

November was a big month and with projects and activities coming from left, right and centre it was wonderful to receive a number of contributions which were ready for the newsletter. Thanks to those who contributed.

1. Before we start with what happened lets discuss **Safety**. It affects all of us and it is important that we continue to ensure we have a safe Menzshed.

During the November we introduced a number of awareness and safety conscious signs. These are being installed progressively. Take note and make sure you adhere to them. Also we topped up our stock of hearing aids – maybe we should have but actually they were ear muffs. They are for you to use and protect your hearing.

And a reminder to respect the Shed's equipment. A number of the machines have no sympathy for your mistakes or lack of knowledge on how to use them. Remember they may bite. Use the equipment properly and, if in doubt, ask for help or guidance. We have a number of very experienced and trained members who are happy to provide guidance or help you.

2. THE PLAYHOUSE SAGA

Rick and Murray C have done their bit with the full renovation job. Now it's time for the delivery crew to take over. First a major muscle exercise to get it onto Dave's truck then a procession along the old highway to Paraparaumu Beach



Then when we got to the Sallies in Bluegum Road it became will it fit through the gap.

And even more tricky the muscle brigade had to manhandle it through the carpark beneath the main building to the play area.

More gentle and not so gentle nudging to get it into place.



Until everyone is satisfied the playhouse is ready for action.

And the children and carers take over the job with smiles all round.



3. Shed B

There has been a marked change in the organisation in the Store and it is interesting to note how many people now refer to the Location Register when trying to find tools or supplies. Chris H has done a magic job, dare I say it, in creating some order out of chaos. Thanks Chris.

Not sure if he has gone on a six month break as a holiday or as a test of our ability to maintain the order. Let's take up the challenge and maintain Shed B in an ordered state.

4. Concrete Path and Trailer Pad

Skip, Chad, Peter B and Alan M turned up to assist Gordon McG to complete his concreting.

Great job guys.



5. Whareroa Farm Caravan Refurbishment

Fred and Brian continue to meet the challenges of this task and the progress is evident.



Early in the month Theo and Shane – trustees of the Whareroa Farm Trust visited to take some measurements and to check out the progress. They were pleased with the progress and the quality of the work to date. Keep up the good work team.



6. Santa's Sleigh

After hooning around to meet deadlines last Christmas it was decided that the sleigh needed some well deserved maintenance. This included modifications to the steering. Excellent job servicing the sleigh Peter B and it is ready for the 2017 Festive season.



7. Kenakena School Concert

Derek, Barry and the team completed these to an increasingly tight deadline, and then



Barry and Nigel delivered the final batch. The school crew took over and painted them black ready for the performance. They looked great.

8. Kapiti Biodiversity Seed Rumbler

After the trials the engineers needed to modify the gearing on the Rumbler to slow down the speed it was rotating.

You can almost feel the intensity of thought from these guys.



The Seed Tumble Mark 2 has the grunt required to function correctly. It's now a real beast and ready to be delivered in December.

9. Weta Motels

Bill, George and Graeme continue to produce these and the big question is – how many have been produced over the years. Do we have a statistician who can solve this question?

Just a reminder that all the untreated wood used for these has been kindly donated by Le Doors and is scrap for them.

10. Landscaping and Gardening

There has been landscaping on two fronts on the site -a retaining wall to the upper level where Murray Rick and Bruce have been leading the charge,



and along the rear of the site where Jim, Ron B, Cliff and Peter M have been clearing the site and finishing this with a low retaining wall.



The gardening team have had some evidence of their labour as the spring growth has produced a wonderful crop of vegetables obviously supported by the general maintenance – weeding, thinning and watering. Just in time for the Christmas BBQ's salads.



And they still have other stuff on the go – this time the relocation of the shed

from behind Bay B. Murray and the team were preparing the base for the shed to be the centre of the garden action.



11. Garden Gate

In the depths of Bay E Gordon McG has been completing a gate. We understand that this is designed to protect the recently laid concrete as discussed in item 3 above.

It must be hard to work in there as I could not get a photo to support evident of this gate!! Or I forgot to take one.

12. Guinea Pig Hutch

Paul W was working to complete this for Waikanae Kindergarten. This is almost complete but will be delayed until Paul returns from volunteer work elsewhere.



13. Compassion In Action Bird Feeders

Back a couple of months ago Elaine and Kate from Compassion In Action sought some help with a project they called Birdsong. The latest effort for them is a batch of birdseed feeders that Ian P put together from timber offcuts, inner tube hinges and recycled plastic milk bottles.

The Birdsong Birds took on the task of turning the bare bones units into works of art using some of our donated Resene samples. Any self respecting bird would be attracted to these feeders.



And then in return Elaine and Kate took the trouble to pay us a visit with nice spicy dumplings and very yummy chocolate cake as a reward. It's a pity Ian was away but we attended to his special rewards to show we could cope on his behalf.

14. Kids BBQ Tables

As mentioned previously Brian and Alan have been the masterminds behind this project but their quiet approach has hidden exactly how successful these have been.

During the month they completed Tables 24 and 25. What a magnificent effort.



15. Wellington Free Ambulance BBQ Tables

And on a larger scale Paul W and Murray K have been working to complete these two BBQ tables for Wellington Free Ambulance(WFA).

Just a reminder this project resulted from the establishment of an AED on site at Menzshed Kapiti.

When we raised the money for the AED WFA kindly donated the security box to enable the AED to be accessible to the public. In return we agreed to build two BBQ tables for use by the WFA Staff at their Facility at Paraparaumu.

These will be ready for delivery in December.



16. Tool Bags for Fiji



Roy from Waikanae Anglican Church visited to collect six tool bags . Roy is part of a team of 20 people from the Church who will be revisiting Savu Savu village to continue repairs to damaged buildings caused by Cyclone Winston some two years ago.

Good luck Roy and we look forward to some photos following the visit in December.

Chris H (before he disappeared for his trip), Murray K and Peter R prepared these tools pouches and tools.

Menzshed Kapiti has been doing a great job in recycling old tools and have sent tool pouches or boxes to the Solomon Islands, Bougainville and now Fiji.

17. Garden Bench #1

John P was working on this bench and some of the repairs were of a high quality as he matched the holes in the bench with similar wood to plug the old holes caused in an earlier life as a bench.

Feedback from the owner was “What an amazing job John had done”. He had made a special trip to convey his thanks.



18. Garden Bench #2

Must be the season for repairs to benches! Rob McK was completing the refurbishment of a bench donated to the Shed. I wonder where this will be positioned on the site.



19. Corner Unit



Mark was spotted in the back of Bay E rebuilding and preparing this for another life.

It is amazing how members can recycle old furniture and bring to back to life. Keep up the good work all you refurbishers.

20. Morrie's 90th Birthday

During the month we were able to celebrate Morrie's 90th birthday and thanks for sharing it with us Morrie.

Morrie has been one of the unsung heroes who has regularly been washing the dishes as well as getting involved with the odd project or two.



21. Proposed Site extensions

Peter B has been working through the process and challenges of gaining the resource consent for the extensions and marked out the proposal on the ground to enable us to visualise what is planned and where.

A long and detailed task which Peter has completed in his own time, or should I say outside of the time he spends at the Shed. Thanks for the hours you have spent on this Peter.

22. Model Paraparaumu Infill Housing - or Is It a Batch of Alzheimer's Therapy Units

A bloke from Eldon Lodge dropped in looking to see if we could help him with a special project. He needed some boxes made up with lots of doors with catches and latches, hasps and staples with locks and things.

Well John P has been busy having a bit of fun again so now we think we have our latest model to put on show with options for development at the beach. That would stir some people into action.

But truly they are now destined for giving Alzheimer's sufferers something to challenge their minds with. And it had me confused.



23. Santa's visit to Kenakena School and The MenzShed Sleigh With Electric Reindeer Still Works

Well after a year searching for the Round To It to rebuild the front suspension of our Santa Sleigh, it had its first workout on 11 November at the Kena Kena School Food Fair, delivering their Santa to his specially decorated Christmas Grotto and Schoolroom.



We entered under special escort
But there was only one main feature for this performance and it was the MenzShed Elves and Sleigh with Electric Reindeer; Santa's delivery crew. Bells ringing and Snoopy's Christmas playing.

Special mention of elves John H, Murray K, Charlie, Mark, Ron Mc, Nigel and Peter. A great crew all fired up to cheer the children with Santa rides but we only managed one group before it seems the permit did not allow our mobile vehicle in the pedestrian area available.



So we all had a cup of tea and cream scones plus special mini donuts supplied by our friend Gary the clown, then we loaded up the gear and back to Waikanae. We can confirm Gary is not only a funny man he is very generous and he makes great mini donuts.

24. Cancer Society Gazebo

Just a single image of the Cancer Society gazebo setup at the Mary Potter Strawberry Fair event at Paraparaumu School in Rimu Street. This was handled by our special 4 man crew to support their efforts. Our MenzShed members get lots of support from them when undergoing treatment so we need to do anything we can for them. Peter, Charlie, Murray K and Nigel did the deed on Saturday 18 November. A nice early 7.30am start so that when Mandy and her help arrived the site was all ready for her. Then back to break down the kit at 3pm. It all went like clockwork. We have another repeat performance on 2 December for the Kapiti Food Fair at Mazengarb Park.



Thanks Nigel for the article. As he said- This is my best snapshot at the day. I was too busy eating strawberries and ice cream to be very focussed on good photographs. He certainly must have been in his element!!

25. Cloning of Father Christmas

Ross and a clone were discussing plans for the festive season. I hear they were discussing who would appear at what part of the world and at what time.



26. Electrical Repairs



It is surprising what goes on in the shady parts of each Bay. John H was repairing someone's favourite bedside lamp. Another unsung activity John and Doug work to ensure our power supply is safe, all electrical tools meet standard as well as completing such repairs as John is spotted doing here.

Thanks to Doug and John.

27. Trolley for a Retirement Village

Ted H and Rashid were working with Chris T to make this trolley to Chris T's specifications. Such a challenge to work with our canny Scot!



28. Model Police Car and Fire Engine

Skip created these two wonderful models and we look forward to seeing the finished job when our specialist model painter creates his magic.



29. Boat for the grandkids

It must be the season for Christmas preparation – Santa sunning himself the sleigh is repaired and now stuff for the grandkids. Yes it is that time again.

Graham C was creating this boat for the grandkids, or is it the design for Team NZ new foiling mono-hull??!!



30. John's Jaunt

Our Sheddie plods on and in November walked slid or any other means known to Trekkies some 518kilometres and is now in Ngaruawahia. The trekking will end soon for 2017 as John had planned to walk from Cape Reinga to Hamilton by Christmas.

So now he has travelled 781 km to date and so deserves a well earned break over the festive season. During the seven weeks John has been interviewed on the radio, provided inspiration to young people , enjoyed a diversity of accommodation and been overwhelmed by the generosity of the locals along the trail to say nothing about the number of kilometres he has walked.

It will be great to welcome John back to the shed and hear more of his stories. Thanks to Hilary for the weekly updates on John's progress and we look forward to hearing about the ongoing saga in 2018.

Observations on John's Jaunt.

Can you see the resemblance to his great great grandson? It may explain why John has taken up this challenge. Thanks Hilary for this observation. We were wondering what had caused John to take up such a challenge.

"Samuel Knight, an intelligent and learned 'man of letters', spent years hacking paths through the NZ bush in the late 1800s, including Knights Track in the Ruahine Ranges from Pohangina."

I guess that explains John's need to "See what's over the next hill".

It's in his DNA!



Enjoyed sitting in the hollow of this old tree along the route to Huntly. Very comfy!

Must be the home comforts!! We may differ in our expectations of home comforts!!

31. Bonfire Night

The big event at Dave P's farm was delayed due to poor weather but the story is well told in the attached article. Thanks Nigel for this.

So that was the November that was. Not a bad effort and congratulations for the efforts of all involved.

December is a month to look forward to with a number of outings as we "misrepresent" Santa and his Elves. And in between all these outings there is still the work back at the shed. Enjoy and all the best for the festive season. And our safety message to end the month "Enjoy but take care"

Cheers

Peter R & Nigel

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



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