

2020 President's Annual Report

Well what a year that was!!

The obvious biggie has been the effect of Covid-19 on the operations of the NAW and associated clubs, but let's get to that later.

Even though it has been difficult at times, there have still been lots of events and new ways of communicating - like Zoom and enjoyable online demonstrations. This online element is likely to be ongoing for the NAW. This year the NZ Companies Office has allowed AGM's to be carried out by Zoom (or other online means) due to Covid-19. However, legally under our constitution, the AGM is required to be carried out in person; therefore as a "just in case - you don't know what the future brings" scenario we are in the process of looking to change our constitution to allow for Zoom AGM's in the future. Of course our preference will always be a face-to-face meeting if possible, as we really like to connect with our members in person.

Real progress has been made at the NAW over the past few years, and this is due to the fantastic work being done by your NAW committee. As an organisation run by volunteers, we rely on the skill and energy of our members to "step up to the plate" and offer their unique skills and services.

Creative Wood

Whilst this is a major cost to the NAW, the feedback from the members is that it is one of the top reasons to be a member. I would like to thank George for his commitment to the magazine; and Helen & my wife Bron for their outstanding focus on layout and editorial skills. Thanks to our magazine contributors – it's been great to see the variety of articles being submitted and the introduction of the ongoing features (Beginners Tips and The Project) has been very well received. A special thanks also to all the advertisers...without whom we wouldn't be able to afford to have such a great magazine. This commitment from everyone creates a unique magazine which we can all be very proud of.

Website

This is an element of the NAW organisation which often goes unacknowledged. Our thanks goes to Paul Grainger-Allen for continuing to look after "all things internet". The more information we give Paul, the better the website will be; so thank you to all the clubs and members for keeping us informed.

NAW Now

Another year down the track and the feedback so far is that the monthly newsletter is a great tool to update members on both past and up-and-coming events. On that basis we'll keep it coming.

Treeworkx Competition

If you are an ardent reader of the Creative Wood magazine you will see that there has been some recent changes to the Treeworkx competition to allow individual NAW members to also submit their work. A big thank you to Ron Wallace-Wells from Treeworkx Sandpaper for his continued sponsorship of the competition and also to our mystery judge (who shall remain nameless...but you know who you are!)

Financial

Due to Covid-19, it has been an interesting year financially. A big thank you to Margaret for all her efforts in keeping us in order. We have noticed that the changes we made in 2019 to the subscription structure have made a positive difference to our overall financial state. This, added to an increase in membership, has put us in a great position going forward. Our sincere thanks to David Jones who continues to review our accounts annually.

Legal Matters

The good news is that we have had very little need to contact our Legal Expert, Mark von Dadelzen, this year. However, a big thank you to Mark for bringing to our attention the possible future changes to the new Incorporated Societies Act, and for his help to work through the constitution changes that will be required to incorporate the possibility of future Zoom AGMs and SGMs.

Sponsorship / Fundraising

You would have to be living on the moon not to know that the NAW has launched a huge fundraiser this year in the form of the NAW / Club raffle. A special thanks to our major sponsors Carbatec and Nova for their donation of the Nova Orion Lathe as our first prize. A shout out also to Timberly who have volunteered to freight it to the winner free of charge anywhere in NZ. Hopefully you have all bought tickets. It's been great to receive feedback from the clubs, many of whom have enjoyed this fundraising opportunity. Not only that but this event has also been an ideal opportunity to connect with the clubs and the members.

In addition to the raffle, Carbatec sponsors us every year with a view to increasing our membership. This is proceeding very well and we really appreciate the sponsorship.

Membership

Thank you to Peter Macrae, our membership convenor. It is very heartening to see the constant flow of new members. Peter efficiently keeps our database up-to-date; it is a huge job and we appreciate all his efforts. If you move house please don't forget to let the NAW know!

Neil Joynt Tour

A big thank you to Dick Veitch for all his efforts in arranging the Neil Joynt Tour. Covid struck this event hard, both initially in May and then in August. To date Neil is only about halfway through, but the feedback has been all positive. Luckily Neil was able to reschedule his tour dates to accommodate the changing Alert Levels. These events are only successful with the full

engagement of the clubs and members, so thank you to all of those who have looked after Neil and done all the hard work in organising their particular club's events.

CSC Discount Card

This is still a great success for the NAW and members alike. We are constantly reviewing the suppliers on the card and a big thanks to Peter Macrae for all his efforts in this field. From my experience, the use of the CSC card often provides discounts which more than pay for the NAW membership subscription.

Area Representatives

Part of the role of the committee is also to liaise within their various geographical areas. Most of the committee are dotted around the country - but I would like to pay a particular big thanks to Peter Clement who manages the whole of the South Island - that is a big task!

AGM

Originally it was May, and then it was postponed to September - but curtailed at short notice due to the second lockdown. Unfortunately it just wasn't possible to run the event with three demonstrations etc in Level 2 due to the stringent requirements including contract tracing, food requirements, deep cleaning of demonstration equipment between demonstrators, etc. Our thanks to the Geyserland Guild of Woodworkers for originally offering to host us in 2020. We certainly hope we can schedule the 2021 AGM to this venue.

After much deliberation we finalised the 2020 AGM to be held at Taupo, as part of the Taupo Jamboree. This is the Annual General Meeting only (no demonstrations). Our many thanks to the Lake Taupo Woodworkers Guild for hosting us at such short notice.

Despite Covid-19 being truly disruptive, closing clubs and cancelling or rescheduling a myriad of events, the NAW still managed to achieve many things. The magazine Creative Wood was produced on time and on budget, Neil Joynt toured the country, and we organised a national fundraising event for both the NAW and local participating clubs.

So roll on 2021.....What's next?

Both the NAW Committee and myself are looking forward to the future with a positive attitude and a sense of a new and exciting journey. I'm on the bus.....and I really hope you are all coming along for the ride.