

TURNING TALK

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

TURNING TOMORROW'S TREASURES

Number 143 : April 2006

Every Month, Rain Hail or Shine

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 this year each Upskills Day will also have a specific subject topic - see the Training Programme 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.

Fourth Saturday of most months is a training course. Check the Training Programme for details.

Coming Events

Full day demonstration by Soren Berger, 8 April 2006

Royal Easter Show, 13 to 18 April 2006

Franklin Arts Festival entries due 5 May 2006

Franklin Arts Festival 11 to 18 June 2006

National Woodskills Festival at Kawerau, 8 to 10 September 2006

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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, doors open at 5:00 pm.

These term sees 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 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.

Second Term 2006

Wed 26 April **Term Project.** Rice bowl and chopsticks. Presented by Dave Harmes.

Wed 3 May **Video evening.** A choice of one of three Neil Scobie videos – Making a Tree Platter; Making and Erosion Bowl; or Making a Wave Rim Bowl.

Wed 10 May **Lacquer Stains & Clears** will be shown to us by Franco Celligoi, Business Development Manager - Timber & Specialty Coatings, Watty Paints.

Wed 17 May **Annual General Meeting.** Followed by a **pyrography** demonstration by Patty Khan. Supper to follow, please bring a plate.

Wed 24 May **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 31 May **A walking stick** turned by Phil Youens.

Wed 7 June **Leather work.** John Whitmore will show us a few non-wood skills.

Wed 14 June **A standard lamp** made by Farouk Khan.

Club Night 1 March 2006. Making the bottom look lovely

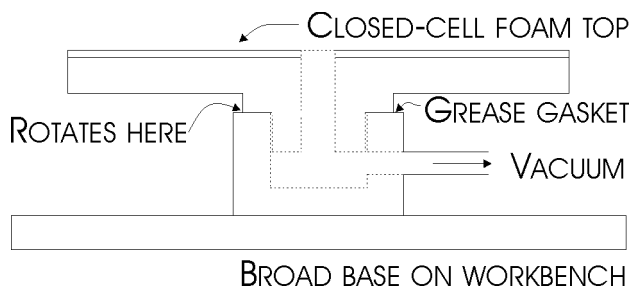
Ian Fish explained the evolution of his work to make bowl bottoms look better. In this he was influenced by the work of Richard Raffan.

Regardless of the state of the bowl bottom or feet, good form in the bowl shape is absolutely necessary. The feet will be a feature but should not attract attention away from the form of the bowl.

His early bowls were thin-walled with a tall foot which made them useful for decorative purposes only. Then he moved on to a short, almost nothing, foot but still with a bowl shape that had lift. At this point he divided the fully circular foot into three feet.

The feet can be straight – just as a section of a regular round bowl foot – or they can have a little “toe out”.

For easiest execution of the foot-making process it starts when the area inside the full-circle foot, usually the spigot used to hold the bowl during hollowing, is cut away. This should be shaped so that a fair curve will appear when parts of the full-circle foot are removed. At this point the bowl can be removed from the lathe and placed face-down on a workbench. I also showed us a useful vacuum table for holding a bowl in this position yet still allowing it to rotate.



This entire demonstration was with three feet on a bowl. Making four feet commonly results in one foot not touching the table. To mark the positions for three feet you can use the index in your lathe or make a small template with a centre point and three slots at the 120 degree angles.

To cut the full-circle foot away and leave just the three feet Ian uses a rotary chisel followed by a stiff sanding disk and then sandpaper on foam-backed sticks.



Club Night 8 March 2006. Clinic and hands-on.

The term project balusters did not appear to be in great abundance but plenty of lathes were working and plenty of shavings flying.

What more can I say? Club members were enjoying the facilities and sharing their knowledge.

Club Night 15 March 2006. The Symtec Lathe

Ian Clarke brought his Symtec lathe all the way from Tauranga to show us.

I would liken this lathe to a cross between a regular lathe and a commercial copy lathe. The cutter works in a manner similar to the commercial copy lathe but the operator has the cutting freedom of a regular woodlathe.

Wood is mounted on the Symtec just like on a regular lathe. Beneath the wood, where a regular lathe bed usually is, the Symtec has a broad, perfectly flat, steel table. The operator has a cutter on a special mount which can be slid around on the flat table. The cutter height is at the perfect centre of the lathe spindle.

With the wood spinning, the cutter on the mount, is slid up to the work and moved by the operator to remove shavings. I likened the action to scraping but Ian explained that the cutter was sharpened to make the cuts better than a scraper would achieve.

Sharpening of the cutter is done on the grindstone built into the headstock of the lathe.

A copy pattern can be fitted to the lathe table so that the hand-held cutter mount can follow the pattern. Or a more complex copy device can be added.

Many different sized Symtec lathes were made but production has now ceased.



Club Night 22 March 2006. The Teknatool Chuck

Roy Buckley brought an historical array of bits of steel to show us his involvement in chuck development. He made his first lathe while at school and used a regular water pipe thread size on the spindle so that he could easily make faceplates and other attachments.

His first chuck was still mostly pipe fittings and involved a cone pulling down in the centre to spread four jaws into a dovetail in the wood. Teknatool then made a similar chuck and developed it further to hold a spigot as well. But the movement of the four jaws was not necessarily equal and in a spigot gripping mode it tended to come undone.

Teknatool then made the first concentric woodturning chuck. The jaws all moved in or out by the same distance as the mechanism was rotated. This was still primarily intended to hold wood using a dovetail grip. The Nova chuck soon followed and is still loved by many woodturners world-wide.

Cole jaws and huge variety of other jaws to fit the Nova Chuck followed and these still fit today's Teknatool chucks. Roy showed us some of his additional jaw designs. This really shows that the basic chuck is just that – a basis for good wood holding.



Irene Grafert demo

from Cathy Langley

Irene Grafert's full-day demo on the 4th of March was a great opportunity to see the effects of finishing with fabric dyes, acrylic paint, gilding paste, metal leaf, pyrography, crackle paints, and ebonising. In addition to showing us "how to", she also shared descriptions of various mistakes she's made, saving us from doing the same.

Irene has been turning since 1997 in Denmark, a country whose timbers are primarily straight-grained and colourless. She often colours the outside of bowls, and the rims of platters, treating the rest of the surface with a clear finish.

Some of Irene's techniques were demonstrated using prepared bowls or platters, and others were shown using squares of kauri plywood. She had also brought a slide show and examples of finished work.

One of the most distinctive pieces was a large platter with the rim covered with interlocking fish, drawn with a pyrography tool and tinted with fabric dyes. On first glance the shaded orange-and-yellow fish appeared to be swimming among blue-green seaweed, but on looking closer, you could see that what appeared to be seaweed was also more interlocking fish, in a pattern inspired by the designs of MC Escher.

Here's a sample of the tips Irene provided throughout the day included:

- When attaching metal to wood, use the type of 2-part epoxy that takes 7 days to fully cure. This is particularly important when using copper, which will heat and expand when turned.
- For detailed ebonising, you can get a small soldering torch from Dick Smith with a strong flame that uses cigarette lighters as a fuel source.
- If you plan to scorch the top rim of a bowl, completely finish the underside of the bowl, because the heat will cause the wood to move.
- When applying chemicals to achieve a "patinating" effect on metal leaf, you can achieve interesting patterns by wetting a piece of netting or sphagnum moss with the chemical, which is then laid onto the metal leaf.
- When turning a piece that you intend to decorate with pyrography on the rim, leave a "waste surface" in the middle to practice on, finished to the same standard as the rim.

It was an inspiring day, and Irene was an excellent demonstrator, happy to alter her presentation in response to our questions. Many of us came away with a set of the light-fast fabric dyes that Irene uses, and all of us took away a greater appreciation of the possibilities of decorative techniques.

Irene's website address is www.woodturndeco.com. Our library also has several books on decorative techniques, including *Decorating Turned Wood*, by Liz & Michael O'Donnell.

Club Night 29 March. Marquetry & Intarsia

We usually see these artforms only as the finished product. Jacob von Holzen has won many prizes for his work in this field and has passed on the skills to many young hopefuls. He brought his trusty pedal scrollsaw and samples of his work from Te Aroha to show us how it is done.

Planning, care, and patience are all keywords in successful work of this nature. Jacob also showed us that few tools are needed but a wide variety of woods is a benefit.

The planning starts with finding, or developing, the right sort of picture or pattern that the finished work will depict. The simple drawings in children's books are the start of many of Jacob's intarsia characters. For marquetry he clearly likes some very complex scenes as is shown in the fantail picture.

The dictionaries are not very helpful on separating the terminology. My interpretation from Jacob's notes and other sources is that marquetry is the laying of thin veneers to make a complete pattern or picture while intarsia involves thicker woods to get a third dimension into the picture. Both require very thoughtful use of wood colours and grains to achieve the desired result.

The numerous methods and hints that Jacob brought to the meeting are too much for this newsletter. He did leave with me some 24 pages of notes which I can copy for club members.



Turangi Jamboree

You should have come to the Turangi Jamboree – it was a woodies dream. Woodturners, that is! Wood blocks, wood shavings, wood spinning, wood talk, and finished wood.

This year there were 33 lathes and 86 people registered to be there. More came for a look. To cash in on the happy mood four retailers had tools, toys, and timber for sale.

The whole idea of a jamboree like this is that people bring their lathes, tools, and wood to spend time turning, and talking to other woodturners. Between those extremes is the watching – seeing the new tricks; new toys; new ideas.

The major new bit this year was the arrival of an entire hazelnut tree for conversion into interesting things. Small bowls, mushrooms, lampstands, and vases soon appeared. Even the stump was not wasted - it was turned upside-down so roots became hair and thick roots were sawn to become nose, ears, and mouth. All this went off to be sold for charity.

There are no invited “experts” for everyone to watch. There are just other woodturners to share information with. Whangaparaoa to Wellington, and Taranaki to Tolaga Bay would put a square around those present. Those from the south want to see swamp kauri and those from the north love to find black maire.

The Lake Taupo Woodworkers Guild is the organiser of this event and Jim Noor, prime mover of it, says it will be on again in the first weekend of March 2007. Watch the NAW web page www.woodskills.co.nz for details.



Life begins at forty – so do lumbago, bad eyesight, and the habit of telling the same story three times to the same person.

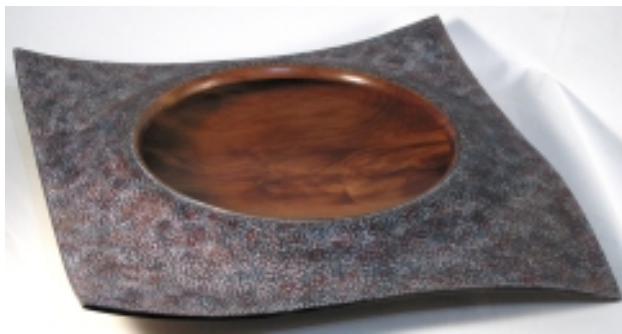
DIY Court at the Autumn Home Show

We were there to represent the NAW who were given the space to promote woodworking. In return for that free space we looked after the woodwork competition run by the Autumn Home Show managers.

Two lathes and two “exhibition managers” were kept pretty busy for the three days. On Sunday, when the Auckland Showers joined hands, the crowds seemed to be even greater.

I like to go there and make shavings. The people who share the space by using the other lathe can get me thinking or watching. There was one who had attended the beginners training course the previous weekend. The wood turned sweetly and the words flowed almost in competition with Shane Hewitt a little further along the hall. I know I am a bit quiet but that flow of words must have been really appreciated by the crowds. Then there was the turner who had demonstrated great skill before us one recent club night. But here the wood kept flying off the lathe – the crowd soon thinned – but more than 30 spinning tops did appear.

In the competition area Michael Posthuma won the youth award with a huge segmented bowl; Jim Downs won the furniture prize with a very nice kauri hall table; and Terry Scott took out the woodturning prize and Best of Show with a winged bowl.



Web Watch

From Phil Collins: Following the session with Jacob, I saw this same subject on TV on the Carol Duvall show on Sky. The Url to the show is: http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/cr_wood_glass/article/0,1789,HGTV_3347_3298697,00.html and his website is: <http://www.boxology.com/>

From Terry Scott: Laymar crafts has 3200 links 1400 which are individual wood turners Also hints, tips, and book reviews. This is by far the largest site I have visited. Many hours can be spent here surfing from one site to another. <http://www.laymar-crafts.co.uk/index.htm>

World of wood turners (Family com) A discussion group based in America with the ability to post pictures of your work and view other members galleries. Critiques and helpful hints. Interesting to see what the top part of the world is producing. Members include Andi Wolf, Art Leisman, Robbie Graham, Richard Raffan, Guilio Marcolongo, to name a few. Membership is by invitation only if you wish to join contact Terry timberly@xtra.co.nz and he will send on the link to join.

SOREN BERGER DEMONSTRATION DAY

9:00 AM TO 5:00PM Saturday 8 April 2006

At SAWG Clubrooms, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe

\$25.00 at the door

Tea and coffee provided, bring your lunch

Three topics, not necessarily in this order:

The Soren Berger Hollowing Tool. Soren will make a Kitchen Canister to show us the hollowing tool in use. This canister is an adequate size to allow our video camera to look right inside and show you all how the hollowing tool is presented to the wood. Soren will have these tools available for sale.

A Hat. Some of you will say “I have seen that before” but I note that few of you have made a hat so it looks like you will benefit from watching this woodturning magic and learning a few more of the tricks. Soren believes the skills needed to turn a hat are a benefit to all woodturning. The size and shape of the hat will depend on the wood that is available for his use.

A Multi-axis Scoop. Another demonstration of multiple woodturning skills and worthwhile learning for all woodturners. The scoop is turned on multiple axes and then jam-chucked for precision hollowing – not the sort of thing we see done every day so well worth a look.

Last time Soren was here the group talked and questioned him well after the 5:00pm ending time. You don’t need to bring your dinner, but do be prepared for a high level of interested from the gallery.

The Training Plan

The first Beginners Course was a great success with all lathes going. Terry Meekan was the main tutor but many others came in to help and contribute. Thanks to all.

The next course is 29 and 30 April. Experienced Training Course. Leader Rolly Munro. These weekends are always a great adventure and learning curve for all who aspire to improve their woodturning

Our first Upskills Day with a topic attracted just four participants. Next, on 6 May is Upskills – Natural Edges. This opening of the clubrooms is for all members to use the people present to learn more about woodturning.

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

3 June. Upskills. The Skew Chisel

24 June. Training Day for Tutors/demonstrators

Participation 2006

A weekend of turning, sharing, learning, and more. An inter-club competition is planned. There will be an instant gallery showing off work by participants.

There will be trade stalls and timber to purchase.

This event is planned for the weekend of 30 September and 1 October 2006. It will be in our clubrooms and we will include the space next door to accommodate more lathes.

All meals will be provided and we will arrange billeting for turners from afar.

TIMBER

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