



Garry Webber's Manaia - Carved from Curly Beech on a Curly Beech back board.

Presidents Report

This year seems to be going by so fast. Nice to have passed winter and to find the workshop a bit warmer to work in. From the sounds, a few people are turning their minds to what decoration or gifts they can make for Xmas.

Interest in the club continues and it is great to welcome Alex Holland, Joel Kearney, Rachel Jenkins, Tracy Bourgeois, Gareth Wallace, Chandan Choubey and Brendan Coneglan as new members. We have a few more potentially in the pipeline.

I know a number of our members have put their creative endeavours into this year's NAW Art of Wood competition, so it is pleasing to be able to announce that we will have Tref Roberts NAW President coming to us on Sat 18th Oct (normal Guild monthly meeting time) to show us a number of the pieces and possibly bring some of the creators to talk about there work. Current plan is fully set up by 1:00 and presentation starting 1:30pm, fellowship and time to view in detail after that. We are inviting nearby clubs from Whakatane, Rotorua and Waihi so they, like us, get chance to physically see the creations and hopefully be a source of inspiration to entering in the future

The club remains in good heart.

The other week I turned around and saw Louisa giving the facility floors a hot mopping. Really appreciated and reminded me of two things - (1) how important it is for us all to ensure our cleaning covers more than the workshop area and (2) how our club has so many people are great and stepping in and just making things like that happen. I think challenge for the rest of us is to begin to step up and share the load. So if you think something looks like needing cleaning / tidy up please put a bit of time in and share the load. Little often keeps the effort smaller.

All our workshops are reporting high attendance rates which is positive. Thanks must go out to our team leads willingly who give their time to guiding safety and helping people learn appropriate techniques and how to best use our equipment.

Our novice turners class identified a need to spend more time on the lathes "creating shavings". They proactively have arranged to have a couple of evenings a month under safety supervision from an experienced hand (thanks Roy). At this point it is a targeted opportunity with numbers matching lathes. But it's great to see people wanting to make good use of facilities and opportunities, particularly where it better connects opportunity for those still in the workforce.

Installation of the extra vices are much welcomed by the carvers. Unfortunately we are having to buy another new blade for the Scheppach - careless / incorrect use so we need to keep working on training and education.

We do have a problem though - we keep finding recycled timber and painted timber appearing in the Container. While people may be prepared to use such at home, as a club we have previously determined that we do not want to take the risk of nails etc or painted wood damaging our equipment. So please bear this in mind if you do bring some timber either for the club or for your own creations. Those inappropriate pieces take effort by someone to dispose of - even filling the bin costs us

Keep creating and bring your pieces along to show and tell.

Regards Paul



Turners Update

We have a couple of creations by a new member - Tony Blatchford - to show everyone this month.



Carvers Journey's in July

The Carvers express our appreciation to the Guild for the new Bandsaw and also for the additional vices which have been installed on the carving benches. With the number of new carvers continuing to grow, it is very helpful to have these extra vices installed.



Garry's Manaia carving features on the front cover of this newsletter. John Harrison has been experimenting with Nadia's decorating technique using gold leaf size and coloured mica powders to enhance a Tui carving. Sandra (participating member of the Geoff Brann school of shoe carvers) has a new boot to show off. Phil has been carving seaweed for his nephew using curly beech. Ken was showing off a carving vice of his own design.

Barwick has been carving an owl and started a leaf carving using curly beech. Frazer has completed a Maori

figurine. And finally to note that our latest beginner carvers (Alex and Chandan) have started working on Cat carvings.





Scroll saw Group

June searched the net for new challenges and came up with five scroll projects: the face profile of the Lady, the cat, a really nice dog, interesting presentation of butterfly's and the schooner.

The final picture is Jacob's latest Chateau design version of one of his musical jewellery boxes.



Thursday's Multi-Purposes Group

The Group continues to attract members (some new) who find the flexibility of being able to access the entire range of equipment without detracting from a specific group's scheduled activities. Eighteen members attended the workshop on September 18 with a full range of activities either undertaken or preparing timber for a group where it will be used in coming days. All the heavy cutting equipment was employed to dismantle logs, create joinery and craft timbers while lathes and scroll saws were also in action. Close supervision by leaders Mike and Roy focuses on safety, fair sharing of high use equipment and project advice.

Star Feature

Recently, an excellent article about **Mike Buck** appeared in the "Our Place" magazine. The article was written by Cira Olivier, and the photographer was Christopher Duff. We have included a pdf copy with this September 2025 Guild newsletter - it makes an excellent read.

OCTOBER 2025 CALENDAR

Carvers	9.30am	6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
Saturday Carvers	9.30am	4th
Turners	9.30am	7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
Thursday - Openworkshop	9.30am	2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
Scrollsaw	9.30am	1st, 15th
Saturday - Openworkshop	9.30am	11th, 25th
Guild	1.30pm	Saturday 18th

DUTY ROSTER

October	Art of Wood
November	Scrollsaw
December	No Meeting
January	TDA

GUILD DIRECTORY

President	Paul Glenton
Secretary	Mary Norris
Treasurer	Margaret Dekker
Committee	Colin King
	Kent Leung
	Mark Bennett
	Leeanne Troughear
	Garry Webber
Workshop Maintenance Coord.	Mark Bennett
Wood Officer	Michael McCarthy
Caretaker Supplies	Leeanne Troughear
Newsletter Editor	Phil Hansen (Interim)
Librarian	TBD

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Carving a



Wooden Path

Words by Cira Olivier Photography by Christopher Duffy

Give Mike Buck a block of wood and he will turn it into a masterpiece.



Mike Buck's Pāpāmoa home is cozy. The radio plays quietly, the couches are large and comfy, and there's a mix of woodcraft, resin relics and family photos decorating the living area, study and bedroom. You wouldn't be alone in mistaking the detailed wooden ornaments, the gorgeous coffee tables and the perfect cabinets for being factory-made rather than made by Mike's self-taught hands.

Though he'll be sure to tell you they're not perfect and there's always something to improve on. He's modest about his work and suggests it could be hereditary. "I chased our family history and back in the 1700s there were carpenters in the family."

His garage has been transformed into his "little workshop". All his tools, current projects, and storage are tidily in their places and he spends "quite a bit" of time here. Mike and his wife Reywyn's electric scooter and wheelchair fill the remaining space and he laughs as he says the couple, married for more than 60 years, love racing each other in them.

His latest project is an excavator displayed on

his dresser, with detail down to the grooves in the tracks, the tiny gear sticks and pedals. "I quite like that one," he says quietly.

Their study has his desk with completed projects, like immaculate jewellery boxes and chopping boards almost too beautiful to use, on one side. His wife's desk on the opposite side is filled with the intricate tools and supplies used to make her colourful resin crafts.

You'll quickly pick up that Mike isn't someone who can sit still, with a mind that's both creative and analytical. His 86 years, most of which have been in New Zealand after immigrating from the United Kingdom by himself at age 17, have so far been carved by hands that know no limit.

He's had to chop down trees and make things like fence posts when he worked on farms, unable to just run down to the shops. He's done it all, from making moulding tools associated with the music industry and teaching himself to weld, to dabbling in designing knitting patterns for his wife's knitting

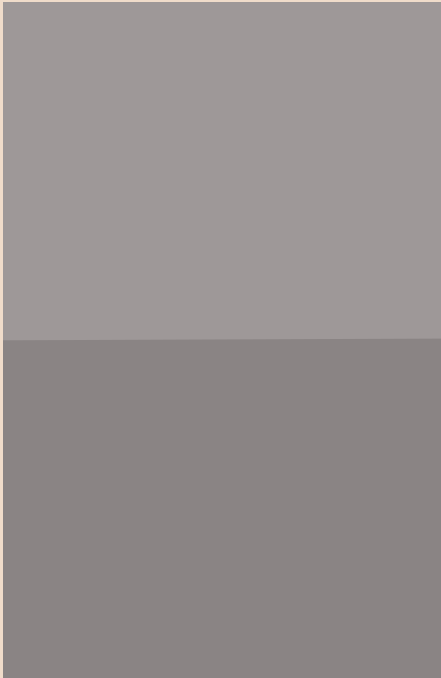
“Sooner or later, I think, the younger generation will start to appreciate the old craft.”



Opener: Mike Buck. ↑ Reywyn’s desk is filled with the intricate tools and supplies used to make her colourful resin crafts.

machine at home, and designing and making tools for high-frequency welders at a clothing company. He’s always been drawn to wood. He and his wife became regulars at the markets when they lived in the Wairarapa, with his analytical brain quickly noticing hundreds of stalls specialised in one thing. “I thought, let’s work on a broad-based pyramid system,” he says, and he made as wide a variety as he could while still working full-time. Soon they were being invited to markets around the country, leaving at 4.30am in his little van filled with his woodwork. He did “lots” of commission work over the years, with word-of-mouth being his advertisement, and keeping the work coming in on top of whatever full-time job he had at the time. “I’m always looking for improvement. Some people are happy with the same-old... if I can see how I can change it, that’s what I’ll do.” The couple moved to Tauranga in 2011 and Mike became a member of the Tauranga Woodcrafters Guild straight away. It turned into more than a hobby when, pre-Covid, a group of them

started working with primary school kids after being approached by social workers to help with those who weren’t academic and “getting into trouble”. Each term, they’d meet with a group of six, often reserved, students and work on projects with them, with a different school each term. They called themselves the grandads, Mike says with a smile. When they’d meet for the first time, Mike, who led the group, would joke they were being lent a grandad for the term but had to promise to give them back. He soon realised it would be a lot more beneficial if each child had the same grandad each week to build a relationship and rapport. “It broke down lots of barriers.” The students, aged 8 to 12, would create a range of things like toys and stools, and Mike remembers, “as soon as they got to work with their hands, they’d really shine”. All while creating a strong bond with their borrowed grandad, coming out of their shells as each week passed. Soon, Mike says, they realised it wasn’t as simple as troublesome kids.



Everywhere you look in Mike Buck’s home, there is a mix of woodcraft, colourful resin crafts and detailed wooden ornaments.

Mike and Reywyn Buck have been married for more than 60 years.



“It really opened your eyes.” There were a lot of problems like kids sleeping on floors or parents in jail. Children were at serious risk of slipping through the cracks, he says.

Parents and schools told them the programme was helping with behaviour issues and shifting attitudes at home and school. Some kids would wait outside their school office before the teachers got there, ready to be taken to see the grandads, Mike remembers fondly.

At the end of each term, the students would beam with pride and their newfound self-confidence at a lunchtime showcase of their work for their parents, teachers and social workers. On the surface, there were some impressive crafts. Looking a bit deeper, you saw young lives being etched with love, hope and understanding.

This went on for five years but ended suddenly when Covid struck, which Mike says was devastating. “We all decided that perhaps we couldn’t continue because of our age. It was a shame.”

It became a safety issue, with children catching colds and potentially passing it on.

Unable to give up sharing the passion, Mike is a member of the Tauranga Woodcrafters Guild, co-running the open workshop and equipment training.

It’s a bit of everything, but with mostly retirees.

He helped initiate the open workshops on Wednesday evenings and Saturdays too, to create a space for people who worked to come in and give the craft a go; a real mixed bag of people with a keen interest and “a lot of ladies”. It still runs, though he’s pulled back to just Thursdays after suffering a mini-stroke earlier this year – a challenging time for someone who can’t keep still.

He smiles as he talks about filling his time playing Mahjong, woodwork, and a 3D Temu puzzle clock of an owl. The other days at the workshop offer more specialised groups: Woodcarvers on Mondays and the first Saturday of each month, woodturners on Tuesdays, and scrollsaws on the first and third Wednesday each month. He nods slowly when contemplating whether it was a dying art, but smirks with his eyes as much as his mouth, saying he thinks it will shift. “Sooner or later, I think, the younger generation will start to appreciate the old craft.”

He says young women have started picking up traditional handcrafts like knitting, sewing and crochet when they “realised it was going to be gone forever”. He thinks the same will be the case for woodcraft.

taurangawoodcrafters.org

AD