

2022

Cambium

Oct



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Meetings & Events 2022

- 4 Oct. Guild meeting Greens Group
5 Nov Pataka - Opening
10 Nov Thurs. (Guild Meet) at Pataka 6:00pm
19 Nov (Sat) Woodwork demos Pataka concourse
6 Dec Christmas Meeting & competitions
10 Dec (Sat) Demonstration Day. Naenae MenzShed
7 Feb Guild meeting Fine woods group
-

EDITORIAL

Recently Rona and I discovered that a tin garden shed we have used for over 40 years to store bits and pieces not needed in the house is in fact on our new neighbour's property and she wants it removed. She has lawyered up and the removal must be completed by the end of this month.

The tin sheets on the walls and roof are all held together by rivets and the process of deconstruction made me rather apprehensive. How does one remove rivets? I established that there is supposed to be a firm in Lower Hutt that sells a rivet removing tool but I have been unable to find it. Several weeks have gone by with me procrastinating but yesterday I decided to attack the problem with a metal grinder.

I instantly found that earmuffs and eye protection were necessary but my process of grinding/cutting away the rivet heads and then using a punch to hammer the remains through the metal proved to be very effective.

The next decision to make was to identify where I should start the deconstruction and I decided that removing the roof would be a good plan so nothing unexpected would fall on me. So far I have removed about 30 rivets and have a much clearer idea as to what I need to do to complete the task.

We have also discovered that a new survey of our boundaries clearly indicates that a deck we built 47 years ago is also partly over her boundary as is a wood shelter that I built more recently. When these were built we did so with the genial permission of the then owners of the house above us and we did not think to put it in writing or to involve lawyers. Now I am faced with building a new support system for the area of deck we are allowed to keep and removing the wood shelter without damaging the wall of the house to which it is attached.

This is a lot of work and angst I was not anticipating but the positive thing is the helpful suggestions I am getting from Guild and Shed members when I raise the matter with them to seek their advice.

HDM

(Tin shed now gone-Woodshed next)

President's Corner

So spring is now upon us...and just now we have the equinox, and our days will be getting lighter and brighter. I recall someone suggesting it is a good idea to take your item outside to check for those last

scratches...which I should have done a few days ago. We just had a green workday making hurdles, getting to enjoy our outdoors, nature, and using those muscles we forgot we have...much more entertaining than going to the gym.

We have Pataka coming up – we need a list of items by Sun 16 October. We have activities and demos going on in the Concourse on Sat 19 November– something for us all to look forward to, and get involved in.

Also we can get involved in our Guild Christmas gathering and show off some of our best work. Hopefully you will have an item left over from Pataka to show. On this note, we introduced the Woodworker master class at the end of the year show, in part to allow our other members to have a showing and chance of winning at the time...so now is your opportunity to get something prepared.

And another reminder – Graeme and Pauline McIntyre are after more wig stands. A little anecdote – Maureen (Alan Robson's wife), knew someone who was undergoing therapy so she asked if a wig stand was needed. She already had one – and turning it over-Alan's name was there on the bottom. Hence a request to put your name, or at least a Woodworkers Guild label on the bottom.

This time of the year is also an opportunity to consider what we want to get up to next year. If you have any bright ideas do let us know.

We have been invited to Wairarapa Guild a few times, so we hope to schedule a return visit for them one day. Some members have also been off to woodwork activities at other Guilds ... We may try and organise our own collaboration one day, inviting other Guilds. Having recently been reminded that our Guild has been active for 40 years we should consider organising an event to celebrate our longevity.

Nick

MICHAEL'S File

THE WOOD ANGEL

Before the internet, library reference books had to be searched manually for material about the activities of other researchers. This involved extracting annual tomes (the size of Encyclopaedia Britannica) from many shelves covering the years from the late 19thC to the 1980s. Each book had an alphabetical index – this was tedious but sometimes the “Library Angel” would appear and a research paper would be seen, quite accidentally, that turned out to be really helpful.

I believe in the “Wood Angel”. I have been refurbishing an old oak wardrobe which, after years of neglect, had some rotten timber. The rear of the plinth and the floor of the wardrobe had been the home of many woodworm. The floor was made of two planks, 20mm thick, 200mm wide, wood of unknown variety. Only the rear plank needed replacing – a ten second trip to the MenzShed container and hey presto- right in front of me was a plank 20mm thick, 200mm wide and a few centimetres longer than required. Wow!

Another piece of wood was required to replace the back wall of the plinth -again - no problem. The last visit of the wood angel was in my own workshop; a 120mm section at the rear of both sides of the plinth had rotted, probably because of water immersion. These side pieces were of oak. I don't have a large wood store but rummaging around the smaller stuff, once again, a piece of oak of the appropriate dimensions that when cut in two was enough to transplant into both excised areas, with just a few centimetres of waste.

This sort of thing has happened before but this time it was almost magical, and because the wardrobe is for a granddaughter I'm thinking seriously of getting a big picture of a lion and pasting it on the inside of the back wall – not sure about the witch.

Michael

MARKET STICKS



The clock's ticking. I'm trying to whittle down the hoard of stuff in boxes in my workshop and under the house. From the "Bone, Antler and Horn" box I recovered three buffalo horns- that's Asian water buffalo, not bison. Next I found sticks I scavenged 25 years ago in the deserts of the American South-West (none from the National Parks, take note, and all declared to and cleared by, our Agriculture Inspectors). All premium stock and asking to be

made into fine products. Market sticks, which are taller than walking sticks (photo 1). In the UK they are a traditional item that the farmer takes to market to prod stock with and to lean on – more of a statement than a working crook. They usually have a handle of ram's horn. Queen Elizabeth was given a ram, horn market stick as a 70th Jubilee gift and we have seen film of her using it and other market sticks. I'll begin with the wood I used.

One stick is ocotillo (at left in the photo). Google it. It is a grassy cactus shrub with long wavy prickly stems. I'd removed the prickles long ago. The stick was too thick at one end, too flexy and crooked. So I steamed off the bark, straightened and reshaped the woody core to the dimensions I wanted, hardened it with a wood hardener, trimmed the bark to the new size of the stick and reglued it into the core.

The second stick is mesquite (which I had forgotten but at least three guild members identified it. Take a bow). It is a braided ornery wood that refused to be completely straightened but is too pretty to reject. The third stick is saguaro (at right in photo). That's the archtypical cactus of the US

Southwest and Mexico, the one you are most likely to draw, with its arms bent at the elbows and upraised skyward or hanging down. The green prickly flesh exterior gives no hint of what the skeleton inside is like – a hollow wooden tube with dominant elongated perforations. Very unusual. Saguaro grows ever so slowly and it took much searching to find a few dead pieces. Longish straight bits were impossible to find. I've had to straighten and join two pieces to get the length I wanted. I drilled out the centre and inserted an acrylic rod, to maintain the see-through effect through the perforations. But it was too flexible. I've ended up with aluminium tube – two tubes in fact, one inside the other, plus an aluminium rod in the centre, all for added rigidity, and with the outer tube highly polished to make it more visible through the natural perforations and to match the sterling silver ferrule covering the handle join. Two-pot glue was used to bind everything into one.

Sticks claimed to be ocotillo and saguaro are illustrated and sold on-line. They look nothing like mine – which I know to be genuine. Suspicious? Now the fun bit-the buffalo horn. Unlike hollow ram's horn (which first need to be compressed to a solid with steel formers and a hydraulic jack), buffalo horn is solid right through. I had a jig made many years ago (Photo2) for bending horn. I sawed a flat face on either side of the horn, clamped it flat on the jig then proceeded over some days to bend it round the jig. First I steamed it for many hours- which achieved nothing. So I then bent it by degrees with a heat gun APPLIED TO THE INSIDE OF THE BEND, (Heating the outside risks breaking) and brute force with the old sash cramps with a fine thread and steel handle that took a 330mm length of pipe for extra leverage was needed. (Up market wood clamps with turned handles were no match to the task.)

It was a wee bit of magic to see the curve emerge over the days under great pressure and repeated heating and squeezing. The recurve on the nose of the crook is tricky. Heat and vice grips held in place by rope,



patience, and breath, held. Steadily rasping the horn down to shape alternately applying heat and bending (Go to *Woodland Sicks on YouTube for a demo*). Rasp to final shape. Sand down to about 280 grit. Polish with a pad on the electric grinder charged with automotive polish (3 grades down to Fine, from Supercheap). That step, from sanded horn to highly polished finish, is truly magic.

Two of my horns looked like a pair and were about 499mm long. The third is much smaller – too small for a market stick handle, so for the saguaro stick I made a wooden handle- several in fact to get

design right and grain in the right direction for strength. Silver sets off fine woodworking I believe. I used it for the collars. Both to cover the join and for finished effect. It is a bit of an art but nothing



that will be beyond the ability of the average woodworker. I cannot go into full instructions here but I'll gladly assist anyone who is interested. If you are not game to use the family silver table -napkin rings you can buy sterling silver plate and rod and

other supplies from regal Castings Ltd Auckland. You'll only need a small loan from the bank. Oh! Where did I get the buffalo horn? Try as I might

I just cannot remember. And believe me I have tried as I would like to get more. I suspect I picked it up in one of the junk and second hand stores across rural USA that I frequented in search of horn and old tools.

Jim Howell

WHEN I FIRST SAW THE QUEEN

The death of Queen Elizabeth II is surely a very sad event for most of us as she has been the only monarch that we have known and, in my opinion, an exceptional one. A group of us were discussing this factor the other day in the Shed and we tried to recollect when we first saw her Majesty. I was 10 years of age in 1953 the year of her Coronation and her first visit to Aotearoa. I can remember walking a mile or so into the middle of Hastings with members of my class and a couple of my siblings but I don't see it as being a school outing as it was in January when she arrived. I can also recall receiving a gold coloured remembrance medal attached to a blue ribbon to commemorate her visit. Dave Winthrop mentioned his medal and after a short search I recovered mine. HDM

Here are a few other recollections.

“The first time I saw the Queen was on British TV for the Coronation in 1953. I was in our village shop which had the first TV in the area. Only 200 people lived in the village in Somerset. I still have my cup, saucer and tea plate commemorating the Coronation. They were given to the children and maybe others as well. For China buffs they were made in Wade in England.

Bryan Hawkins

“I am not sure who was more bored: Her Majesty or myself, as a boy aged 9 in Standard 4 (today's year 4). We were bused into a windy Basin Reserve at the start of the school year, February 1963. It was the 10th anniversary of her accession to the throne. We walked for ages, sat in strict rows, and ate our school lunches. Finally, her car glided past

us, her hand, (possibly with a white glove), waved and she and Philip smiled broadly. Then they were gone. The best part was seeing the Governor General, Brigadier Sir Bernard Ferguson, who looked like a peacock with huge feathers in his strange hat. Apart from a fleeting glimpse of me and thousands of other school kids, a feature of the Queen's stay in Wellington in 1963 was the opening of Parliament and a special meeting of the Privy Council. Also, she presented a silver chalice and paten to St Paul's Cathedral-these had been used by her grandparents during their tour in 1901."

Gerry Duignan



Sir Bernard Ferguson and his hat

"The first memory I have of seeing the Queen was during her Coronation tour in 1953. I was one very excited five year old sitting on my father's shoulders outside where the old Lamphouse shop used to be in Manners Street near the Willis St intersection. I distinctly remember the noise of the crowd increasing as she came nearer to us and the fading as she went off down Willis St. There was much excitement with everyone waving little Union Jack flags."

Roger Gyles.

"One of my earliest memories of the Queen was her Coronation visit in 1953. I was about two and a half and my family lived in Epuni in Lower Hutt. The Queen's motorcade was due to pass nearby and we went to a friend's house which was on the route. I sat on their letterbox at the gate to watch the motorcade. I remember a number of cars go past. I then announced to my parents that the Queen had personally waved to me! Whether that was actually true or not I'll never know. But I give her my farewell wave now."

Tony Robinson

"The only memory I have where I can recall specific details of a royal visit is the Queen's visit in 1953. At that time I attended the old Porirua school which was built in 1863 to serve the small Porirua settlement. In 1953, when I attended, Porirua was still a small village, surrounded by farms and some bush with none of the reclamation of the harbour that occurred in the 1960's for road works, rail and the city centre (all of which largely destroyed the ecology of the harbour.

My memory of the Queen's visit is of the school lining up along the road waiting to wave to the cars carrying the Queen and her entourage along the road past the school. We must have looked a rag/ tag bunch because it was summer and many of us were in bare feet and wearing a motley selection of clothes as was the habit in rural schools of the time. Two or three days later we had to repeat the process when the Duke drove through north through the village on some mission or another. I don't think he raised his head or hand when the car sped past.

Memory is a funny thing. On checking the NZ History web site I found that the date of the Queen's visit was the 9th January. We would have been on holiday then. Why were we at school on that day and when the Duke made his separate trip.? Perhaps it was to receive the blue medallion that every child received as a reminder of the visit. I still have mine.

Another memory of that time just prior to the Queen arriving in Wellington was the Tangiwai disaster and being sent down each morning to the local store to pick up a Dominion newspaper for an update on the latest news from the King country."

David Winthrop

"In 1953 I was 15 and a piper in my school band . We were invited to put on a display for the Queen's Coronation celebration at Hampton Park in Glasgow. I can remember marching and playing with all the other bands but cannot remember the tunes we were playing. The Park was packed with an estimated crowd of about 120 thousand.

Each student was paid with recently minted coinage selected for the Coronation and I can remember feeling very rich.

I was thrilled to be part of the celebrations that day and felt honoured. Watching the Funeral processions over the last few days brought back many special memories."

Jimmy McKinney

WHAT LATHE SPEED SHOULD YOU USE?

I well remember sitting in the Naenae MezShed a few years ago watching a demonstration by a SORBY representative sent out to New Zealand obviously to encourage us to purchase Sorby turning tools. He was working on a piece between centres. I cannot recall what he was actually making. Lets say it was a rolling pin and he was showing us how to use a skew chisel. He was explaining what he was doing and advised us that he was turning at about 3,500 revs. Someone in the audience asked why he was turning at 3,500 revs and his reply was, "Because this lathe won't turn at 4,000 revs." There were several newer turners in the audience and for him to even suggest that that speed would be safe for them was astonishing.

But at that time the adage existed that - "The faster the speed, the better the cut." All I could think of was the damage the piece of wood could cause to your face if you had a dig in at that speed – even if you were wearing a shield.

I remembered this occasion when I was given a copy of the Teknatool Chuck Jaw Manual the other day. In it was a long and detailed list of safety rules that needed to be read and understood before using the chucks.

These included:-

- **Warning!!Excessive speed is a serious lathe hazard**
- **Examine wood to be used carefully**
- **Do not exceed maximum guidelines for wood blank diameter and length.**
- **Do not extend jaw slides beyond chuck body under any circumstances.**
- **Test the security of the piece thoroughly before turning the lathe on.**

The manual then goes on to give a maximum speed for each chuck.

- **50mm Jaw Set 1020rpm is not to be exceeded for any reason**
- **45mm Spigot Jaws. Do not exceed 684 revs (Maximum wood size 10" x6")**
- **100mm Jaw set. Do not exceed 700rpm**

Now I know that there will be many turners who think that you would have to be a bit of a pussy to always stay within these guidelines and I confess I mostly turn at just under 900rpm. But people new to turning would do well to follow the guidelines of the manual and keep speed relative to experience within sensible guidelines.

HDM

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 Sat following
Guild Meeting, 10am-12:30pm)

*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.*

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