

CENTRE FOR FINE WOODWORKING

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MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

Greetings from us all at The Centre for Fine Woodworking.

We are quite a modest bunch here at CFW, but to break that rule we thought you might be interested to know that John Shaw has put down his chisel (temporarily) and taken up a pen – resulting in an excellent article on dovetailing in April's edition of The Shed magazine - he did such a good job he has been asked to follow it up with an article in next month's edition on building a dovetailed cabinet. This has been great for both John and the Centre for Fine Woodworking because of the interest it has created.

We also feel very proud that our part time tutor / technician Nigel Whitton took the first prize in the People's Choice at the first annual Rare Creations Furniture Exhibition at Seifrieds Winery in Nelson over Easter.

Nigel had three pieces in the exhibition, which showcased furniture from cabinetmakers and woodworking artists all over New Zealand, as well as a presentation and display by David Trubridge. All three of Nigel's pieces were placed in the top 10 – the Go Dining Table made from maple and walnut being awarded first place, The Wing Chair in 5th place, and the Go-ing Native Board Game in eighth place. Nigel's table is currently displayed at The Red Gallery in Bridge Street, Nelson – check it out.

Whilst on the subject of Nigel, we are both excited and sad to tell you that he has been offered a contract working in Australia on the interior cabinetry of the \$12,000,000 refit of Richard Branson's newly acquired 32m Lady Barbaretta super yacht. Nigel leaves next week but we hope to see him back here next year – although he will be flying back (probably with Pacific Blue) to teach the two week Traditional Dinghy Building Course here in June – some places are still available on this course should you want to mingle with the rich and famous!



We have launched our first evening class which starts quite soon on 20th May – six sessions over a three week period. SketchUp is a computer aided design programme designed by Google which can be downloaded for free from the internet, and this course will be tutored by John Towse, a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and woodworker. This six x 2 hour session course will introduce you to the basic tools and concepts of this powerful 3D modelling programme and enable you (with practice!) to produce convincing 3D images (and dimensioned line drawings if needed) of a wide variety of everyday artefacts - be they furniture pieces, house designs, garden plans or whatever. Students will need to bring their own computer (preferably laptop) – wireless will not be available but we will provide Ethernet cables. You will need to preload onto your computer the free version of SketchUp. The cost for these evening classes is \$350 – please contact us if you are interested.

We are part way through our recently advertised weekend courses, and have had a mixed level of interest – some workshops have been well attended, but we have had to cancel two due to lack of interest, so please do respond to us if you are interested. Unfortunately we heard after we made the decision to cancel that a few people had intended to enrol but hadn't done so. We are keen to hear from you what short courses would be of interest to you, as any feedback will most certainly be taken into consideration when we plan future courses. There are some places still available on the Router Techniques 5th/6th July, and if there is enough interest we will run the Safe Machine workshop on 7th/8th June and Sharpening on 9th/ 10th August – contact us on info@cfw.co.nz for further details.

At the end of this newsletter we have given you the update on our programme of workshops, short and longer courses for the rest of this year. We are just finalising details of the 2009 Programme and will let you have details of this in the next newsletter – in the meantime, don't forget to let us have your suggestions for future courses.

Hope to hear from you soon !

Cheers

John, Larry, Dave, Nigel & co

PS. We mentioned in the last newsletter that Ryo Mogami was just setting up his business importing Japanese woodworking tools – if you would like to be tempted - visit his new website on <http://mogachan.web.fc2.com>

COURSES & WEEKEND WORKSHOPS COMING UP

Weekend Worskhops	Details
Safe Machine Operation 7 th & 8 th June Cost: \$350 inc GST	Safe, efficient and accurate machine operation is fundamental – discover how to tune and safely use the table saw, band saw, jointer and thicknesser.
Router Techniques 5 th & 6 th July Cost: \$350 inc GST	Get to grips with this versatile machine. Discover how to make and use jigs, router tables and more.
Sharpening 9 th & 10 th August Cost: \$350 inc GST	All the basics of sharpening planes, chisels, scrapers, etc. explained and demystified.

Evening Class	Details
Introduction to SketchUp – Computer Aided Design for the Woodworker Tuesday 20 th May, Thursday 22 nd May Wednesday 28 th May, Thursday 29 th May Tuesday 3 rd June, Thursday 5 th June	This six x 2 hour session course will introduce you to the basic tools and concepts of this powerful 3D modelling programme and enable you (with practice!) to produce convincing 3D images (and dimensioned line drawings if needed) of a wide variety of everyday artefacts - be they furniture pieces, house designs, garden plans or whatever. Students will need to bring their own computer (preferably laptop) – wireless will not be available but we will provide internet cables. You will need to preload onto your computer the free version of SketchUp

OTHER COURSES AVAILABLE IN 2008

Workshop	Details
Traditional Dinghy Building 9 th - 20 th June (inc.weekend of 14/15 June) Cost: \$1795 inc GST	Participants will be able to understand and apply all the steps involved in working co-operatively as a group to build a clinker lapstrake dinghy. This will include critical procedures such as lofting, bending ribs, planking, fitting of planks at stem and transom, use of copper nails and roves and finishing.
Bending Solid Wood 23 rd June - 4 th July Cost: \$1550 inc GST inc materials	An exciting and inspiring two week exploration of the techniques and potential of wood bending. Students will be guided by David Haig through the making of a stylish contemporary seat, utilising and understanding the processes of steam-bending and kerf-bending. It time allows, students will be able to explore design options further or make some of the specialised tools David uses to shape his iconic “Signature” rocking chair.
Classical Chair Making 7 th July - 8 th August Cost: \$3575 inc GST and materials	This 5 week block aims to demystify, unravel and make accessible the techniques, logic and design issues of classical chair making. Participants will develop confidence with the traditional skills of wooden chair-making by constructing simple, and then more complex chair structures utilising the traditional techniques of mortice and tenon. Participants will investigate the interaction between comfort, appearance and strength, encountering the significance and impact of large and small design adjustments on their chairs, and in the process begin to understand their own personal aesthetics and style.
Furniture Making 11 th August - 12 th September Cost: \$3375 inc GST plus timber costs	This 5 week block will give participants the opportunity to undertake a design and make project. It is intended that students will respond to this project as if working for a client, developing their ability to effectively respond to a request for a high quality piece of wooden furniture. This workshop is designed to appeal to anyone wishing to develop design and making skills as well as a new piece or work while enjoying a stimulating supportive environment.
Building a Cabinet Maker's Bench 15 th - 26 th September (inc. weekend of 20th/21 st) Cost: \$3275 inc GST and all materials reduced by \$150 if students bring own Record vice	This is an intensive 12-day workshop during which participants benches are produced co-operatively. As well as making a fantastic workbench using European beech for the top and Macrocarpa for the base, everyone will thoroughly develop their ability to safely and accurately machine, using all the standard workshop machinery and power tools. Jig making for routers is well covered. Vice screws for the sliding tail vice are provided. The side vice (a refurbished Record 52-1/2) should be brought by student but can be provided if required.
Internship 29 th September - 5 th December Cost: \$5250	This internship programme offers an exciting opportunity to committed woodworkers. This 10 week period of study allows students the scope to refine and develop their own individual direction as fine woodworkers. It will also provide an opportunity for students to undertake their own commissioned projects with the advice and guidance of practicing woodworkers and tutors, and full access to the facilities and resources of the centre. Further, it is anticipated that participants during this time will be drawn from other schools, woodworking backgrounds and environments generating a rich level of professional stimulation and mutual support within a highly creative environment.
Beginning Cabinet Making 8th-19 th December Cost: \$1350 inc GST including materials	This is a short, intensely focused course which will rejuvenate the skills of existing woodworkers and open the door to aspiring woodworkers wishing to establish a solid foundation of fundamental skills. Students will learn how to: sharpen and tune the woodworkers tool, preparing a stock, accurately mark out, cut-out and fit joints and finish off work using shellac, waxes and oils.

For more information visit our website

www.cfw.co.nz