



April 2024 Newsletter

May 2024

- 10th T.o.M. – Tom S “Ye Olde Tools”
- 12th Mothers’ Day
- 17th Committee Meeting followed by Special Meeting and General Meeting

June 2024

- 10th Kings Birthday Holiday
- 14th T.o.M. – Max S “Lathe Tricks”
- 21st Committee Meeting followed by General Meeting
- 30th End of Financial Year

Guild’s website is:

www.hwwgi.com.au

Vice President Howard is responsible for website

April T.o.M. – “Drop Bears” Ned McKelvey

Well, we all turned up for Ned’s presentation. We were intrigued because we all know the myth of drop bears.



We noted that Ned was standing near a bench, and on the bench was something covered in a cloth. With no fanfare, Ned lifted the cloth.



The mystery widened – something black was laying elongated on the bench.



Wow! It was a bear carved from Black Forest timber. But who carved it Was it Ned or someone else. Ned was hesitant with his responses to our questions. Some of our learned members did a close inspection.



Ian was particularly keen to undertake a close inspection.



Up close it was obvious there was a considerable amount of detailed carving. Check out the image below.



Some of the members who attended Ned's presentation.



After a while Ned gave us information that explained the sculpture. Read the passage below and you will understand Ned's "Drop Bear".

Black Forest Carvings

From 1800s.

Mostly Swiss, some are German, carved from walnut, Linden (Bass wood), Maple, Lime or Oak.

The carvings were a symbol of luxury and wealth in Europe. a lot of people think these belong in rustic cabins but in fact are found in just about any space from hallways to home offices.

After a famine in 1816, the Swiss Government encouraged wood carving to boost the economy. In 1884 the School of Woodcarving, Brienz was formed. The school maintained a zoo to study animals up close. Brienz is located eastern end of Lake Brienz at the foot of Mount Rothorn. They offered a four-year program to learn how to carve.

These carvings started with a Brienz woodturner, Christian Fischer embellishing products with wooden carvings and selling them to tourists. In

Victorian era travellers were eager to bring home souvenirs of their trip. These carvings became very popular. Christian began teaching this art to other local crafters and a cottage industry began.

Fir more information, Google, "Christian Fischer Wood Carver" to learn more about Black Forest Wood Carvings.

They carved stags, owls, bears, boars, game birds, trees, foliage, ibexes, dogs, chamois, etc.

Carvers know trees that are grown in the shade and harvested in winter provide denser wood which is better for carving. This knowledge has been passes down from generation to generation.



How true!

Show and Tell

Following a very productive monthly meeting, it was time for show and tell. This is one of the favourite times for the woodies.

John Ockers has crafted a pull-along dog for a special person. To make it different the wheels are set off centre to give it a bounce.



George Campbell has undertaken several fine woodwork projects. Firstly, several drinking vessels were crafted. Each one had wooden rings on the shaft. The rings had meaning, but George was unsure which was the true meaning. One was made from red cedar, the other merbau. Finish was mirrortone followed by a wax.



Secondly, George, crafted three wooden whistles. They may look the same but each one has a different note. The note is determined by the depth of the drill hole. Finish was mirrortone and wax.



David Wells was very brave in tackling this project. He chose an “angry” piece of river gum burl. It is not the usual timber for a bowl. David persevered with the lathe work; aware it could fly apart into many pieces. He finished with a great job, bottom had a satin finish, top had a shellac finish.



Will Howard at making glass trays. As shown in the image, Will has used a seashore theme. First layer of glass is stained red, rest was clear. In many of these jobs' bubbles appear in the layers. Best way to remove them is with a methylated spirits spray. Another quality job.



Howard Horsman presented something different. An instrument called Optical Centre Punch. To be placed over a point, view through the centre and once aligned use a centre point to mark the spot. Letting optics find the centre.



Steve Sessions took on the challenge. The challenge was to carve a bowl and lid from an “angry” piece of timber that Will Howard didn’t want to tackle. It was a series piece of camphor laurel which caused a serious reaction in Will’s breathing. Will couldn’t enter his workshop, Steve had to clear the camphor laurel timber and dust. Steve persevered and crafted the bowl and lid below on a lathe. The handle was from red cedar with

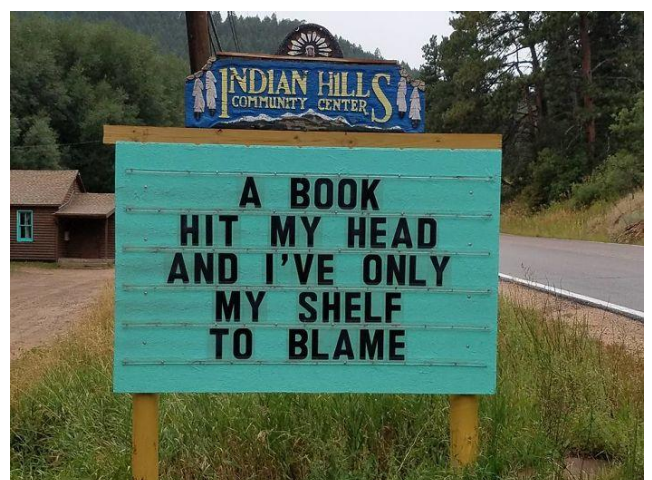
the finish in shellac. Members helping members, well done.



Rod Hoare told us he was asked by the local Maritime Rescue Groups to craft a trophy. The trophy is presented to initial achievers in training sessions. Trophy was called Spring Chicken Award. Well, done Rod, another woodwork challenged achieved for the community. A paper image is below.



Ian Elton, assisted by Tom Sheppard, displayed a Miller Falls Cigar Spokeshave. It was a mini version of a regular spokeshave. Tom explained that this spokeshave is difficult to use and to sharpen. A special skill is required by the user. A unique piece of equipment.



Nothing like, "play on words."

Cairncross Field Trip

The Laurieton Men's Shed had organised a bus tour of Cairncross re-cycle centre. There were vacancies for more on the bus. So, Steve Sessions, also members of the Laurieton Men's Shed, organised for members of the guild to join the trip.

Steve was our "on the spot reporter" for this trip and here is his report. Enjoy.

"We were picked up in a bus (Kew Hotel and Sovereign Hills Shopping Centre) with the Education coordinator, Liveable Communities, PMHC, Bernadette Gammon as our guide.

On arrival at the Cairncross facility, we were taken on a tour right around the facility with very detailed description of each part. Below is our trip through photos and comments."



Image 1 shows part of the regeneration area with the white material laid down to filter the liquids. These are recycled or sent to the

sewerage treatment plant. One area had been capped after 20 years of fill.



Image 2 shows the area for dumping concrete waste which is ground up into gravel, 40mm and 80 mm, to be sold off.



Image 3 shows white goods which are dealt with separately.



Image 4 shows the heating rooms where the processed mulch from the green bins is heated to kill any dangerous substances before sending on to the disposal area.



Image 4a shows the processed mulch heap which is sold on to suppliers.

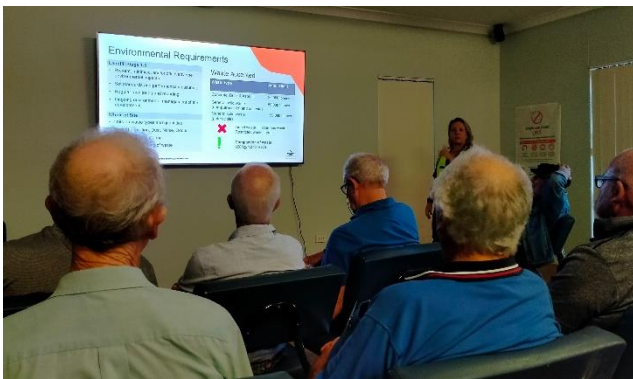


Image 5 shows us in the lecture room being given a very comprehensive talk with images and videos of the workings of the complex."

Thanks Steve. By all the chatter, everyone had a great time and gained an understanding of purpose Cairncross in our community.