

MENZSHED - TAWA -

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April 2020

LOCKDOWN EDITION

Lockdown - is everyone sick of the word, are we using our time usefully? I realise the term “usefully” will mean different things to different people. For some busy people lockdown is very frustrating for others its a welcome breather to slow down a bit and take stock of life in general.

Unfortunately for us Menzshedders, the lockdown came quite suddenly - although we were expecting it - we couldnt quite get to grips with it. Even now with some glimmer of “getting out”, it does seem amazing the way it has got the attention of the whole world.

What does it mean to us ‘shedders, well it should/will all be there when we are able to move around freely again at the end of lockdown. There were quite a few jobs in the pipeline and some had been started.

Machine Room Ventilation System

The Shed made good progress with installing an extraction fan in the machine room. It turned out to be a more complicated job than first imagined and so has taken us longer than anticipated. We were just about to cut a hole in the outside wall (in fact there were a couple of small small hole made but were hurriedly “sticky taped over”) when the lockdown came. It should only be a few hours work when we return as most of the preparatory work has been done. I understand the saucepan was successfully fabricated and will be put to very important duties. ☐

Storage Container

We have been building a roof over an old 40ft container to provide extra wood storage. The roof of the container was rusted through in many places. Smartway builders donated a number of sheets of roofing iron – thank you very much! The work was almost finished – only a few more sheets to be fastened to the wooden framing - when the lockdown came. John Gibson & Ian Harris were making great strides when ordered to “stand down” and hopefully the weather hasnt destroyed the nearly completed job. It will be a great asset when we can fully utilise it. ☐



Combustables' Shed

Just before lockdown, the Fire Service the small “flammables” shed on the gates to our parking place. They will be stuff no longer needed. We will need then we can store our paint and other there. We will also use it for members projects-in-progress which are clutter-workshop. The roller shutter door and maintenance attention and we will sort occupation. There are a number of for, and the committee is mulling over



agreed to let us use left-hand side of the clearing out some old to install shelving and dangerous goods in to securely store their ing up the main side door need some that out when we get things we can use it that now. ☐

Shed can be seen out window behind car

Tawa Bush - Propagation

The Tawa Bush guys have managed to organise to use an area just outside our shed where they are erecting all they need to propagate their seedlings to carry on their good work of re-planting the bush. ☐



Titahi Bay Easter Fair

We were going to put up a sales gazebo at the Titahi Bay Easter Fair. Unfortunately, that got cancelled due to the lockdown. We had already made good progress making some more Tui sugar water feeders to sell at the fair. We will complete them for future sales and make other items too – please feel to come along and lend a hand. Some of the stuff we make is as simple as wooden garden stakes. These are very popular. ☐

Extra space above tool storage room

The committee has agreed that we will convert the space above the tool storage room into additional space for members projects and shed materials. A doorway from the sewing room (or should that be pool room?) will be required. Members will be asked to participate in building a balustrade to inhibit any bungee jumping and installing flooring over the current tool-room ceiling joists. But only when the lock-down is over!

Tawa Menzshed Branding

We plan to “brand” all Tawa MenzShed products with our logo. We have looked at getting a branding iron but feel this is too expensive, too dangerous and too damaging. Alternative ideas are laser cutting a stencil and using a 3D printer to make badges. Issues are cost and weather proofing for outdoor products. Other potential ideas from members are welcome.

We will be moving into winter soon. This means that we will be starting up production of firewood made from old pallets when the Shed opens. Please come along and lend a hand to cut and pack the pallets. We sell banana boxes full of wood for \$5 and we sell quite a lot. It provides a good income source for the Shed.

The committee is interested in any ideas to celebrate post lock-down re-opening? Please contact any committee member by any means preserving your bubbles - the more outrageous the better!!

New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 4.

Find out what our current level means for you

The Government plans to make a decision on 20 April 2020 about any possible change to New Zealand's current alert level, with any decision being announced at least 48 hours before the alert level changes. To prepare for this, the Government has released new information on Alert Level 3.

More information on Alert Level 3 released 6 Apr 2020

COVID-19 is a challenge like we have never seen before.

Our goal is to eliminate COVID-19 from New Zealand, so that we can live and work free from this disease. This is the best thing we can do for our people, our communities, and our economy.

We attacked the disease early and hard by going into lockdown or Alert Level 4. This has put us in a good position to eliminate the disease, bank those gains and to get ready to transition to Alert Level 3. When this decision is made, it will be because we have transmission under control and can tolerate a little more risk.

Getting this far has required a collective effort by every New Zealander. We are all making extraordinary sacrifices to protect the people, communities, businesses and traditions we care about. Thank you.

We will not risk going to Alert Level 3 too early. We will move when we have met four criteria:

We know that community transmission is under control, and the transmission rate is very low.

We have robust measures at the border stopping new infection.

We have tracing and testing capacity to shut down any new outbreak.

We have supplies for, and capacity, in the health system.

It is vital that everyone knows we are still under Alert Level 4, and all Alert Level 4 restrictions remain in place.

Under Alert Level Three we will still have significant restrictions on our day-to-day lives. The risk of COVID-19 will have diminished, but not gone away.

If we are successful in controlling COVID-19 under Alert Level 3 we will be able to move down to Alert Level 2, where there are far fewer restrictions.

Range of measures (can be applied locally or nationally)

People instructed to stay home in their bubble other than for essential personal movement – including to go to work, school if they have to or for local recreation.

Physical distancing of two metres outside home (including on public transport), or one metre in controlled environments like schools and workplaces.

Bubbles must stay within their immediate household bubble, but can expand this to reconnect with close family / whanau, or bring in caregivers, or support isolated people. This extended bubble should remain exclusive.

Schools (years 1 to 10) and Early Childhood Education centres can safely open, but will have limited capacity. Children should learn at home if possible.

People must work from home unless that is not possible.

Businesses can open premises, but cannot physically interact with customers.

Low risk local recreation activities are allowed.

Public venues are closed (e.g. libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, playgrounds, markets).

Gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed but only for wedding services, funerals and tangihanga. Physical distancing and public health measures must be maintained.

Healthcare services use virtual, non-contact consultations where possible.

Inter-regional travel is highly limited (e.g. for essential workers, with limited exemptions for others).

People at high risk of severe illness (older people and those with existing medical conditions) are encouraged to stay at home where possible, and take additional precautions when leaving home. They may choose to work.