

Peter the newsletter editor is back so Nigel can sit back and cruise while someone else does all the work. But while Peter was still away being all tropical and eating bananas of different varieties I tried to keep up with some of the things going on with the various teams of blokes.

Walters Lizard Lounge Project –

Angus our contact at DOC is an enthusiast for Skinks and Geckos which led to us introducing Walter to the need for an effective Lizard Lounge to be used with projects encouraging and protecting what is left of the many different types that are native to NZ. There are about 140 different varieties and all terribly threatened. So these creatures need suitable warm safe place to live where cats and mice cannot predate them. Another important part of the design concept is the need for researchers to be able to count and study the population which means the Lounge needs to be securable to prevent these skittish animals from scattering when their home is exposed to view. Walter has created a dry cavity warmed by removable dark coloured cement board over a waterproof Perspex covered area with an ingenious trapdoor arrangement to shut them in when being counted. He is currently on Mark 1.0 and listening to all sorts of ideas from people that might make it a desirable item with conservation groups around the country. Let me tell you Walter is in his element and having fun!



Music MeNZ

The music group is taking a short break for a few weeks while some of the talent has a holiday but before they eased up I caught them having a jam session amongst the bits and pieces on a cool Friday morning in early September.



Kaka Now Completed

I know you've seen enough Kaka project pictures to last a lifetime but finally the last 3 have been completed for a property in Karori West. These are very special using cheap pipe and the artists had the freedom to adopt a free technique with their artistic style. Further information on the Wellington Team activities are included as an addendum to the newsletter.



NEWSFLASH - The first refurbished nest box is already occupied. Less than 1 month from delivery back into the trees.



A Salute To The Army Team

The army hut restoration continues to move forward nicely. The crew is quite large but somehow I only managed to catch Dave busy doing his things. The framing is all complete so with definite decisions made about windows, doors, vents etc Dave was able to make up custom ventilation louvres to suit the framing.

Then Fletchers stepped up a notch with their support and delivered a packet of custom made weatherboards to clad the huts with. Now these are giant steps forward so that real progress can be made in producing a recognisable army hut.



A Special Request For Help



It's amazing the people who have begun to think maybe MenzShed Kapiti can help us make this happen. The most recent one was a pair of teachers from Waikanae School who came to talk with us about the possibility of us creating a mobile workbench that can be used for children needing that hands on type schooling where they make things rather than describe how to make them. Many of us can relate to that. As a result its

work in progress to modify a bench they already have but that is not designed for small children. Let's see what this relationship develops into from here.

Lady Needed A Paint Job

A woman drove in to the carpart recently and out of the boot produced a bookshelf that she wanted repainted to give it a new lease on life. Now we have lots of suckers for requests like this. One such person among us is Frank (and his willing crew) who set about making the bookshelf a masterpiece.



Rest Home DVD Library Unit

Then there was this request for a custom designed DVD storage unit that matched other existing furniture. Peter D to the rescue along with Ron, Gordon, Frank etc.



Shapely Legs Needed

And John O is always willing to try something different. John is learning how to take on some woodturning. We get all sorts of old unusual chairs bought in to see if someone can turn an old sow's ear into a silk purse. Not easy as you all know! Well Gordon is holidaying in the land of haggis so here's a chance to have a go without the master looking over a shoulder.

So yes John is giving it a go. What is always so amazing with woodturning is the large pile of wood chips that are created to produce these small delicate chopsticks.

A Chair For Repair

And another John is John P who like John O takes on these sow's ear jobs. In this case the chair came in with the whole back frame broken away from the legs and seat. A very sorry state it was in. Not any more. Fantastic determination.



Maurie's Masterpiece



Maurie has recently downsized which means that he has to fit everything into smaller purpose built cabinets and shelving. He didn't tell me what he wanted the plywood for but it's full of carefully created slots and a bit of a jigsaw puzzle really. I must add that Maurie then goes on to do the dishes as his personal contribution to making the place work.



Start To A Stellar Cellar

It's funny how items get donated to the shed to be used for fundraising and sit about waiting for some attention for months the suddenly someone says what's going to happen to this? Well we have this tall wine rack that holds more than the average person would consume in a year. A good idea for a wine cellar but the construction wasn't designed for a

wobbly country like ours. It needed a few screws rather than nails to make it rigid. Never fear the good guys can make that happen. Voila we now have a useable wine rack that we can make a dollar from. What a team.

The Beginning of ART – The Canvas

In October Kapiti Kids Motivational Trust is hosting a project for a group of about 1200 budding artists in the Kapiti Region. This involves children from schools all about the place working under the supervision of artists Matt Gauldie and Rebekah Codlin to



create a mosaic portrait of portraits created on small blocks of plywood; much like the toast portrait a couple of years ago. When complete the finished work will feature in the foyer of the new Performing Arts Centre at Raumati. In total there will be something like 1260 individual tiles that of course need cutting out. Never fear we have the technology as well as the willing people. Ian G, John R, Brent and Skip set about cutting seven large sheets of special plywood into the prescribed 110mm square tiles. A couple of days and the sheets are 1400 tiles in boxes.

Nigels Birds

Few people don't know that I fancy the birds; the feathered variety that is. So for a number of years I have fed the Tui, Bellbird and Waxeye population in my back yard over the difficult times when nectar is in short supply. For that job I designed and made a special feeder with a 1.5 litre wine bottle as a reservoir. A number of people have attempted to



duplicate that design. To encourage people to try again look at this shot a week or so back. All up I think 10 sparing tuis drinking at the font plus many more in the trees around about.

Toolboxes to the Islands

We have been working to build and furnish tool boxes for our neighbours in the Pacific Islands. Finally after starting this project in late 2014 we have been able to see the delivery of seven boxes. The first was delivered to the Nazareth Centre at Chabai in Bougainville in August, and late last week, six to the Royal Solomon Island Police Force maintenance team. At this stage there is another will be delivered to Siwai in Bougainville in early 2017.

The toolbox for Chabai has led to the VSA volunteer training locals opening up opportunities with orders received from the local government for furniture. A good job of capacity development supported by the donation of the tools.

For further details see the attached article on the development, delivery and success to date of these tool boxes. A great example of recycling benefitting our neighbours in the Pacific.

MenzShed Kapiti AGM 2016

The real important one to include in this news is that the AGM was held on Thursday 22 September. To make it easy for everyone to get a pass to participate we had lunch available leading up to the meeting. Lots of kiwifruit, bananas, oranges, pineapple, juice, tea, coffee, bread, sausages, patties, tomato sauce, sweet chilli sauce and the list goes on. Wives need to know that MenzShed Kapiti knows how to keep its people happy and healthy too.



Good attendance with the normal shed day group supplemented by a few extras for the meeting,

And the meeting doesn't muck about getting the essential things done too.



Doug our Chairman steered the place through its annual election procedure and an important



highlight was a vote to elect Ross Collins as a Life Member to our shed. Ross has been a sheddie since 2008 and tends to be waiting at the gate at 8am even when it's not a MenzShed day.



We also warned Ross that Santa season is not far away and Raumati Community have already put in a request for the special Sleigh with Santa of course.

We need to work on his body shape ready for the right physical representation as a large jovial character

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.

Thanks to Nigel for producing both the August and September Newsletters.

Cheers

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



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