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Meetings & Events

2020

5 May	Guild Meeting AGM ?
2 June.	Guild Meeting ?
20 July-2August	Turnaround 20. Odlins Gallery

EDITORIAL

Last Tuesday night (17March) I attended the opening of the Hutt Art Society's Annual Exhibition and would like to acknowledge the quality of the display of Guild members' work. Pieces were not great in number but the display itself drew commendation from viewers. The exhibition runs to 5 April.

As I begin the preparation for this edition of Cambium I would like to thank members who have contributed material, some on a regular basis, and who ensure that this small "magazine" contains material that is of interest and often educational. Without your support the task of Editor would be daunting indeed.

Finally you will note that the " Meetings&Events" section is pretty sketchy. Some of these, such as the Manawatu Open Day, are very unlikely in the present circumstances.

HDM

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A lot has happened since my last article for Cambium and unfortunately most of what I have to say is not good news., First and foremost as you all know we are facing uncertain times with the Covid 19 Pandemic. This has already caused me to cancel my trip to Europe and several members have had to do the same. There is a very real possibility that we will have to suspend all Guild meetings and group activities until it is safe to resume them. By the time you read this it may have already happened. The demographic of Guild members means that we are more at risk than the general population and the health and safety of our members will be our main consideration. The media are talking about self isolation to minimise the spread of this virus. I prefer the term "mandatory shed time" so I fully expect to see an increase in your productivity at the next show and tell. On another note I have become aware that Denis Newton has decided that it is time for him to retire from running the monthly woodturning sessions at the MenzShed citing poor turnout and advancing years. It is sad that it has come to this but without support for these sessions they will wither and die. I would like to thank Denis for all he has done over the years to help develop the skills of woodturners in our group. His efforts have been much appreciated and it saddens me that he has decided to withdraw from demonstrating. I still hope that he can be persuaded to give us the occasional demonstration of techniques that he has acquired and we hope to master. Finally, some good news, we have a tentative agreement with Tawa MenzShed to make use of their facility to have demonstrations and short training courses. This will kick off with Neil Joynt's demonstration provided Covid 19 doesn't scupper his tour. I urge you all to keep safe and expect to see you at the next Guild meeting whenever that may be.

Mark

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Hugh

On Saturday 7 March 2020 Denis Newton announced to the group attending his demonstration that it would be the last time we would see him at the Saturday sessions., We were sorry to hear this as we have learned a lot from both Denis and yourself over a number of years. The Saturday sessions have been very informative and definitely worthwhile. Unfortunately the number of attendees has dropped off from about 20+ to

just 5 last Saturday. Denis has not had support with his requests for members to tell him what they would like to have demonstrated which is a pity and a frustration.

Last Saturday he gave a demonstration on how he turned trinket boxes and went on to demonstrate offset turning methods which I had requested. Afterwards the small group discussed problems they had and possible solutions were discussed. You noticed how good and interactive this was when you called in towards the end of the session..

I had suggested to Denis one or two ways in which he could co-opt other members to help demonstrate but he had decided to call it a day.

We appreciate his dedication and the knowledge we have all gained from him and wish him well for the future, hoping he will continue to be involved with us.

Best wishes

Alan Robson

Covid virus 19

Guild members will have been saddened to learn that it has been decided to cancel Guild meetings until further notice. Neil Joynt's Tour has been cancelled as has the Auckland Easter Show and related Woodturning activities and Turnfest Australia. Activities in the Naenae MenzShed have been cancelled for the foreseeable future and I have cancelled my woodturning classes until the end of May. Please be careful out there! HDM

MICHAEL HARRISON FILES

FINIALS

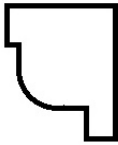
Last year I was approached to help restore some corner post decorations on an old grave site at the Bolton St. Cemetery – well known in Wellington for having a motorway carved through its centre. The grave is over one hundred years old and has a totara fence around it. The palings on the whole are in good condition as are the above ground parts of the cos. What were missing were three finials and a cap for one of the corner posts.



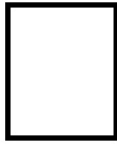
The last remaining finial was given to me as a pattern...a thistle shape (200mm high, 160mm diameter, pic 1), as are the tops of the palings. I decided to make four.

The first task was to source some Totara; Richard Holt came up trumps with sections of recycled Totara pillars, or roof beams, of sufficient size. The finials were not too difficult to turn after experience with the first one. The doweled end was 1" in diameter and had to be 1" as the holes to receive them in the posts are 1" diameter. The next task was the cap; they have a very shallow pyramidal shape with a flat top to fit the base of the finial. Again After a bit of thought, not too difficult, after I set my bench saw to cut the sides at the correct angle. I did this with two cuts so that I was doing the 70m cut in one go. That worked well.

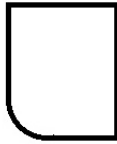
The final bit, four sections of beading to go around the post below the cap, again required some thought. The profile of the beading, see picture 2A, was not the same as the few router bits I have so it was a matter of fabrication. The 30mmx40mmx200mm lengths of wood were first passed by the router to round one edge (2C). cuts were then made in the wood to extract this curved section (2D) taking out as much wood as necessary so that the piece with the curved profile could be slid into the corner of the resulting L shaped timber (2E)



A



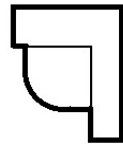
B



C



D



E

This was all glued together and the result was very satisfactory.



The original finial was primed with what looks like red lead. It was then probably painted but the original paint has long since gone. The question was, do we do anything to the surface of this clean timber to let it merge in with the existing grey/green appearance of the rest of the fencing? How long does clean cut Totara take to weather? The replacement of the finials has been completed and I was pleased, and surprised, how easily they fitted.

Michael Harrison 2020

And talking about Finials...

I was asked to make a copy of a very sad looking finial that had been taken down from an old homestead building in Whiteman's Valley. I made a copy, using tanalised Pine, but had to create a join in the middle because I did not have access to a lathe that could cope with a 1.5mtr length of wood. I also had to use the thicknesser at the Shed to trim the 4"x3" length of wood down to 3"x3". I then returned the finished finial to the owner of the Homestead who was delighted with the copy and ordered another 8. I have seldom done this sort of turning and found it to be a testing exercise, having to compare and measure frequently to ensure that all 9 finials looked identical to the naked eye. I was very relieved when I completed the task and I was very pleased with the final result knowing that the 2 or 3 little glitches that I was aware of would not be visible once the finials were placed on the house. I look forward to receiving a photograph of the refurbished homestead with finials attached.



As I said I had to create a join. I intended to leave a spigot about 4cm long and 3cm wide on the bottom of the top half and then drill a suitable hole with a Forstner bit to take the spigot on the bottom portion. But I found that I could not introduce the spinning drill cleanly. David Firth recognised my problem and suggested I take a 3"x3"x2" piece of wood, drill a suitable hole on the Drill Press and then tape the piece onto the top of the end receiving the spigot thus creating a solid guide for the Forstner bit.. It worked very well although I still had difficulty getting it properly centred. However, after 2 or 3 false starts I managed to get the rest pretty accurate. Thanks David – its one of the joys of the MenzShed – suitable technical advice is seldom far away.

HDM

COROMANDEL SWAMP KAURI by DAVID FORMAN

Around 2011 my wife and I bought the old community hall at Te Rerenga, Coromandel. Most of the section was flat except for the right hand rear, which was still swamp – unlike the land behind us which had been drained. I noticed that there was a bit of burnt wood just visible above the swamp water line. As summer progressed the water level dropped about 400mm and a substantial piece of wood emerged. I cut some off and showed it to a local farmer who told me it was swamp kauri. I had been doing leadlighting as a hobby until then but had decided that the cost of materials was too much. I had also made lamps and other pieces for friends and family until they all had had enough of my creations.

I cut approximately a cubic metre of wood until I hit the waterline. After doing some research on woodturning I decided it looked quite good to attempt. Having worked with wood in the past including building two houses, I loved the idea of working with interesting wood. I made all the mistakes when I started that many morons (namely me) make, such as

wrong tools, rubbish lathes. Rather than look up how to work a lathe on Youtube, I learnt from my mistakes by just starting. When I finished my first bowl, which took me around 20 hours, I was hooked. I didn't cut the wood so much as wear it away, the sides were about 30mm thick but I couldn't wait to start my next piece.

The next time I visited the Hall I spent two weeks digging around the wood that I had cut to the waterline by digging around the mud. Having dug to approximately another 400mm I couldn't even budge the log using jacks or winches.



The neighbouring farmer had coincidentally asked me to make a wood carving with a large rimu root he had dug up and I took the opportunity to ask him to use his digger to dislodge the piece of wood. I thought it would be an easy extraction but he had his rear digger arm pulling and his front wheel well off the ground. He bounced

it up and down for a few minutes and was about to give up when suddenly the mud released the wood out of its suction. I was very surprised at the size of the piece that came out and came to the conclusion that while I could use some of it for woodturning I should try to get some slabs cut for table tops. I spent about a year leaving the wood to dry and then cut it into sections to transport to Wellington. After another year of drying I gave a slab to my son who has a business making pieces of furniture as well as fitouts. He made a table for himself and after seeing the finished product I offered him the other four slabs on the proviso that he made me a table (which he has recently completed).

There was still a small section of wood left in the swamp but I didn't think it was very big. Again, I spent several weeks over a year working on digging it out thinking it would be easy as the surface of the wood was

about 750mm round. But I eventually came to the conclusion that a digger was again required. During our holiday I was asked by the same farmer to help retrieve his bogged quad out of the mud and I happened to mention that I could also use some help with a log again. I was pleasantly surprised to see that the farmer again struggled with the stump and eventually managed to extract a swamp kauri branch that went down vertically into the swamp another 3 metres.



This time I had learnt that an Alaskan saw which cuts slabs will be a much better way of cutting slabs with little waste. My son is going to make me one ready for my next trip to Coromandel.

Thanks David for this article and for the pieces of swamp Kauri you have provided for our use in the MenzShed

CubeCompetition



Well done those who contributed! Great idea Dave! Let's have more.

WOODTURNING PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

(I noticed that one of our up and coming woodturners had this crib sheet at the Shed a while ago. He gave me permission to repeat it in Cambium so long as I didn't reveal his name. I have not included recommended lathe speeds)

ABC of woodturning.

Anchor the tool on the tool rest

Rub the **Bevel** on the wood to support the cut

Cut Downhill

Bowl turning Cut towards the Headstock

Spindle turning- cut towards the spindle axis.

Raise the tool handle to commence the **Cut** using lower part of the tool for the cut .

Tool Rest Position

Spindle turning. Tool rest level
With spindle axis

Bowl gouge turning-tool rest 1cm
below centre and 1cm from piece

Bowl scraper-tool rest above centre

Move with the cut

Move body from hips to follow the cut. Something like a golf swing.

Rules of 45 for Bowl turning

Tool Rest at 45 degrees to lathe bed.

Tool handle down at 45 degrees

Gouge Flute rotated at 45 degrees
facing direction of cut

Spindle Turning

To cut bead start with gouge flute
facing up and rotate to facing
sideways at end of cut.

To cut cove start with gouge flute
facing sideways and rotate to face up
at end of cut.

Composition

Bowl base 33% of diameter

Platter Base 40% of diameter

“LIFT” bowl/platter off table
with sloping side from base.

Maximum bowl diameter
location >67% of height above
base

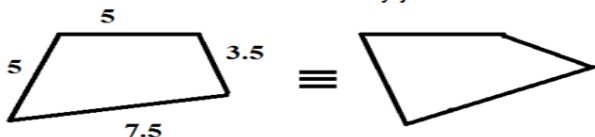
What impressed me with this list is how succinctly he has compiled a list of the guiding principles of woodturning. These are generally not absolutes and some members would argue about matters of technique and there are other guiding principles that could be added to this list, such as sharpness of tools and the shape of the grind of a particular tool but my view is that if any woodturner accepted these as the guiding fundamentals on which to develop his/her techniques they would be creating a very sound footing indeed.

HDM

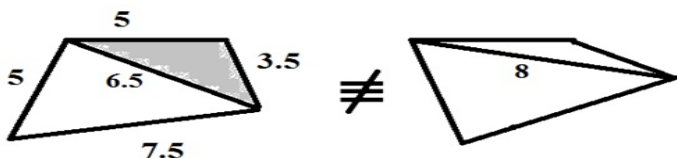
Geometry

As you may have read in a previous edition I was asked to make some finials for some posts at the corner of an old grave site. A cap for one of these posts was needed, with a trim that needed to snugly fit the top of the post. The site was not conducive to working on site so I needed to make this cap at my home workshop. I measured the top of the post and it was almost square but not quite. I measured the four sides and they were all different, this could have been a problem.

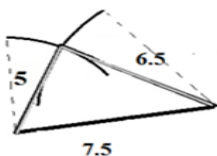
Once upon a time we lived in a building that had a strange shaped alcove that needed a shelf. I took measurements of all sides but realised that these sides could take a variety of shapes (see the picture). How is the shape fixed to the one unique shape for this particular alcove? That was when a remnant of my school education came to mind; remember that when a student exits the class room so does about 60% of what they just heard!



The important fact is that the lengths of the sides of a triangle always fix the shape of the triangle, there is only one shape. So, not only do you need the length of the walls of the alcove but you need the distance from one corner to the opposite corner. This fixes the shape not only of the 'base' triangle but also of the other shaded one.



By drawing the line of one side on your ply, or whatever you are using, you then use a compass (pencil on the end of a bit of string) to create an arc for the length of the second side, then you use the compass to measure the third side and create another arc. Where these arcs intersect is the position of one of the corners. The same is done with the second triangle.



Measure twice cut once applies, as always, so check the lengths and then get cutting. Using this technique on the top of the post was exactly the same and resulted in a nice fit.

Many thanks to my geometry teacher.

Michael Harrison

SUB-GROUPS

HUTT TURNERS - Coordinator: Denis Newton 9775650
Naenae Menz Shed, 1st Saturday after Guild meeting 10-12am
CARVERS - Coordinator: Sam Hillis 5297105
Meeting at Naenae Menz Shed - (3rd Tuesday 7-9 pm)
GREEN WOODWORKERS - Coordinator: Eric Cairns 5267929
FURNITURE GROUP - Coordinator: Mark Wilkins (2nd Tues) 021 428 187

These groups provide us with an opportunity for more a like-minded fellowship; and a chance to further develop those skills that you have so far experienced.

Guild Committee

President	Mark Wilkins	0211428187
Secretary	Peter Whitehead	476 7227
Treasurer	David Firth	021398241
Membership Sec	Warwick Smith	233 8042
	Brian Cropp	938 8020
Events	Nick Crocker	479 044
	Richard Holt	563 5270
	Dave Winthrop	021428187
Webmaster	James Ginnane	021562741
Library		

Cambium Editor	Hugh Mill	5692236
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Life Members : Denis Newton, Neil Gandy, Ken Cox, John Spittal, Hugh Mill, Archie Kerr, George Brown, Jack Fry

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