



Jon Weaving has finished carving his first sculptural head using Camphor wood

Presidents Blog

Time has flown by and the Guild's Financial Year rapidly is rapidly approaching at the end of March

At the February General Meeting it was unanimously agreed that the Guild's machinery is not to be used by non member; so that means if you want to use machinery in April you need to get on and renew your membership - subs and safety declaration forms (hardcopy forms are available in the clubrooms)

Our AGM will be held at 1:30pm on 18th May 2026. So it is time to get in your nominations in for the Officers - President, Secretary and Treasurer and a minimum 3 others for the Committee. It is also important to confirm our Maintenance Officer. For the Guild to operate we need to fill the positions of Officers. A nomination page will be put on the noticeboard and remember the nominee must sign that they are willing to take on the role.

I have just come back from the Participation event run by SAWG. It showed me how much talent is out there and a real engagement to share knowledge. NAW (National association of Woodworkers) was one of the key sponsors. I reflected on how NAW helps clubs like ours - it provides structured training guidance; training opportunities: help to clubs to hold major events like Participation but also organises Public Liability Insurance which we are reliant on. You also receive Creative Wood, a quarterly magazine currently edited by our own Phil Hansen. NAW membership



is only \$52 each year and TWG has to pay a \$12 affiliation levy for non NAW (we recover in our subs scale), but I people would encourage to join NAW. You would be joining an amazing network of knowledge.

You will all be aware that we have spent a lot of money repairing bandsaws this years - on a number of safety aspects beyond blade replacement (which in its own right has cost a lot). This has started me considering whether we need to reinstitute appropriate training and sign off processes. I keep hearing far too many comments about unsafe use and dread the day we have serious injury as a consequence of not taking training seriously enough. We seem to be the rarity among clubs in our approach to this. This will be a key topic for discussion and decision in the near future.

Happy creating.
Paul Glenton
President TWG

Group Activities

Carvers

The new carving group and many of the regular Monday carvers have been trying their hand at a sculptural carving project.





Woodcrafting Group

The Woodcrafting Group continue to be very active with new members joining and enjoying the diverse range of group activities.





Openwork Shop Group

Bill Wilson runs the Openwork Shop on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month and is planning to shortly start a group project for everyone to make a Cape Cod chair. This will be an excellent project and will introduce everyone to the safe use of the different equipment required to make the chair.

Contact Bill if you are interested in participating.

Turners



ChainSaw Carving

Members who attended our March Guild meeting were treated to an engaging discussion on chainsaw carving by Wolf and Nadia de Kremer.

Wolf explained the differences between a “conventional” chainsaw, used for felling trees and cutting timber, and the sharper-nosed carving bars used by chainsaw carvers. He noted that he personally uses only Cannon Carver bars (from Canada) on his Stihl battery-powered chainsaws, as Cannon are world leaders in carving bars and offer the widest range he has found. Kickback is a significant hazard when using a top-handle chainsaw. As Wolf put it, “the last thing you may ever see is the blade kicking back towards your head.” For this reason, he strongly recommends using a rear-handle saw for chainsaw carving, as it provides better leverage to counter kickback.



Wolf also discussed chains, chain pitch, and tooth profiles for different uses. He pointed out that the chain on a carving bar should be set with less tension than for general firewood cutting. This helps minimize friction, heat, and wear, and prevents shortening the life of the carving bar—particularly important given the tighter radius of the sharper nose.

Nadia explained that she begins each carving project by roughing out the basic shape from a log using a standard chainsaw. Once the form is blocked out, she switches to a carving bar for more detailed work. She typically uses three chainsaws with different bar tip diameters—starting with a larger tip for shaping and progressing to smaller tips for fine details, such as fur on a wolf carving. She also noted that Stihl battery life is



typically around two hours during her carving work.

APRIL 2026 CALENDAR

Carvers	9.30am	6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
Saturday Leaner Carvers	9.30am	4th
Turners	9.30am	7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
Woodcraft Workshop	9.30am	2nd, 8th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
Scrollsaw	9.30am	1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
Saturday - Openworkshop	9.30am	11th, 25th
Guild	1.30pm	18th

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	TDB
Librarian	TBD

DUTY ROSTER

April	.....	Sat. Openworkshop
May	.....	AGM (Turners)
June	.....	Scrollsaw
July	.....	Thurs Woodcrafters
August	.....	Carvers
September	.....	Sat. Openworkshop
October	.....	Turners
November	.....	Scrollsaw
December	No Meeting
Jan-27	No Meeting
Feb-27	Thurs Woodcrafters
Mar-27	Carvers

CONTACT US



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Duty Roster Responsibilities

- Catering : Tea / Coffee a few snacks
- Seating. : Set up and put away
- Talk, Demo or Guest speaker

Advise the President two-weeks before so it can be advertised for interest.

Reflections on a Weekend Participating - Paul Glenton March 2026



I have been getting back into turning the last couple of years. Retired now I finally have a place that allowed my lathe to be taken out of storage after 25+ years (without a separate workshop the house boss didn't appreciate the dust flowing into the house and had put here foot down)

A few people had mentioned that I should go to Participation, but the descriptions I received were a bit vague as to what happens there. This year lined up so dates didn't coincide with granddad duties so I committed to go - three days at Camp Adair - bunk house, basic food and 46 others

Arriving on the Friday to a well set up hall - but gaps for lathes yet to arrive. Quick briefing -

basketball size plus - equipment filling the place then into it. Apart from meals and raffles, time was mine to do with what I will. There were a few common projects you could work on - wig stands, butterfly box and children's toys - for good causes, but you also had the chance to get a proverbial best in class acknowledgement in end of show judging - nothing like a bit of friendly competitive spice after all. There were other potential categories to enter into as well such as - functional, decorative etc. The quality of what was on the table at the end was amazing with 70 or so pieces to feel and admire

While it was great to have the opportunity to have 3 days workshop time (8am to 10pm)



the real benefit for me was the ability to meet a cast of all types, with a common interest being turning or sculpting wood - many were creatively doing a combination of both. Taking time to wander the floor, observe, ask questions and get to know some new people is the real benefit of the weekend for me. Many skilled old hands willing to give advise and guidance but many novices as well who were just as inspiring with the standard of work they are already creating. Demographically it was well mixed male and female and probably a 60+ age span. Experience wise 1 mth to 40+ years. People from Northland to Canterbury definitely spanned the country. All up if I couldn't get



inspiration here I would have to give myself some serious talking to.

There was Paul Baton hollowing forms with ease but so willing to share knowledge. Emma showing such artistic flair for design, colour and pyrography. Grant taking a perfectly good bowl and patiently creating a lattice design - interlaced roots or coral but definitely eye catching. To one side Patricia was making carved wood pendants and someone else carved a couple of bone ones - thankfully they took that smell outside to do the main bits. Using Temu sourced stencils caught my attention as I cant draw to save myself - so there could be support as I explore decorative opportunities. Surprising only a few pieces flew off the lathe even though people were often trying new things



I have had in the back of my mind trying a bit of carving and decorative work to add that little bit extra to my pieces. Seeing others doing this has made me realise it is actually less of a risk - just a matter of getting going and being patient

All credit must go to SAWG for a well organised, and for me very fruitful event. I know they have been doing it for years - since Dick Veitch was a young man (it was suggested that was when he stated retrieving logs post Noah's flood) - but each year still takes planning and a lot of effort - so well done and my personal thank you for the opportunity to the whole team who made it happen. My estimate was about 4 - 5 woolsocks

of shavings created.

Did I learn things? thats a definite yes!
Did I enjoy the fellowship? Another definite yes!
Did I grow at my own pace? Another yes!

And the critical questions -
Would I do it again? A definite yes!
Would I recommend that others take the opportunity in future? Most definitely!

If you've done the basic training this is an ideal opportunity to progress reinforce skills and learn new things in a very supportive environment - and the price is very fair - though it would pay to plan to a bit of cash to hand for raffles, wood purchases, tool and sandpaper acquisition is handy. The event was clearly well supported by a number of sponsors, suppliers and NAW

Now my eyes are open I have a much better idea what the various events are doing around the country so just maybe I can organise myself to get to some of them

Paul Glenton
Tauranga Woodcrafters Guild.

Newsletter Editor

We need a member to takeover as the Guild's Newsletter Editor at the May AGM. I have continued doing the newsletter in an interim role ever since Jenny Bowker left the Guild in 2024. Please talk to me. Thanks - Phil Hansen

Thank you for your support!



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