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Cambium



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Meetings & Events

2 Oct	Carvers Group presentation
6 Nov	Furniture Group presentation
4 Dec	Christmas competition and toys
2019	
5 Feb	Demo session by Wood-turners Group
5 Mar	Greens Woodworkers Group event
2 Apr	Carvers Group demo
7 May	Wood-turners Group topic

Our Returned Presidents Corner

The past five to seven weeks have been very busy and involved time off-shore for three of us from the Guild. We are all very grateful to Warwick Smith, Eric Cairns and the rest of your Guild Committee for looking after the “Shop” while Alan Berry (Guild Treasurer), Peter Whitehead (Guild Secretary) and yours truly cruised around Norway.

The Norway Woodturning Cruise was a great opportunity for us to observe and get some one on one time with some of the worlds best. The experience, with fellow “turner travellers”, demonstrators and tutors were great. The Cruise vessel held approximately 240 passengers (mostly couples but probably upwards of 10 –20 singles). There was a great presence from NZ, thirteen in total (6 couples and one single), which is a significant number given the size of NZ (not counting the actual folk, as some of us had significant weight gains!).

Norway as a country is really very beautiful, great mountain ranges, massive fiords and significant farmlands in most of the middle to the Southern valleys. They are favoured with being an oil supply country which they have put to great use, to develop and maintain a roading and rail infrastructure almost second to none. Their bridges are massive and who else would have tunnels with cross roads and a round-about in them! Norway’s population is very similar to ours, their English is very good. Another of their primary export income earners is from their salmon farming and these are dotted right around the coastline.

As already mentioned above the woodturning and working demonstrations were great, and for the first time I had two opportunities to get some one on one/hands on gouge sharpening training (one was from Richard Raffan and the other from a chap employed by Sorby) The latter training was very relevant to me as I had purchased a “Pro Edge” at the Sorby demo here in Wellington. The other very practical training

I spent several hours at, was pyrography under the watchful eye of Cynthia Carden Gibson (another purchase on its way)! In addition, the little tricks and techniques picked up during the demos and tutoring have already been tested out in my workshop and I suspect we are about to see and hear from Alan Berry and Peter Whitehead regarding their experiences on this cruise.

Having three couples on the cruise from our Guild made for a great social environment. Our partners really need a great thanks for this as they ensured we attended what we wanted to and arranged a cabin for the drinks being “splashed about” and having nibbles available at 5:30 p.m. in the evenings prior to dinner at 7 – 7:30 (with dry ship and all)!

Yes, we visited the North Cape, the Whiteheads flew their kite at the top of the world and we managed to catch some ‘Northern lights” on our return from there that evening. Another of my personal highlights was selling a couple of wood-turnings to two international collectors! Peter Johnston

Lest we all forget; included in this issue are report on sessions at our last two Guild meetings. Someone requested we record these events, so hat we can recall & review the topics demonstrated. Hence we have Eric’s overview of treens with some safety tips to remind us all to be careful. Perhaps extending our scope of what we would consider timber - Hugh turned up with a lathe (perhaps a first in our meeting venue) to demo turning Pine cones as the sleeve for pens. A big thanks you goes to all those who have expended their time & expertise in contributing articles to this edition, and over the past years. What would you like to see in this space, or what can you contribute ? NC

Treens

Treens plus Health & Safety - The book Treen for the Table by Jonathon Levi was used as a basis of the side show. Examples of fine rose engine turning on ivory and dense African timbers such as lignum vitae were

made even before 1600. The level of sophistication is astounding, considering that these predate the industrial revolution and steel lathes by perhaps 200 years.

Mundane items from the shipwreck the Mary Rose which sank in 1545 reveal social history of the time. Platters and coopered tankards, dishes with carved initials (that could be used on both sides), The existence of master salts and small platters with cavities to hold salt indicated social order in the household prior to 1700.

The fascinating names of the various vessels sound very strange today. Some examples are listed below

English: Wassail Bowl, Lamb's Wool Bowl, Goblet, Mazer, Stirrup cup, Whistling, Posset, Beaker, Tankard

Scottish Drinking: Quaiche, Bicker, Piggins and Luggies

Irish Drinking: Lámhógs and Methers (or Maeddher), Negus strainer,

Cawl Spoon and Love Spoon, Punch Ladle

Rose engine turned goblets in lignum vitae (early and late 1600's)



Quaiches and bickers. The Bicker is straight sided and deeper. Note feathered joints between sycamore and alder, with willow bindings.



We have a plan to discuss **Health and Safety** for woodworkers at each meeting. The Green woodworkers practices, can inform us all.

It was emphasised that H&S in the workshop was not just common sense, there was an underlying structured process. The common sense bit relates to evaluating risk, for which life's experience provides the framework.

The structured process includes adopting a safety orientated culture, and taking active steps to identify and manage hazards

Look After Your Mates - is a tag-line adopted at some of the Menzsheds

Slips and Falls

This would have to be one of the most common accidents for older people.

As we age, our sense of balance, agility and reaction speed will get worse, but we tend to have an inflated opinion of our ability.

Learn from your near misses; touch the edges of exploration by all means but learn from the experience, in essence

Put BRAIN IN GEAR.

And THINK SAFE

Workshops: tidy the floor from power leads, string, marbles, sharps.

Don't place things where they can easily drop or fall over

Use a stable platform for climbing

The 4x2 Planning Process

Before beginning a new task (or unfamiliar task)

Take 4 steps back and think about it for (at least) 2 minutes

Plan each step: What am I about to do? What could possibly go wrong?

If you've had a near miss, analyse what went wrong and why. Devise a (simple) plan to avoid, mitigate or remedy the problem before next time round.

The role play photos illustrate what could go wrong using a foot stirrup to hold a workpiece, and how the stirrup could be easily redesigned to reduce the chances of tripping oneself up.



Turning Pine Cone Pens

As I said during my demonstration at our last meeting one of the things I really enjoy about woodturning is that you never stop learning – using new tools, new turning methodology, meeting new friends, going to Symposia and finding new things to create. While I am very cautious about the dangers of learning bad habits from demonstrators on YouTube I do acknowledge that there are things to learn – like how to make a pen from the core of a pine cone.

So what are the steps that you need to take to achieve an outstanding looking pen?

First carefully choose your pine cone. It must be closed. It should be as dry as possible and it must be firm. Lastly it must be the right size – long enough to suit the length of the pen barrel when cut to the desired shape on the bandsaw. Second cut to shape and correct length on the bandsaw. Easy to say but the shape of a pine cone does not make easy safe band sawing! Always use a sacrifice piece of wood to use as a support while cutting. Take extreme care during the first cut along the length of the cone as your hand has to be fairly close to the saw blade. Use a sharp blade!

The third step is to apply a coating of glue over the rectangular piece that you now

have using thin CA glue to ensure it soaks into the fibres. I probably overuse the accelerant to Pastensure the gaps are filled by the glue. Take care, and remember you need to **put the blank down**.

Once dry the blank can be drilled and the barrel glued into place. Next the blank is placed on the lathe and turning can begin. I am not going to be dogmatic about the tool you choose to use, but I always reach for a nicely sharpened spindle gouge to complete the turning



process. I wince when I see a roughing gouge being used! I turn past the depth of the first coating of glue, check the viability of the blank, apply a second coat of CA glue, use the accelerant and repeat the first process. I turn down to slightly less than one millimetre thicker than the bushes, if necessary re glue and then complete the sanding. Cutting from the “branch” end of the blank where the finer tightly packed grain is, towards the coarse ‘pointed’ end of the cone where it would begin to open, is essential. Fortunately the grain is easy to see on the blank so the cutting direction is obvious.

Take care with the sanding process as one side of the cone can be softer than the other if the blank has not been cut following the centre line of the core. I start with 180 grit and finish with 400 grit before using steel wool.

When sanding has been finished to your satisfaction the application of the surface layers of glue can begin. I apply about 10 coats, spraying with accelerant after each coat. Then I use the first 5 grits of the recommended micromesh, dipping each into water before use.

Finally I polish with friction polish to achieve the sought after glass-like finish.



Take the piece off the lathe and clean the ends using a suitable sized disc sander – I use a six inch sander and frequently check that the sanding table is correctly at right angles to the disc. Care needs to be taken to ensure that the barrel is kept to the required length. And now the pen can be assembled and admired.

Good luck! HDM

Turning Plus at Odlin's

There was an excellent showing of the fine quality of work turned out by the Guild during the exhibition at Odlin's at the end of July. A wide field of work was seen, from a good number of members.



A few people showed their work for the first time, having been a little cautious about doing so into the past; Hugh is pleased.

Good to see that Hartmut had some items that utilised the storm felled Monkey Puzzle timber that was thought lost to firewood, but later discovered in Upper Hutt.



The marriage of woodwork with the Odlin's photography group worked well, the visual juxtaposition of differing arts added to the visual feast; and Odlin's gallery was impressed - so well done a to all those contributing.



Furniture Group

Running sessions on 3rd Saturday have proved popular, with successive sessions on jointing for boxes. Initially we had a hand on session in making finger joints, then mitre joints with a sled on a table saw.

We have had a little project (well some of us helped) with Trevor to making document boxes for a local school. Alan's router table was wheeled out again (and modified) to form the finger joints.

Often it is the experience of techniques and kit that need rectifying or improving, that helps inform us all.

In our latest session we looked at curving cuts using the router, either by making template jigs, or special baseplate to the router. One wood magazine suggested drilling out and rethreading the baseplate to take larger screws.

There are a variety of replacement base plates that can be added to the base, such as cross-hairs to 'aim' the router bit, a centering plate, or a trammel to cut a radius.

One project in gestation, it to make a router table for use at the Menzshed. Design of this, is in the pipeline.



Denis's Tips

It is worthwhile adding a descriptive note of timber species to those bits of wood in the stockpile; then also on a completed piece - especially for those odd bits of rare exotic timber.

Michael has been drilling axles for mechanical models, which need to be perpendicular. It soon became obvious that the bench drill was not up to the job. Check the verticality (a new word) by putting a long drill bit in the chuck and use a square to check the table and drill are really at 90 degrees. You might be surprised.

Some tips for looking after your carving mallets, from Sam

a. The handle of a mallet is an individual part of the tool, depending on the user's hand size. When striking the carving chisel the handle needs to be held loosely in the hand, this prevents shock along the muscles and joints of the arm.

b. The head of the mallet should be round and tapered from the flat end (to stand up on the workbench) to the handle and concaved, this reduces flake-out. Where the handle fits to the head, the head should be under cut which brings the weight of the mallet closer to your hand.

c. Oil the head only, this helps to cushion the shock on impact and also protects the wood from breaking up (flake-out). White paraffin oil , olive oil & walnut oil are best as these are non setting oils.

d. Leave the handle untreated as the natural wood absorbs sweat from hands and remains pleasant to handle. It also takes on a good patina.

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Remember, if I cannot break it, no-one can!

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 (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.

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