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Cambium



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Meetings & Events

- 4 Oct Our Favourite Jigs or Tools
- 8-9th Woodcraft 2016 Dowse Gallery
- 2 Nov Report on Auckland Woodturning Symposium
- 6 Dec Toys for Xmas & Christmas Party
- 7 Feb Wood bending explained, Jim Armstrong
- 7 Mar Apprenticeship talks

An Hylomania Jig

Time for another article fellow hylomaniacs.

I am struggling [again] for subject matter. I envy those journalists who appear to churn out witty, erudite, topical offerings week in week out. Folk like Joe Bennet. I always relish reading his irreverent offering in the opinion section of the Dom Post. In fact I often think it's the best bit of the whole paper. That and the sudoku puzzles. Not that I really have much time to sit and scratch my head over sudoku.

I digress. The editor [bless him] vaguely suggested jigs or such like as subject matter. I think we can safely assume he wasn't thinking of the likes of 'The Dashing White Sergeants' or 'The Gay Gordons' for I would have even less to utter about those jigs.

So, jigs it is - of the workshop variety. I have become a bit of a fan of jigs now. Just as an aside, do you know the difference between a jig and a fixture? I did not, before attending one of Michael Fortune's workshops. The difference is that a jig is a specific device to aid in one specific job or cut, joint etc. A fixture is a device which is used repeatedly for often needed cuts - such as the table saw sled or a bandsaw dovetail jig sorry, 'fixture'. Most of my jig knowledge comes from the workshops by Michael Fortune that I have been to, so please excuse my frequent references to this august designer. His jigs range from astoundingly simple to astoundingly complex and sophisticated, both types such that they make you smile at their cleverness.

I have built the following fixtures; table saw sled [x2], mortising 'jig', for routing dovetails including half blind mitred dovetails, table saw tapered legs, bandsaw circle cutting, bandsaw tapered laminates, bandsaw log mill [small logs you understand, 3-4 feet long max], table saw mitres, table saw tenoning, several different router finger jointing options, routing dados and routing tenons. Every job I try always seems to entail the need for yet another, different 'fixture'. This has to be built before one can proceed with the particular cut or joint and of course

slows me down incredibly.

Very occasionally I can go back to a previous fixture and smugly whip off a few perfect cuts. The sled gets a fair amount of use and is always satisfying. But more often than not, I am faced with a new problem that requires a new jig, I mean, fixture.

The construction of these things is satisfying on the whole, although my Scottish approach to scrimping sometimes causes me to use a compromised piece of wood, rather cut into that new sheet of ply just waiting in the corner of the workshop for such a moment. The satisfaction can be tempered by a wee niggly feeling that one should have made it a wee bit bigger/longer/more accurately and/or used a better quality of timber. It can also be tempered by the frustration of having the main job slowed down by the design and manufacture of the fixture.

Some common themes run through M.Fortunes jigs and fixtures. Most have sandpaper glued to the clamping surfaces to reduce that tiny shift of the workpiece when the saw or router hits the wood.

Nearly all have a dust groove cut along the corners of any clamping area to prevent the workpiece not registering perfectly in the jig.

All have a hole drilled in them for hanging on the wall and all have the makers name, date and jig details written on them. Simple templates and



angled pieces can otherwise readily be mistaken for scrap in a busy shop and thus endangered to loss, discard or destructive re-use. Yes, we have all been there I suspect.

Anyway, I hope you all have a good ole chin-wag about jigs at this months meeting. Sorry I cannot be there. Here is a photo of some of my 'fixtures' hanging on the garage door.

Also, on a different subject, the chainsaw mill has been christened. It worked ok but has been improved with some modifications.

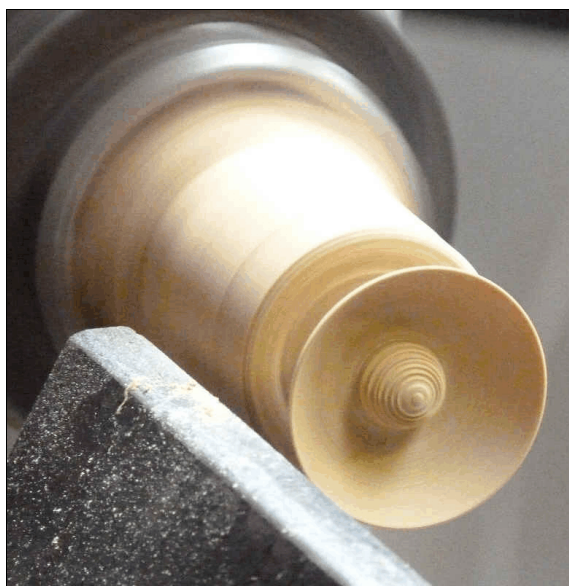
This week coming it will be thoroughly tested on a 30 metre pine I felled 3 weeks ago. The pictures here show some very short but beautiful slabs of banksia. Happy woodworking. JRA



Turning Flowers

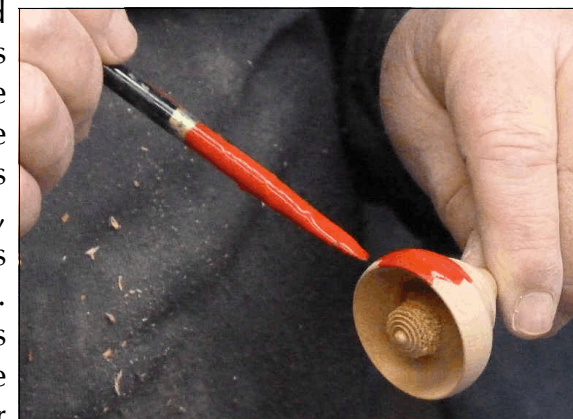
At another Saturday turning group, a keen group of members turn(sic) up to the MENZ Shed for a session of demonstration and learning. We were there to observe and learn how to make stylised Poppies.

Dennis is first. He quickly rounds some wood to about 50mm (3" for those who still



work in old dimensions) and begins the process of hollowing out the end. First a 'cup' shape but with the centre left to represent the inside of the flower. The inside shaped in steps, but leaving the edges roughly turned to represent stamens.

Next, the outside is shaped into a neat curve with walls as thin as 1mm on the outside edge. Cutting off the finished piece completes that part of the object. Next, it is Hugh's turn to make his version to a similar shape. Both have mounting holes drilled into the base to take the stem and are ready for the next step.



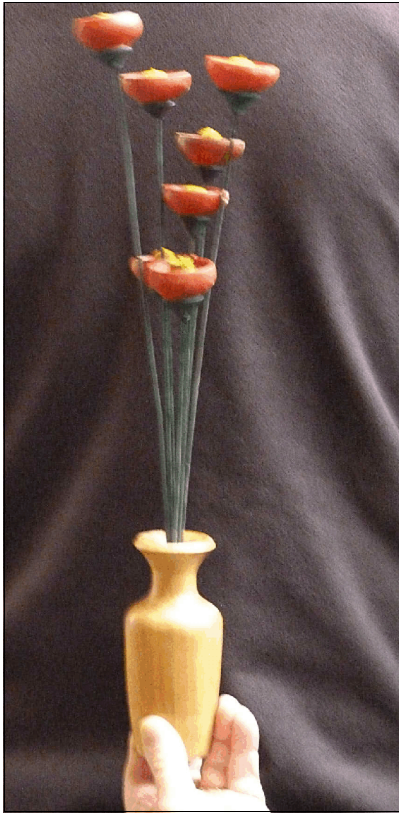
Now for the painting.

Red for the outside and inside and black for the outside underneath of the 'flower' itself, with the stem green. The poppies are finished – including some Hugh made earlier.

Now a simple but elegant wooden vase to hold the poppies finishes the exercise. For those who wish, the 10mm hole in the vase will hold a glass or other tube to allow a real stemmed flower to be put in with water.



The whole demonstration has taken about an hour. We are assured that even the less experienced among us could do the whole project in about the same time.



All three items (poppies, vase, tree) suitably painted would make good Christmas or other presents for family or friends. Another valuable Saturday for us learners. GW

But wait – there's more. Dennis started (but ran out of time to finish) a Christmas tree.

First a simple cone of the required size. (You decide how big.) This is followed by a series of deepish cuts sloping towards the top and undercut underneath. The rough edges are deliberately left to represent tree foliage. (Note: there was time only to begin this part of the tree – obviously you would cut 'branches' all the way down.)

A deeper cut was made for the lowest branches and a sloping roundel for the base completes the task. The whole task to this point took about 10-15 minutes.



The Old Yew Tree



At the beginning of the year I was watching a TV program on North Wales, where Anne and I planned to visit in July of this year. Featured was a Yew Tree reputed to be the oldest living tree known in Wales and one of the oldest living things in the world.

The male Yew tree is in the churchyard of St. Digain's Church in Welsh village of Llangernyw.

The tree has split and its core has been lost, leaving several enormous offshoots. The girth of the tree at the ground level is 10.75 m.

The churchyard gate holds a certificate from the **Yew Tree Campaign in 2002**, signed by **David Bellamy**, which states that "according to all the data we have to hand" the tree is dated to between 4,000 and 5,000 years old.



In June 2002, the **Tree Council**, in celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II designated the Llangernyw Yew tree one of the **Fifty Great British trees**. It is an impressive sight and certainly worth a visit if you are ever in the area.

Alan Berry

Chair Restoration

Michael had a small restoration project on a chair; and as so often happens in the Guild - advice and help is on hand, from other members

This chair, possibly 200 years old, sustained a fractured rail. It is made of a dark red mahogany which is carved. It had obviously been repaired before and this repair had broken down and the rail was fractured through its whole thickness. The old glue can be seen. Where the piece of wood that came out of here went we have no idea - up the vacuum cleaner?

The glue was removed using a Dremel and the good wood



protected with masking tape.

The through and through fracture was then fixed with instant glue. I mentioned the need for a small amount of mahogany at the

Manawatu Open Day and I am grateful for the two pieces of wood I found in my letterbox, thanks.

The next stage was to cut a piece of the mahogany to fit the space. This started of square and was whittled down to fit the groove, which fortunately was relatively rectilinear.

This was then pared down to fit the outside curves. The wood was then stained and glued into place, again using instant glue, which was also used to seal the surface.

The final finish is not as dark as expected but that can be adjusted with time.

The implanted wood was much lighter than the original wood and the grain less tight and to get the colouring right was going to be difficult, but in normal living room lighting it looks absolutely fine. Thank you to the donors and thanks for the advice from the furniture group. *Michael Harrison*





Denis's Tip

Well - a router tip from Fine Woodworking. Most router base plate covers are fixed with M4 screws. Drill out these, and tap the holes with an M6 thread.

The base cover can be re-used; but all sorts of ply plates and jigs can also be fitted. Such as a self centering jig, to use on tapered timber pieces. There are many more ideas - if you seek out the router books in our library.

Safety Tip - Bench Saw

For those of us who (unlike Jim) do not have a sled, one tip came up at a furniture group discussion a while ago.

Fix a timber cover to the saw fence, which stops just past the centre of the saw blade. This gives room for a timber piece to splay, if it tends to. Also, when cross-cutting shorter lengths, it also gives space for them, past the saw blade.

Guild Contacts

SUB-GROUPS

CARVERS - Coordinator: Sam Hillis, 529 7105
Meeting at Naenae Mens' Shed - (3rd Tuesday 7-9pm)

HUTT TURNERS - Coordinator: Denis Newton 977 5650
Meet Naenae Mens' Shed, 1st Saturday after Guild meeting 10am -12 noon
GREEN WOODWORKERS - Coordinator: Eric Cairns 526 7929
FURNITURE GROUP - Coordinator: Lew Skinner (2nd Tuesday) 475 7613

Remember that these groups are for you and are open to anyone in the Guild. They provide you with an opportunity for more fellowship and a chance to further develop the skills that you already possess.

Guild Committee

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