

TURNING TALK

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

Number 132 : March 2005

Club Night Programme First Term 2005

We meet at our clubrooms in the Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe, at 7:00 pm. For those who wish to make use of the machinery, do some shopping, or get a little extra advice, the doors open at 5:00 pm.

This term sees the continuation of a Table Prize for each term – so keep your good work and lessons learned flowing to the show-and-tell table each meeting night.

- Wed 9 Mar Hands-on night for the project for this term – a pair of candle holders.
- Wed 16 Mar Dick Veitch scalloping, veining, fluting, and reeding.
- Wed 23 Mar Bryden Thorpe puts inlay into a platter or two.
- Wed 30 Mar Mike Lewis shows us multi/off-centre turning.
- Wed 6 Apr Frank Smith brings a rope making machine to the club.
- Wed 13 Apr Multi-demo night. Rex turns a bud vase; Cathy a mushroom; Terry Meekan a bottle coaster; Mac a small bowl; Dave Harmes some pens; and maybe more.

This is also the show and tell night and awarding of the prize for the project of the term – a pair of candle holders.

Term two for 2005 starts 4 May.

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Or dveitch@kiwilink.co.nz or fax 298-5775

Our Website is www.sawg.org.nz

Coming Events

- Collaborationz. At Whangarei, 4 to 12 March 2005
- Royal Easter Show, 24 to 29 March 2005
- Timber and Working With Wood Show, Auckland, 8 to 10 April 2005
- Turangi Jamboree, 23 and 24 April 2005
- Taranaki Woodcraft Festival, 3 to 5 June 2005
- Woodcut Open Day, 2 July 2005
- Treeworkx Open Day, 10 July 2005
- National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau, 9 to 11 September 2005
- NAW Woodskills Symposium hosted by Christchurch Woodturners at Kaiapoi, 16 to 18 September 2005
- Tauranga Woodcrafter's Club Baycourt Festival, 6 to 9 October 2005

Free Tickets

Want a free ticket to the Royal Easter Show or Timber and Working With Wood Show? Just call Craig Lockwood at 299 8184 and get on the roster to help talk to the public or spin a bit of wood on the lathe.

Every Month, Rain Hail or Shine

Every Monday afternoon 12:30 to about 3:00 the doors are open, kettle hot, and lathes turning. All club members are welcome to turn wood, drink coffee, stand and talk, just stand and look. If Monday is a holiday, come on Tuesday.

Wednesday evenings, even during school holidays, the doors open at 5:00 for anyone who wants to be there. Turn some wood, solve a problem, share a story.

First Saturday every month is Upskills Day. Doors open 8:30am. Every turner can improve their skills, or help others to improve.

Second Saturday every month is Working Bee. Doors open 8:30am. There are always cleaning and repairs to be done. Your chance to put a bit back into the club.

Third Saturday every month is Ornamental Turners. Learn and share in this precision art.

The Neil Scobie Demo

From many mouths have come the words “The best full day demo I have been to.” Many people missed it but the 30 who attended had a wonderful day.

Neil comes from a background of school teaching but he enjoys making and selling his furniture and woodturning and teaching others in his workshop. In all of this he is greatly assisted by the artistic skills of his wife and business partner, Liz.

His inspiration for woodturning forms comes from all around him and he began his demonstration with a short slide show where the trees seen from his home became the decoration on a platter; the waves in the sea are the rim of a bowl; erosion of the land is a wallhanging; a road sign is a bowl form. This makes Neil’s work unique.

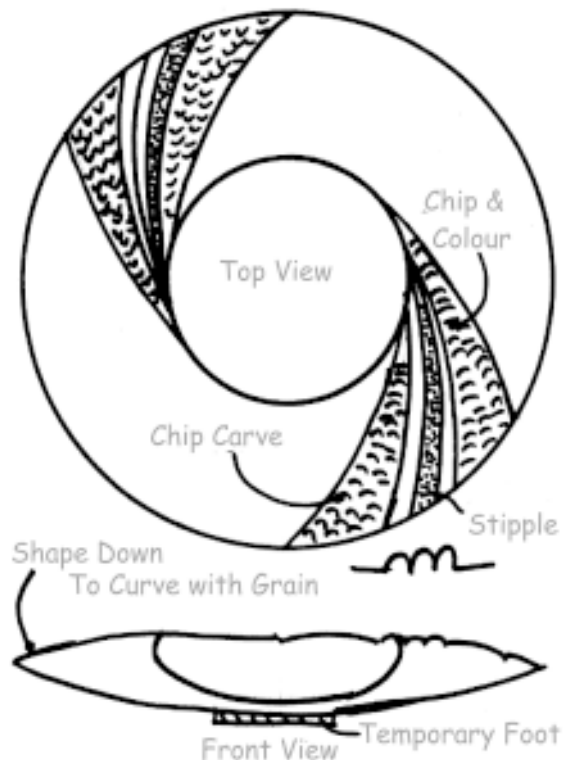
To help all this happen he showed us an awesome array of tools, and spoke about others, from the awesome 100mm Arbortech cutter down through an array of smaller cutters to some grim looking grinders and burrs – many spinning at 28,000 revs, or more. Allowing each tool to stop spinning before taking your eyes off it or putting it on the bench, was

an important and repeated message. Getting waste wood rapidly away as shavings is obviously important, as is time spent to gain a perfect sanded finish.



The perfect finish is also assisted by his choice and use of gouges. He used two very different chisels to great effect: one with very swept back wings and the other with an almost square end.

During the day Neil made five different forms with ease. His first was a platter on which he showed us a variety of decoration options. Then he went on to do a Wave Rim Bowl, a Carved Rim Bowl, a triangular bowl with legs and a triangular vessel which I hope to report on in future issues of *Turning Talk*.



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Membership for 2005

By the end of February more than 100 of our 2004 members had paid their subscription for 2005. With this newsletter there will be letters for the 41 people who were members last year but have not yet paid their 2005 subscriptions. I hope they will join again and continue to enjoy their woodturning.

Thanks to all those members who have chosen to receive their newsletters by email. So far this looks like a \$450 saving in our printing and postage account. They get their pictures in colour too!

New Members

We welcome James Conquer and Christine Morgan of Papatoetoe, Graeme Mackay from Grey Lynn, and Mark Tippett of Conifer Grove. May they have many years of enjoyable woodturning.

2005 Lapel Badges

New lapel badges for 2005 will be with this newsletter when it is distributed at the Clubrooms. People who get their newsletter by email or post need to ensure that they collect their new lapel badge when they next visit the club. From now on when you see a member wearing a pale green lapel badge you will know that person has not paid a subscription for 2005.

Sorry, No John Lister Demo

Unfortunately John Lister has had to cancel his demonstration on 19 March due to ill health. We wish him a good recovery.

Wanted / For Sale / Give Away

Wood Lathe, Tanner 500. Bench mounted. Complete with Nova 4 Jaw Chuck and Vacuum Chuck, 1 HP sealed motor - \$500. Phone Bryden Thorpe – 576 5614 (evenings preferred).

Mac Gray at 278 6393 has the following items for sale:

- B type lathe with three faceplates
- Large assortment of woodturning chisels
- Titan sawbench complete with saw
- Drillpress
- Ryobi grinder
- Electric wood planer
- Assorted sandpaper
- Large amount of timber suitable for turning: camphor; kauri; Norfolk pine; macrocarpa; puriri; red beech; rimu; and other odds and ends.



ORNAMENTAL TURNING GROUP

from Rex Haslip

The ornamental group met again last month, and a vote of thanks to the 6 or so members who attended.

Rex bought in his cutting frame etc, and went thru the set up routine, explaining the basics of what was there and how it can be used on a standard wood turning lathe. Based on a simple cross slide and a home made cutter driven by an old electric motor, it looks "Agricultural", but does the job. A simple Barley Corn pattern was done on a wide rimmed bowl with the various components of the set up being talked thru and different approaches being discussed. As is always the case, cost was discussed, and it was agreed that with a little ingenuity and imagination, and some off cuts of MDF etc, ornamental turning can be enjoyed for relatively little expense, apart from some time. A second bowl was set up and some of the group

A router was then set up on a swinging frame, and some fluting was applied to a small project. More of that another day.

As a start, it is planned that the next meeting (Third Saturday of the month, at 1.00 pm.) the group will make Index Wheels, so members can start to develop their own Ornamental set up.

We rounded off the afternoon with a coffee and a chat, with everyone heading home about 4.30

AGM Notice

The Annual General Meeting of South Auckland Woodturners Guild Inc. will be held at the Guild Clubrooms, Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Pukekohe, at 7:00 pm on Wednesday 18 May 2005.

The cardiologist's diet: If it tastes good ... spit it out.



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Club Night 2 February 2005. Project for the Term. A Candlestick

Bruce Hannah gave us a fine demonstration of his way to make a candlestick. His design was simple with clean lines and no finicky little bits to turn or sand. He stressed that this was his way to make this product and there are surely many more ways to do the job.

He follows his own 3 Fs Rule: Form, Function, Finish – this goes for any turning work.

For this candlestick there were four important dimensions: The diameter of the little brass candle cup is 24mm and the hole to put it in is 25mm deep. The diameter of the wood outside the cup is 30mm. The neck of the candlestick is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length measured down from the top.

Between centres, rough the wood down to nearly the required diameter. Select which end is to be the bottom and turn a spigot on it. Remount between a chuck and the tailstock and true up.



Remove the tailstock and cut a gentle curve into the top end. For the candle holding cup drill a 24mm diameter hole down to 25mm below the surface of that curve. Cut a small rebate to take the lip of the cup. Sand the top surface.

Bring up the tailstock to support the work using a plug in the hole you have just drilled, or a fat live tailstock centre.

Mark all the points you want to cut to – diameter at the top, narrow point of the neck, fat point down the body, and other points you may have planned. Using a parting tool cut sizing grooves to required depths.

Use a roughing gouge to shape down to the cut sizing points and then finish with finer cuts. Use your fingers back and forth along the wood to feel for irregularities in the shape – this will tell you more than you can see or measure.

Sand down to your desired grit. Be sure to finish the sanding by stroking with the grain.

Remount the work with the candle end to the headstock. Make a plug to fit the candle hole or make a jam chuck. Take care not to split the candle hole. Check that the sanding is good right to the base.

Turn the spigot off the base but take care not to cut too far and throw the wood off the lathe. Cut the remaining little spigot off by hand and sand the foot. Bruce mounted a sanding disk in the headstock to do this.

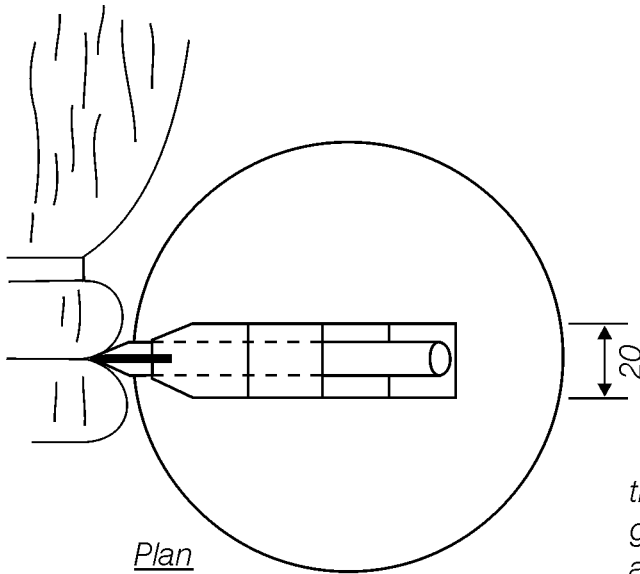
If you want to make a second, matching, candlestick you can draw the profile of your first one onto some stiff card using the Profile Follower. Then cut the card into a template.

With that information in hand the Chairman of the Meeting declared the term project to be “A Pair of Candlesticks”.



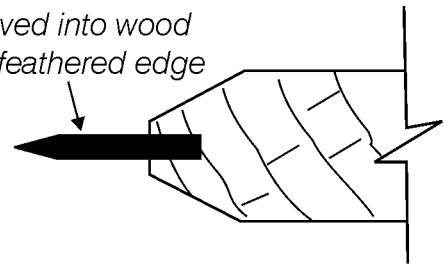
PROFILE FOLLOWER

from the original drawing
by Bob Main,
South Auckland
Woodturners Guild

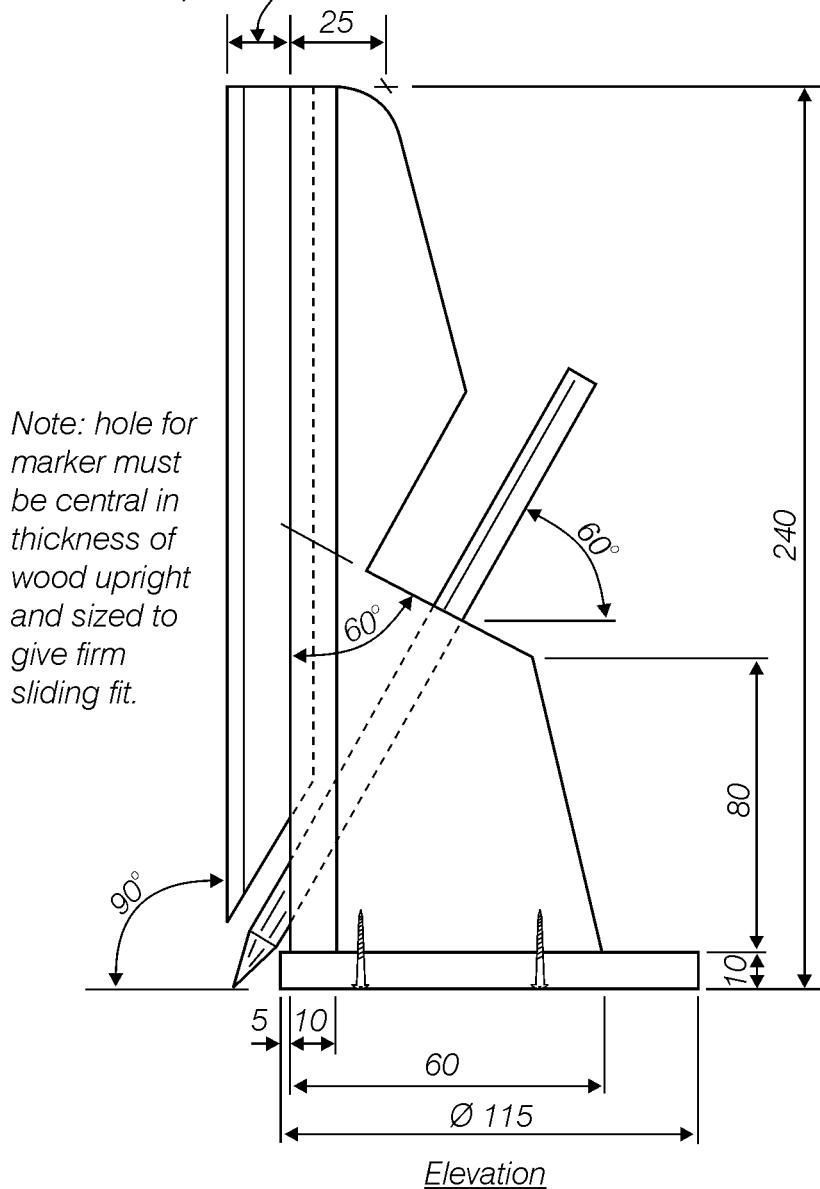


Plan
showing follower in use

thin plastic sheet
grooved into wood
and feathered edge



plastic edge to line
with marker point



Note: hole for
marker must
be central in
thickness of
wood upright
and sized to
give firm
sliding fit.

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Note: dimensions
shown (in mm) are
not critical.
Critical factors are:
1. follower edge must
be 90° to base.
2. edge must be
exactly vertical
above point where
marker touches
paper.

Club Night 9 February 2005. Colour on Wood

Irene Grafert brought her woodturning and wood colouring skills all the way from Denmark. It seems she really began her woodturning here in New Zealand with visits to, and tuition from, a number of our turners. But a lot has happened since then. I see she is scheduled to do a tour of the USA later this year.

Her intention here was to show colouring on wood. Finding New Zealand native timbers that are pale enough for such work is not easy. A good bit of kahikatea should be good but all that I could find was either heart with a bit of gum or soft sapwood. Sappy tawa is excellent but it sapstains easily to be quite grey, and I do prefer the tawa with those bold heart lines. Irene's preference was sycamore wood and birch faced plywood samples. There are also other northern hemisphere species which are quite pale.

She started her demonstration showing some slides of her very impressive work. I note that these are now in a number of collections around the world.

For applying colour the wood must be well prepared. Sanding scratches are enhanced by the application of stain.

She used water-based stain over almost the entire piece – she does like to show some of the natural wood. She kept the work area all wet to get a consistent colour but in the bit she was using the wood changed the blue stain to green.

She then showed some scorching, black paint, and discussed ebonising. Following that she briefly showed some pyrography work. I see that she uses pyrography to separate colours on wood as by burning deep lines the stain will not flow from colour patch to the next patch.

If you want to see a little more of her work and learn more about who around the world has her woodturning, go to www.woodturndeco.com

Club Night 16 February 2005. Ornamental Turning

Rex Haslip showed us a few of the tricks that are possible with the ornamental turner that has been in the corner of the Clubrooms for some months past.

Before starting any ornamental work he stressed that there is a long setup time. Your work needs to be carefully planned and the wood you are decorating needs to be fully sanded before the decorations start. Before starting, all cutters must be perfectly sharp as sharpening them part way through the process will change their size or shape and hence the cut they make.

The really big difference between regular turning and ornamental turning is that in ornamental turning the wood stays still, or nearly so, while the cutter spins at speed. There are three basic types of ornamental work:

Ornamental. Here the spinning cutter has its tooth off-centre and thus inscribes a circle on the wood. The wood is repeated brought up to the cutter but each time in a slightly different position so that repeated circles are inscribed in different positions.

Rose Engine. Here the spinning cutter is central and the wood moves to left or right of that axis as it rotates. The shape of a template within the ornamental jig determines the shape of the cut in the surface of the wood – it may be rose shaped, many petalled or sparsely petalled or not even regular throughout its circuit.

Swash Turning. The spinning cutter is again central but the wood moves back and forth along its axis as determined by a template within the ornamental jig. Thus the cutter may dip in and out of the surface of a platter or zigzag up and down the side of a box.

The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.



Club Night 23 February 2005. From Chisel to Cabinet

Ian Fish brought out his famous wooden chisels to show us his way to finish work. The large size of these demonstration pieces certainly helps to illustrate chisel shapes and positions. He was talking particularly about 10mm bowl gouges for finishing. He has two; one sharpened to a 55° angle and the other sharpened to 35°. You may prefer a greater or lesser angle but by having two chisels that are 20° different you are able to cut with the bevel rubbing right into the bottom of a bowl.

He emphasised that these chisels must be sharp and the faster the lathe the better the cut.

Sandpaper is another cutting tool. Once used and blunted it is thrown away. For power and free-wheeler sanding it is important that the sanding mandrel spins true and is flat. He showed us his mandrels which he turns on the lathe to ensure this perfect shape. Work through the grits --no skipping and no using old paper. Clean all dust off the work between grits.

Working through the grits means multiplying the grit size in use by 1.5 to select the next size. This means 80, 120, 180, 270, etc. Multiplying my two (80, 160, 320) is too much.

Ian then applied a coat of his lacquer and followed that his wax.

The final step of finishing is to clean the bottom. Ian removed the bowl and chuck from the headstock with the bowl still firmly in the chuck. He then screwed a morse taper into the chuck and put this into the tailstock. After mounting a vacuum faceplate he just drove the tailstock up to the faceplate and the work was perfectly centred.



Club Night 2 March 2005. From over the ditch

Les Fortescue popped in on his way from Canberra to Collaborationz.

He actually began woodturning as part of his apprenticeship with the railway but serious turning did not begin until 8 or 9 years ago when a few people really began to like his work. He still works full time so turning is done after the 40 hour week. He makes a lot of large items and 60% of his work is in jarrah burl which he supplies direct to customers and to galleries in the Hague and USA. He did add that he also makes pens and that seemed to be because the people who pay for the big burls also want to pay for the small momentos.

For us he turned a two part hollow form and the ease and confidence of his turning gave me a strong impression that he really does not waste time when he is in his workshop.

He turned a lump of matai to his chosen hollow form shape and put a spigot on both sides. Then he cut the block in half, hollowed and put a lip on each half, and put them back together. Sounds simple and he did make it look easy – no careful measuring, but it all fitted perfectly.



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The Vacuum Sander

René Baxalle stole a bit of time, and lots of the applause, from the Ian Fish demo to show us his vacuum sander.

He is marketing this as “Kiwi ingenuity with French flair” and it truly is a bright idea that works extremely well.

He has taken a regular free-wheeler type sander (both 50mm and 75mm) and modified the inside so that all the sanding dust can be sucked through holes in the sandpaper and into a vacuum cleaner.

The real way to show that this works to perfection is to switch the vacuum off while the woodturner uses the vacuum sander. With the vacuum on there is absolutely no dust; vacuum off and it looks like the old system.



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