

2021

Cambium

Oct



Publication of the ©Guild of Woodworkers, Wellington Inc.

P.O. Box 19037, Courtney Place, Wellington

www.gww.org.nz

ISSN 2463-3755

Issue No.214

Contents

	Page
Contents	1
Editorial	2
President's Comments	3
Michael's File.	6
Demonstration Day notice	8
Lathe Dramas and other salutary lessons	8
Two Committee members introduction	10
Sub Groups	12

Meetings & Events 2021

5 Oct	Guild Meeting:	Table talk.
3 Nov	Guild Meeting:	Flutemaking (Issue woodwork competition)
7 Dec	Guild Meeting:	Christmas Function. Toys for kids. Woodwork competitions
11 Dec	(Saturday)	Demonstration Day. Naenae MenzShed
2022		
1 Feb	Guild Meeting	Fine wood group. Lessons from Nelson School.
1 March	Guild Meeting	Turners. Conversation with Graeme McIntyre
5 April	Guild Meeting Thistle Hall	Tbc

EDITORIAL

“How did it go in Lockdown?”

I have been making and selling turned pieces for over 30 years and until recently the journey has been a relatively easy one – deciding what sold pieces needed replacing and/or what new pieces I should experiment with, source the necessary wood, spend the necessary time in the workshop and present the finished pieces for sale. Some pieces sell quite quickly, others take a little while but that’s just life and I enjoy the making. Recently the owner of KURA one of my outlets in Wellington asked if I would be interested in making 22 smallish dishes (150x60mm) out of plain native timbers. The buyer was Apec (I presume Foreign Affairs) and I would be paid \$100 per piece. 22x100, I thought, that’s pretty worthwhile and certainly something to keep me occupied during lockdown so I agreed to do the job. Each piece was to have a largish Apec logo lasered into the centre of the dish – so that would be my first cost. Then there was the problem of sourcing sufficient wood of the required size and breed. I found that I needed a further 10 pieces, another cost, but Denis Newton was able to supply the required size and number. Terry Driskel agreed to do the laser work for a very fair price so now I had committed myself to spending about \$500 but the likely returns remained attractive.

Over the next two weeks I had finished 15 dishes and when Terry had completed the logo on 8 (they looked great) I took them into Kura to ensure they met requirements. Ben, the owner, was very happy, took a photo with his phone and sent it off to the Foreign Affairs Dept. The next day I received a call from Ben who was embarrassed to tell me that Foreign Affairs had invested in another project and no longer needed my offerings. I was more than a little dismayed, given the amount of money I was committed to spending, but Ben assured me that Kura would buy the 15 I had completed. So the next two weeks was taken up with 7 pieces going back on the lathe to have the logo removed (I kept one as a memento) and 13 of the 15 having the centre of the inside curved and

some sort of decoration applied. A few days ago I took the completed pieces into Kura and, I must admit, I was rather pleased with my offerings.

So that's what kept me occupied during lockdown. I now have 7 unused rounds of nice native timbers and I have yet to get my efforts rewarded in a monetary sense but somehow it doesn't really matter. And I can't help thinking how fortunate we are to have our workshops and have the desire and ability to create items to treasure from wood.

HDM

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

So, Covid has recently changed the way we live again; staying at home for a while, forcing us to wear masks, and putting a damper on our activities such as having to miss our September Guild gathering. Whilst in Level 3, and with no certainty of timing for easing of movement, our planned exhibition at the Hutt Art Society Gallery was also postponed. But things are getting better.

Now classes have resumed and the "Sheds" are open. A few of us expressed that they were enjoying being able to get back into the Shed with others and being able to carry on with some woodwork. This emphasises the aspect of social and collegial nature in what we do.

Some of us, I am sure, have become more adept at running remote "Zoom" meetings in an attempt to carry on with meetings and the like. On one evening my family even managed some pre-dinner drinks in a similar remote fashion.

On the positive side, it may have given us a chance to carry on with some of those woodwork projects awaiting in the corner of the workshop. (Somehow those jobs around the house still have not got the attention they deserve.)

With Michael's help the Fine Furniture group have been making some tables in Ash that will have a Marble top. (See pics below). Wonderful

clear timber to work with, and strong. No wonder it was used for all sorts of handles and other utility items. It has been a while since I took on some rectilinear furniture making and it has been a reminder of the need for accuracy when doing joints. Whilst it is enjoyable to do things by hand, with 30 bridle joints to make we made a jig so we could do the cutting on the table saw. We could continue with some small bits but for a while this was also under lockdown at the Menzshed.

As things are resuming to some degree of normality we are able to look forward to our meetings, with Christmas coming up soon when we can all put forward our projects to show & to learn from. If you are able to help, please remember we welcome wooden toys being made that can be passed on to children in need.

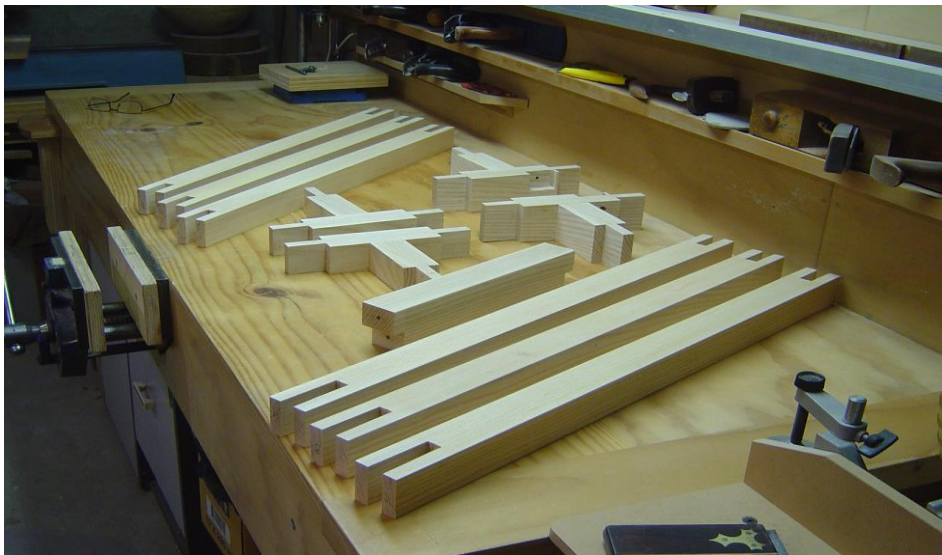
If all goes to plan, in the new year, thanks to Dave, we hope to have another exhibition in the Thistle Hall in April so that's another thing to look forward to.

Keep well,

Cheers

Nick





In Memorium

George Allan Brown

On 7 September 2021 George Brown, Life member of the Wellington Woodworkers Guild, passed away at the age of 89. He will be remembered for his ability as a woodworker, his long and enthusiastic association with the Guild and his reluctance to part with any of his creations. A life well lived.

MICHAEL'S CORNER

Just like the Repair Shop (BBC series) I was presented with a badly worm-eaten chair for repair, the owner claiming that the repair was considered impossible. With David Firth's help we achieved the impossible and the owner thought we were magicians...that was a great reward.

The three pictures with this article show the chair before, during and after repair. The first phase was the loosening of the upholstery around the stumps of the upright (stile) and the very vestigial arm. This revealed that the original dowels had been broken and replaced with some nails.

The damaged parts were available for copying but we did have the intact opposite side. We did not have mahogany of a thickness to either turn the stile or carve the arm and so both parts were laminated using two pieces about 20mm thick. From the stile I took a template which was used to mark position of the bead (the arm was given to David). Each end of the stile was square and so the line separating the square end and the turned section was marked using a Stanley knife and then cut with a fine tenon saw down to the circumference of the turning – this avoided rounding of the corners. This was not difficult turning-it just required careful measurement and ultra-care with the skew chisel. There was a roundel on three of the square faces and another of a slightly different profile on the top of the stile.

David's job required a lot of three dimensional care as the arm was angled on to the stile and also to the seat frame, requiring careful positioning of the holes for dowels, the latter sloping in from the inside. The arm itself was markedly curved in two dimensions and was carved to match the original.

The final assembly was achieved by David, using keratin-type glue. He then did a final sanding, staining and finishing with a varnish – achieving a terrific colour match. The upholstery was replaced and job finished.

Michael



DEMONSTRATION DAY.

Saturday 11 Dec. Naenae MenzShed 10am-4pm. \$25

I have received a number of queries regarding the possible repeat of this event and offers of assistance so yes this event will take place. But I need **your** assistance. If you are a likely attendee what would you like to see being demonstrated and perhaps who by? And the second question to likely attendees – would **you** like to demonstrate any special skills you have developed in your woodworking journey? Answers to me as soon as possible please.

HDM

LATHE DRAMAS - AND SOME SALUTARY LESSONS!

Recently I was given my first commercial turning order – for 40 items. They sold so well I was given a repeat order, this time for 80 items. Great news. However half way through this second order, and without any warning, the lathe stopped. There was no warning message on the control panel, just an ominous blank space (It is a NOVA DVR XP, bought not long before we left Napier to move to Wellington six years ago and supplied by Terry Scott of *Timberley Ltd*).

My first reaction was to get out the manual and read the “Faults Section”- obviously the fuse had failed, I thought. But after switching off the machine and checking the fuse, obviously the fuse had not failed, it looked just fine. So with no further help from the manual, and mild panic now setting in, and with visions of having to take the head off and

somehow freight it to Auckland for repairs, I rang Terry. He assured me that I would not have to send a massive parcel to Auckland and e-mailed back several pages of detailed instructions and photographs. He also contacted Shi from Teknatool who in turn also contacted me by e-mail and by phone. The instructions showed how to take the rear plate off the head of the lathe, remove the index plate and then access the motherboard, which has a number of sensors on the lower side. The object of the exercise was to clean the sensors very carefully with cotton buds: over time, apparently, they become contaminated by fine dust. With difficulty, and very carefully, I followed all the instructions, cleaned the sensors, and with the help of my compressed air supply, thoroughly cleaned out the head of the lathe. I was shocked at the amount of very fine dust that had infiltrated the head, which I had, in my ignorance, thought to be impervious to dust. However, the lathe was working again. I rang Terry and emailed Shi to report my success, relief, and thanks to them both.

After this initial jubilation I resumed the interrupted order. But about a week later the lathe stopped again! Thinking I had not cleaned the sensors properly the first time, I dismantled the head again and repeated the cleaning of the sensors even more carefully. At least the second time I knew what I was doing and it took less time- one small advantage of having to repeat the procedure. This had no effect at all. The control panel was again blank. This looked ominous, so another call to Terry. This time he discussed replacing the motherboard and assured me I could do it myself; he would arrange with Shi to courier a new motherboard to Wellington and explained that this would involve dismantling the rear of the lathe motor housing again, but also removing the front panel and changing the motherboard – it all sounded very complicated.

Mild panic was now turning into more serious panic. Then on a hunch, and thinking I could do no more damage to the lathe that it had already suffered, I removed the front panel. Again, to my great surprise, there was a large build-up of very fine dust on all the control components. Once again, the compressed air gun was used to clear this as well as using

cotton buds on the delicate parts. Mirabele dicere! Once reassembled, the control panel lit up again, the lathe started as normal, and has continued to do so for the last fortnight.

In modern management speak, there are some learnings to be had from this drama. Firstly, I learned from Terry that the lathes at the South Auckland Woodturners Club are stripped down and cleaned, just as I have described, about every three months. Which begs the question-why does the Instruction Manual not explain the need to do this? Or show in the 'Faults section' how to do this and to deal with this type of fault? The most important and salutary lesson to me is that this is something I can, and will do, regularly from now on.

I must thank Terry Scott for all his patience and advice. He also explained that one reason he sells many NOVA lathes is because of the excellent backup service from Teknatool and after the numerous responses I had from Shi, I can certainly endorse that.

David Marshall

Introducing two more Committee members.....

Gordon Crichton

“Hi I’m Gordon Crichton, originally from Northern Ireland but now a proud Kiwi citizen. I have been working with wood for roughly the last seven years and in that time have created things ranging from guitar pedal boards and Inkle looms to small tables, coat racks and, most recently, a Tasmanian Blackwood desk for my wife.

Building the desk involved turning tapered legs with an angled cut at each end – that was a challenge to complete but provided some great learning experience.

I joined the Guild just a few years ago and have recently become the administrator of the Guild Library. It’s a great resource and you might not

be aware of the number of books we have and the range of subjects. Come and have a look at the next Guild meeting.

Gordon

John Piper

“ I am married to Linda and have 3 daughters,all married, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandsons.

In 1961 I started work at Manthel Motors as an apprentice Panel Beater and Spray Painter. In 1969 I joined the New Zealand Fire Service and worked through the ranks to become Operational Officer, a post I retained until 1991.

In 1969 I bought a Taxi with Hutt City Taxis and 52 years later I am currently the longest serving taxi driver in the Wellington /Hutt Valley area, (man have I seen some changes over the years and some stories I could tell!)

I am a Free Masom, with Lodge Te Puni in Lower Hutt and have been a Justice of the Peace since 2009.

I was introduced to woodturning by a friend ,Jimmy McKinney, who also introduced me to the Naenae MenzShed and to my woodturning tutor Hugh Mill who introduced me to the Wellington Woodworkers Guild. This hobby, woodturning,has me absolutely infatuated and I don't seem to get enough time to do all I want to do. So I have decided to retire from working life as a taxi operator early next year to devote more time to learning all I can of the craft. In general I like all types of wood working. In May I decided to offer my services to the Committee of the Guild if I was needed and apparently I was. Thanks members.”

John

SUB-GROUPS

TURNERS – Coordinator Hugh Mill 5692236
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)

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	Nick Crocker	4790404
Vice President	David Feind	027545787
Secretary	Phil King	0212506467
Treasurer	David Firth	021398241
Membership Sec	Warwick Smith	0274853770
Webmaster	Paul Dudding	0211882656
	Dave Winthrop	021428187
Library	Gordon Crichton	02102475290
	John Piper	0274538950
	Mark Wilkins	0211428187

Cambium Editor Hugh Mill 5692236

Life Members : Denis Newton, Neil Gandy, Ken Cox, John Spittal, Hugh Mill, Archie Kerr, Jack Fry, Eric Cairns

Articles covered by legal 'Copyright' may be used by other woodworkers' Guilds, Clubs or groups, but please acknowledge source
© **Guild of Woodworkers, Wellington Inc.**