The Woodcrafters

TAURANGA WOODCRAFTER'S Guild NEWSLETTER

Issue 252 March 2013

Website; www.taurangawoodcrafters.org

In This Issue;

TWCC Committee;

President;	Peter Seaton	576 8083
Vice President;	Mike McCarthy	575 2991
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Workshop Manager;	John Harrison	544 1950
Wood Person;	Mike McCarthy	575 2991
Building Manager;	Doug St. George	573 8399
Webmaster;	Rob Smith	5769652
Committee;	Roy Tregilgas	574 7405
	Stephanie Simpson	544 3194

Club Meeting; 3rd Saturday afternoon of each month 1.00pm at our Clubrooms.

Clubrooms; 16 Yatton Street Greerton Tauranga.

Correspondence ; P.O. Box 9270 Greerton Tauranga

***Secretary* E-mail;** Geoff Warth; gep@kinect.co.nz

Club Website; www.taurangawoodcrafters.org

Next Meeting; Saturday 20th April. 2013

Group on duty; Group Two Woodturners

Demonstration-Speaker;

Ponderings of the Month

Over the past few weeks I have been working on the multi-media, inter-active, walk-through display at Bethlehem Baptist, Bethlehem, telling the Easter Story in a new modern and thought-provoking way. If you are looking for something to do over Easter I would thoroughly recommend it.

A few of our members are currently not well. Could I encourage you to hop on the phone and give them a call? It is good to hear that Barry's eyesight is returned to about 50%

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."
~Booker T. Washington

We appreciate Group 5 donating a new scroll saw to our guild, and of course we are looking forward to our scroll saw workshop next weekend. If you have not already registered there is still time. Our thanks go to Jacob for donating the proceeds of his pattern sales. The Toy Group has done well in producing and selling the Mah-jong boards.

The demonstrators at our last meeting were interesting, especially Gervase Evans with his new honing tool. We thought we would put his donated tool on a silent auction, so come prepared to bid to our next meeting.

Please consider who you would like on your committee and nominate them for consideration at next month's AGM.

Anyone thinking of a holiday in Australia? Remember the Timber and Working with Wood Expo in Brisbane on the 17th to 19th May. I am planning to be there. All the details are on the web.

"A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words."

Peter

MEETING REPORT

Members in attendance; There about 26 members present at our main meeting, with 3 visitors.

New Members;

Home Show; The Guild will have a stand at the Home Show 18th to 20th October to promote our exhibition to be held 15th to 17th November

Yearly Programme Planner;

Woodcraft Classes for Home School Students;

BBQ; There will be one at Bunnings Saturday 24th August, and one at Mitre 10 Saturday29th September. So much for me reporting that there was to be one each fortnight!!! It appears that these were the only days left not booked.

Raffle; The raffle was won by Charlie Schnell.

AGM; Will be at the April meeting. There will nomination form in this Newsletter you can fill in for the committee for the coming year. If there are any members you would like on the committee, please fill it in and hand it in before the next meeting. All the present committee have indicated they will stand again.

Critique; There were only two on the table today, and Doug St.George commented on them.

Guest Speakers; we had two guest speakers today, Gervase Evans a Cabinet Maker from England, who talked about and demonstrated his new honing jig for honing a good sharp edge on wood chisels, plane blades, and even the hand power planners. He said he found it was difficult to get a good straight edge on wood tools, and developed this jig, which works very well and was quick to use. It is selling in England and the USA, and Gervase is travelling through New Zealand with his wife, promoting his product.

Our second speaker was Rob Smith, one of our members and he talked about ;

Discovering clocks via a scroll, saw by Rob Smith

I started my woodcraft adventure just over two years ago, by making bonsai display tables for my wife. After having made 20 or more I started to get bored and decided to be a little adventurous, embarking upon some jewellery boxes, music boxes and making a clock case into which I simply inserted a 31/2" 'fit up' quartz movement. This I found a good challenge but after making half a dozen or so, I even got bored with making 'fit up' clocks and decided to have a go at building a complete wooden geared clock movement.
After completing this first project decided I would never do one again, because of all the frustration involved - until Guild member, Derek Kerwood unwittingly set me the challenge by speaking of his making a wooden geared clock as a tutoring project - apparently neither his students or he, ever got one to run. I asked him if he still had the plans, which he kindly mailed to me. I scanned the photo copies and put them onto my computer where I was able to 'true' up the sketches well enough to make stick on plans for cutting the parts on the scroll saw. I thought I had done a reasonable job of building the clock to plan however, I could not get the original design to run either.

What you see is actually a departure from that original plan because amendments to the plan were necessary (as history

actually records) and in my view to get it to operate reliably, and to be a reasonably accurate time keeper.

Given that this clock plan was a replica of a design from the 15th century, I thought is may be helpful to do some research on the history of clocks and thereby understand the reasoning behind the various design concepts.
According to history, in years past, time passed with little or no urgency, owning a clock was an indication of prosperity rather than a commitment to punctuality.

The first mechanical clocks were thought to have been developed by monks from central Europe in the last half of the thirteenth century, they did not have pendulums. Neither did they have dials or hands. They told time only by striking a bell on the hour, problem was of course that unless you were watchful you were never sure which hour of the day the clock was striking. Years later clocks started striking the actual number of the hour. These early clocks were very large and were made of heavy iron frames and gears forged by local blacksmiths. Most were placed in church belfries to make use of existing church bells.

The theory behind timekeeping can be traced back to the astronomer Galileo. In 1580, Galileo, observed a swinging lamp suspended from a cathedral ceiling by a long chain. As he studied the swinging lamp, he discovered that each swing was equal. Later he found this rate of motion depended upon the length of the chain. In 1640, he designed a clock mechanism incorporating the swing of a pendulum, unfortunately, he died before actually building his new clock design.
In 1656, a Dutchman named Christiaan Huygens (Hi Gans) incorporated a pendulum into a clock mechanism. He found that the new clock kept excellent time. He regulated the speed of the movement, as it is done today, by moving the pendulum bob up or down - up to “speedup” the clock and down to “slowdown” the clock.
Christiaan’s invention started man on the quest to accurately track time with mechanical instruments.

Small domestic clocks with faces and dials started to appear by the first half of the fifteenth century. By 1656, a weight-driven clock much the same as Derek's plans from the 15th Century, but with the addition of a pendulum such as ultimately fitted to his plan became popular in the homes of the very wealthy.
These early clocks were made by local gunsmiths or locksmiths.

Early clock movements were mounted high above the floor on shelves because they required long pendulums and large cast-iron descending weights - another lesson I learnt from another bad experience was that the clocks, of these designs did not run for very long - this one for about six and half to seven hours only, with a 2 metre drop - once I started looking into it I found that to overcome this now very obvious drawback it was not unusual in those far off times to mount the clock in the highest sensible place in the house and to then cut a hole in the floor to allow a longer weight rope. These early clocks were simple mechanical works, some now with a face and hands, however designs soon became more complex due to all the obvious shortcomings, one such being the rope length.
To get over this problem I needed to at least double the run time and did this by doubling up the length of rope and that is why when you have a close look at this contraption you will see that I have made a myriad of alterations and additions in order to end up with a clock that keeps reasonably good time albeit still has to be wound morning and night for continuous operation.
Tall-case clocks, evolved from these early wall clocks. They were nothing more than wooden cases added to hide the unsightly pendulums and cast-iron weights.
The man who made the greatest developments of mechanical clocks was John Harrison who was born in Yorkshire, England in 1693.
John was a mechanical genius, who devoted his life to clock making. He accomplished what lsaac Newton, known for his theories on gravity, said was impossible.
John learnt woodworking from his father, but taught himself how to build a clock, making his first clock in 1713 at the age of 19. lt was made almost entirely of wood with oak gears. In 1722 he constructed a tower clock for Brocklesby Park (in North Lincolnshire UK). That clock has been running continuously for over 270 years.
In 1714, England offered a reward (approximately 12 million US dollars today) to anyone whose method proved successful in ultimately measuring longitude. Such a device was desperately needed by navigators of sailing vessels. Sailors during this time

were literally lost at sea as soon as they lost sight of land. John Harrison, felt longitude could be measured with a clock.
During the summer of 1730, John started work on a clock that would keep precise time at sea. In five years he had his first model, It weighed 75 pounds and was four feet tall, four feet wide and four feet long.
His method of locating longitude by time was finally accepted and he won the prize. It took him over 40 years.
Today, his perfect timekeeper is known as a chronometer.
In the Nineteenth Century, Grandfather Clocks were made in quantity and became more affordable. In the early days, almost all clock cases were made by local cabinetmakers. Other firms that specialised in clock works fashioned the wood or bronze movements.
Wooden movements were abandoned around 1840 and 30 hour brass movements became popular. They were easy to make and relatively inexpensive.
Spring-powered movements were developed soon after.
Nowadays most clocks use a quartz mechanism such as all these examples (see photo) and even many Grandfather clocks still use Quartz movements with some having a separate electronic unit to swing a mock pendulum, just for looks - these may also have electronic chimes. They are very accurate, running in most cases for 1 1/2 to 2 yrs. on one cheap alkaline battery.
Weight driven, mechanical pendulum clocks, particularly ornate Grandfather clocks are still made and it is as though time has gone backwards since they are once again more of a status symbol than owned for time keeping purposes.

Over the years the short coming's of the wooden components of these mechanical movements were overcome (as I have done) by replacing simple high friction wooden bearings with PTFE and miniature ball races.
Obviously the problems of excessive movement in wood can be reduced by using ply or in this case I remade the frames from MDF and covered them with veneer. Derek's clock originally only had an hour hand and I have added a couple of gears to drive a minute hand and a second hand off the end of the escapement wheel.
Friction is the major enemy and in order to reduce these problems to a minimum, early clock makers sourced woods of type to do a particular job. One such wood called ‘lignum vitae’ or guayacan (now a protected species) is slightly greasy and thereby self lubricating. John Harrison used it for all his bearings and many of his gears.
To mostly overcome the problems of warping gear wheels and wear in gear teeth, seasoned timbers such as quality oak were used and later baltic birch plywood became a popular choice.
Obviously with a gear of such diameter you only need the slightest off set from the shaft (pinion/arbor etc.) to cause binding and the clock stopping - to get over the problem of wooden gear shafts, I drilled out the centres of all my wooden shafts on my engineers lathe and then pressed 3/8” aluminium rod through the centres and in some cases drilled into each end of the aluminium and further inserted 3/16” brass rod to marry up to miniature ball races to overcome all the problems associated with the original wooden shafts.

My first (John Randall design) skeleton clock has now been running continuously for many months and one can observe the advancing or retarding of the time keeping with changes in the weather - it may run slow and get up to 8 minutes late but with a change in the weather will catch that up again and start advancing - 8 minutes is the largest error I have ever seen - generally only a couple of minutes either way.
Derek’s clock has run continuously at home for about three months, being wound morning and night - its quite noisy but you sort of get used to it. It can also gain or lose several minutes a week, dependant upon temperature and humidity.
Making wooden geared clocks is not for the faint hearted IMHO. Now that I have proven to myself my ability to eventually produce a ‘realtime’ working machine, I certainly have no desire to continue making them since at best they are a conversation piece ornament and at worst the cause of severe frustration.
I am indebted to the brilliant minds who have unwittingly shared their wisdom with me on my clock journey, John Randle, John A Nelson, Derek Kerwood (and those many early mechanical pioneers too numerous to mention) And to guild members, such as Jacob, Ian and Mike and others who have shared their ‘woodcrafting’ knowledge.

Thanks Rob for your wonderful and informative talk and this copy of your talk also.
Selby West

What's on;

Group one; Woodcarvers. Clubrooms. Monday 8th April. 9.30 at the Clubrooms.
Contact Ivan Watchorn Ph. 07 308 7914

Group two; Woodturners. Tuesday 9th April 1.30. contact Seth Douglas Ph. 576 5815 Contact Seth Douglas 576 5815

Group three; Woodturners. Saturday 6th April at the Clubrooms 9.30 am. Contact Jim Reilly Ph. 577 9574

Group four; Woodturners. Tuesday 2nd April. Contact

Group Five; Scrollsaw and Intarsia. Wednesday 3rd April. 9.30 am Contact Laureen Tubby Ph. 5720104

Group Six; Toy Makers. Saturday 13th April. 9.30 Tuesday 23rd April. 6,30pm Contact Roy Tregilgas Ph. 574 7405

Group Seven; Night Shift. April.3rd and 17th, Wednesday Nights. 6.30–9.30 pm Contact Roy Tregilgas Ph. 574 7405

Woodcraft Classes for Home School Students; Wednesdays. 3rd and 17th April. 1.30pm
Contact Doug Ph. 573 8399

Main Meeting; Saturday 20th April. 1.30 at the Clubrooms.

SCROLLSAW WORKSHOP. Saturday 23rd March. Tauranga Woodcrafter's Guild Clubrooms. Registrations close on 3rd March. Registration forms available on Club website

www.taurangawoodcrafters.org or from Laureen Tubby Ph. 07 572 0104 or e-mail ltubby@xtra.co.nz

Tauranga Woodcrafter's Guild Annual Show; 15th to 17th November will be held in the Mt. Maunganui Sports Centre, Maunganui Road, Mt. Maunganui.

Taranaki Woodcraft Festival 2013 11-12 May; 5th Bi-Annual Festival. Contact Gordon Oliver Phone 06 752 0700

e-mail gordon@clear.net.nz

From the Editors desk;

We have had some welcome rain in the last few days, but we could still do with more. The country side has became very dry, with no rain since Christmas. This Newsletter will be going out a bit later, as Roy Tregilgas as just had a new hard drive put in his computer, and was having problems in sending his report. Roy was able to get his computer sorted and sent me his two reports so that was great. As you can see the Toy making Group has decided to have a night session once a month too, so we can get more toys made.

Selby West.

Group Reports

Group One Woodcarvers; 2nd Monday 9.30am

Another gathering of cheerful carvers again this month. Once more it was capped by the inclusion of David and the three McQuoid youngsters. It was great to have David to join in his family's enthusiasm. They are really embracing woodwork, with Caleb leaning towards, turning; Calena , scroll sawing at this stage, while Zane favours all facets available to him!

In the meantime, Alan's tuatara is shaping up very well and should be impressive in its finished state. Tom is working on a 'crest', while Ivan has somehow managed, along with all his preparation work for learner carvers and other commitments, to start working on a Angus Bull and Heifer, Harry brought along a slab of Fiddleback Red Beech, calling for ideas for maximising the potential of this interesting piece of wood. There were a lot of ideas (not all suitable for publication!), but nothing decided. He also working on a Black Maire clover leaf. In general, everyone is making steady progress and having fun along the way!

This Week's Howler: ' Clouds just keep circling the earth around and around. And around. There is not much more for them to do' (Produce rain perhaps?)

Jean Crabtree for Ivan Watchorn. Phone 576 9011

Group Two Woodturners; 2nd Tuesday 1.30pm

Ten of Group Two met at Mcfall's business settlement at Hocking Street, off Hewlett's Road, Mount Maunganui, on Tuesday 12th March, 2013. many thanks to Syd Duncan for arranging the Venue and afternoon tea. We had a marvellous afternoon outing, with Morris McFall showing us old engines and olden machines, huge tractors, etc., all done up looking sparkling brand new. Anything that had rusted away, such as fuel tanks and radiators, Morris made them to fit. All the tractors, about a dozen, all had brand new tyres, which is a huge cost on their own. His Museum would have to be on of the best. There was a 1911 Vertical Hit and Miss Engine, International Harvester Co., Chicago. A Mogul Engine (IH) 1956 Petter Diesel. Lanz Bulldozer tractor, Ford Ferguson 1929 tractor, Chamberlain tractor, John Deere, etc. etc.,

They were all in working order and our proud Morris Mcfall started every one of them up for us, even to drive in and out of the storage area. We are most grateful for all Morris had done for us on the day. Not forgetting Morris and Hilary's son Bryce, who is a paraplegic, and is confined to a wheelchair. Bryce demonstrated to us how he gets into his big car on his own, still in his wheelchair, and into the driving position, locking the chair etc., in just a few minutes. Bryce also has a big modern Campervan, with access from the rear, and goes through to the front and locks into the driving position. It is amazing what he can manage on his own. Morris and Hilary also have a big modem Campervan. Morris showed us his 2 big American cars, 1978 Cadillac and Pontiac.

We meet again Woodcrafter's Guild Clubrooms on Tuesday 9th April 2013 at 1.30pm.

Seth Douglas Ph. 576 5815

Group Three Woodturners; 1st Saturday 9.30am

Group Three meet at the Woodcrafter's Guild Clubrooms on Saturday 2nd March 2013.

Jim Reilly showed us how to he sands, polishes, and finishes his creations. His sanding pieces are coloured, which donates the grades and are set out in order, already for the swap over disc's, each time. Jim also makes a very good wax polish of his own blend. Whilst Jim was sanding, Rob Thomson mentioned that the very fine dust was rising from the lathe, up towards Jim's face. Rob mentioned he has a puffer and has a solution of saline (salted water) and puffs that into the nostrils, which cleans out any dust that has clung to the hairs. John Harrison brought some of the tools that he had, made to show us, and how, and what they had been made from, which where extremely good to use. He had also made a tool handle with a Jacob's chuck, so that he can change blades with using the keyless chuck, to change over.

Saturday April 6th 2013 is our next meeting at the Woodcrafter's Guild Clubrooms at 9.30 am

Seth Douglass for Jim Reilly 5779574

Group Four Woodturners; Tuesday 5th 1.30pm

Twelve members came to the Clubrooms this month, Mike Buck showed us a circular coffee table he is working on. He gave us an excellent description of how he had made it, and what he had learned along the way.
The project involved drawing a full-scale plan, laminating the curved parts in pine with a Rimu face, then joining these to form two circles. Then there was some clever work with a router and a jig, to cut a circular rebate, and fit the bottom shelf.

The same jig will be used to cut the circular top. Mike showed a number of router cutters and how he had used them, also some jigs he had used and gave a good explanation of biscuit jointing.

Thank you Mike for a very interesting afternoon.

Group 4 meets in the Clubrooms on the first Tuesday of the month. Doug St.George Contact John Adnitt 576 9130.

Group Five; Scrollsaw and Intarsia; Wednesday 3rd 9.30am

We had a very good attendance at our March meeting, with nine scrollsaws in action. We welcomed Japie Volschenk as a visitor, and hope that he will be joining our group. He joined in with our learners, Mike, and Lew who were busy getting familiar with their saws. Russell had completed his fretwork wheel barrow, and was working on a garden seat to sit a doll on. Roy is working on another intricate fretwork picture. Rob brought along the clock that he had been working on the day we visited his workshop, for us to see the finished article. Barry had an intarsia bird with a coloured picture background, and Jacob a musical jewellery box with inlaid roses on the lid, he had "sand-burnt" the petals on the roses which made them look very realistic.

Some time was spent preparing for the afternoon session with the Home School Group. Most of our members stayed behind and made their scrollsaws available for the children to use and assisted with their supervision.

Our next group meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd April, commencing at 9.30am. Please bring your lunch. A reminder to members that the Home School Group will be arriving at 1.00pm for their session.

SCROLLSAW WORKSHOP

We have seven people from out of town joining those registered from our club for our Scrollsaw Workshop on the 23rd . A reminder to Guild members that we will be setting up the clubrooms ready for the workshop on Friday afternoon, and that the Workshop lasts for the full day on Saturday, and that the Guild equipment will NOT be available for casual use by Guild members during that time.

Laureen Tubby Phone 572 0104

Email ltubby@xtra.co.nz

Group Six Toy Makers; 2nd Saturday 9.00am

The toy group has decided that the once a month Saturday is not enough time to much achieved so we have decided to include the 4th Tuesday evening of each month as well. we will be meeting at 6-30pm through to 9-00pm. If you are fed up with the rubbish that is on TV come along and join us, it is a good hands on time.
Sorry my write ups are very short this month but I'm pushed for time at the moment and the editor is hassling me.
The April meetings are Sat 13th at 9-00am and Tue 23rd at 6-30pm
Roy

Group Seven Night Shift; 1st and 3rd Wednesday night 6.30-8.30pm

Still very quiet but we are trying to remedy that. We have even lost Ian for a while due to ill health but I'm sure he won't let that stop him for long. We look forward to seeing you back soon Ian. I think it might take a promo in the paper to see if we can pick up a few new people that have to work during the day, I want to keep this group going as when I worked full time I found it impossible to get along to meetings especially when you work in retail. Weekend and public holidays off? you must be joking.
Our meetings for April are the 3rd & 17th at 6-30pm. See you then.
Roy

Woodcraft Classes for Home School Students; Wednesday 20th March 1.30-330pm

It was a very busy scene as 21 children along with a good many parents, came to our first class on 20 Feb. Each of

the youngsters was able to have a turn at both the Lathe and the Scroll-saw; and to take something home from each. They all enjoyed it, while the four Guild members present were run off our feet.

Fortunately there were only eleven at the second class on 6th March, and with about eight tutors it was much more manageable. Some of them are really getting the idea on the lathe, and are ready for something more advanced. I also had time to observe some of them at work on the scroll-saws; some are very deft, with a steady hand and a sure touch.

Thanks to all the Guild members who are giving your time to this enterprise. Our third class is this week, Wed 20 March.

Doug St.George.

Building Report;

Nothing to report this month. Doug.

Rob's first wall clock he made which he had mentioned in his talk.

Some of the clocks that Rob Smith had on display which he had made