

NELSON WOODWORKERS GRAB ALL THREE PRIZES IN KAWERAU WOODFEST

Two students currently on courses at Nelson's Centre for Fine Woodworking (CFW) have captured all three prizes in the Furniture and Cabinetmaking section of the 2009 Kawerau WoodFest.

The competition is widely regarded as one of New Zealand's top three wood crafting events and comprises a judged exhibition of wood crafts across twelve categories, including furniture and cabinet making, carving, wood turning and models.

Adam Webb grabbed 1st and 2nd prizes for his hall table and chair respectively, winning \$1000 and \$400 in prize money and fellow student Tony Clark secured the third prize of \$300 for his chair.

Adam and Tony were up against entries from woodworkers and woodworking schools throughout New Zealand.

CFW senior tutor John Shaw was rapt with the news. " We entered seven pieces in the awards – to take out all top three prizes is a great coup and a tremendous affirmation of the work we are doing here."

Adam Webb's winning table is made from maple and cherry, and his second-placed chair from American white oak with some NZ oak sourced in Waimea. Tony Clark's third-placed chair is made from ash with a cotton chair seat woven by his wife Jane who is a weaver.

Adam Webb travelled down from the Coromandel to do the year long course at CFW, he will graduate in December this year. Both his award-winning pieces are available for sale. Tony Clark is also doing the 12 month course, having taken a year out from his job as a Communications Support Engineer at Alcatel-Lucent in Wellington.

Asked what they will spend their prize money on, both students said "more timber!"

"I feel quite humbled by winning," says Adam, "especially when you look at the quality of the competition I was up against. It's the first time I've ever won anything in my life!"

"It was pretty cool to get a prize," says Tony, "and I have to say, very unexpected. When you get that kind of validation from your peers, it makes you think this could be more than a hobby, one day."

"This is an outstanding competition and featured incredible wood crafting," says Doug Logan, Chairperson, The National Woodskills Trust. "The competition is a cornerstone of the Kawerau WoodFest."

CFW has just finalised details of its 2010 programme and will be offering Beginning Cabinet Making three times, as this course is a prerequisite level to enrol on any of the other courses.

The main project is a small attractive side-table which can be packed flat for ease of transport. The course covers the basics of wood finishing so that students can try these out on their completed tables, and participants are also taken step-by-step through the safe, efficient and coherent use basic woodworking machinery, the table-saw, band-saw, jointer and thicknesser.

BACKGROUND INFO

For more information about The Centre for Fine Woodworking see www.cfw.co.nz or contact John Shaw on 03 545 2674 (email info@cfw.co.nz)

The Centre for Fine Woodworking was established in 2006 as a charitable educational trust with the principal aim of offering high quality tuition in fine woodworking. The Centre offers courses with small class sizes and a low student to instructor ratio. Fundamental to the centre's philosophy is accessibility for all students.

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