

# TURNING TALK

## Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

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Number 141 : February 2006

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### Every Month, Rain Hail or Shine

**Monday** afternoon action starts at 12:30. Hands on or have a coffee and chat. Your chance to use the facilities.

**Wednesday evenings**, (except the two weeks over Christmas/New Year) 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. During the school term our official meeting starts at 7:00 and includes a programmed demonstration.

**First Saturday** every month (except January) 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.

### Club Night Programme

#### First Term 2006

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 (half-finished, flawed, or failed) flowing to the show-and-tell table each meeting night.

Wed 8 February **Term Project – a Balustrade**. This is for the handrails in the clubrooms. Each balustrade to be 500mm long plus a 20x20 spigot on each end. Greatest diameter to be 75mm but about 60mm preferred. Demonstrated by Dave Anderson from West Auckland.

Wed 15 February **A wavy edged bowl**. Michael Bernard will show us how to achieve this interesting result.

Wed 22 February **Little winged vessels**. Some fine and careful cutting demonstrated by Gordon Pembridge.

Wed 1 March **Making the bottom look lovely** right down to the feet. Ian Fish shares his years of experience.

Wed 8 March **Clinic and Hands-on** to help solve your problems and to make more Term Project entries. Bring your problem pieces, tools for sharpening, and your project making gear.

Wed 15 March **The Symtec Lathe** may be out of production but Ian Clarke from Tauranga will show us this unique machine.

Wed 22 March **The Teknatool chuck** has gone through many changes and there are many more suggestions. Roy Buckley has been part of this evolution and will share his experiences.

Wed 29 March We usually see the art of **marquetry and intarsia** after it is completed. Jacob von Holzen from Te Aroha will show us how some of it is done.

Wed 5 April **Twisting the candlestick**. Bob Norris introduces us to a few twisting ideas.

Wed 12 April **Multi-demo making weed pots**. Lets see how many lathes we can get going. Demonstrator names will be added to this slot as the term progresses.

This is the last night of the term when the balustrades will all be on display and the best one selected. Also the Table Prize for Term Four will be awarded.

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**Guild Correspondence to:** 4/4 William Ave., Greenlane, Auckland. email [cheers@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:cheers@slingshot.co.nz)

President:	Terry Scott	297-7051
Vice President:	Farouk Khan	580-2366
Secretary:	Mike Clausen	525-3586
Editor:	Dick Veitch	298-5775
Treasurer:	Cathy Langley	630-2091
Webmaster:	Rex Haslip	267-3548
Committee:	Terry Bennett, Mac Duane, Ian Fish, Craig Lockwood, Terry Meekan, Les Sivewright	

**Newsletter contributions to:** 48 Manse Rd., Papakura. Or [dveitch@kiwilink.co.nz](mailto:dveitch@kiwilink.co.nz) or fax 298-5775

**Our Website is** [www.sawg.org.nz](http://www.sawg.org.nz)

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## Club Night 7 December 2005. Driftwood Bowls

By selecting the right wood to start with and then giving it the right treatment, Rex showed us that you could make a nice ornamental bowl from a piece of driftwood. The bit I can't really give you a recipe for is selection of the nice-looking bit of driftwood – this is certainly in the eye of the beholder.

You do, however, need to select sound wood, or make soggy wood sound with appropriate treatment. It will not be good if it all falls apart on the hall table a few weeks after completion. Also, it is desirable that the wood can be hit, blown with air, or waterblasted to get most of the sand out. If a lot of sand, shell, or grit remains it will be difficult cutting – and a trickle of sand from the completed work onto the dining table will not go down well.

Mounting an uneven bit of wood on the lathe is always a challenge. The wood can be glued to a waste block and then turn a foot and upper side as one would a regular bowl. Or a flat can be sanded as the foot of the bowl and then glue that to a waste block. Or, a cunning method Rex chose is to keep the underside of the finished piece un-modified by screwing a faceplate to the foot side with three screw holes later becoming the placement of feet.

Customwood can be used as a waste block for smaller items but be aware that it can peel apart if larger work is glued to the surface.

With the driftwood securely attached by the foot side Rex cut simple small bowls into the upper surface. This is particularly effective when the bowl is polished or light coloured among the dark of the aged outer surface of the driftwood.

Take great care to avoid the spinning outer extremities of the wood.

The feet Rex made were simple small ball feet. For each foot short piece was turned to almost a ball and then cut to the perfect ball with a short length of pipe.



## Wanted / For Sale / Give Away

RYOBI SC160 16 inch scroll saw, as new, includes owner's manual. A gift at \$80. Phone Bruce at 277 6155

## WebWatch

Want to see some fancy carving try [www.gofraser.com](http://www.gofraser.com)

A sample is this towel hung to dry.



Or want to design your work on computer first? Have a look at [www.creative-woodturner.com](http://www.creative-woodturner.com)

Thanks to Phil Collins and Selby West for this information.

## AGM Notice

The date for our Annual General Meeting is expected to be set during February and for the AGM to be held in May. Members are reminded that any notices of motion they wish to be considered by the AGM must be advertised in the March newsletter.

## The Library

Some members asked for the list of library books to be advertised in this newsletter. More than 30 books have been added to the library in the past six months and the booklist is now three pages long. With 116 books now on the list and more periodicals also filling the library it is a place worthy of your time. Having a look at the content of the book rather than just the title in a list may also be more meaningful. A new list sorted by book content is also being developed for display in the library



*Optimist*

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## Club Night 14 December 2005. Christmas Decorations

Simple things from small bits of wood that bring endless amusement, particularly to the younger members of the family.

Doug Tanner has demonstrated woodturning so well and so often that he just seemed to go whizz-whizz and there was a little Christmas tree, or a small doll, or an acorn, or bell. This is a wonderful way to use little bits of wood and to have enjoyable woodturning gifts.

We do see turned Christmas decorations in magazines, particularly from America, but they are rare here. The American ones, at least those they show in the books, are far more complex than those that Doug showed us.

These were all little bits of spindle turning. Doug cut quickly with a sharp skew and no sanding was needed.

Add a little paint, dust it with star dust while still wet and you have a decoration better than cheap bits of plastic, and longer lasting.



## Coming Events

Thames Society of Arts Summer Exhibition. 16 Feb to 5 March

Irene Grafert full day wood decorating demo 4 March 2006

Turangi Jamboree. Bring your lathe or just look and talk. **4 and 5 March 2006**

Royal Easter Show entry forms due by 10 March 2006

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

Full day demonstration by Soren Berger, 8 April 2006

Royal Easter Show, 13 to 18 April 2006

National Woodskills Festival at Kawerau, 8 to 10 September 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>

## Joys and Sorrows of the Christmas Sale

Fewer participants (24), less wood (1514 items), but a better percentage sold (53) than 2004. That is also heaps better than any other woodturning sales that I have heard about.

Better quality, similar diversity, but still some shoppers wanted items that were absent.

Fewer mistakes and better bookkeeping by the helpers, but some items still got away unpaid-for.

Great to see so many people turn out to prepare the shop space, and again to clean up. Really sad that some who sold work did nothing to help set up or clean up.

And it would be ever so nice if more non-selling members could come along, see the sale, and maybe help for half a day.

## Table Prize Fourth Term 2005

This goes to the person who put items on the Show and Tell table on the greatest number of occasions during the term. Congratulations Michael Bernard

## Term Project Prize Fourth Term 2005

This is for the best small bowl, as judged by the small bowl demonstrator, Rex Haslip. Congratulations to Cathy Langley and Gordon Pembridge



From Rex Haslip

So what does an Ornamental Turner do when he is not ornamental turning. No club activities to amuse him, no other practitioners of the art to share ideas with, well lots as it turns out (sorry about the pun).

With the Christmas break just about over, and work well and truly started again for the year, it is easy to slip into wondering how so much time could pass with out looking at your lathe. I know I am guilty of this. Then, after the stark reality of needing to put food on the table subsides, I find myself thinking about a week I will not forget in a hurry, a week spent with 25 other turners, sharing ideas, eating, sleeping and living turning for 5 days.

Now its true, there wasn't a Holtzaphel or Bauer in sight, no index wheels or fly cutters, but there was an enthusiasm that abounded, that gives strength to those who partook. An enthusiasm, that fuelled the imagination and daring of the quiet ones, that provided a safe haven for those who "would like to" to step out and try all those things that "the other guys do", and on top of all that, WE HAD FUN.

Jim Manley and Gordon Pritchard backed up by a devoted committee, put on an awesome 5 day live in event in Feilding, a Turners Collaboration, supplemented with a few artisans of allied wood crafts, carving and Scroll Sawing, and access to a foundry for Bronze and Aluminium casting. Unlike other collaborations, this was small, devoted largely to wood related arts, and was low key and relaxed. Very enjoyable indeed. To see what happened, please visit the NAW site and check out the Event Reports and Gallery. [www.woodskills.co.nz](http://www.woodskills.co.nz)

So what does all this have to do with Ornamental turning, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, but hey, as I said when I started, with "*No club activities to amuse him, no other practitioners of the art to share ideas with*". Well I have had a wonderful time, which to me proves that variety is the spice of life, open your mind to what else is there and enjoy all disciplines of this fine craft we call woodturning. Try ornamental if you haven't, don't shut out the ideas as to difficult or complex, and likewise to you dedicated ornamental turners, think outside the square, and if it seems scary, then do it. What's to loose, probably a bit of wood, just like the other 30 in your wood pile, its not like you can't spare one piece to try something new.

On that note, our regular spot will start again on the third Saturday afternoon in February, (18<sup>th</sup> February) at 1.00 pm, so see you there.

## Sent in for publication but maybe really not for sale.

FOR SALE

Cross slide vice (dismantled)

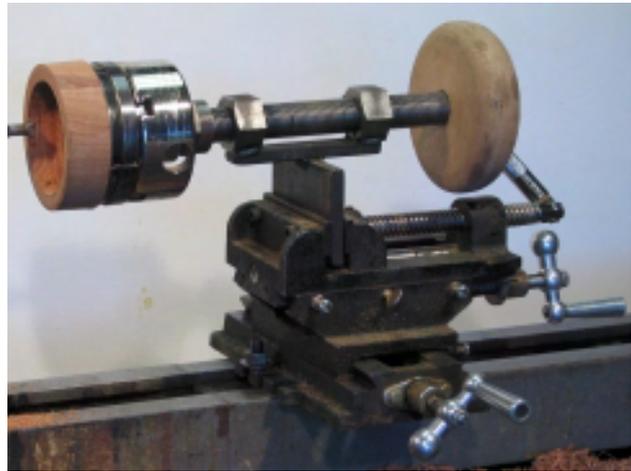
(or 'why I hate clever Dicks')

Cardboard box thought to contain all parts for one brand new cross slide vice, with a few extra holes drilled in some parts.

Anybody who saw Dick's recent demonstration may have heard him suggest that you can easily dismantle these vices and, by drilling and trapping a couple of extra holes, reassemble it so that all of the handles are on the same side, making it easier to use. So simple anyone can do it. **WRONG.**

Anyone wishing to purchase my vice (Len Bacon) see Dick, he's likely to be wearing it!

[He must have thrown it high and wide for it has not arrived yet. Ed].



On some frozen dinners: "Serving suggestion: Defrost". (But, it's just a suggestion).



*Realist*

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## Feilding Collaboration 06

This was the first (not the 6<sup>th</sup>) and will surely not be the last. A low cost fun-time gathering of woodworkers - mainly woodturners - in the sheds of Jim Manley and Gordon Pritchard at Feilding. In all, 27 people cutting, painting, burning, carving, turning wood, and adding other materials while being fed a lot and organised a little.

It was my first time at such a collaborative event and I was thankful for the initial bit of organisation which said "in teams of three according to the numbers on your lapel badges you will create a collaborative work made from at least three things, and it shall be a vessel, and it will include some spindle turning." That caused seven items to be created. A further 59 items followed in the five days we were there.



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## Baby Rolly a Real Treat

Just think of that joyous Rolly Hollowing Tool shrunk to half size and then multiply those happy thoughts many times. The Baby Rolly is, almost, half size but Rolly has developed it to work so sweetly. Just how do I explain that?

Sharp cutter, balance, feel, all come into play.

I was handed a bit of spalted mountain beech already turned on the outside, with a request “Hollow that please?” So I did, and was amazed how easy it was to do. The finish, before sanding, was far better than I have achieved with most other tools. Why?

The sharp 8mm cutter is surely the starting point, along with the guard to manage the depth of cut. No great pressure is required to make it cut and no careful control is needed to stop it going too far. So, no great effort needed.

Balance certainly has a lot to do with it. The entire tool weighs in at less than most of my bowl gouges and the tool balances at about the left hand holding point. So all the pressure needed by the right hand is controlling the cut and not lifting a hefty tool.

Feel. This is the delicate bit that took me a while to recognise. The 8mm cutter is so smooth that there were fewer “cutting” messages going from the cutter to my hands than from most other chisels. With the cutter hiding inside a hollow form this feel is most important, along with listening to cutting sounds. The firm closed-cell foam handle cover (450mm long) with extra grip at the hand positions certainly contributes to the good fell of the tool.

The normal Baby Rolly kit is the tool (handle, shaft, short link, and head), a “spanner” tool of three allen keys combined, and a sharpening stick. RRP about \$250.00 but ask your local Rolly dealer.

The sharpening stick is a must. These tiny 8mm cutters need to be sharpened a different way. A touch on a normal grinder could destroy them. So the cutter is screwed into the end of the sharpening stick and that is held in an electric drill. You then use the drill to rotate the cutter against a diamond hone. Certainly gets a superb edge.

There are optional add-ons. A tungsten cutter is available – useful for very hard woods which would wear the normal HSS cutter too fast. A tapered shaft is available so that the smaller Baby Rolly head can be used with the regular Rolly Hollower handle.

You want the downside of all this? There is no second bent link to use between the shaft and head like the one



supplied with the full size hollower (don't think I have used mine yet). I would have liked this tool to be on the market a few years ago.

The name of the tool? I asked Rolly and he said he expected a name to develop. Well, I have started with “Baby Rolly”. You know the story “Smooth as a.....”.

## Woodcut on the Move

Hinuera to Haumoana – don't know where that is? Doesn't matter to start with as the new Woodcut owner, Peter Hewitt, says it will take a while to set things up and for visitors to be welcome. Meantime it is all go and all the Woodcut products will continue to flow – ask your local retailer. It seems all the machinery and some of the staff have also shifted to Haumoana.

Peter describes himself as a woodturner with a lot to learn. He retired from a variety of businesses in Auckland but never got round to joining a woodturning club and now seems to have found retirement boring and needed to change back to semi-retired.

Ken Port remains part of the business. Peter called him “Our inventions man” which, in corporate terms, probably means the R&D part of the business (which begs for government funding). Ken started woodturning about 1973 at which time tools were difficult to find, and even harder to import. So, being an engineer, he made his own based on pictures in a Peter Child book. In 1989 the Woodcut business was established to make and sell woodturning tools. Many of us have enjoyed their products since.

I look forward to a continuing flow of Woodcut products and now that the R&D department is not trying to run the business as well, maybe some new toys?



*Chauvinist*

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## A Fish Called Wonder-full

From Len Bacon

Some weeks ago we were talking at the club and I must have expressed my wish to one day own a DVR. Anyway, a few weeks later I had a phone call from our friendly DVR dealer to say that he had one left at the old price and he had put my name on it. For \$2,000 plus my old lathe I could own the machine of my dreams.

Not one to make unwise snap decisions I told him I would think about it for a few days. I must admit I was sorely tempted, but didn't have enough money and, after a few sleepless nights, common sense prevailed and I had to say no.

I turned him down for a number of reasons, not the least being that I am broke, I don't spend enough time on the lathe to justify the \$2,000, I don't have enough diesel to make the trip over to Birkenhead, let alone back again, and I wasn't going to beg to that bank budgeting officer for another advance on my allowances. (Unfortunately, after a brief foray into a business venture that didn't quite go the way I intended a rather over-zealous bank saw fit to lumber me with a totally unnecessary, and extremely unreasonable, budgeting officer).

After a short period of depression I had a brainwave and went looking for my better half out at the woodheap. (Jeez Terry that knotty gum is tough, I'm a bit concerned She is not going to have much of it split by next winter). "Honey, you know that \$2,000 I saved by not buying that new lathe last week, what would you say if I spent half that on a new variable speed motor for my old lathe. It has forward and reverse and I am sure I could save heaps in the cost of sandpaper alone in no time, let alone saving in time of belt changing and messing about."

To my surprise and delight She didn't argue, although I am not really sure She heard me, and soon after my new motor duly arrived. A couple of days later I was sitting in the shed admiring my latest purchase with its dainty little red switches and digital speed screen when I had another brainwave.

With the other half of the \$2,000 I had saved I went out and paid the deposit on a new lounge suite for Her. With the special deals they are running at present She won't have to make any repayments til June 2007, and although we didn't need a new lounge suite, I must admit it is very nice. Not only do the chairs rock and recline, they also rotate so now I can see either TV without having to shift my position once I get comfortable.

Now I can lay back content in the knowledge that, once I get my new motor fitted, I own a lathe comparable with anybody else in the club. Easter Show and Putaruru here we come. The beauty of it all is, thanks to my wonderful friend Mr Fish, I did it all out of savings. For a change I am looking forward to my monthly meeting with that smart young budgeting officer so I can show him how clever I have been.

Thank you Mr Fish.

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## CA and the Speed Pedal

My introduction to cyanoacrylate glue (CA glue, superglue) was the bright suggestion "They have these packs of three tubes real cheap". I bought a pack and part used one tube. Next day that tube was dry. You have probably experienced the rest of that story.

My choice now is to buy the larger 20 to 40g bottles. "But," I hear you say, "they are expensive." Really? My 28g bottle costs \$12.00 or 43 cents/gram and my last three tube pack cost \$5.00 or 55 cents/gram.

But that is only part of the economy story. I now store my superglue in the beer fridge and the bottles never dry out – every last drop is used. Those little tubes seemed to be always dry. But why the fridge? Well, after the freezer, the fridge is the lowest humidity place in the house and it is the atmospheric moisture that reacts with superglue to make it set.

Most of the time there is plenty of moisture in the wood to get the glue to set but occasionally I do use some accelerator – the speed pedal. Those little bottles that come with a plastic pump are expensive and then to find that the liquid keeps dribbling out made me mad. Yes, the instructions do say to take the pump out and put the cap back on after each use – and how much accelerator is wasted in that process?

I can suggest a couple of options to improve the economy of accelerator use and both require a larger initial outlay. Many name brands of superglue market a spray can of accelerator (about \$35 for 200ml) or you can bulk buy (1 litre for \$50.00) and put it into a quality reusable pressure pack (\$80).

One of the other problems I had with the little tubes was that the glue was often quite thick and would not run into cracks in the wood. So, in changing to bottles of glue I opted for yet more financial outlay and gained hugely in satisfaction. I got one bottle of very thin glue and one bottle of thicker, slow setting glue.

When the thin glue is dropped into a crack in the wood you can see it racing to the very extremities before it sets. The thicker, slow setting glue will stay in a wide crack while I rub in sanding dust – great stuff.

I would like to recommend a particular brand, but won't. I believe superglue is manufactured in relatively few factories world-wide. Then it is repackaged into hundreds of different formulations and brand names. It does seem to be better not to look in hardware stores as most stock just the tubes on a card. I get my supplies from my local hobby shop. The woodworking supply stores I know also stock the larger containers and range of viscosities and setting speeds.

A lot of money is tainted. It taint yours and it taint mine.

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## A Shear Scraper for the Rolly Hollower

I have a round-handled scraper. I have massive thick-bladed scrapers. I have a hook ended scraper. But, until now, I had nothing to shear scrape the walls of a tall hollow vessel.

This add-on for the regular Rolly Munro Hollowing Tool is just so simple, yet so effective.

I think the picture tells more than I can write. But let me explain a little. The triangular block replaces the normal cutting head of the Rolly Hollower. If left pointing straight ahead you can shear scrape across the bottom of a bowl or vessel – just like you can with other tools. But turn the

block so that it is 90 degrees to the shaft and the scraper blade is presented at a 45 degree angle to the wood – shear scraping.

The steel for this scraper has been carefully selected and keeps an edge remarkably well but they still need sharpening. A perfect right angle is Rolly's choice and it works well like that. Start with the back of the cutting edge rubbing the wood and gently swing the handle to the left until a gentle scraping cut is achieved. Sweet as.

Now there are fewer reasons to make a lid for the hollow form so that woodturners can't put their fingers inside.



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## TIMBER

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