remember these magnificent people when you plan your next special project.**