

# Contents

Meetings & Events	1
Editorial	2
Presidents Corner February 2019	3
The Michael Harrison File	4
My Workshop by Sam Hillis	5
Chris Hooton Demonstration Report	7
Central District Woodworkers Expo	8
Keeping Safe in our Workshops	9
Notice of AGM	11
Guild contacts .....	12

## Meetings & Events 2019

2 Apr	Guild Meeting. Carvers Group demonstration
4 April	Neil Turner demonstration. Tawa MenzShed
6 April	Garage sale. Naenae MenzShed 10am
7 May	Guild Meeting. Annual General Meeting Sell & swap
19 May	Manawatu Open Day
4 June.	Guild Meeting Fine Woodworkers demo
2 July	Guild Meeting Green Woodworkers demo
5 December	Pataka

## **EDITORIAL**

The failure of the projector meant that several changes had to be made to our March meeting programme. President Peter decided to give the four main groups an opportunity to discuss matters pertaining to their interests. As a woodturner I found this to be very worthwhile- we managed to set up a small group that will take responsibility for organising the central presentation of Guild meetings when woodturning interests will dominate, we discussed upcoming demonstration events organised by the NAW and other Guild events related to woodturning taking place later in the year. I hope that we will be given opportunities to repeat this format in the future. Another point of discussion was how to encourage more members to display their turning skills to the rest of attendees. One suggestion made was that an object be identified as something that had to be made and brought to the next meeting where they would be displayed and perhaps judged and top 3 be identified. This would be an interesting learning experience for all attendees, would widen the 'Show & Tell slot and could be fun. Some clubs already do this and have found the activity to be very successful. I know that there is a number of members who physically do little 'hands on' activities these days but maybe they can be encouraged to pick up their tools if the objective is not too daunting. I certainly believe it is worth trying.

### **Wellington Guild of Woodworkers' Award. Naenae College**

A letter from Jamie Macdougall (Naenae College Principal's PA) received December last year read:-

*"Thank you for your kind contribution to our students in way of a monetary award for our (2018) Prizegiving.*

*As you will be aware a very special young man called Le Minh Nhut Huynh received your award for being first in Mathematics with Calculus 301 and Mechanical Engineering 202.*

*His plan for next year (2019) is to go to Victoria University"*

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*What a shocking experience we had in this country of ours on Friday 15 March and I trust we never have the likes of this ever happen again in our homeland or elsewhere. Going forward I am confident that we as a nation will change, grow stronger and become united as one in this beautiful country of ours – in this respect I feel strongly the gunman has failed in that the incident has brought us together as a nation albeit in grief at this point but mourning in earnest together. My thoughts and prayers go out to all affected.*

*The Chris Hooton demonstration at the Tawa Menzshed on 16 March provided an interesting and worthwhile experience on woodturning from a slightly different perspective. Chris was in fine form – he involved the audience by encouraging questions and participation and left us with plenty of worthwhile tips for improving our woodturning. The use of chalk during the sanding process to help identify rough spots and troublesome endgrain being just one of the useful tips he imparted.*

*For those of you who have not yet been to the Tawa Menzshed I encourage you to do so. It proved to be a good facility for the Chris Hooton demonstration, is well located for those in the valley and at an interesting stage of development. The Guild was made welcome for Chris's demonstration and we are grateful to the Tawa Menzshed for making their facility available for Neil Turner's demonstration on 4 April.*

*With our Annual General meeting looming in May your Committee is in the process of fine tuning the Guilds' "Programme of Activities for 2019/20" and addressing the possible election of Committee members and I welcome Mark Wilkin's willingness to become our incoming Treasurer – thanks Mark.*

*The AGM in May sees my term as President of the Guild end and I have to admit the past couple of years, while being challenging at times, have at the same time been very satisfying. Several of your existing Committee have already signalled they are prepared to stand again BUT the challenge remains for us to identify nominees to stand for President. This is a 'must fill position' and I encourage you all to think about potential nominees to stand for this position. (Slightly abridged. Ed)*

**Peter Johnston**

---

## ***The Michael Harrison File***

### **RUST**

Rust is the never ending battle we have in a temperate climate, especially if the workshop is not perfectly sealed, ventilated and dry. My workshop is under the house, has a concrete floor about two metres wide but then changes to a bank of exposed clay which at its furthest point can collect a little runoff from the back patio area.

To reduce the inevitable humidity the working area of the space is separated from the rest by a long stretch of tarpaulin from a rafter to the floor. I have been advised that I should also place polythene sheeting over the exposed clay but, a) this is dirty work, b) parts of the subfloor gap are small, and c) I just haven't found the time or inclination to get around to it...there are far more interesting things to do in the workshop.

I have noticed that not all tools are equal in the acquiring of a patina of rust. I don't want to jinx things but my wood turning gouges do not seem to rust, whereas a set of metal callipers rusts if you breathe around them.

The bed of the lathe has a mild tendency to get a thin dusting of what I may call pre-rust but has been controlled by a quick swipe with some very fine sandpaper and then sprayed with Bostik Top Cote. As it says on the can, it reduces sliding friction and hang-ups and repels dirt and moisture; it dries in seconds and contains no petroleum oils or silicones. I have a draw knife that I rarely use but it has remained rust free after spraying it with this product..*(BTW I am not an agent for it)*.

I have a Stanley plane that has had a tendency to succumb to the dreaded brown patina and so a year or two back I decided to attack the problem in an organised manner. First I cleaned the plane and sprayed it as above. Then I decided to isolate it from the atmosphere by sealing it in a Glad Snap Lock bag, squeezing out as much air as possible. If you are really paranoid about rust you could include one of those moisture absorbing little sachets that come with some products.

There are many products for the treatment of a severe attack...a wire brush may be necessary to start with and then the application of your chosen rust removal agent. They are probably all toxic! However Coca-Cola works and is cheap and non-toxic in reasonable amounts. A removable tow-bar ball on my car had acquired a fair amount of rust but after three days soaking in a beaker of Coke much of the rust had remarkably disappeared. Coke is said to contain phosphoric acid. I did not drink the Coke!

I am sure you have your own methods of dealing with rust but for me the use of the Coke was something novel.

**Michael Harrison**

*Tow bar balls before & after the coke treatment*



## MY WORKSHOP

by Sam Hillis

### *Workbench design*

In my opinion, and after much trial and error, a carving bench ideally should have weight, strength, rigidity and solidity to avoid any rebound from the action of carving. Also, the design should allow for various jigs and other items to be bolted or clamped in place for ease of use.

The bench I use is made up as follows:-

- Height 960mm.
- Top 575 mm wide x 520 deep, made from a triple layer of 18mm sign plywood. A slot through the middle of the top, and overhanging all edges allowing g-cramps to be used.
- Legs: 80 x 65mm set at a slight splay.
- Bottom shelf: to give stability to the bench I make a slotted shelf to hold a 20 litre container of water and a short length of railway iron.

Fitted to one long side of the top is a 59 Record wood working vice. To the opposite side, set lower and braced with aluminium angles, I bolt my adjustable carving support. To give me a comfortable working position for carving while standing I have set this at my elbow height.

I also have various jigs, supports for carving, and a grinder which all fit into the vice and again all set at elbow height.

I find this bench great for carving as I can work from all sides. It is also able to be used for general woodworking. As my workshop is on the small side I can easily move the bench to allow me to use longer pieces of wood. The size allows it to be transportable to various locations.





*(I am often impressed with the amount of thought that has gone into the workshops of woodturning/woodworking friends. The "I wish I had thought of that" or "I wish I had room for that" kind of reflection happens quite often. If you are pleased with what you have set up in your workshop and would like to share your ideas please don't hesitate to send me an email with pictures. Ed)*

# CHRIS HOOTON DEMONSTRATION

(Tawa MenzShed Saturday 16 March)



Chris chose to demonstrate the making of an almost flat 'branch' bowl made from timber cut the previous day. But the piece was almost incidental to the main purpose of the demonstration which was almost certainly to clearly show all the methodology used to achieve a superbly crafted and finished piece. While there quite a few "yes but" thoughts passing through my perhaps 'narrow' mind I could not deny the determination Chris displayed to achieve an exhibition quality piece and all the things he had put in place to ensure a seamless process.

In a later discussion with fellow participants comments such as 'Very enjoyable,' "Very personable" and "very sharing" came to the fore. Things that they seemed prepared to adapt to their own needs in their own workshops were:-

- A small 'salmon' tin placed on the lathe head to hold oil or possibly a small glue container, held in place by a magnet lying on the bottom of the tin.
- Velcro sheet placed on the side of the lathe to hold pieces of sandpaper being used in the finishing process.
- Grind of tools colour coded.
- Use of builders' chalk to check standard of finish. With piece stationary wipe chalk dust onto piece using hands and any imperfection is clearly indicated. Chris then uses the Beall buffing system to achieve an excellent finish
- Use of thin pliable plastic ruler to measure curved surfaces. He grinds the ends to instant measurement starting point.



- The use of Earls “Wood Hardener” to deal with areas of softer wood.
- How to sharpen a negative rake scraper.

Thank you Chris, your demonstration was much appreciated. And thanks to Richard, James and Alan the camera crew who did a first class job making sure the audience missed nothing. Now all we need to do is make sure we can provide a quality sound system.

HDM

---

## **The Manawatu Open Day Sunday 19 May (Now called the Central Districts Woodwork Expo)**

Confirmation has been received that this event will take place on Sunday 19 May at the Palmerston North Showgrounds, Waldergrave St, between 9am -3pm. This event is organised by the Manawatu Guild and has been an annual and popular event for all of the 25 years it has been held. The Wellington Guild has featured prominently over those years particularly in the selection of “Best Table” where 10 pieces of work produced by our members, (no more than 2 pieces from an individual member) are on display on the suitably decorated Guild table. We currently hold the trophy which we won last year. The team woodturning competition is made up of a team of 6 turners from each of the 9 Guilds taking part. Three members from each Guild turn in the morning and the other three complete the competition in the afternoon. No sanding or measurement is allowed – high quality is expected straight off the tools used.

There is a Scroll saw competition and other activities testing the skills of competitors. The ability to spend money is very high, a wide variety of tools etc and wood is available for purchase. There will also be a wide range of high quality Raffle prizes to be won.

A major change this year is that there will be a door charge of \$5 per person.

It is a very enjoyable day and I thoroughly recommend members to make an effort to attend.

---

## **KEEPING SAFE IN OUR WORKSHOPS**

Yesterday I read an article in a recent AAW magazine written by Lynne Yamaguchi, an American turner who was severely injured when a badly cracked piece of wood she was turning blew apart and a large segment hit her in the face. She knew it was dangerous, she was turning at a suitably low speed, had been using duct tape to help prevent what happened and had already turned 12 pieces safely. But a phone call interrupted her and when she returned to the lathe she decided to turn the lathe on again just to have a look. She did not put her faceshield back on and she decided that the 1200 rpm speed was OK just to have a look.

All the bones in the left side of her face were fractured – it took four titanium plates to reconstruct her face. The bone at her temple was pulverized. Her eyelids were split through and hanging loose Her iris ruptured so her pupil is permanently blown. Her eye does not drain properly so tears spill constantly and she has had six subsequent surgeries to help protect her sight and to maintain the reconstruction of her face.

Now she turns with a wire guard over the workpiece, she often wears a riot helmet and always a half face respirator. Incidentally she learnt that the faceshield she was using would not have prevented facial damage as the level of protection provided by the shields used in the States was comparatively low compared to those used in Australia and New Zealand. She is very keen for other turners to learn from her misfortunes and I applaud her for that.

We live with constant dangers in our workshops – sharp tools, sharp machinery, electricity, the dangers of fire, dust inhalation, wood toxicity, splinters in our eyes, damage to our hearing, increasing age and lack of concentration, falling and hitting sharp objects and things flying from our lathes and tablesaws. We use CA glue and we all know what happens when we stick our fingers together. But are we aware that the C stands for Cyanide and that a dust mask should always be used when sanding any exposed CA glue? Even inanimate objects such as a toolrest presents a danger as I learnt to my cost when I hit my head on the sharp corner of a toolrest and had to have six holes drilled into my skull to release the pressure of the subdural haematoma that had resulted. Fortunately I only have an obvious dent in my scalp which is a constant reminder how important it is to ensure that toolrests are tucked away. I have described to other audiences how I nearly set my workshop alight because shavings from a blunt Forstner bit had ignited and my attempts to douse them with

a fire extinguisher had blown burning shaving all over the floor. I have made two trips to the nurse for stitches, one after I had got the side of my hand too close to a moving bandsaw blade and the other when I stabbed myself with a box knife when I was tired and trying to finish the fifteenth box I had to make that afternoon. And I consider myself to be safety conscious and I try to teach others how to work safely! So from the same AAW magazine here, in no particular order, are a few tips that bear repeating:-

- Check the condition of your chucks. Are the hex screws that attach the jaws to the body of the chuck properly tightened and all in place?
- If you are about to switch to reverse turning are the required grub screws in place? (And when you go to remove the chuck from the lathes have the grub screws been loosened or is it your first instinct to reach for some sort of jemmy bar to help remove the chuck with force?)
- Thoroughly inspect the piece about to be turned for cracks and the depth of those cracks. I was once given a quite large piece of 'green Kauri' and when I put it on the lathe I chose what was going to be top and bottom, placed it in the chuck and began to turn. I was quite happy with the shape I was achieving but soon learnt that my main achievement was to have cut away all the solid wood down to a deep crack when the piece blew apart. One half hit and permanently dented the whiteboard on the wall on my left. The other half flew across my workshop and embedded itself in a wooden cabinet. ( I turn outboard for a reason!)
- Learn the proper/designated use for all tools. For example never use a roughing gouge to turn a bowl.
- Always check the lathe speed before turning on the lathe. I have watched in disbelief when students have put a relatively large blank onto the lathe and turned on the lathe which immediately begins to move across the floor before it can be turned off again.
- Know what you are buying, that its fit for purpose and of proper quality. I have been surprised and concerned on a couple of occasions when new students have purchased on Trade Me what looked to be a homemade lathe and what looked like homemade tools including files turned into scrapers!
- Learn to stand to one side – never put yourself in direct line of fire!

(To be continued)

**GUILD OF WELLINGTON WOODWORKERS**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL**  
**MEETING** to be held on 7 May 2019 at 7:30 in the Naenae College  
library.

**AGENDA**

**Apologies**

**Approve minutes of 2018 AGM**

**Receive the President's Report**

**Receive the Annual Financial statements**

**Appointment of Auditor**

**Election of Officers**

**Notices of Motion**

**General business**

**Peter Johnston**  
**President**

**Nominations for the Guild's Executive and for Committee members should be received by the Guild's secretary Peter Whitehead prior to the AGM as should any Notices of Motion.**

## 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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
	Richard Holt	563 5270
	Mark Wilkins	021 428 187
Webmaster	James Ginnane	021 562 741
Library	Dave Winthrop	386 4268

---

Cambium Editor	Hugh Mill	5692236
	<a href="mailto:wood.shavings@xtra.co.nz">wood.shavings@xtra.co.nz</a>	

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

*Articles covered by legal 'Copyright' may be used by other woodworkers' Guilds, Clubs or groups, but please acknowledge the source.*

© **Guild of Woodworkers, Wellington Inc.**