

## OUR WOODTURNING CLUB

In a country blessed with such a variety of timbers, and given the versatility of the average citizen, it is no small wonder that crafts abound in New Zealand, and that working with wood is so popular. Just think of the work we see done in our homes by handymen who have grown up in the 'do it yourself' tradition.

South Auckland Woodturners Guild was formed in 1988, with an initial membership of 43 persons. In just a few short years it has grown to be the largest woodturners guild in New Zealand with a membership exceeding 140, and ages ranging from juniors to early 80s.

Our full club meeting is in our clubrooms in the Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe, every Wednesday evening of the school term between 5:00pm and 8:30pm (meeting starts at 7:00) and, rain or shine, you will find a group of at least fifty of our members enjoying a programme which includes demonstrations of woodturning skills, lectures, slide evenings on many topics allied to turning, 'hands on' sessions where newcomers to the craft are given help and advice on their problems, and all this within a great social atmosphere.

The first Saturday of each month is "Upskills Day" when any member is welcome to share problems and learning with other members. On the third Saturday the Ornamental Turning Group meets at 1:00 pm.

From time-to-time the guild also organises a full day demonstration session for members with a visiting woodturner, weekend-long tutorials for beginner woodturners, weekend-long participation events, and there is a pre-Christmas sale of work.

Add to this the fun we have on timber recovery operations, where all can do their bit to gain valuable materials for the use of guild members, at realistic prices. We also have a small in-house shop which sells at very affordable prices, many of the consumable items which you would need to pursue a hobby in woodturning, such as chisels, sandpapers, oils, and polishes.

Sound information can be gained from our busy library of periodicals, books and video tapes which are available to members at no charge, to help them achieve the prime aim of the guild – to improve our skills as woodturners, and to pool the knowledge of members to further assist in this quest.

Various one or two day woodturner training sessions are held throughout the year either in our clubrooms or, by special request, at other locations. To see the shine in the eyes of children and adults alike, who have never turned anything from timber, as they proudly hold a bowl they have been helped make, is a great experience for all involved.

If you want to join in these activities, come along to a meeting. If you would like more information, please feel free to phone our President, or a Committee Member.

### SAWG Committee List

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