

# **Waikato Guild of Woodworkers**



## **Members' Newsletter January 2026**

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## Happy New Year!

Hope you have all had a great summer so far and are looking forward to an exciting 2026!

This is the first issue of the Newsletter for the new amalgamated guild. As we are still in the transitional phase and will be operating from both our Whatawhata Road and Storey Ave locations until we move into the Cambridge Road clubroom, our notices and newsletters will contain information for all members' activities at both locations.

For practical purposes, we have created Subcommittees to manage the operations, workshops, and membership at each location; however, all members will have access to the same club-wide benefits and opportunities. Your Committee and Subcommittees will work to make the transition process as seamless as possible for all, and we appreciate your understanding and accommodation in case of any disruptions or teething issues that may arise over the coming months. Please get in touch with us if you have questions or concerns.

## Storey Ave – 2026 Membership

2026 membership and workshop fees for those who are based out of our Storey Ave workshop are as below:

NAW-Affiliated Membership	\$85
Non-NAW Membership	\$100
Under-18 Membership	\$50
Workshop Fee	\$10 per session

Payments for 2026 Membership are due now; details are as follows:

Account number	01-0450-0046663-00
Account name	Waikato Guild of Woodworkers Inc.
Payment reference	Membership & <Your Name>

Please also let Niels know if you do not wish to renew your membership and/or opt out of our mailing list.

## Storey Ave – Workshop Sessions

Monday Morning	Dave Croucher	07 846 4554
Monday Evening	Rodney Haynes/David Jones	021 027 04031 / 07 843 3424
Wednesday Morning	Bob Hoyle	027 484 039
Wednesday Evening	Rodney Haynes	027 218 4950
Thursday Morning	Richard Matthews	07 856 9285
Thursday Afternoon	Clive Dyson	07 829 7256
Thursday Afternoon	Hugh Oliver	07 847 9541
Friday Morning	Keith Buick	021 072 0269

Workshop Sessions will recommence over the next few weeks at the discretion of the group leaders. Please contact the session leaders if you wish to join a group, or for further details.

## Whatawhata Road – 2026 Membership

Membership fees for those based out of our Whatawhata Road workshop are currently being discussed by the Subcommittee; we will notify you once this has been confirmed.

Membership	To Be Confirmed
Workshop Session	\$10 per session
Tuesday Session	\$20 per session

All sessions are payable on invoice from the Treasurer at the end of the period.

## Whatawhata Road – Workshop Sessions

Monday	6:00pm – 9:00pm	Commencing 02 <sup>nd</sup> February	Night school students only
Tuesday	9:00am – 3:00pm	Commencing 20 <sup>th</sup> January	
Wednesday	9:00am – 12.30pm	Commencing 21 <sup>st</sup> January	
Thursday	6:00pm – 9:00pm	Commencing 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	

Members based out of the Storey Ave workshop are welcome to join these sessions. Please contact **Murray Price** ([murray.price@xtra.co.nz](mailto:murray.price@xtra.co.nz)) to book a space.

## Fraser ACE Workshop – Learning and Tutoring Opportunities

Members will be aware that **John Baker** and the tutoring team at the Whatawhata workshop has been working together with Fraser High School to provide the community with **Adult Community Education woodturning classes** for a number of years. This is an excellent outreach initiative for the Club, providing members and the wider community the opportunity to learn and experience our craft.

The Term 1 enrolments are now open – for both members and the wider public; for further details, please visit: <https://www.fraserace.ac.nz/com-edu/course/woodturning-all-levels-26136-term-1>.

As we move into the next chapter of the Club at Cambridge Road, we will be looking to further expand this programme with more woodturning classes, as well as classes and workshops for other wood-related crafts. We are now calling for **expressions of interest from members to be involved as tutors** in this programme – please get in touch with **John Baker** ([johntepahu57@gmail.com](mailto:johntepahu57@gmail.com)) if interested.

## Club Night

There will be no Club Night in January. Our first Club Night for the year will be at **7pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of February at Storey Ave**. Members based out of both Storey Ave and Whatawhata Rd locations are welcome and encouraged to come along.

Please bring along **any pieces you have been working on over the summer** for the Display Table.

Hall setup and tea prep duties for this February will be the Monday Morning & Evening Storey Ave workshop groups.

## Cambridge Road Updates

Over the last month, our builders have started work on the renovations and have made good progress with the new weatherboards and external building works. In the background, our team has been steadily progressing with the consents, administration, and paperwork.

We will be providing updates to members as we progress through the project over the coming months. As always, please get in touch with us if you can **help us share the workload** in tasks such as:

- Sanding and varnishing donated cabinetry and furniture. **We need a couple of volunteers to help sand, polish and refresh donated items** before we put them to use in the new building. Depending on the scope and item, this could be taken back to your personal workshops and completed in your own time. Please get in touch if you are able to assist.
- **Contributing gifts and appreciation packages** for our community volunteers, donors, and supporters. So far, only a handful of members have contributed to this; please get in touch with Keith Buick ([keith.buick@snap.net.nz](mailto:keith.buick@snap.net.nz)) if you have any ideas, questions, or woodcraft pieces you would like to contribute.
- **Organising and helping with the Official Opening** for the new building – date to be announced. Andrew Sheerin will be coordinating this – please get in touch if you have any ideas or would like to be involved.
- **Donating items such as construction timber, fixings, tools, kitchens** that might be useful for our project. If you have anything lying around your workshop that you haven't touched in a while, please consider donating to the club.
- Documenting the history of the new building and the Society as **Club Historic Curator** alongside our Club Photographer Barry Chatterton.
- Transporting material and supplies. Thank you to Rodney's sister and family who have kindly donated a trailer to the club; we will be needing **help from members to move items** throughout the project.
- Coordinating catering for working bees and our community volunteers.
- Helping to manage external communications and publicity.
- Approaching potential sponsors and supporters. Thank you to **Bob Hoyle** and his family for their generous donation towards the cost of a custom main entrance door for the clubroom. Also thank you to **Bede Geoghegan** for his efforts in securing a recent donation from Mercury NZ Ltd towards our project. If members have contacts in the community that may be interest in donating to the club, please get in touch.

## Storey Ave Sale and Whatawhata Road Sub-Lease

Unfortunately, our potential purchaser of the current clubrooms at Storey Ave has withdrawn their tender due to various reasons beyond our control. As such, we will possibly be putting the property back to tender; if members are aware of any community groups that may be interested in purchasing the property, please get in touch with Kevin or a member of the Storey Ave Subcommittee.

As members are aware, the workshop at Whatawhata is currently being leased to the club until the end of September. We expect we will move into the Cambridge Road property well before then, as such will look to sub-lease the Whatawhata space for the remainder of the contracted term. If anyone is aware of potential groups or businesses that may be suitable for the space, please get in touch.

## Trade Corner

**Kauri Log** Member of public has a 5m long Kauri log she is wanting to sell (otherwise will be sold as firewood). Log is wet. Located about 10km south of Whangamata. Please contact Mavis directly on 021 0700 463.

## Other Notices

### New Year's Honours 2026

Congratulations to past Guild member **Lloyd Downing** who was appointed as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Agriculture and Governance. Full citation of his appointment: <https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/honours/lists/ny2026-onzm#downingl>.

### Facebook Group

The Club has a new Facebook Group where you can find our monthly newsletters, notices, photos and much more. Please follow this link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/15yuajiDJn/> to join.

### Wig Stands

As you will be aware, our wig stand project to support local cancer patients is ongoing. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Rodney Haynes; the club has a good supply of timber set aside for you to use.

### Beware of Phishing Emails

Please be vigilant of phishing emails impersonating other members, especially committee members. As the committee's contact details are available online, we are unfortunately the occasional target of phishing emails. Please double check the sender's email address; if something doesn't feel right – such as a request for an urgent meeting or callback out of the blue – double check the details.

## Calendar and Other Events

February 17<sup>th</sup>

Club Night

## Thank You to Our Supporters

