

TURNING TALK

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

Number 136 : August 2005

Coming Events

Participation 2005 at SAWG Clubrooms, 5, 6 & 7 Aug 2005
National Woodskills entries delivered by 26 August 2005
National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau, 9 - 11 Sept 2005
NAW Woodskills Symposium hosted by Christchurch Woodturners at Kaiapoi, 16 to 18 September 2005
Soren Berger full day demo at Franklin, 25 September
Tauranga Woodcrafter's Baycourt Festival, 8 & 9 Oct 2005
SAWG Christmas Sale at Papakura, 5 to 24 December 2005
Timber and Working With Wood Show, 31 Mar to 2 Apr 06
Royal Easter Show, 12 to 18 April 2006

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Newsletter contributions to: 48 Manse Rd., Papakura.

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

Our Website is www.sawg.org.nz

Club Night Programme

Third 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 27 July **Egg Making.** This is our project for Term 3 demonstrated by Farouk Khan and followed by hands-on with wood supplied.

Wed 3 August **Mounting Wood.** Rex Haslip gives us some tips on getting your wood onto the lathe and safely secured.

Wed 10 August **Lidded Box.** Doug Tanner shows us his way to make these useful items.

Wed 17 August **Twist Pens.** Handy to use and as gifts. Les Sivewright is surely the club expert on the pen-making subject.

Wed 24 August **Clinic and Hands-on** to help solve your problems and to make more eggs. Bring your problem pieces, tools for sharpening, and your egg making gear.

Wed 31 August **Feet on Bowls.** Ian Fish makes this wonderful finishing touch to a bowl.

Wed 7 September **Bowl Savers.** Ian Fish and Terry Scott put two types of bowl saver to good use.

Wed 14 September **A Ring of Inlay.** Bill Blanken will show us the careful art of inlaying a ring of wood into another piece of wood.

Wed 21 September To be announced.

This is also the last night of term when Farouk will be judging the quality of all those eggs.

Term Four begins 12 October

Club Night 6 July. From Burl to Bowl

The burls (call them burrs if you wish) Terry Scott chooses to turn are big, rough on the outside, and tough on the inside. The end result makes it all worthwhile.

He begins by carefully choosing what the end shape will be. This is usually dictated by shape of the "rim" of the burl but it could be that by curving the edges of the final bowl a little more, or less, a better product will be obtained. It is the choice of where that final edge will be that determines where the starting faceplate will be attached.

He attached the faceplate very securely using roofing tech screws. These are the screws driven by a hex nut and they are obtainable in various lengths. For many burls it is necessary to pre-drill the holes or these screws may break.

Terry prefers to begin turning a burl while the wood is wet. It is softer then.

The shape of the bowl and its rim is, as usual, the choice of the turner. Terry likes to have a bead or lip on the upper surface and noted that when this is done it is quite important to match the lines of this bead to the curve of the underside of the bowl. The rim of most of these bowls is broad and extends out to a natural edge. Giving these a gentle downward curve is his preference.

The dry wood is certainly hard and finishing cuts are best done with light shear cuts using a heavy scraper.

The foot can be just a traditional bowl foot or turning it into three simple feet by hand-cutting the unwanted parts can enhance the overall appearance.



29 Honey Dippers

The project for term two was honey dippers. Demonstrated by Terry Meekan at the start of the term and judged by him at the end. The count was 29 honey dippers on the table and one honey spoon. One very large honey dipper was obviously made by a very hungry person (or one who planned on getting large honey containers). The spoon came from one who enjoys licking the spoon and could not abide leaving honey in the grooves of a honey dipper.

The two honey dippers made by Dave Harmes were judged the best.



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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. Or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy the day.

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 starting at 1:00pm is Ornamental Turners. Learn and share in this precision art.

	<p>"Southgate" Retail Centre 230 Great South Road, Takanini PO Box 72064, Papakura Telephone: 09 299 6342 (299 MEGA) Fax: 09 299 6341 Email: info@x6.co.nz</p>
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Wanted / For Sale / Give Away

For sale. A 100mm AEG belt sander and 19 new belts 40 to 100 grit. \$220.00 ono. Call Ivan Devcich 278 5196

Where did the lady woodturner keep her Colt? Under the bed.

Perfect Poultry Product

After extensive refrigerated research, Peter Knox sends this information on the proportions of the perfect poultry product.

The diameter of a hen egg is usually equal to 75% of the length of the egg. The widest point of the egg is at a point 40% from the big end.

If the egg you make does not come close to these proportions then it must belong to another species of bird – consult a bird book and you will surely find one to match.

EVER WONDER where we are headed...

Why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?

Why they sterilise the needle for lethal injections?

Why they don't make the whole plane out of the material used for the indestructible black box?

Bullet in the Wood

We think the wood is blackwood and the way it is cut suggests it was huge and ended life at the hands of a skilled chainsaw operator. Then it got onto a west coast beach. It could have come down the Waikato River, or from Australia. When slabbed for woodturning the chainsaw cut neatly through a brass-jacketed bullet. Further cutting exposed another nearby. Both were about 0.4 inches diameter and relatively stubby which means they were probably from a 44 or 45 handgun.



Grits

The experts often tell us how they always use just one brand of sandpaper – maybe even suggesting it is the best brand in the world. Some expand on this by advising woodworkers to always use the same brand throughout the grades. I thought this might be because different manufacturers had differing standards – but I was only partly right.

Rhys Hannah recently brought to my attention an excellent article in the March/April issue of Fine Woodworking. This article tells us that sandpaper manufacturers do adhere to strict standards but there are two different standards for grading sandpapers:- the FEPA (Federation of European Producers of Abrasives) metric scale where the grit number has a P prefix; and the CAMI (Coated Abrasives Manufacturers Institute) where the grit number has no prefix.

In the coarser grits there is little difference between the two, but as the grits get smaller there is an increasing difference (see table below).

But, and here is the nasty part, some manufacturers are making sandpaper to the FEPA standard and not adding the P prefix, and some manufacturers make different product lines to different standards such as an oxide paper following one standard and their wet and dry following the other.

The Fine Woodworking article also points out that the FEPA standard calls for a greater percentage of the grit to be close to the stated size. The good advice, therefore, is to stick to the same line of paper by one manufacturer who puts the P prefix on each sheet.

P80

80

P100

100

P120

120

P150

150

P180

180

P220

220

P240

240

P320

320

P400

400

P600

600

P1200

800

P1500

CAMI
SYSTEM

FEPA
SYSTEM

LDD Drying

Over the last couple of years there have been a number of articles published in magazines and on the web extolling the virtues of using liquid dishwashing detergent as a wood drying aid. For most this method is said to reduce cracking of the drying wood. Some say the wood also dries faster.

None of the reports that I have read actually compare pieces of wood from the same source dried using different methods. I tested the LDD drying by taking matched pairs of wet-turned bowls and drying them using different methods. I found nothing to support the hypothesis that soaking wood in liquid dishwashing detergent reduced cracking of the wood.

The method followed by most proponents is to use the clear type liquid dishwashing detergent, not the cloudy or milky type. Dilute this with about one part of detergent to six parts of water. Soak the wet turned bowl in this liquid for four days and then set the bowl aside to dry as you normally would – ie wrapped in newspaper; waxed; or with no additional covering.

I did nine tests with six wood varieties: tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*), European walnut (*Juglans regia*), olive (*Olea europaea*), puriri (*Vitex lucens*)(3), pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*)(2), and robinia (*Robinia pseudoaccacia*). In all except one puriri test I was able to take bowl blanks from side-by-side locations in a single slab or immediately opposite sides of the heart of the tree.

My bowls were consistently 200 to 220mm diameter and turned to have a wall thickness of 10% of the diameter. One bowl of each pair was then waxed and set aside to dry while the other was soaked in a 6:1 detergent solution for four days, drained dry, waxed and set aside to dry.

In seven of the nine pairs tested both bowls were in good condition when declared dry; in one pair (walnut) both cracked; and in one pair (puriri) the detergent soaked bowl was better than the non-soaked bowl.

To test whether detergent soaking resulted in faster drying, all samples were weighed at regular intervals as they dried. No difference in drying time was determined for seven of the pairs but in two of the puriri pairs the detergent soaked piece dried in 75% of the time taken for the non-soaked piece to dry.

My conclusion: liquid dishwashing detergent is best used for washing dishes.



ORNAMENTAL TURNING GROUP

Ornamental News (or ramblings of demented inventors)

from Rex Haslip

Isn't it funny what you can achieve when a group of five or six get together over a cup or two of coffee on a wet Saturday afternoon. Honestly, I didn't credit what could be achieved. Let me fill in the details.

At the last ornamental group gathering, after a bit of maintenance work on the guild rose engine, we set about brainstorming (I think this years PC term is "Thought Showering") how we could make a versatile and cheap set up, to enable an ordinary lathe of any make, into a machine capable of doing "Rose" type work. The three "constraints" we had to work with were Cheap, Ordinary Lathe and Rose type work. No other rules were apparent to start with.

Well you should have seen it. Whiteboards and markers, measurements and calculations. A team approach that would have shamed recent government performance, election year and all. No idea was ruled out, everyone participated, and gradually a design concept evolved as new requirements and constraints became apparent. "I want to be able to do a large platter". "I must be able to vary the depth of cut". "My lathe is bench mounted, but I still want to be able to fit one of these things".

It quickly became apparent that to be everything to every lathe while maintaining the "cheap thing" was going to be difficult, so we thought we would concentrate on making something that would allow large diameters by swinging the head around to 90 degrees, but at the same time, be rigid and easy to fit. No point in straining backs. We can look at a set up for over the bed once nailing this one down, if there's a demand for it

A basic principal of Rose turning is that the head of the lathe "rocks" moving the work piece laterally past a rotating cutter. Des Downes of Ashburton turned this on its ear by mounting the rotating cutter on a "Swing", and moved it past the stationary work. This was the approach adopted, and like Des, we thought the router makes a perfect cutter device. Another basic principal, this time of physics or geometry or something, is that the longer the radius of the swing, the straighter the arc that is travelled. Looking at

normal Rose Engines, which effectively have a swing radius of about 300 mm or less, we went for big, and decided to mount the pivot for our swinging frame close to the floor, to both maximise this arc thing, and minimise any effect from play in bearings etc. This also provided a bonus we suspect when we get this thing built, that the weight will be low and therefore easier to set up, gravity and all that.

Next consideration was making it rigid as possible in all aspects. Ornamental turning is an exact science, and the smallest flexing or vibration can be disastrous. We decided a brace to the floor was a must, and we also have decided to make the "swing" that will take the router, as wide as possible to provide good bracing.

Well at this point I suspect you are starting to wonder what I am on, and believe the heading about "demented inventors", and you may well be right, unfortunately the writers drafting abilities are about as good as his woodturning, so no drawings included, but in the next couple of weeks we hope to have the prototype built. Simple, cheap, and adaptable to other machines, capable of doing Rose work on a large platter or a small piece, and a prime example of Kiwi Ingenuity and a bit of group participation in solving a problem. We even had time to work out a cheap way to make an adjustable table for the router mounting so we can vary the depth of cut easily.

At the moment, all of this is still a figment of our imagination and sketches with construction of the prototype yet to start (yes we even discussed that), but then so was De Vinci's Helicopter for a long while, and look what's pulling Rimu logs out of the bush these days.



Part of the rim of a bowl by Rex Haslip.



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Light up you Life

We know nothing about the things we cannot see. But there is a high probability that your scratched woodturning will go from the dim light of your shed to the bright light of day for all to see. So, a wise woodturner makes the woodturning area as bright as day and sees the scratches first.

For many years now I have been adding lights to my lathe area. There is a big triple-tube fluorescent overhead – not to be used on its own as the strobing effect can be dangerous – and anglepoise lamps at each end of the lathe. That is a pretty good setup for the average open-faced turning.

I then set out to make things to aid work inside deep bowls and to look inside hollow forms. Here 12 volt bulbs come into play. These come in all shapes and sizes from automotive and electronic shops but the best power supply I could find would support only a 10 watt bulb, or was a monster hard-wired to the mains.

Soren Berger opened my mind to the huge array of 12 volt equipment designed for garden and pot plant lighting and in that shop I found all I needed.

For deep bowls, or wide-mouthed vases, I have set a 25 watt bulb into a toolrest. By making the hole in the toolrest large I have been able to set the bulb well into the metal and thus stop any light shining directly into my eyes – all the light illuminates the inside of the work being turned.

The toolrest light ceases to be useful when the opening of the vessel gets small so here a light on a stick becomes useful. This utilises a very small 20 watt halogen bulb. This little bulb gets quite hot so care needs to be taken not to burn fingers, and where the hot bulb is placed after use.

To keep both these lights reasonably compact the bulbs are not plugged into any sort of socket but the wires are soldered directly to the bulb.

The major use of the multi-jointed light is with thin-walled wet turning where light is used to show the turner how thin the vessel wall is. This light is a cut down pot plant light with a 30 watt halogen bulb inside – following the Soren Berger design. The lengths of pipe and number of joints are my choice to fit my lathe. You may need to make the pipe lengths different but I suggest this number of joints are needed to get adequate placement of the light. Each joint is glued to the pipe in one direction only, leaving the other side free to twist – just ensure that the twistable sides are all in the same direction or the whole device will not twist properly. The attachment to the lathe is a magnet.

The power supply for all these lights was a choice of a bulky traditional wire-wound transformer and a neat little “electronic transformer” designed for indoor use at a fraction of the price. Just take care when acquiring a transformer that it will carry the planned load of the bulbs you will use. On the output side I have used a two pin plug to ensure that there is no possibility of my lights being plugged directly to the mains supply.



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WOODTURNER TRAINING PLAN

South Auckland Woodturners Guild will hold three more two day hands-on training sessions at its clubrooms in 2005.

Eleven lathes are available. The skill levels of participants will vary and the courses through the year will vary to match this need. Prospective participants must read and carefully consider their own skill levels in relation to the courses outlined below.

This training is open to all comers on a first-in-first-served basis. Applications should be made to The Secretary, Mike Clausen, 4/4 William Ave., Greenlane, Auckland, and will be accepted only when full payment is made. To help us ensure that you have chosen an appropriate training level, please include with your application a resume of your woodturning work and the name of at least one referee.

Maximum numbers in each course is 11 participants. Costs per person are: Beginner \$80; Intermediate \$95;

Experienced \$110. If six applications with full payment are not received by two weeks before the course date then the course is cancelled and all monies refunded. There is no refund for applicants who cancel within two weeks of the course date unless a replacement participant can be found.

Course Outlines

Further detailed instructions about each course will be provided with acceptance of each application to attend.

Beginner:

Introduced to the tools of the craft. Lectured on workshop safety. Instructed in tool sharpening, timber selection, and mounting wood on the lathe. Make a spindle turned item. Make a faceplate/chuck mounted item (bowl).

Tutor: Terry Meekan 27 – 28 August

All the tools that a beginner needs will be provided but participants are encouraged to bring and use their own tools.

Wood will be provided for this course.

Intermediate:

Participants should already know how to sharpen woodturning tools, mount wood on the lathe, and turn it into something.

Tutor: Shane Hewitt 24 – 25 September

In this course tool sharpening and wood mounting skills will be refreshed. The tutors will advance participant skills to turning wood to pre-determined shapes chosen by the tutor or participant. The participant will then be considered to be in control of both the wood and the chisel.

Chisels are available at the clubrooms and wood is available for participants to purchase. We recommend that participants bring their own chisels and a supply of wood that will give them a variety of turning options. This wood must be good clean blanks suitable for easy chisel work.

Experienced:

Participants in this course should have reached a level where they are in control of the chisel and the wood, and are able to make items to a pre-conceived design.

Tutor: Graeme Priddle 26 – 27 November

In this course the tutors will discuss and enhance all aspects of participants' work and work practices while the trainee creates turned items on a lathe. There will be emphasis on shape, form, finish, colour, texture, and other embellishments.

Participants must bring their own tools and materials for shaping, colouring, texturing, and embellishing their work. They also need to bring a variety of wood, some incomplete turned items for finishing, and completed items for critique.

A Brief Update on the NAW AGM.

The new committee was elected as per the nominations circulated prior to the meeting. Mark von Dadelszen is now president and Ole JR is the new Vice-President.

Motion 1 calling for re-naming of the Association to be the National Association of Woodworkers was adopted by about a three times majority.

The second motion, calling for the full integration of Club members to the NAW was withdrawn. Essentially an amendment was put to the meeting that the motion be withdrawn given the “feedback” and that the incoming

committee should go back to the clubs for their involvement and input to a solution for acceptance and implementation.

A point made strongly in the written responses to the restructuring proposals, and at the AGM, was that having our own magazine is important for members. Mike Smith will be working on this issue.

The current treasurer, Robin Harris, resigned at the AGM on health grounds.

Rex Haslip has been co-opted onto the committee. It will be good to have a northern representative and closer contact with the NAW Committee.

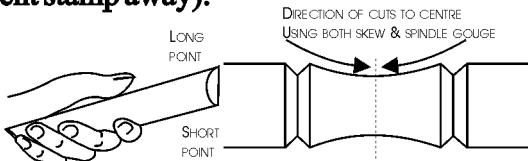
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