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Meetings & Events

2019

1 October	Guild Meeting
5 October	Demonstration Naenae Menzshed
5 November	Guild Meeting TBC
	Pataka Opening
3 December	Guild Christmas Meeting
7 December	Saturday DEMONSTRATION DAY
	Naenae MenzShed. BBQ

2020

4 February	Guild Meeting
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EDITORIAL

In the past couple of Cambiums I have included information concerning Health and Safety issues that should concern us all. In a recent AAW journal an article on finishing products highlighted the dangers of the chemicals these usually contain. Sanding sealers and

Lacquers both contain substances that could have dire consequences if fumes are inhaled or the liquid /spray is frequently allowed to land on uncovered areas of skin. I use both regularly by use of a compressor and usually wear a mask in my workshop while doing so. I also have a large extractor fan to extract the fumes created when spraying.. But I know that when I am spraying the inside of a bowl a lot of blow back is landing on my face and on my arms. I admit too, that I am often careless and when giving a bowl a final spray I simply open the door and hold my breath and spray the piece while holding it my ungloved hand which is certainly pushing the safety margins. When trying to deal with dust I often turn on the extractor fan, stand at the doorway at the other end of my rather small workshop and let rip with a garden blower much to Ross Hardie's horror when he caught me doing it once. He described the distinct possibility of both of us landing down in the creek as a result of the explosion that would ultimately take place if I persisted with creating the dust cloud that was in front of him.

I still think of him when I do it and know that he wouldn't be impressed with my growing belief that if I did it more often it would be much safer as the size of the dust cloud would be smaller.

In the next issue of Cambium I will be discussing Bandsaw use and safety as this is one of the most misused machines in our workshop and many of us bear the scars resulting from that misuse. If you have any advice re bandsaw use or anything concerning Cambium content please email me.

HDM

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It has been a busy month. With our Treasurer away and Woodcraft looming the committee has been busy getting organised. We have Pataka coming soon and October looks even busier.

A few weeks ago I was contacted by the organisers of the Wellington Maker Faire with an invitation to have a stand. With such short notice I was reluctant to do anything but in the end I decided that we should give it a go and seize the opportunity to promote the Guild. The event is on Sunday 20October at Shed 6, TSB Bank Arena.

You can get all the details of what it is about from their website <http://wellington.makerfaire.com/>. We will be promoting the Guild at the Faire plus providing some hands-on activity. It was too short notice to organise demonstrations so I am expecting us to show off some of our decorating and embellishment skills. I would like some volunteers to help

out on the day for a few hours, either to chat with the public or show off some of your craft skills.

I have also been approached by the owners of Wellington Underground market to see if the Guild or any of its members are interested in having a stall. They seem to cater for both long term, short term and occasional stall holders so it may be worth considering for next year.

I need everyone to start thinking about candidates for next year's Committee. We will be losing several members at the end of this year and we are still short of a Vice-President. James will be unable to continue as our Webmaster so he is looking for an apprentice to take over next year. If you are interested please contact me or James. We will lose Peter, Richard and possibly Brian so please start thinking about who can step up and help. Without a Committee the Guild cannot continue to function. I have now experienced what it is like trying to function when only one key member of the Committee is away and we need all of the posts filled next year,

Cheers

Mark

The Michael Harrison File

Some Guild members may remember a presentation I gave some months ago about the making of gears for an orrery. Well the orrery is finished but it may need some final tweaking. The last job was the making of a lead weight to drive the mechanism.

I once made a turned wooden copy of a large sinker for a fisherman who wanted a bespoke shape; it was turned in halves, separated by newspaper so that it could be split in two for making a mould in sand. I thought I would do the same but looking at the technique on You tube it seems a lot of work. Being lazy I thought there must be an easier option

This is the technique I used...health and safety are a priority and so take great care not to be burnt, start a fire, or breathe in noxious gases. I wore overalls, safety glasses and thick gardening gloves.

I needed about 3.6kg of lead and I used some that had been donated by a Guild member - thank you Nick. The lead weight was going to be cylindrical so I decided to use a glass jar as my mould. I anticipated that the jar might

crack so I put it in a large old saucepan surrounded by cement powder...(I didn't have any sand).

Another old small saucepan, donated by another Guild member, thanks Megan, was used to heat the lead. In my well ventilated garage I booted up the Barbeque and put the pan on top. It didn't work! I realised I needed to get the saucepan nearer the flames so removed the grill and put the pan directly on the burners...take care! Eventually liquid lead, looking like mercury, flowed freely. When all the lead was molten and dross (rubbish) scooped from the surface, it was poured into the jar. The sound of cracking was heard but I had to wait until it was all cooled before I checked the weight. All was well, the glass had cracked, some fell off, some had to be levered off, but the surface was good. Problem -the diameter was just too big and it tended to rub on the orrery's frame.

The second attempt was better...a slimmer taller jar was used (an olive jar) – this time I wrapped the outside of the jar with masking tape to reduce the likelihood of glass breaking away and I used a ceramic planter to hold the jar in the cement. Make sure the jar is dry ...water and molten lead is dangerous. Another tip – my garage was well ventilated and the cold breeze on the second day seemed to slow down the melting process and I addresses this by using an improvised lid for the saucepan.

The lead weight looked good so I was one step closer to the completion of the project.

I wore overalls, thick old leather shoes, eye protection, a face mask and heavy duty gardening gloves. I advise anybody doing this project to do the same.

Lead's density is 11.34 grams per cubic centimetre, so if you need a 4kg lead weight you need 353cc. The volume of the cylinder is $\pi (3.142) \times r(\text{radius})^2 \times \text{length of the cylinder}$. If the radius is 3.5cm the length needs to be 9.2cm.

Have fun!

Michael Harrison

JEWELLERY BOXES

The focus of our September Guild meeting was Archie Kerr's presentation on making Jewellery boxes for his granddaughters. Archie has kindly agreed to allow me to reproduce the content here.

At the end of last year I was trying to think of what to give to a granddaughter for her upcoming birthday when I noticed a box in the Brown Sugar Café, Taihape, and thought it would be a good idea if I made one of my own. Happily her second name is Lily so I could work on that for decoration and could use an old Kauri doorstep I had been given for the required wood. I used some Rimu for a bit of contrast for the body of the box and, being lazy, kept it simple with butted corners, held together with the odd bit of PVA and some screws. My cunning plan was to cover the heads with a little plug (Tawa ones in a packet from Mitre 10) and I could use the top back screw as the hinge for the lid. Some thin pine from a supply at the Naenae Shed provided the bottom and also a lip around the



inside, partitions and a fitted tray that could be slid around and removed in the best traditions of jewellery boxes everywhere.

The next challenge was to ask Mr Google for a nice picture of a lily to which he responded with pages and pages of them. Once a suitable one was printed off, it was a simple matter to centre it on the cleaned up Kauri for the top and ensure it stayed in place by including one side of it in the vice with the wood. Using old fashion carbon paper, the design was transferred to the wood.

To allow for a raised carving, the background was cut away with a router, keeping the background level by leaving a lip around the edge.(Photo 2) As far as the carving itself is concerned the first step is to use a V-chisel to outline the leaves and petals, gradually increasing the depth and cutting away the wood from the surface of the outer leaves. This can be done in such a way as to have the edges of all the petals and leaves basically at



the same level but showing perspective as you get in a picture which is also flat. It helps to refer to the original picture to clarify how the petals relate to one another.

I use diluted Clearcoat from the Bodyshop in Petone as a sanding sealer and finisher (Photo 4). It can be brushed on liberally and dries in a couple of minutes.



Finishing the surface is a combination of using high tensile steel scrapers of a variety of shapes (mostly) and some 240 grit sandpaper (minimally). (Photo 5). The scrapers are magic for cleaning out corners and the bottom of grooves. The final finish is a few coats of the Clearcoat and a polish with Briwax. All that is left to do is insert the screws for the 'hinges' (Photo 6) ,

making sure there is enough clearance for the lid to open, and there you have a perfectly respectable waka huia.



If you have noticed that the flower in the box that was being constructed is a rose and the one above is decorated with some olives you will suspect the truth that I have five granddaughters and I still have one box to complete.

Archie Kerr

HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

FRACTAL BURNING

At risk of sounding or being repetitive I think it important to comment on the position of the NAW on this practice At the beginning of the year the America Association of Woodworkers stated that:-*“High voltage electricity is an invisible killer; the user cannot see the danger. It is easy to see the danger of a spinning saw blade ’It is very obvious that coming into contact with a moving blade will cause an injury, but in almost all cases a spinning blade will not kill you. With fractal burning, one small mistake and you are dead.*

This is true whether you are using a homemade device or a manufactured one.

There are many ways to express your creativity. Do not use fractal burning. If you have a fractal burner throw it away. This could save your life.”

Our National Association, NAW, has now decided to take the same line as the AAW. viz *“We cannot issue a blanket ban on the practice or prevent people experimenting in their own workshops but we can and will take the following steps:-*

- 1. The process known as fractal burning is prohibited from being used at any NAW-related events and activities (ie. Any events run by NAW and any events or activities supported financially by the NAW, including the supply of third party insurance.)*
- 2. The NAW will not feature fractal burning in Creative Wood...other than to warn against its use.*
- 3. The NAW urges member Guilds to publicise the dangers of fractal burning and to refrain from demonstrating or featuring the process in their premises. We also strongly suggest that individual clubs running competitions state in their rules that pieces featuring fractal burning are not accepted.*

Our Guild Committee will need to decide if it is to accept the National Association’s stance on Fractal Burning.

DEALING WITH DUST

This is a perennial problem – one that exists in most domestic workshops and, I suspect, a problem in many commercial workshops. Over recent weeks (more accurately months) the Naenae MenzShed management committee has spent a lot of time trying to address this problem. The Shed harbours eight wood lathes and an equal number of various types of sanding machines and several wood boring and cutting machines all creating varying amounts of wood dust that is not captured in any significant way. Dealing with the problem largely depends on the reliance on the user of each machine to clean up the dust and wood shavings after using the machine. Sadly this often does not happen and the dust becomes an ever present problem and threat to the health of all shed members.

Attempts to deal with the problem have been made in a rather haphazard way in the past and a fingers crossed reliance on various types of vacuum cleaners but it is now acknowledged that a larger and more effective system must be put in place. Graeme Ramsay's email outlining the solutions he has tried in his own workshop is a timely reminder of the difficulties we all face.

Graham writes: "Following on from the discussion on dust control at the AGM (Naenae MenzShed) recently I thought it might be useful to give some details of my own efforts over the last year to deal with dust issues in my single garage home workshop. In the process I have had mixed success, made some ineffective purchases and found out what worked and what didn't in my situation. I appreciate that the scale of the problem at the Shed is completely different from that of my workshop but here goes.

I now have four processes for dealing with wood shavings and dust:-

1. Manual sweeping up wood shavings and incorporated dust from the floor.
2. A 1800W bagless vacuum cleaner and a cyclone, purchased from Carbatec, which I use on equipment and surfaces to clean up small shavings and dust and as a final cleaning of the floor after 1 is completed.
3. The same vacuum cleaner and cyclone which is connected by a 50mm diameter hose to the dust collection ports on my bandsaw and stationary sander.

4. A compact ToolShed dust collection unit(\$329) mounted on the wall with a 100mm pipe fixed to the wall going to near where my lathes are. When sanding I collect dust from my lathes via a plastic chute (\$18 purchased from Machinery Warehouse).

I also purchased a larger chute complete with an articulated arm (\$14 from Carbatec) which supposedly would fit the lathe bed. I found that the telescopic connection only works for inboard turning and the connection to the lathe bed was generally unreliable. As a result I have made a pedestal from an umbrella base and a piece of dowelling with a platform on top to support the articulated arm. I move the whole arrangement between my lathes as required. I also found that my dust collection unit had insufficient grunt for the larger dust chute.



Cyclone & bucket

Dust collection unit

I have found that the above combination is pretty efficient. Previously I had tried using ordinary vacuum cleaners but found them too susceptible to

blocking when shavings were present. I had also opened the garage door and blown out the dust using a small Ryobi blower but I now find that with the above process I no longer need to do this. I have found that this dust collection system means I can sand on the lathe without needing to wear dust protection. However the system does not collect wood shavings. Now some things learnt the hard way. I bought the cyclone and kit (American made. \$300) which came with casters and other attachments to allow the cyclone to be moved around the workshop. I found the system pretty hopeless if used in the way the manufacturer intended and ended up mounting the vacuum in a 'cabinet' in the wall with the collector bucket beneath. If I was doing it again I would simply buy a cyclone from Aliexpress (\$30) and a 20 litre bucket (\$20) from Bunnings and save \$250. Similarly when I bought the dust collector I chose a compact low end version simply because of lack of space. It sucks a large volume of air but has low suction capabilities for dust and other detritus. I have found the vacuum/cyclone combination, however, to be very effective if used in the way I have devised."

Graham Ramsay

As I suggested earlier this is a problem that confronts all of us. If you have proven solutions to the problem or advice to give to those still searching please share them for inclusion in Cambium.

WHAT'S ON THE NET?

(A new and what is to be a regular feature supplied by Alan Berry)

Facebook, You Tube, Google, Safari, timewasters or sources of much needed knowledge? Hugh has asked me to share some of what I have watched. I will try and cover all the skills we have in the Guild but perhaps not in every Cambium.

Firstly sharpening tools and refurbishing planes, my suggestion is to follow Paul Sellars on YouTube – search for 'Restoring the bench plane.'

My favourite Woodturning site is Alan Stratton "As wood turns". Take a look at his latest project ... "Multi Axis woodturning."

Enjoy -feedback would be appreciated. **Alan.**

SUB-GROUPS

HUTT TURNERS - Coordinator: Denis Newton 9775650 977 5650
Naenae Mens' Shed, 1st Saturday after Guild meeting 10 am –12 noon
CARVERS - Coordinator: Sam Hillis 5297105 529 7105
Meeting at Naenae Mens' Shed - (3rd Tuesday 7-9 pm)
GREEN WOODWORKERS - Coordinator: Eric Cairns 526 7929 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.

Guild Committee

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

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