



MenzShed Kapiti Incorporated.
Registered Charitable Entity Nr CC45795
Secretary, 16a Major Durie Pl, Waikanae Beach
5036 Telephone (04) 293 7728
Email: menzshed.kapiti@gmail.com

September Open Day

The open day fundraiser in September was a great success. Lots of good publicity. Good public attendance. Lots of things sold. Something like \$2400 raised for the building fund. Just think ... a hundred more of these and we could be near our fundraising target

- \$300,000!

● *Birds and all!*



● *Chook poo and tools*



● *Garden group stand*



Stage One of Our Development Plan

Great progress has been made on the garage entrance. It is Stage One of the site development plan that will give us, firstly, storage so we can demolish unsafe buildings.

Then other stages include a decent amenities block with toilets, kitchen, quiet space for chess etc, dust free space for electronics and computing plus rehearsal room so we can bring home the music group Shedmen. This will also release workshop space in shed D that can help alleviate workshop space issues short term.

Then another major effort will go into demolishing the old sheds at the northern end to be replaced with a decent open plan workshop properly laid out with machinery to support our regular projects.



• *Peter tells the story...*

So many blokes have contributed to this first stage of the development, especially Murray C, Dave P, Brent, Paul, John W, and of course Peter Blackler. There are others who might do a few hours but those blokes listed above have really made it their role to bring it to reality.

My apologies if I missed anyone.



• *Brent does hard labour ... with T-shirt comment*



• *John W does his high energy style labour*



• *Peter's hard labour to kick off the job*

A look at just some of our jobs for the community

Take a look here at some of the things that were done for individuals in the wider community and also for various organisations.

Starting with the birdfeeder. This is one of the Open Day batch but the tentacles are spreading, this one is installed in Picton up on the hill in beautiful piece of paradise overlooking the Marina toward Waikawa Bay. The owner imports the high quality trap mechanisms that we fit to our predator tunnels and sell to the public for a small profit.



Here's Kate from Papakowhai Kindergarten. The Weta Motels like these ones are something we often supply. Kate asked if we might supply them with some weta motels to use as fundraisers. Of course the answer was YES we can do that. She collected 14 on this day. Plimmerton and Papakowhai have been the recipients of more than 50 of these previously for use in schools and kindergartens for the children studying the flora and fauna of their environment. The children will go on to personalise them, painting them and naming them. Children appreciate these types of items.

Poleman ... and his artistic buddy



Poleman is for a local lady named Rachael. She knows Charlie so with MenzShed Kapiti contacts like that how could her idea of a great garden companion not happen. Dave was to be the sculptor but he went to Europe on holiday to escape. But that great “give-it-a-go” bloke, Derek said it was something he had never done before so might be perfectly qualified to try. Out with the chainsaw, chisels, grinder and anything that might help to launch Derek’s artistic flair.



Swampy gets a makeover

The Frog Trophy called Swampy is a golf trophy for a group of Sunday Waikanae golfers. He arrived in the arms of Harold, friend of our shed, in a seriously dilapidated state and most thought it was ready for the dump. Thank goodness we have people like Skip and Ray. Skip started the stabilising process by attaching a new base and applied glue to keep everything together. Then Ray who has more patience than a saint began the very long process of filling all the gaps and sanding the surface

back to the right shape. The next part of restoration requires an artist. But Ray knows such people who cannot say NO to him. Swampy is now receiving the tender loving care of a young lady who will begin by laying down a good foundation frog green coat to the basic frog statue and then with flare add the features to make him “Swampy” once again. By the way Harold (Swampy’s minder) is a bloke who notices things about the place and because of that arrives with car loads of good timber and stuff for us to upcycle.

Restored Cape Cod Outdoor Furniture



A good local supporter had an old Cape Cod style outdoor chair and stool set that had developed screw rot which meant they were inclined to explode when sat on.

For the dump? Never! Geoff & Ray N fully refurbished the outdoor chairs with a footstool. The final colours using surplus paint from the paint store was one bright blue chair, one bright red chair and for contrast the footstool ended up nipple pinkish colour. What a team.

The finished items attracted the attention of a discerning neighbour who made a very generous donation to have them relocated to her place. Great for the building fund and nice to have happy good neighbours too. (The blokes were a bit quick for Nigel on the camera and vanished before they were captured in the picture.)

Marine Memorial, plus Visitor Book and Lectern

MenzShed Kapiti has been deeply committed to support for the US Marine Memorial at QEII Park since 2015.

Stage 1 began with demolishing a home in Tirimoana Street, Raumati that had been constructed using WWII army huts. From this a genuine Army Hut structure was recovered.



Stage 2 then recreated a fully restored army hut as used by the US military at the camp. That was completed and dressed with a suitable display for opening on the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the US Marines in 1942. That special occasion happened in 2017.

Stage 3 involved creating a ramp to improve wheelchair access for visitors to see into the hut which contains a very realistic display of items from the era. This project had a deadline of being ready for the annual US Marine Memorial commemoration in May 2018.

Now the current project sets out to create a multipurpose stand in a style to match the army hut construction and which will serve as a lectern for special ceremonial occasions plus a weather proof visitor bookstand at the site. The team making this purpose built addition is John R and his sidekick Bruce J.

MenzShed Garden Project



MenzShed's garden crew always need a special mention. The improvements the crew have made to the southern end of the site is nothing short of miraculous. The upper level landscaping is nearing completion plus the gardens are just thriving. Jim, Cliff, Tony, Ron, Graham are the gold team that made this activity such a fantastic success. There will be others who slipped under my radar but this crew is about to move into 3rd gear and start the landscaping of the northern end. If we could bottle and sell the drive of this team our building fund worries would be over.



The Hawkers of MenzShed



We had a vague enquiry asking if MenzShed could possibly make a market barrow to sell surplus produce. Can we What! We can do anything; especially the Market Barrow crew of Murray, Tony and George.

The market cart project has taken a life of its own. Initially the general request led to the crew discussing what they re-

membered about barrows in London for the markets. A quick sketch followed which led to **ENTHUSIASM** of a grand scale and the project grew ... and grew.

This project is one of those where it is startling to be a spectator. The enthusiasm of this bunch of blokes means the MenzShed Barrow was born. How big can you go? Watch this space.

Rats Beware!

Our Rat Tunnel project is a serious commitment in support of community efforts to eradicate backyard predators. We have supplied more than 130 tunnels with traps to people in the Kapiti area with reports regularly coming back of excellent results. Ron Mc, Peter D and Ian P have been the drivers completing the latest batch ready for supply. Once again it all helps the bank balance and the people of Kapiti.



Another Fine Chair Restored



The refurbishing work by John P is always good stuff. People arrive with old chairs that have simply collapsed from old age and joints originally glued with animal glue no longer stick together. Often the bits are delivered after a dramatic explosion of components. Then when they come back to pick them up they are presented with what could be a brand new fully refurbished work of art. There is so much attention to detail in the repairs and in the surface finishing too.

The finished job is Teak Chair No2 following a very successful repair to Teak Chair No1. And, right now, John is on another chair project. Watch this space



Waikanae School Special Needs Support

The school Special Needs Project involves a team of blokes helping a special needs teacher with a small group of children to make things out of timber with their hands. Small stools, seagull windmills, tote boxes just as examples ... Champions these blokes.

Recently the children produced this special sheet telling the blokes how much they appreciated the support they had been given.

It is truly heartwarming when what we often hear about how young people can be a bit negative. They clearly do care.

The children explain what a difference the MenzShed support team have made to their school experience. A round of applause to celebrate the efforts our blokes John, Bryan and Terry in

particular.

Diary these!

Here is just a memory jogger of what MenzShed activities are happening in the foreseeable future. Make sure you have them in your diary.

Event	Date	Where	Comment
Wellington Free Ambulance	Tues 23 rd Oct	Visit to Menzshed	They will be bringing an ambulance and the jigsaw that we created for the fundraising of the People's Ambulance
Mahara Place Market	Sat 20 th Oct	Mahara Place	Starts 9am. Sheddars to start at Menzshed at 8am to prepare for our stall. Nigel C is coordinator.
Guy Fawkes Bonfire	Sat 3 rd Nov	Dave Porter's farm	Further details closer to the time. Alternative date Sat 10 th Nov.
Santa Sleigh	Sat 10 th Nov	Kenakena School	Further details closer to the time
Santa Sleigh	Sat 8 th Dec	Carols on the Coast	Further details closer to the time
Menzshed Film Night	Wed 14 th Nov	Shoreline Cinema	7pm for 7.30pm start. Fundraising for our Site Development. \$20 per person. 65 seats available. Contact Cliff Daly
Santa Sleigh	Fri 14 th Dec	"Light up the Christmas Tree"	Further details closer to the time. Paraparaumu Community Board

Well that's it for September. It's been a busy time and with the facilities improvement having started, I can see no let up for some time. But if you have been along in recent times you will know that the regular team has grown to between 40 and 50+ even on wet days. With a team like that manning the hammers, saws and shovels there is not much we can't achieve. If you haven't been for a while why not drop in and join the fun and laughter just doing stuff or watching others doing stuff.

Just remember we are here every Tuesday and Thursday beginning with opening the place about 9am, then generally ramping up activities starting with morning tea until about 10.15am which launches us into the fun and games of doing stuff until we gradually trickle off home for a rest by about 1.30pm.

A final brief piece of news. You will have noticed the change in format of this newsletter; the first since the AGM. Rob Mc..... has now put up his hand to give a go at producing the monthly summary of things going on. I can tell you that is a very brave undertaking but as you will notice he knows what he's doing. It's now a matter of remembering all the things that used to just come naturally without having to say "How do I do that?" So the publishing skill is taken care of so the content is then the big challenge. I invite anyone to try to keep track of all the things happening on any day at our men's world. You might like to contribute your observations.

Cheers all.

**A special mention of important MenzShed Kapiti backers;
local business supporters and sponsors**



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Remember these magnificent people when you plan your next special project