

CENTRE FOR FINE WOODWORKING
P O Box 1452 Nelson
NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2008

Lets start with the really important news.....Stunning win in local quiz night – we must have been on a higher intellectual plane that night, as we managed to nail a few answers and the other teams were hammered (woodworking humour thanks to Patrick). Here is the official reoprt...

Woodworms Clean Wakapuaka Clocks

Tutors, spouses, students and the dog's body of the Centre for Fine Woodworking crossed the highway in the bitter cold to take on all of the talent that could be mustered at the Wakapuaka Memorial Hall for Quiz Night. Helen maintained her elevated position as barmaid while metaphorically holding our coats while the team battled the opposition.

We were tested on history, geography, sport, music and general intellect of the trivial kind. It was a thrilling battle. We were never out of the lead but engaged in a neck and neck race with the Mensans. At the end of regulation time, it was a three way tie with the Mensans and the come-from-behinds Last Year's Losers. We engaged then in a Titanic shootout of Roman proportions while examining the prevalence of animal owners sleeping with their pets. In the end, the Woodworms enjoyed the thrill of victory while other lesser teams suffered the agony of defeat – let's hear it for the Centre for Fine Woodworms!

We had the workshop buzzing along at full capacity a couple of weeks ago during the steam bending class taught by Dave Haig and Mike Hindmarsh.



Twelve students from all over the place including several from Aussie and several 'returners' managed to produce a plethora of the now renowned stools (some managed two) which are the project in this workshop. These were complimented by a beautiful and superbly effective walnut chair scraper which people made during waiting time for equipment. Everyone seemed to go away very satisfied.

Dave is now on his way to the US to teach at two schools over there - one in Indianapolis and then on to teach the final four weeks of the 12 week intensive course at the prestigious Centre for Furniture Craftmanship in Rockport, Maine.

Bending Solid Wood was immediately followed by a weekend workshop on getting the most out of your router. Ten students made up the crew as we swept from basic router maintenance through to router tables. We could have gone on for quite some time! This has been our best attended weekend workshop so far and is likely to be one we repeat. The next weekend workshop is Sharpening on 9th & 10th August- all the basics of sharpening planes, chisels, scrapers, etc. explained and demystified. There are still a couple of places available so if you are interested but you will need to contact us quickly.

We presently have a group of six in the workshop, working together on the fascinating issues that emerge when designing and making chairs. Comfort, aesthetics and woodworking for structural strength keep everyone focused. So far every one has built a simple mortise and tenoned stool and woven the seat with seagrass as an introduction. We are now working on building the main chair and soon everyone will be tackling the critical area of the back. Watch this space.

Our next short workshop will be benchmaking. It's over twelve days from September 15th to 26th. If you are interested in this workshop we need to hear from you asap. Without minimal numbers, in this case 4, the workshop will not run. If you are considering this course you need to have contacted us and paid a deposit before 18th August when we will make the decision whether it will go ahead. (We will of course refund you if it doesn't proceed).

We received some good news this week that we have been successful in receiving a grant from the Nelson City Council's Community Assistance Funds, where we requested the maximum amount of \$2500 towards administration hours to research and develop a scholarship programme for future students. We hope this will be the first of many successful grant applications.

Currently if you are looking for financial assistance for future courses here, it is worth a visit to your local library who have on their computer system access to Breakout which is available through the Funding Information Service. This is a free service which lists and gives further information on all available scholarships, awards and grants . If you access this from your own computer you will have to pay a subscription. We will work with you to enhance your application to any of these scholarships – contact Helen Gerry on cfordwork@gmail.com or (03) 5452674 for assistance. If you are a member of the Furniture Society this may be one avenue to explore for a subsidy. Also if you have any suggestions regarding setting up this scholarship programme, please get in touch.

Thank you to everyone who has enquired about our 2009 Programme which was announced in the last newsletter. It has been very encouraging to have already received enrolments for some of our courses next year. If you have any questions regarding our 2009 Programme then please contact us.

Cheers for now from a chilly but sunny Nelson

John, David, Larry & Helen