

# TURNING TALK

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

TURNING TOMORROW'S TREASURES

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Number 142 : March 2006

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## Every Month, Rain Hail or Shine

**Monday** afternoon action has stopped. Sorry, too few people were making use of this time. Some of us would like to get this started again - please talk to the President or a Committee Member. Or maybe a different day of the week will be better?

**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. For the coming year each Upskills Day will also have a specific subject topic - see the Training Programme list for details.

**Second Saturday** every month is Working Bee. Doors open 8:30am. There are always cleaning tasks 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 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 One will be awarded.

Term Two 2006 begins 26 April

Tell me - why do you put a shipment in a car and a cargo in a ship?

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

## Club Night 8 February 2006. Term Project - a Balustrade

Dave Anderson began by explaining that the turning on a baluster will normally match the turning of the newel post. Some defining of the words followed.

The newel post is the big post that is usually at either end of the project – top and bottom of the stairs, or maybe at each corner; at the end of a verandah if there is no full height verandah roof supporting post. The newel post may be many times the diameter of other components in the balustrade – the name given to the entire setup of newel post, balusters, stringboard (along the bottom) and handrail on the top.

For balusters to be used on sloping places such as stairs then careful calculations are needed before turning starts.

He would usually cut the pins at the ends unless a very thin pin is required. For our project a 20 x 20mm pin is needed at each end with 500mm of turned wood between. The ends may be left square. If they are rounded then undercut a little so that the outer edge of the bead sits nicely.

Round the work down to just a little more than the designed finish. Sanding may take away a further 0.5mm.

The design can be with a “right-way-up” intention in which case it is usual to have the baluster thinner towards the top or a longer piece left square at the bottom. If the design is to be for an equally balanced decoration, and thus a double-ended design, start cutting the design at the centre and make a template to ensure each half is exactly the same.

Cut as much detail as possible before further thinning of the turning. This reduces the chance for flexing of the wood to spoil your work.

Dave whizzed through a few different designs and made it all look so easy.

We look forward to a fine array of balusters to make our balustrade.

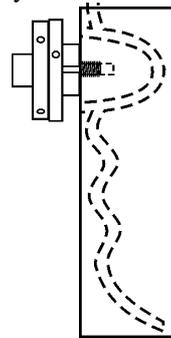


## Club Night 15 February. Wavy Edge Bowl

Michael Bernard has shown us a few of his wavy edged bowls on previous evenings. Now he showed us how to make them.

The design possibilities are almost endless as the bowl lip, bowl shape, number and curve of the waves, length of the feet, and other features can all be varied.

As with all off-centre work, it is done very carefully to avoid the almost invisible spinning extremities from striking stray hands and fingers.

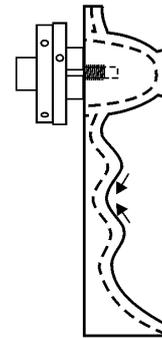


The block of wood should be a perfect rectangle or the feet may end up uneven.

Mount on a screw chuck but take care not to drill the hole too deep.

Decide now on the shape you intend to cut.

Keep the speed up to reduce chisel bounce.



Turn the underside. Cut the spigot for re-mounting first. Then work from the extremities towards the centre.

Within each wave cut downhill at all times. Sand and finish the underside.

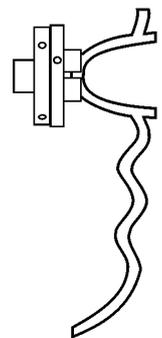
Turn over and remount by the spigot.

Mark the position of the bowl rim.

Work from the extremities towards the centre.

Cut each part to final thickness before moving on. Then hollow the bowl.

To clean off the spigot, re-mount on a jam chuck or press-fit with the tailstock brought up.

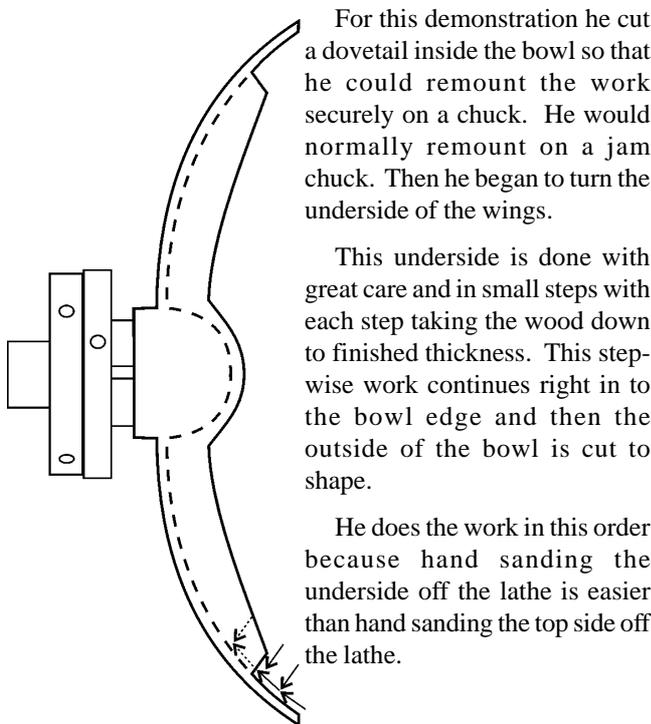


## Club Night 22 Feb. Little Winged Vessels

Gordon Pembridge set out to make a winged vessel where the bowl part was lifted well above table level. But he then considered that the legs looked too bulky so he carved holes and gaps between parts of the legs. The design opportunities are almost endless. His basic design criteria was that the lines should flow. Then he makes all parts thin.

To achieve the thin finish a strong timber is necessary and he used bubinga for his demonstration. The block to start with needs to be cleanly cut to a perfect rectangle to ensure that the finished work will sit squarely.

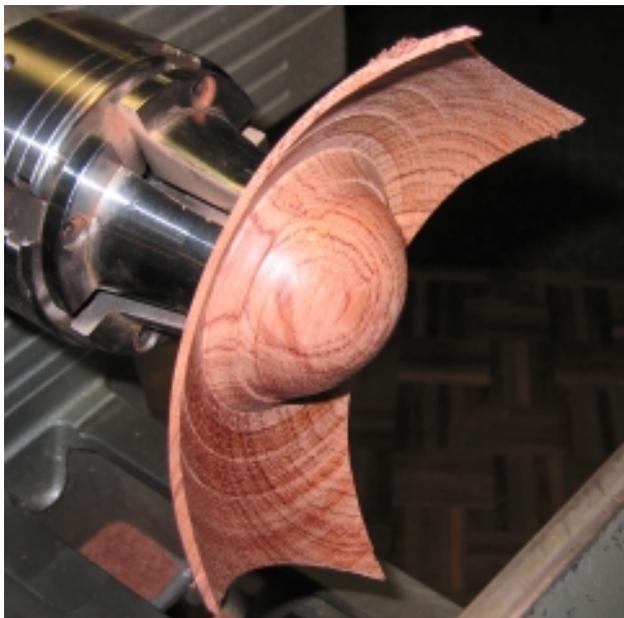
He started with the block mounted top side towards the lathe on a screw chuck and cut a spigot on the bottom and removed some of the underside wood. He then re-mounted the work by the foot and cut the complete topside. He would normally then sand and finish the top side.



For this demonstration he cut a dovetail inside the bowl so that he could remount the work securely on a chuck. He would normally remount on a jam chuck. Then he began to turn the underside of the wings.

This underside is done with great care and in small steps with each step taking the wood down to finished thickness. This step-wise work continues right in to the bowl edge and then the outside of the bowl is cut to shape.

He does the work in this order because hand sanding the underside off the lathe is easier than hand sanding the top side off the lathe.



## Subscriptions Due

Last year the membership of South Auckland Woodturners Guild climbed to 143 members. Subscriptions for the new year are due to be paid on 1 January and to help this along we included an invoice with all the December newsletters, or posted invoices to those who receive emailed newsletters. With the February newsletter went reminders to all those who had not paid by the end of January. Now it is the end of February and some people still have not paid. So this is the last reminder, and the last newsletter going to those people.

## Coming Events

Irene Grafert full day wood decorating demo 4 March 06

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

DIY Court at the Autumn Home Show (Formerly Timber & Working With Wood Show), 31 March to 2 April 06

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>

## Annual General Meeting

Members are notified that the Annual General Meeting of South Auckland Woodturners Guild will be held at the clubrooms, Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, on Wednesday 17 May 2006, starting at 7:00pm.

No Notices of Motion have been received for presentation to this meeting.

Our Secretary, Mike Clausen, has announced that he wishes to stand down following the AGM. Any club member who would like to consider taking on this task is encouraged to discuss the work with Mike or any committee member.

## TIMBER

WOODTURNING BLANKS, SLABS, & PLANKS

GOOD SELECTION TO CHOOSE FROM

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JIM DOWNS

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## A Demonstration by Irene Grafert

At South Auckland Woodturners 4 March 2006. Demo starts 9:00am and finishes at 4:00pm. Bring your lunch, tea and coffee provided. \$25.00 at the door.

Surface decoration allows the turner to start with the most mundane of woods and produce a quite spectacular result. In Irene's native Denmark, most of the available hardwoods are pale and lack interesting colouring and grain patterns. Perhaps it was this lack of intrinsic interest in the grain patterns of the native woods that led Irene to explore the possibilities of decoration. She has found this approach to offer endless possibilities.

There is a practical reason to master the techniques of surface decoration that goes beyond the aesthetic and creative appeal. Irene began her professional career doing conventional turning: bowl, platters, vases, and vessels. As soon as she added decoration, her exhibits were sold out!

### Colours

#### **Decorative Techniques Using Colour**

Irene's processes are quite different from painting on the surface. Natural and synthetic dyes are used on prepared wood. Prior to dyeing, the design must be burned or etched into the wood to prevent the dyes from bleeding through the wood fibres. This demo covers wood preparation, pattern transfer, pyrography and etching, ebonising and bleaching, dyeing, crackling, and finishing decorated wood.



### Metal

#### **Decorative Techniques Using Metal Leaf and other Metal Mediums**

Metal leaf provides a rich and varied range of possibilities for decorating turned objects. Choices for leaf materials include gold, silver, copper, as well as variegated foils. The process of applying metal leaf to wood is both ancient, and quite straightforward.

This demonstration presents both the technique as well as some of the artistic potential for this medium. It includes a detailed presentation of wood preparation (the secret to success), as well as both the application of metal leaf and alternative surface treatment such as metal waxes and powders and finishing options.



### Epoxy

Epoxy provides unlimited creative possibilities for enhancing turned objects. Because of its structural properties, it can be used to augment the initial form. It can be coloured and shaped, extending the range of design alternatives available to the artist.

This demonstration will cover both the practical and creative aspects of epoxy, including a review of material preparation, colouring agents and procedures, and approaches to establishing the initial epoxy form, refining its shaping, and finishing.



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## South Auckland Woodturners Guild Training Plan 2006

We welcome all woodturners, and prospective woodturners, to participate at a level commensurate with their skills.

First Saturday each month is Upskills Day except where there is a clash with other club activities. Members are still encouraged to bring all sorts of problems and help requests. In addition there will be a nominated subject to be addressed and a nominated leader of the ensuing discussion and action.

The fourth or fifth weekend of each month is used for programmed training. Six weekend-long courses are planned along with two one-day courses for tutors/demonstrators.

25 and 26 March. Beginners Training Course. Leader Terry Meekan

1 April. Upskills. Lidded Boxes

29 and 30 April. Experienced Training Course. Leader Rolly Munro

6 May. Upskills. Natural Edges

27 and 28 May. Intermediate Training Course. Leader Fred Irvine

3 June. Upskills. The Skew Chisel

24 June. Training Day for Tutors/demonstrators

1 July. Upskills. Cleaning the Bottom

22 and 23 July. Beginners Training Course. Leader Ian Fish

5 August. Upskills. Inside the Bowl

26 and 27 August. Intermediate Training Course. Leader Granville Haworth

2 September. Upskills. Toolcare

23 and 24 September. Experienced Training Course. Leader John Mackinven

7 October. Upskills. Platters

28 October. Training Day for Tutors/demonstrators

4 November. Upskills. Deep Hollowing

These are hands-on training courses with the majority of the training time being with each trainee at a lathe making turned items. Each course, each day, operates from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm in the SAWG Clubrooms, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe.

This training will be 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 no charge; 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.

### **Beginners:**

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). This Beginner group includes people who know some of the things listed here but are having difficulty completing any projects.

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. You will need sandpaper and finishing wax/oils for your project – these can be purchased from the club shop.

### **Intermediate:**

Participants should already know how to sharpen woodturning tools, mount wood on the lathe, and turn it into something. Woodturners who feel they have not achieved this level are encouraged to take the Beginners Course.

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, a supply of wood that will give them a variety of turning options, and sandpaper and wax/oils to finish each project.

### **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.

In this course the tutors will discuss and enhance all aspects of participants' work and work practices while the trainee creates turned items on the 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, embellishing, and finishing their work. They also need to bring a variety of wood for turning new forms, some incomplete turned items for finishing, and completed items for critique.

## Web Watch

I hoped the web might come up with some interesting baluster designs to share with you. What I found were many hundreds of mostly commercial “buy our balusters” sites, but some are interesting:

[https://www.stairpartsusa.com/category\\_s/20.htm](https://www.stairpartsusa.com/category_s/20.htm)

<http://www.hansonwoodturning.com/balusters.htm>

[http://www.pagliaccho.com/Balusters\\_newels.html](http://www.pagliaccho.com/Balusters_newels.html)

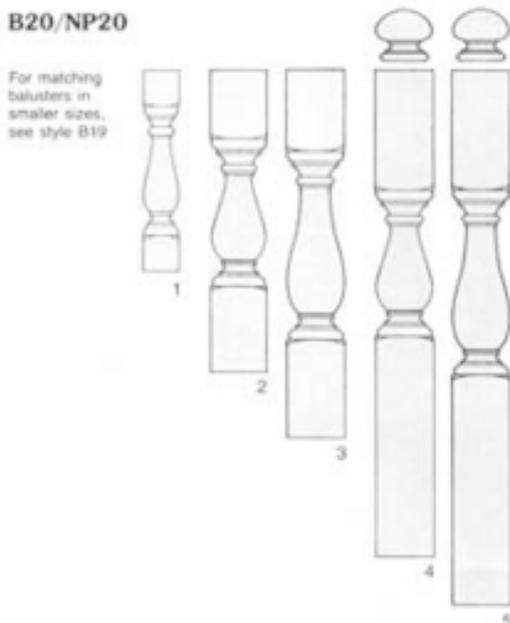
<http://www.custommade.com/gallery/carving-MA/balusters.html>

<http://woodstairs.com/parts/balnew.html>

<http://www.ftstairs.com/banner-baluster.htm>

<http://www.old-basing.co.uk/page2.html> shows pictures of 114 balusters

Here is a little sample from one site:



Then there was this picture:



In this unusual Edwardian design, the hand rail curves down and becomes the newel post. Perhaps this appealed to a banister-sliding owner.

## Thames Winners

Congratulations to the winners in the woodwork section of the Thames Society of Arts Summer Exhibition. The judge was Ken Sager.

1<sup>st</sup> Terry Scott. Swimming Along – a winged hollow form.

2<sup>nd</sup> Jacob von Holzen. Inlaid Music Box.

3<sup>rd</sup> Terry Scott. Time Waster II – a platter.

Merit. Terry Scott. The Propeller – a double bowl in



## Wanted / For Sale / Give Away

**Free to good home** (or any home for that matter) 1 only Misterbitchy Cube Model RA 621 microwave oven, 650 watts. It works - this is even more of a gift than the scrollsaw!! Phone Bruce at 277 6155.

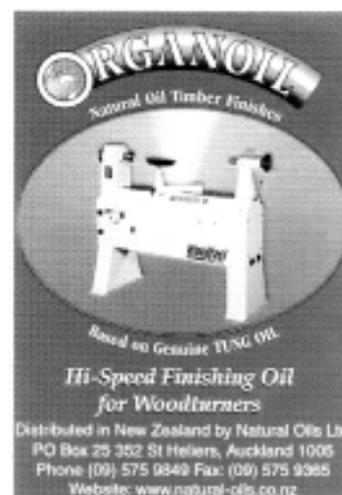
**For Sale**, ‘General’ Lathe on bench (Canadian)

Features: 1 cut out safety switch; reverse switch; motor power - 2 hp, single phase; 26 turning chisels (assorted); 1 set miniature turning chisels; 11 assorted size face plates; 5 chucks - 2 Tanner & 3 Teknatool; 1 Colejaw chuck; 1 set Teknatool live centre; Tanner off-centre chuck; Teknatool off-centre chuck; 4 straight tool rest - 1 curved toolrest; 3 jam chucks; 5 live centres; 1 divider & 1 calliper; 1 facesheld; 1 powered dust protection mask; 1 dust mask; 1 long hole boring tool; 1 Tanner outboard tool rest.

Wants \$1800.00 for the lot. Contact Gordon Herbert, 527 8160

**For Sale**, Big Bandsaw.

18” throat with 15 blades from ¼ to 1½”. Wants \$1200.00. Contact Gordon Herbert, 527 8160



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## That Swamp Kauri Log



First we gave it a good wash to get the stones off. Note where the remains of the straight trunk have been cut off.



The first cube was cut into slabs.



Then the rubbishy corner was cut out.



The second cube was cut and tipped out.



And the first cube was cut out and tipped over.



We had enough wood to take home.

I've got to the age when I need my false teeth and my hearing aid before I can ask where I have left my glasses.

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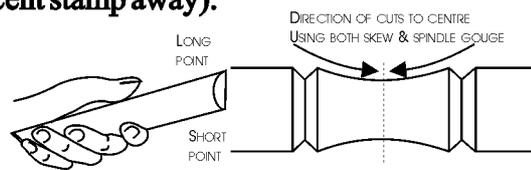
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