

TURNING TALK

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

Number 139 : November 2005

Club Night Programme

Fourth 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 some 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 2 November **Natural Edge Bowl.** Mac Duane keeps the rough bits on the edge.

Wed 9 November **Clinic and Hands-on** to help solve your problems and to make more small bowls for Christmas. Bring your problem pieces, tools for sharpening, and your bowl making gear.

Wed 16 November **Deer Antler Turning** Terry Scott turns deer farm waste into art.

Wed 23 November **Segmented Turning.** This precision art is demonstrated by Dave Harmes.

Wed 30 November **A Driftwood Bowl** by Rex Haslip.

Wed 7 December **Whistle Night.** Cathy Langley makes things she likes to give to other people's kids.

Wed 14 December **Christmas Decorations** made by Doug Tanner. This is the last night of the term when Rex Haslip will be judging the quality of all those small bowls. Also the Table Prize for Term Four will be awarded. And it is the last night of the year when we will be wrapping the small bowls to give away. Bring a plate for supper.

Term One 2006 begins 1 February

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

Our Website is www.sawg.org.nz

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.

Coming Events

Franklin Woodturners Club exhibition and sale, Waiuku Civic Centre, 30 October to 12 November

SAWG Christmas Sale at Papakura, 5 to 24 December 2005

Irene Grafert full day wood decorating demo 4 March 2006

Irene Grafert full day hands-on workshop 5 March 2006

Royal Easter Show entry forms due by 18 March 2006

Timber and Working With Wood Show, 31 March to 2 April 2006

Royal Easter Show, 12 to 18 April 2006

This list for local events looks brief but Rex Haslip, now webmaster for the NAW, has added considerably to the nation-wide list of events on the Whats On page of the NAW website. Have a look at <http://www.woodskills.co.nz/whatson.htm>

Club Night 12 October. A simple bowl, Project of the Term

from Rex Haslip

This term's project is a simple bowl, and we are looking for people to donate their bowls at the end of the year to the guild for Christmas gifts for the hospital.

When setting out to make a bowl, a few things need to be considered right at the start. The most important of these is Function. It drives a lot of other decisions for you such as:

- Shape (Form) *The shape must suit the purpose it is going to be used for*
- Type of timber *Aromatic timbers like Atlantic Cedar are no good for food bowls*
- Size *A 100mm diameter fruit platter is not much use, and neither is a nut bowl that is 250mm deep*
- Type of Finish *Wax marks with water, so not much good for salad bowls. Some finishes are not "food safe"*

So, having selected the timber, thought about size and the shape, you need to mount the blank. I turn my bowls "upside down", that is I turn the outside first, holding the blank from the top, or what will ultimately be the inside, and then once the outside is finished, I turn it around, hollow the centre, then turn it again if necessary to clean off the bottom.

There are many ways to mount the blank: a faceplate, screw chuck, glue block, dovetailed recess (cut with Forstner bit, chuck jaws expanded into it) and the list goes on.

Clean off the blank, making it round and clean the face that will become the bottom. Mark the foot diameter with a pencil, generally 1/3 the diameter gives a reasonable stability for a utilitarian piece. Cut the spigot that will become the foot (can use a gouge or a parting tool for this). Clean the bottom of this off, making it slightly concave so the foot will rest on its outer edges. Now start to shape your bowl. A series of straight cuts can be used if you are not confident with the gouge, but work from the foot out, not back towards the foot. Continue till you have the desired shape.

Once you have the shape you want, it is time to sand. Use good paper, no matter whether you are power sanding, free wheeling or hand sanding. Heat is the biggest enemy after the dust, so slow the lathe down, and use light pressure. If it is hot on your fingers, it is too hot for the wood. Using a spray of water, or oil such as Ondina 15 will assist in keeping it cool as well as stopping the dust, and makes it easy to clean the paper, especially if you are sanding gummy timber. Work through all the grits, don't skip any. How fine you sand is personal, but for an oil finish for a nut bowl, 320 or 400 is enough.

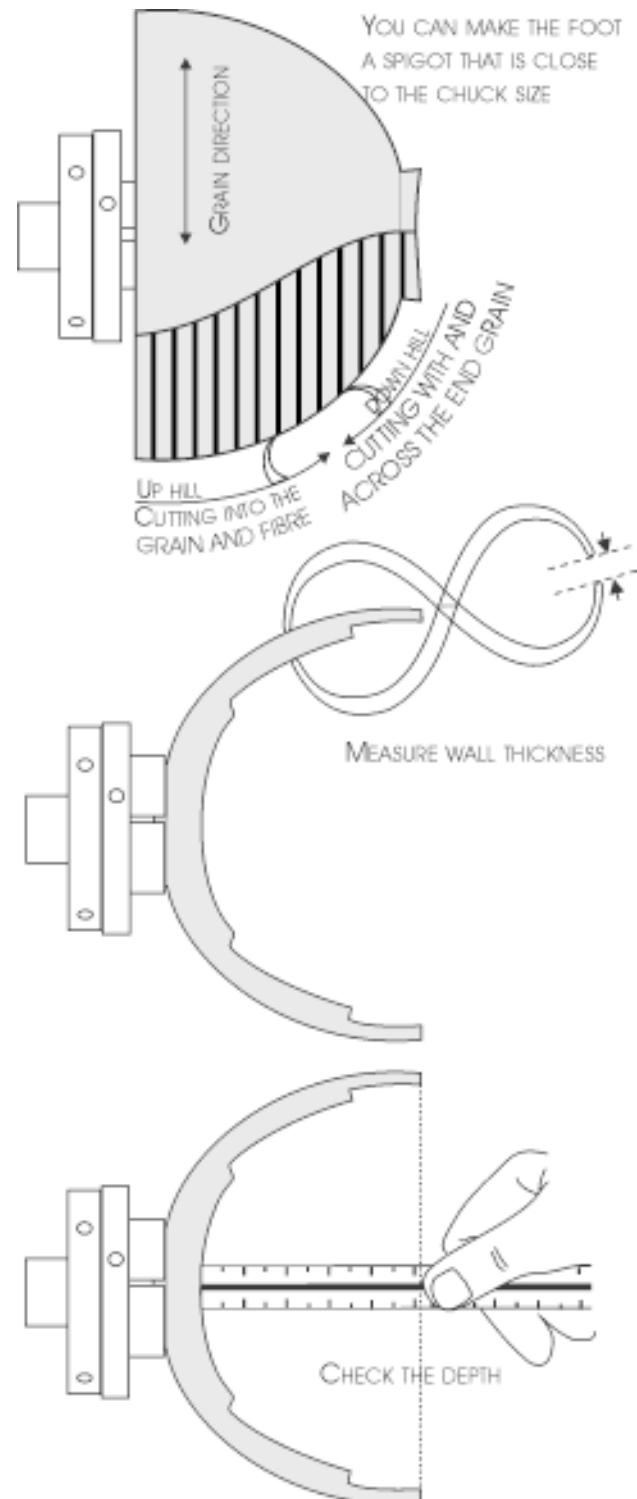
Take the bowl off the lathe and reverse it, holding the base spigot in the chuck. You can now hollow out the inside. Start at the middle taking small cuts, slowly move the place you start the cuts out towards the edge of the bowl. Be careful, as the tendency is to "go deep" and you may go through the bottom. Check the depth regularly.

Once you have the inside done to your satisfaction, the walls the desired thickness and the inside shape right, sand this as well. Same rules as outside.

The bowl can now be reversed again if necessary to finish the foot and remove any marks left by the chuck. It can be mounted in a jam chuck, on a vacuum chuck, or pressed against a soft faceplate pad by the tailstock. You can also use Cole jaws. Again, slow as it goes, you have done the major part of it now, so don't mess it up by racing this last bit.

Once you are happy with the clean up of the foot, including the sanding, sign the foot and apply your finish

I look forward to seeing a table full of bowls for the last night of term.



Club Night 19 October. Fruit Night



Avocado Creation



Enough to make the eyes water



Banana bender at work



Apple in the making



Don't know what happened to the pear maker but this looks like worms getting into Farouk's apple.

Club Night 26 October. At Carbatec

A very full house but we forgot to really count. We did pause from shopping to have a meeting. And a crowd gathered to watch Terry Scott demonstrate the numerous Dremel options. It really just looked like everyone just enjoyed being at Carbatec and I think Carbatec enjoyed having us there. Thanks Grant.



Congratulations Farouk, winner of the Treeworkx prize in the latest Creative Wood.

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Ornamental Turning News

from Rex Haslip

This month, as advertised, we had a visit from Fred Irvine. The purpose of Fred's visit was two-fold: first to share with us a range of jigs and gadgets he has made; and to check out what we are up to on the ornamental front.

We started showing Fred what we have been doing, and explaining a bit about our plans going ahead. As well as our "linear bearing" ornamental set up, Mac has been beavering away on the prototype of a rose engine set up for an ordinary lathe, the physical outcome of the discussions of a couple of meetings ago (see August Turning Talk), and its looking pretty good. Fred gave us the benefit of his vast experience with a few tips and suggestions, so we will see what Mac can make of integrating them.

Colin Cran also bought his rose engine across, and it is really going from strength to strength. Each time I see Colin's machine, something new has been added, or Colin has managed to get it to do something new. This time it was a combination of rose and pump action, leading to some rather interesting patterns.

It was then Fred's turn. Fred explained his involvement in the development of the Teknatool ornamental turner, then showed a series of chucks and faceplate attachments all made from 12mm industrial formica. This material has proven to be exceptionally versatile and can be cut, machined with a router, and threaded, giving it all the qualities of steel, but able to be worked with woodworking tools.

Fred also showed a rose engine attachment he and an engineer associate have made, which mounts on the original Teknatool cross slides, and uses the lathe as the drive for the cutter. This really is precision engineering, a beautiful piece of equipment doing both rose and pump actions.

All too soon the afternoon drew to a close, but everyone left having benefited greatly from the visit, and Fred is coming back in the new year, this time to hopefully spend a little more time with us. Perhaps it is time to have a day long session? What do you think.

Well that's it for this month, don't forget, third Saturday of the month, starting at 1.00pm at the club rooms. See you there.

Why they are called apartments when they are all stuck together?

Pricing Woodturning

The end of November, when your work should be ready for the Christmas sale, is not that far away. So, think now about what it is costing you to make that bowl/platter/nice piece that nobody really appreciates.

Please, don't use the excuse that you are just a hobby turner, the wood was free and I am retired so my time is free too. This really undervalues your true worth as well as the years of your experience, and the cost of tools, storage, sandpaper, and finishes. Make the right decision on prices now and next year when the critic says "That will cost too much" you can respond "It is the money I earned at the Christmas sale."

What is the real cost of producing a small 200mm bowl? Wood \$9.00 – you either purchase the wood or use petrol to drive out and chainsaw it. Then there is bandsaw, Mobilcer and space to store it – \$2.00. Lathe and chucks say \$7.00 – based on \$3000 capital value divided by 40 bowls a year over ten years. Chisels \$2.00 – allow for just one new chisel each year at \$80.00 and production of those 40 bowls. Now turn the bowl and sand it. Sandpaper \$1.00 (being very frugal), some dremel use, sanding sealer, and wax to finish – add another \$1.00 at least. So, you have actually spent \$23.00 with no allowance for wood that is wasted; overheads like the cost of your shed; or R & D – time that you take to learn new skills.

What about your time? From collecting the wood and storing it, picking the dry block from the woodheap, rounding it on the bandsaw, drilling it to mount on the lathe, cut and sand the outside, turn it around, cut and sand the inside, add a little decoration, take it off the lathe, stand back and admire it – one and a half hours at \$26.00 gives a total bowl cost of \$62.00.

That is your minimum wholesale price for your most basic bowl of plain, unrecognised, ordinary, wood.

Now you can start adding a little for a well figured bit of wood such as macrocarpa or blackwood with character, or unrecognised but figured native timbers such as matai, ngaio or miro. Add a bit more for recognised timber types such as oak, walnut, kauri and rimu. Include a bit to contribute to a gift for your closest critic. Type a little informative label and add a bit to the price for that. Make a box and add a bit for that. Then total that up and add whatever your vendor will be taking as commission – that is the real sale price.

This is a table of suggested basic wholesale bowl prices:

Bowl size	Plain	Figured	Recognised
200 x 75	62	69	69
250 x 75	75	80	85
300 x 75	95	105	110

If you are doing a clock, peppermill, pot pourri, or anything which includes a purchased part, remember to add the real cost of that part, which may well include the postage of the parts and your phone call to order them.

Now get it all on display. Each piece clean and polished. If it is a little vase then add a few sprigs of dried flowers and include that in the price. Put some scent in the pot pourri and include that in the price. Adding a few lollies in a small bowl is fine but people do like to caress the wood so wrapping the bowl does not seem to work. Platters, even small ones, do benefit from being on a stand – but make it a nice stand.

If you can, include some high priced work in your collection – this makes the mid-priced work look so much more affordable.

Never undervalue your work and please don't undercut the realistic prices your mates are putting on their work.

Our Christmas Sale

The sale will be held in Accent Point Centre in Papakura and open to the public from 5 to 24 December.

Note these dates now as the December newsletter will be published after the sale starts.

Sale numbers are available from Dick Veitch now. Every item offered for sale must have an allocated number and it makes life much easier all round if you get the numbers now and put in your completed sheets as soon as possible.

The deadline for getting the lists to Dick Veitch is 30 November please. Yes, you can add things later with much suitable bowing and scraping.

Tables and shelving will be set up on Saturday 3 December. Volunteers to give their names to Terry Scott please. There is more work to be done this year as we wish to maximise use of available space.

After the tables are completed there will be a guillotine party at Dick's place to get the sales labels ready for distribution.

Items for sale will be put out from 0900 Sunday 4 December. When you see the location within Accent Point you will appreciate that there is less space than in previous years. We need to manage the space with care and believe that sales can be similar to previous years. To help this along we will have smaller green price labels than last year and ask that all participants bear in mind the need to share the space when they put their work out.

All club members are welcome to come and help with the day-to-day running of the sale. We usually have three people on duty and two or three rotations each day. No free lunch. See Craig Lockwood, roster organiser, or get a copy of the volunteer sheet from Dick Veitch to put your bid in for the times that you can be there.

Indexing Quickies

from <http://groups.google.com/group/rec.crafts.woodturning?hl=en>

Tony Wells asked: Some help please. Whilst the Super Nova 2 chuck now has an indexing ring, my original Super Nova hasn't, and I need one to get a series of equally spaced holes around a bowl rim. The headstock design of my Draper lathe prevents me from attaching anything to that, so has anyone fitted one directly to the chuck or it's jaws please?

Fred Holder replied: I've made several indexing plates using 1/4" birch plywood as the base. I drilled a hole in the centre to fit the lathe spindle, slipped the plywood onto the spindle, screwed on a chuck or faceplate to hold the plywood solid. Turn the plywood round, move in a bit from the rim and cut a shallow groove with a skew chisel. Measure the diameter of the groove you've cut and multiply that by pi (3.14159). Divide that sum by the number of index holes you need. Set a pair of dividers to that dimension and step off your number of holes around the groove. If your setting is exact, the last step should end up in the first hole position. Now, use a Forstner bit (I use 1/4" drill) and drill holes about half way through the plywood. This is an indexing plate.

Note: If you work out the setting for the dividers and work backward to get the diameter of the groove, you will simplify the setting of the dividers.

To make the indexing pin take a flat board and drill a hole in its centre. Saw a slot in one end with a hack saw. Clamp this board to your lathe bed and take an old hacksaw blade and slide it up and down until the hole in the end will line up with one of the holes in your index plate. Glue the blade into the board and break off the portion below the board. Now, turn a short length of 1/4" dowel down to fit through the hole in the hacksaw blade. Glue it to the hacksaw blade with epoxy or super glue. You now have the indexing pin to position your indexing plate. Simply pull the hacksaw blade back, rotate to the next position and allow the dowel to enter the hole. I actually used brass rather than wood for the indexing pin and riveted it to the hacksaw blade, but wood should work fine.

These work great for occasional use.

Mike Paulson suggested: I use the disk behind the chuck method with either drilled holes, notches in the rim, or visually aligning lines on the disk with a guide block clamped to the lathe bed. To arrive at precise spacing of holes/notches/lines, I either make something on the computer and glue the printout to the disk, or I use the tape method. The tape method is down and dirty but works amazingly well. I wrap a piece of masking tape around the edge of the disk and cut it precisely so there is no overlap. Then I peel the tape off the disk and lay it straight on the lathe bed. I measure the total length (in millimetres for easy math), divide by the number of divisions I want, make pencil marks on the tape, and wrap it back around the disk. To transfer the divisions to the disk I line up the tool rest to the centre line and mark with a pencil. For one-time use I skip making a disk and put the tape directly on the bowl or hollow form I am working on. Works great.

Motor Technologies Offer

This offer is for the 1.5hp variable speed unit to fit a TL300 lathe. Normally \$899.00. There is a 10% discount if we can gather together five orders from club members. There is a similar level of discount on units to fit other lathes which may have a different starting price. This offer closes at the end on November. Names to Dick Veitch please.

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JIM DOWNS

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Royal Easter Show

For 2006 the array of categories has been slightly reduced and the prize list extended. This will give more people an opportunity to win a prize. Schedules should be printed very soon and will be mailed to past participants and clubs. If you want a schedule please phone Jacqui on 638 9084

New Member

Welcome to Phil Dale of Totara Heights. A coachbuilder to whom we wish many years of enjoyable turning.

Last Training Course for 2005

After a very successful training course with Shane Hewitt in September November sees the last of the series for 2005. Graeme Priddle is one on New Zealand's better known woodturners, demonstrators, and woodturning teachers. Every year he does a USA tour and on 26 and 27 November he will share a little of his considerable knowledge with us.

Participants in this training 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.

In this course he 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.

Contact Mike Clausen to book in.

From Cyberspace

There are all sorts of chat rooms, listservers, message boards, and other ways to share information on the World Wide Web. Here are just three that cater for woodturning:

<http://groups.google.com/group/rec.crafts.woodturning?hl=en>

This is a long-standing and well patronised forum. Most questions put to the forum will be answered quickly and sensibly.

<http://www.woodcentral.com/newforum/turning.shtml>

This is the URL for the WoodCentral message board. It is mainly American based but does have some input from other countries and has around 100 postings a day (give or take). It does not suffer from the obnoxious postings that sometimes plague other newsgroups. As can be seen from the menu on the left, there is also a wealth of information available on this site.

<http://www.woodworkforums.ubeaut.com.au/>

Targeting Australasia. With three woodturning forums: Woodturning general; pen turning; ornamental turning; and a heap more about almost all things to do with wood.

If you have a favorite woodturning website, or find a place of particular interest, please email the information to the editor with a brief explanation of why you like your particular choice.



Oooops!

That basket of eggs was nice to see in the last newsletter but, nice as the eggs were (Dave Harmes), those were not the winners. Now we do have a picture of Mike Clausen's winning entry.

It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.

Waikato Club at the Home Show

The Waikato Home Show is the big day out for members of the Waikato Guild of Woodworkers, or really three or four days. So I went down to look, turn wood (on a brand new DVR) and enjoy the day.

The club was allocated a terrible corner of a cattle barn in the showgrounds with the lights mostly non-functional while the cool winds blew right through. But there were more than 500 items for sale, two lathes turning and a woodcarver at work while the kiddies searched deep into the sawdust for one of the 1000 items in the Lucky Dip barrels. The public streamed past, sometimes so dense they slowed each other to a crawl, with many stopping to buy.

This a "Woodworkers" club with about 70 members. The array of items for sale reflected that with numerous non-turned items and thus a wide variety for buyers choice. From my woodturners view, every eyeful of the display contained some segmented turning and an undefinable difference in the style of the other woodturning. Well made and well presented.

I was there on day one and the weather got wetter and colder over the following few days. But the final report was that their participation in the show was a worthwhile effort. It was nice to be able to be there.

If undelivered, please return to:
The Editor, 48 Manse Road,
Papakura, 1703.

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