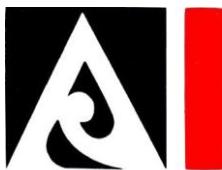


SPLINTERS

NEWSLETTER of the Christchurch Woodturners Assn. for Oct-Nov 2010



Aoraki
Polytechnic



Christchurch
Woodturners
Association Inc.

Coming meetings

- October:** Tonight we are being shown a simple "Ornamental Jig" being used by Keith McFadden. This will be followed by Pat Jordan showing us some of the bowl collection turned by Marcus Dawkins, a recent member now living in Havelock.
- November:** Norm Wood, a very recent graduate in the Aoraki "Certificate in Woodturning" will be tonight's guest turner.
- December:** This will be our annual pre-Christmas meeting. Keep the first Thursday of December free and remember to bring your wig stand for the inaugural Jim Dunford trophy competition

Show table

The topics for the next three meetings will be:

- October:** Something that can be worn as jewellery; e.g. ear rings, brooch, pendant etc.
- November:** A handle. Yes, the competition is for the best handle, regardless of what is on the other end of it. This is your chance to put into practice the ideas Rick Bolch put across at the September meeting.
- December:** Please bring a wig stand for the Jim Dunford Trophy competition.
Also bring your best piece of 2010 for a non-competitive display table.

We meet in the # 1 lecture Theatre of the former College of Education, now part of the University of Canterbury, Dovedale Avenue, Upper Riccarton on the **FIRST** Thursday in the month at 7pm.

There is also a "Hands On" meeting in the Technology Room at Cobham Intermediate, Ilam Road, on the **THIRD** Thursday of the month at 7pm. The next Hands On meeting is on Thursday 21st October. Bring along your problem pieces for help or guidance.



Congratulations! We can confirm that Robin Cheng won the People's Choice prize at the recent 2010 Australian woodturning Symposium in Brisbane with one of his wooden hats. Congratulations Robin on a wonderful effort!

Have you checked out our web-site lately? www.woodturning.org.nz

Meeting Report, 5 August, 2010

Pat Jordan read out an email received from John Ryan who was in Vietnam on his project assisting people in Hoi An.

Safety talk Noel Graham pointed out that ladders and chainsaws were incompatible for all but professional arborists. For everyone else, no chainsaw should be used above shoulder level. Apart from the risk of losing control of a chainsaw while up a ladder or having a branch fall on the ladder, there is also the risk of falling onto objects on the ground or adjacent fences.

Tonight's **Demonstrator** was Judy Harrington, who showed us another method for embellishing wood surfaces, such as turned ware, which could be decorated with patterns, or flat surfaces on which pictures could be created. She demonstrated the techniques for burning designs into wood using a hot wire -- a process known as pyrography, (formerly called pokerwork).



The modern apparatus consists of a small transformer which plugs into the mains power, and a wire burning-tip which is mounted on the end of a comfortable handle, connected by a flexible cord to the transformer. The transformer has four sockets on it, a black (common) and three red sockets which supply different voltages. These allow the wire tip to be heated to different temperatures to suit the work in hand.

The tip is made by doubling a piece of half to 1 mm NiChrome resistance wire and bending the ends into loops about 3 mm internal diameter, then shaping the wire so that it fits on to two screws at the end of the handle. The screws must be fully tightened to prevent the wire from moving and also to prevent heating at the junction -- the handle can get uncomfortably hot otherwise! Several such tips may be interchanged, depending on the nature of the wood surface, and on the fineness of the lines required.

Judy showed us how to produce a picture on the surface of a piece of MDF. The design had first been transferred to the surface of the MDF using a sheet of carbon paper, and she said it was most important that the design not be moved until the entire picture had been transferred. Also she emphasised that the carbon paper had to be black -- blue was quite unsuitable as it leaves ink residues on the surface wherever it is pressed.

Judy had on display a number of portraits and landscapes she had copied in this way, and had then burned on to sheets of MDF about 9 mm thick. The surface of some of these had been finished with a thin coat of beeswax.

She demonstrated how to burn a picture of a salmon (which had already been transferred to her workpiece with carbon paper). She showed the technique of making lines dark -- by repeated light strokes of the hot tip over the line (three to five times) -- and of shading an area uniformly -- by patiently repeating light strokes over the area. The burning should be done in a series of strokes, starting lightly, building up pressure, then releasing pressure gradually at the end of the stroke. Because the burning process is likely to be a lengthy one, it is essential that the wrists are supported above the level of the work. She uses a rolled-up towel, placed on the near edge of the work surface.

To ensure that a picture looks realistic, one must take note of where the original was lit from, to ensure that the highlights on the picture are correct. The highlight on an animal's eye is a particular case, and is best achieved by lightly and carefully scraping away the burned surface over the chosen area, using the sharp edge of the corner of a new Kraft knife blade.

Some points Judy made are:

- Don't put sealer on MDF before burning;
 - Sand MDF lightly before burning;
 - If working on a bowl, turn it upside-down and invert the image;
- She recommends working with the arm straight; it is too tiring otherwise.

Judy uses a wire-tip machine made by Delta Manufacturing in Ngaruawahia. They are available for about \$180 from Hands Ashford in Normans Road.



Showpiece Tonight's Showpiece was to be an item made for use in the kitchen. The winning item was a set of three lidded boxes, with the lids from a contrasting wood. These had been made by **Keith McFadden**.

Meeting Report, 2 September, 2010

Show and Tell Jack Jordan showed his superbly made segmented hollow form. Dennis Monte said that he expected to get access to a source of olive wood if anyone was interested.

Safety Issues. Noel Graham talked about bandsaw safety. He told us that ACC statistics show that bandsaw accidents are the leading cause of amputations in New Zealand, and that 90% of these occur when the bandsaw is slowing down after being switched off. Other accidents occur as a result of using blunt blades. A pushing stick should always be used for feeding wood into the blade.

Vietnam. We had a talk from John Ryan, who had taken a lathe and tools to Vietnam in July. He had pictures, which he screened, of the lathe set up in the Vietnamese village of Hoi An, and of the work the students were producing. Hoi An is a World Heritage site 30 km south of Da Nang. The trainees using the lathe had many different abilities, and disabilities, including polio and amputations. Their workshop was set up in a 4m x 4m shed. The able-bodied were employed in the adjacent store, selling the items produced to tourists, etc. English language speakers were not common, but the students were learning. Temperatures were in the mid-thirties and humidity levels very high.

Items currently being made included ball-point pens and handbag mirrors. John thanked all who had contributed to the project.



John Ryan describes his experiences

Rick Bolch makes a handle

Tonight's **Demonstrator** was Rick Bolch, who showed us a number of different shaped wooden handles, also wooden tools for the garden, all with appropriately-shaped handles. He began his demonstration with a piece of Rimu about 400 mm long, set up between chuck and tail centre in the lathe. This had been turned to about 40 mm diameter. Using a bowl gouge, he formed a handle shape at the tailstock end, about 25 mm diameter x 100 long, with short, rounded enlargements to 35 to 40 mm diameter at both ends of the 25 mm part. Some handles, eg. for letter-openers, may be made elegant, with extra grooves at appropriate

places, but for garden tools, e.g. for weed-pullers, dibblers, etc, the plainer the design, the easier it is to clean soil off it. Rick suggested thinking innovatively about handle design. For instance why should a dibbler be shaped like a carrot with a relatively thin handle. For many it may be easier to use with a broader mushroom-shaped handle or a T-bar handle.

Rick showed us a number of wooden kitchen tools, which can have quite fancy handles. However he recommended keeping in mind the ease of cleaning when making handles for food utensils. There were wooden cooking spoons and spatulas, among others. To make a spatula, he had a cylinder 400 mm long x 40 diameter, as before, and after making the 30 mm diameter x 100 long handle at the chuck end, he reduced the remaining part of the 400 mm length to a gentle cone 40 mm diameter at the chuck end. After removal from the lathe, two wedge-shaped pieces would be taken off with a bandsaw, to leave a tapered, symmetrical tongue finishing about 2 mm thick. With a sanding disc, the cut edges would now be trimmed smooth.

He discussed the choice of timber to use for different end uses, and finally, the best shape to aim for when making ball-point pens, so as to be ergonomic, i.e. to be functional, and easy to hold.



Showpiece. Tonight's Showpiece was to be an item decorated by Pyrography. There were several items submitted, and the winning one was a beautifully-polished Kauri platter made by Pat Jordan, and decorated with a picture of a kauri cone and kauri leaves. The runner-up was a clock mounted in a pyrographed fish made by James Smith. Entries shown from Celia Irvine, Pat Jordan, James Smith and Peter Clemett.



Thanks to Tom Dodd for the two meeting reports.

Edenview Experience 2010 20 - 22 August
Report by Ian Conway

James Smith, Norm Wood and Pam, Cecilia and I travelled in our motorhomes to the Southland Guild's Biennial Weekend at Edenview (south of Edendale).

Club members came from Southland, Otago, Oamaru and the three of us from Canterbury. The event was held in a large woolshed and accommodation and meals provided across the road at the Edenview complex: a former Methodist Church camp with 14 bunk rooms, large hall, lounges and a commercial kitchen. Motorhomes and a caravan were parked adjacent to the woolshed.



Norm Woods at Edenview



The scroll-sawing section at Edenview

Catering was provided by Glenda and her husband who are well known in the south for their culinary skills - and they certainly lived up to their reputation, especially with the Saturday night banquet.

Turning and scrolling commenced after setup Friday afternoon and continued until Sunday lunchtime - interrupted only by meals and some sleep.

James Smith in action

The woolshed was set up with 18 lathes in rows on the shed floor and the 7 scrollsaws lined up behind on the raised shearers stand. Quite an impressive sight!

Unfortunately, the arranged demonstrator had to cancel but this was compensated by the sharing of tips and ideas from the more experienced members.

Everybody obviously enjoyed their weekend and the customary Southland hospitality which can be thoroughly recommended to any future participants.



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Letter to the editor

At the AGM, the idea of the club getting their own clubrooms was floated. There were some comments made, comparing that proposal to a Men's Shed with some negative comments about the latter such as "for old men that do not have their own tools". The information below about the Menz Shed movement may be of interest to other members.

Yours etc.
Ray Hall

Where did the Men's Shed movement begin?

The Men's Shed movement began in Australia where it is recognised at government level as contributing to improvements in men's well being and health. The equivalent initiative in New Zealand is being driven by interested men throughout the country without direct government support but with support from local councils and community groups.

What is a Men's Shed?

It is a place where men can go to, socialise, have a yarn, be creative, share ideas, share skills and spend time with other men while working. Woodworking facilities are often the first to be setup but potential activities are unlimited.

Is it for men only?

Men are the primary focus group as they have been identified as the group that will most benefit from the shed initiative. However there are no rules, guidelines or standards for sheds in NZ and some sheds in Australia do have women as members or visitors.

It is interesting to note that women are often the most supportive of the men's shed movement, perhaps they better recognise the benefits that the activity can bring.

Why have a Men's Shed?

Many men do not belong to clubs or organisations and they can become isolated as they grow older or move out of employment. The Shed provides an opportunity for men of all ages to enjoy other men's company, be creative and try a variety of new skills.

Who can become sheddies?

Men's shed reach out to all men of all ages, retired men, young men, middle aged men and even teenage males. In fact any male who needs somewhere to go where there is male company, skills and life experiences.

What benefit is there for the community?

The shed provides another activity that men can get involved in. The shed may elect to undertake community projects but note that it is not a source of cheap labour and generally would not commit to ongoing community projects.

How does it work?

The men of the shed run the shed, decide what they want to do as individuals or as a group, when to do it and at what pace they do it.

How is it resourced?

It is the men's responsibility to hunt down tools. There are many sheds and homes around that have equipment that is not used. This may be donated to the men's shed while other equipment may need to be purchased.

Some projects may be made to sell and the profits returned to the shed. Fundraising, fees and donations are also needed to meet running costs.

Men's Shed Goals

- To have a place to meet and work together.
- To create a safe, supportive, caring and respectful environment.

- To create an active environment in which skills, talents and knowledge can be shared with others while fostering relationships.

What can you do if interested?

- Check out the websites; www.mensshed.org.nz and www.menzshedaotearoa.org.nz
- Call Ray Hall on (03) 3887277 or email ray.hall@clear.net.nz
- Join an existing group or establish a new group of people who want to be sheddies.

Ray Hall, a new club member, is also a member of the Christchurch Men's Shed hub committee and a trust member for the New Brighton Menz Shed. (Editor).

Coming events

Spin-Around Waitaki Registration forms are now available. Email Bruce or Pat to receive an electronic copy. The weekend is October 29 – 31.

Symposium 2011 NAW have announced that the next national symposium will be held in Hawkes Bay on 14-16 October, 2011. The symposium held there in 2007 was an outstanding event, so start making your plans to attend and saving your pennies now!

YOUR COMMITTEE

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Christchurch Woodturners Association or its committee.