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Meetings & Events 2019

- 5 Feb Guild Meeting. Wood-turners Group demo
- 2 Apr Guild Meeting. Carvers Group demo
- 7 May Guild Meeting. Annual General Meeting
Sell & swap
- 19May? Manawatu Open Day
- 4 June. Guild Meeting Fine Woodworkers demo
- 2 July Guild Meeting Green Woodworkers demo
- 24 July? Turnings Plus 2019. Pataka

(Some events to be confirmed)

EDITORIAL

I am sitting at my desk writing/typing this with some trepidation as it is five years since I last put 'pen to paper', so to speak, and edited a copy of Cambium and computer technology has changed so much in that time. So the process may take a while but I am pretty sure that by the time I have completed this edition I will have things more-or-less sussed.

Firstly I must thank Nick for his work over the last 5 years. When he approached me with an offer to *help* with Cambium all those years ago my reaction was an immediate 'Congratulations you are now the editor' and I largely left him to it. So when I realised how keen he was to give up the job at the end of last year maybe it was with some guilt that I decided that I could take over the reins once again. Another reason was probably the sudden collapse of NZique last September and the realisation that its liquidation meant that I was facing a future with some time on my hands.

Looking forward there will be one or two changes in content. First I will not be attending Guild committee meetings and will be reliant on Mark Wilkins to ensure that there is a direct link between Cambium and the Committee. Secondly Michael Harrison has offered to provide an article each edition to help ensure that there is sufficient copy and I am sure that other members will continue to assist in areas of their expertise.

One thing that I would like to restore is the opportunity for Guild members to air their own points of view in the guise of "Letters to the Editor". I believe this to be an important role of a 'magazine' of this kind so if you have an urge to express a point of view, positive or negative, or simply want to make suggestions that would help develop our Guild, simply send me an email.

By the way the first Guild Newsletter was printed on a single A4 sheet in April 1984 so this year the Guild will have been in existence for 35 years, charged, by its founders, with the responsibility of fostering and developing woodwork and related fields, exhibiting and promoting the work of Guild members, encouraging a high level of performance in woodwork in all its aspects, and providing a forum for sharing skills and knowledge of members of the Guild. Activities will include guest speakers, occasional workshops, demonstrations and the annual display and sale of members' work.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Compliments of the season to all and I certainly trust you all had a very enjoyable festive season and are fit and well going into 2019.

For me, today was my first day back at work which meant having to deal with the past three weeks' emails from various corners of the world, most involving questions concerning electronic certification and reviewing draft papers for an international meeting in Argentina at the end of January.

Riveting? Yeah Right!

For our Guild the last several weeks of 2018 turned out to be fairly busy. Thanks to Hugh and the demonstrators for organising and providing a great demonstration day at the Menzshed in December. In addition I thank your Committee for organising and running our annual Christmas function and in particular the members involved in putting together the woodworking competitions.

It would be very remiss of me to not also mention here the passing of several of our Guild members in 2018. While I do not want to mention names or single individuals here (I will save these for the record at our Annual General Meeting in May), these men had all been great supporters of the Guild over the years. May they all rest in peace.

Bearing the AGM in mind (and yes I know it is s till a few months away) your Committee has already started to address the programme of Activities for 2019 and the possible election of Committee members. It is pleasing to report several of the existing Committee members have already signalled they are prepared to stand again for another year at least. The challenge we all face is identifying nominees to stand for President (my term is up in May) and this is a "must fill" position for the Guild to function effectively going forward. The time is right and I encourage all Guild members to start thinking about and approaching potential nominees to stand for this position. I'm more than happy to listen and explore with you your suggestions.

Enjoy 2019 and I will catch up with you at our March meeting. (I'm off to Argentina for what I hope will be my last official international work meeting).

Peter Johnston (Abridged)

DECEMBER 2018 MEETING REPORT

Our December meeting traditionally is a time for fellowship with partners present, a time for sharing the food that is brought to the table -always something to look forward to, a time for giving of toys etc to the Salvation Army to distribute to the less fortunate in our community and a time of judicious selection of the best item of skilled woodwork in the five categories on display- woodturning, carving, non-turned items and this year for the first time, the novice section. The fifth prize is for the item voted to be the best overall. Usually there is need for considerable thought in all categories but the number of items on display for selection this year was extremely disappointing-five pieces for woodturning, four carved pieces, one piece for the non-turned category and just two pieces in the novice section, a grand total of just twelve pieces altogether. While the standard of the pieces submitted was high, the number put forward surely is a cause for concern and questions need to be asked to ascertain why this problem has occurred. Please feel free to submit your comments to Cambium. On a brighter note thanks must be extended to the toymakers from the Guild and Naenae Menzshed for their efforts to fill a need in our community.

Prizewinners in each section of the woodworking competition were:-

Athol Swann-Woodturning

Michael Harrison-non turned item

David Firth - Carving

Dave Winthrop-Novice section

The Jack Gibson trophy for best overall item was shared by Michael Harrison and David Firth.



CARVING WITH OAMARU STONE

On a lovely Saturday morning in November last year a small but enthusiastic group met at the Naenae Menzshed for a few hours of carving Oamaru stone. Sam Hillis and Archie Kerr had acquired considerable experience working in this medium but for others it was rather more of a journey into the unknown. I had made a small vase in a Collaboration in Putaruru a few years ago so decided to put that experience to good use and put my piece of stone on a lathe to turn a relatively larger vase. All I could remember was that it was a very dusty exercise and that the stone cut relatively easily using woodturning tools which would need constant resharpening. At first all went well and I noticed that people were coming to stand closer to the lathe to watch what I was doing and I was beginning to relax. The stone cuts and sands quite easily but to really achieve a fine finish a slurry needs to be created to be smeared over the piece to fill all cavities. When dry this can be finely sanded. Using ordinary sanding methods on the lathe will not deal with the “pitting” of the stone. However I was not overly concerned about achieving a ‘gloss’ finish and was more concerned with creating a pleasing shape.

When satisfied with what I had I remounted the piece onto a large spigot chuck. And here my inexperience with the stone proved to be my downfall. When I started the lathe up again I found the piece was not centred correctly. In a moment of thoughtlessness (or laziness more likely) I decided to gently tap the piece ‘true’. After 3-4 taps (they were light - honestly) the piece snapped off at its thinnest point near the chuck and landed on Robbie’s foot. I won’t write what Robbie said. So it was a case of instant redesign and my suddenly learning how brittle Oamaru stone can be!

When I had completed the new vase shape to my satisfaction I then turned the wooden top for the piece with a 50mm spigot that would fit into the vase. Using a Forstner bit I drilled a hole about 150mm deep which would take a 120mm glass tube which would mean that the vase could actually be used for flower arrangements.

The day was interesting and very worthwhile and it was also a pleasant exercise working outside on the ‘lawn’. Many thanks to Sam and Archie for arranging the day and providing a new experience and for the enjoyable Pizza lunch.



Eric hard at work.



Mark's shell crab piece



The finished vase.



A dusty exercise!



Sam showing concern for my oops!

CUTTING WOODEN GEARS

I am writing this article not as an expert but as a learner. Roy Craig, a Guild visitor, suggested I should be able to build a wooden celestial calendar with an orrery, showing the movement of the planets around the sun. This assembly has about 20 gears and so by the time I have finished I might be experienced, possibly a questionable expert.

Searching the internet came up with a variety of techniques:-

This one: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnm2mwj1GZY>) involves drilling out the gaps between the teeth and then using an inverted jig saw to cut the teeth to shape – fairly crude.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Nuhr3htNwS&t=21s>) shows a similar technique but uses a bandsaw to cut the teeth, which were straight sided. It could be done with a router.

Another: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dqc5xMM5cA>) uses a table saw and looks quite complicated – you would need a small many toothed circular blade and very careful setting up. It does produce a curved tooth profile that makes the engagement of two gears more precise. Or,, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQ92urCdybU>) shows how to do it using a scroll saw. This video shows a very good looking end product. This gear is made of solid wood rather than ply or MDF.

So how have I been doing it?

1. I use ply, different gears use different thicknesses – use good ply without voids.
2. I cover the ply in medium tacky masking tape and stick the gear pattern to this with PVA glue. This makes it easier to remove the patter afterwards. Cut a circle around the pattern leaving at least 5mm waste area and drill the central hole for the axle.
3. I started off drilling holes between the teeth. I then used the bandsaw to clear out the valley floor between the teeth using a side to side motion. Because of the curve shape of the teeth there was some friction when turning the curve of the tooth which occasionally scorched the wood. Now I use a scroll saw from the beginning to cut down the sides of the teeth, then I go diagonally across the valley between the teeth to get rid of most of the wood. I then use a fine toothed bandsaw blade to clear out the valley floor as above. I have a bright light on the work and some magnifying hobby glasses and I do not rush the cuts. Irreparable damage to just one tooth on a 52 tooth gear means the wastage of a lot of time.
4. Once all the teeth are cut use a sanding wheel (fine grit – max 100) to trim the tips of the teeth.

5. Many gears have attractive voids within the main body of the gear and so it is necessary to drill a hole to pass a scroll saw blade to cut the inner spaces. Do this last; there is no point in spending time on this then messing up a tooth on the periphery. On the odd occasion the masking tape can be lifted and torn from the wood by the drill but I think overall the ease of removing the pattern from the wood is a significant benefit,
6. Now sand all surfaces. The inner spaces need to look tidy but the teeth need to be really smooth and engage with the other gear. I started by cutting the teeth on the 'outside' of the pattern line, this resulted in much filling and sanding (hours!!). I then cut-on-the-line, this was better but still involved filling and sanding. Now I cut just 'inside' the line -only fine sanding required. Not only do the sides of the teeth need to be correct but if the teeth are too long they can impact the valley between the teeth on the other gear. Another gentle round on the sanding wheel may be necessary.

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMX1syA6R84&t=232s> to see an example of a completed orrery. By the time I have finished my orrery I may not want to make another gear. **Michael Harrison**



DEMONSTRATION DAY 8 Dec 2018

This was the fourth "Demonstration Day" to be held in the Menzshed and was probably the most successful in terms of range of demonstrators and number of participants. Heartfelt thanks go again to Graeme McIntyre, Mark Wilkins, Richard Holt, David Marshall, Trevor Stanyon and Jim Lowe. Without their generosity of time and support the day could not happen. Special thanks to Trevor and David who demonstrated for the first time and did an excellent job and it was great to see Jim once again sharing his knowledge and expertise. Thanks also to the Guild and the Menzshed for their support, provision of space and assistance with the BBQ. Particular thanks once again to John Spittal for his mussels and Pauline McIntyre for the lovely trout dish. And thanks to my right-hand man, Terry Driskel, for his help throughout the day.

I had endeavoured to include a range of subject matter with the demonstrations which is somewhat difficult to do in a rather confined space. Indeed Mark found it rather difficult to move around in his demonstration space because of the close proximity of the seating and I will note that for the future. But at the same time it was heartening to see so many faces watching what was being demonstrated for them. The hour after lunch was dedicated to the subject of sharpening. Again it revealed that there were/are many ways to skin a cat but it is a subject fundamental to what we do, working with wood.

I am also grateful for the feedback that I have received, although I am disappointed with the low number of responses. However responses received suggest that the DAY fills a need. Alan Robson felt it was an enjoyable and informative day and hopes for more in the coming years. Graham Ramsay as a novice turner finds the annual demonstration day to be a highlight of his woodturning year and also finds the fact that the demonstrators are from our own Guild and readily share their knowledge of how to do things and where to source tools and materials as cheaply as possible very refreshing. Tony Waygood (Wairarapa) wrote, "*What a great day we enjoyed in the Naenae Shed with your wonderful club members yesterday. It is always so refreshing to be made so welcome and to chat so easily with fellow woodies.*" So fellow woodies take a bow!

If you have any recommendations to make as to how the day could be improved or what you would like to have demonstrated please send me an email. Don't be shy.



Jimmy's happy!

SHARPENING

As suggested above the discussion on sharpening tools was, I felt, very worthwhile. Methodology, not surprisingly, was very diverse, from stuck in the wool conformists like me who still sharpen freehand to those who have acquired the new Robert Sorby (?) linisher. In between there are a number of jigs on the market and new types of grinding wheels that help to avoid overheating the steel. There are also a number of 'experts' on the internet (You Tube especially) advocating a particular angle you must grind the bevel to. Whatever system you use I firmly believe you need to ensure that

it's the best for you and you develop the ability to quickly create a very sharp effective cutting edge. I say 'quickly' because our cutting tools are expensive and you do not want to waste steel.

When to sharpen is the next question and I can hear you thinking 'when its blunt' from here. When I start a new piece I sharpen my bowl gouge before I switch on the lathe. Depending on the wood I will sharpen whenever the tool seems to have lost some cutting efficiency. Then I will sharpen again just before I start my finishing cuts. I have not got into the habit of using a diamond stone to burnish the inside of the tool but I will accept that it would mean a sharper edge if I did.

I use an edge that is about 45 degrees and that enables me to cut down the inner wall of the piece and across the bottom into the centre without having to stop or adjust the cut or lose the bevel. Graeme McIntyre turns much deeper bowls and would need to pick up another tool with a different grind to enable him to cut across the bottom and still rub the bevel. Horses for courses I guess but you need to be able to recognise the differences.

Your method of cutting may also dictate the angle and type of grind. I turn mostly outboard and use push cuts to create my shape. Many turners do all their work inboard and use a pull cut to create much of their initial shape. The angle of their bevel will almost certainly be different from mine.

Woodturning is all about removing the wood that you do not want when you are trying to achieve the special shape you are seeking. Correctly sharpened tools are an absolute necessity! **HDM**



Guild Contacts

SUB-GROUPS

| | |
|--|-------------|
| HUTT TURNERS - Coordinator: Denis Newton | 977 5650 |
| Naenae Mens' Shed, 1st Saturday after Guild meeting 10 am –12 noon | |
| CARVERS - Coordinator: Sam Hillis, | 529 7105 |
| Meeting at Naenae Mens' Shed - (3rd Tuesday 7-9 pm) | |
| GREEN WOODWORKERS - Coordinator: Eric Cairns | 526 7929 |
| FURNITURE GROUP - Coordinator: Mark Wilkins (2 nd 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 | Peter Johnston | 476 7942 |
| Secretary | Peter Whitehead | 476 7227 |
| Treasurer | Alan Berry | 560 3661 |
| Membership Sec | Warwick Smith | 233 8042 |
| | Brian Cropp | 938 8020 |
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