# newsletter of the tauranga woodcrafters guild inc.



This "limited edition" truck made by Sandra is my pick of the month. Made for her great nephew, the plans are only used every 30 years. A troy to be treasured.

## Presidents Blog

The year seems to have gone by quick. The Guild is in good heart; finances in a good state; lots of new members; amazing creativity coming out from the various workshops. Thank you to the Committee and the Maintenance Team for making this happen.

Our last major event of the year is the Xmas function that is on from 12:00 Sat 29th Nov wet or fine. Sausages and onions will be on the BBQ. Please bring a plate - salad or desert to share. BYO drinks other than normal tea and coffee. Outdoor chairs for your comfort. Hoping the sun hats and sunscreen will be the order of the day

We've just had the last guild meeting for the year and our next one will be in February. Interesting talk by Ron Wallace-Wells of TreeWorkx, Matamata on aspects of sanding - personally I had a number of takeouts. Ron seemed to be kept busy at his sales table. For those that missed the opportunity, as Ron doesn't use a website. I have put a printout of his catalogue up on the notice board.

At the Guild meeting I raised the issue that we were needing to replace guite a number of the woodturning gouge tips. The current tips are less than 5 years old and in practice should have had twice as much life in them. The cause of this rapid deterioration is freehand sharpening. Given how much we have already spent on bandsaw blades this year the maintenance budget is running tight so I sought and was given approval to spend up to \$400 additional to the budget. But we still need the tips to last longer so it was unanimously agreed that the go forward rule is that all the club's









turning tools MUST be sharpened using the TrueGrind system we have. If you don't know how to use it ask for training. We will add some colour coding to the tools to make it simple for people to know what grind angles. If you want grinds other than the club ones please bring your own tools.

Our thoughts are out with Jean Crabtree and Derek Kerwood and their families at this time.

Wishing you a safe and happy festive season from the committee and maintenance team. We look forward to see your summer creations on the February show and tell table..

#### Regards Paul

#### The Derek Kerwood Project



As several of you are aware, Derek is seriously unwell, but managed to have sessions with a combined group of turners and carvers to handover a project, which he has been doing for Ballance since 2003, to make their sustainability awards for 11 regional and 1 national winner each year. Derek designed the actual award plaques and has been replicating 12 of these for Ballance for the last 22 years. It involves a combination of offset turning and carving skills. During November, Greg Taylor and Phil Hansen

attempted to make a trial plaque following Derek's guidelines. We also managed to show this to





Derek while he is still with us, and get his assessment / approval of our efforts.

#### **Turning Group**

Last day for turning will be Tuesday 18th Dec; restart on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

#### **Carving Group**

Our last Carving day for 2025 will be December 15th, and we will resume on January 12th 2026.



Jon Weaving recently went down to Nelson and attended a carving course at the Centre for Fine Woodworking (the project was to carve an acanthus leaf). Jon told us how impressed he was with their ultra professional setup and approach. Offering everything from 2 day courses right up to full-time 9 month programs, the school is internationally recognised and attracts both students and tutors from around the world.

Meanwhile back on the Homefront, our learner carvers have been painting their Santa carvings (thanks to Nadia for the valuable instructions), John has completed a 3rd Tui and coloured it using Nadia's mica powder

technique, Chandan has "nearly" completed his cat carving, and Jon completed an abstract of his own design.

Phil has been working on a wall hanging for the Waipuna Hospice who are seeking to hang a Gratitude tree on a wall inside the entrance. They plan for families to

to
be able to hang metal leaves on
the wall around the branches
engraved with names of their
former patients for remembrance.











#### **TOLO**

An exhibition and sales of members work opened at The Old Library Omokoroa at the beginning of November and will end on the 29th November. SunLive had an article about the exhibition in their newspaper on Friday 14th. The Guild expresses thanks to Greg and Cathy Taylor and all the members who provided work for the sales display.







#### **Scroll saw Group**

The group has been depleted over the last couple of years with two members passing, two moving elsewhere in the country and some personal health issues.

The decision to commit to operating weekly rather than fortnightly hasn't seen the weeks fully supported, however the additional option is appreciated. June's dog pics, Gavin's train and Jacob's racehorse were feature pieces displayed at one of the workshops. The complexity and detail of the Gavin's train is incredible and the rotation of the winder to mobilise Jacob's horse gives the operator a glimpse of the complex planning and construction required to produce such a smooth operational model.







### **Woodcraft Workshop (previously "The Thursday Group")**

The Mike and Roy led Woodcraft Group continue to attract solid support with 12 to 15 attendees each Thursday. Diversity of activity continues with major use of the heavy equipment preparing more material for use within the other activity groups. A real advantage is the ability of members with no experience in using the large machines being able to have expert wood preparation undertaken for them or trained by experts to begin the process of being able to undertake the task themselves. Turning, carving, scrollsaw and other craft and building activities are also undertaken.

Roger's bow tie jewellery box and Garry's working ukulele have been two standout pieces produced recently within the group. (Garry's shirt was worn especially for the photo!)







#### **Beginner Carvers**

The beginner carvers have finished meetings for 2025. Their next meeting will be on 7th February 2026.



The first group project for 2026 will be to do a sculptural carving of a ladies face. The intention is to slowly take people through the steps and help everyone to accomplish this project. It will be a little more challenging than the earlier projects, but achievable. If we have any new members who are interested please contact Phil Hansen through the club email tgawoodcrafters@gmail.com you are very welcome to join the group in 2026.

#### Jean Crabtree

As many of you know, Jean is seriously unwell and in hospital. Jean is a wonderful empathetic lady, and has been a marvellous contributor to the club for decades. Seen here sitting alongside Jacob and Derek at the last AGM, Jean enjoyed woodcarving. Her walking stick was made for her by the Guild's carver's for one of her "significant" birthdays. Jean enjoyed participating in the

Guild's shows and running poker work wood burning sessions with children at the shows.



#### **Derek Kerwood**

The Guild has many new members, who will be unfamiliar with the art work that Derek Kerwood has produced over many decades. Famously, grumpy about online woodart competitions & the injustice of judges who re-categorised some his entries in the Kawerau WoodSkills competition, Derek also liked to fool his audience by reconstructing offset turned pieces in different arrangements. So, I thought I would conclude this newsletter with a series of photos of this work to celebrate Derek's achievements, and to provide inspiration to others.















#### **DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR**

Carvers	9.30am	1st, 8th, 15th
Saturday Carvers	9.30am	None
Turners	9.30am	2nd, 9th, 16th
Woodcraft Workshop	9.30am	4th, 11th
Scrollsaw	9.30am	3rd, 10th
Saturday - Openworkshop	9.30am	13th
Guild	1.30pm	None

#### **DUTY ROSTER**

January	 TDA
February	 TDA
March	 TDA
April	 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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