

# TURNING TALK

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

TURNING TOMORROW'S TREASURES

Number 148 : September 2006

## Coming Events

### Activities Beyond our Clubrooms

- 8 to 10 September National Woodskills Festival** at Kawerau, 8 to 10 September 2006
- 16 and 17 September "Woodcraft"** at the Horticultural Hall, Laings Road, Lower Hutt.
- 3 October. Vaughn Richmond** at Franklin. 4:00pm start
- 5 to 8 October.** Waikato Guild of Woodworkers at the Homeshow, Claudelands.
- 3 to 5 November Spin Around** Waitaki.
- 4 and 5 November. Tauranga Woodcrafter's Club Festival** at Baycourt, Durham Street, Tauranga.
- 26 November to 3 December Southland Woodworkers Guild Annual Exhibition.**
- 28 February 2007.** Entries close for the Royal Easter Show.
- 31 March 2007.** Deliver entries for the Royal Easter Show.
- 5 to 9 April 2007.** The Royal Easter Show is open to the public.

This list for looks brief but Rex Haslip, 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.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm>

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

## Club Night 30 August 2006. A Slide Show

Below is a tiny selection of images from the Utah Symposium and The American Association of Woodturners Symposium taken by Dick Veitch.



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## Club Night 2 August 2006. A Platter.

Who better to demonstrate this subject than Terry Scott. He has made a few large platters over the years.

There are various and slightly differing defining rules that make a turning a “platter” rather than a “bowl” and these are usually about the relationship between the height and width.

Platters are essentially a wide, thin, piece of woodturning. This means that there is a high probability they will warp a little as the wood is cut away. Remember this as you plan the work.

Planning the work, and the process you will go through, is important as you may be unable to return to correct or change the earlier steps of the process.

Mount the wood securely on your broadest faceplate and later in the process use your broadest chuck for re-mounting as this will ensure a good hold with the lowest probability of a miss-aligned remount.

Start with the blank mounted on a faceplate screwed to the side that will be the top of the platter. Cut and finish as much of the bottom as you can whilst retaining a spigot for your largest chuck to grip. For the best grip make this spigot close to the closed size of the chuck.

When the platter is remounted on the chuck you can cut the rim – but do not hollow the centre as the platter may warp to a point where you will be unable to use a chisel at the edge.

Totally finish all chisel work on the rim. If surface decoration is to be applied to the rim with any tool that requires the wood to be turning, do that decorating now. But always sand the surface that is to be decorated.

Terry showed us a variety of textures that can be applied using the Sorby Texturer, Dremel, power chisel, and anything else that was lying around. Added to that there is paint and stain that can be applied before, during, or after texturing, and the options are endless. Take care not to “over-decorate” and “frame” each area of decoration with beads, lines, or the edge of the work.

After completing all tool work on the rim, the centre can be hollowed. Getting a nice curve and flat centre to a platter is difficult. It often pays to leave a slight lump in the very centre as this will be taken out during sanding. Use the biggest sanding disk you have to do the broad interior of the platter.



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## In Our Clubrooms

### Third Term 2006

All the activities listed here are in our clubrooms in the Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe.

For our regular Wednesday evenings the official meeting starts 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.

We have a Table Prize for each term. This is your work on display – lessons learned (half-finished, flawed, or failed) to the best you can do flowing to the show-and-tell table each meeting night.

- Wed 6 September**      **Linbide Tools.** Most of us have something made by Linbide. Trevor Lindsay will tell us more about their product range.
- Sat 9 September**      **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.
- Wed 13 September**      **14 Ways to Hold Wood** on a lathe. Ian Fish will show us that there is always another option to hold the wood where you want it. If you have a difficult piece, bring it along to get the best advice.
- Sat 16 September**      **Ornamental Turners.** Start time 1:00pm. Learn and share in this precision art.
- Wed 20 September**      **Chainsaw Maintenance.** Chainsaw expert Jim Downs will share some of his wealth of knowledge to improve your chainsaw care and safety.

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

## John Mackinven Training Course

### 23 and 24 September.

John has been hailed as one of New Zealand's top artistic turners. Samples of his work are shown on this page. Combine this with his recognised teaching skills and this will be a superb training course to participate in.

This is intended for experienced woodturners but any woodturner will learn a lot from this course.

Book soon with the Club Secretary to ensure this course proceeds.

**Sat 30 Sept and Sun 1 Oct. Participation.** Open to all woodturners. Setup from early Friday. See the detailed notices for further information.

**4 October. Vaughn Richmond** demonstrations. 10:30 to 3:30 two demo subjects \$25.00 and an evening demonstration \$20.00. See the advert for demonstration details.

**Sat 7 October**      **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. Special topic for this day is "Platters".

### Fourth Term 2006

- Wed 11 October**      **Term Project.** We will again be working towards a bundle of gifts for Kidz First and other needy causes at Middlemore. Small bowls will be welcome in abundance. Lets add a few toys to that. Mac Duane will demonstrate the ball and cup toy.
- Sat 14 October**      **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.
- Wed 18 October**      **Sandpaper.** Stephen Dickens will show us some new very flexible sandpaper.
- Sat 21 October**      **Ornamental Turners.** Start time 1:00pm. Learn and share in this precision art.
- Wed 25 October**      **Small Items for the Craft Market.** Tom Pearson will share a little of his experience and show us the making of one or two small items.

# TIMBER

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## Club Night 9 August 2006. Sharpening

Mac Duane and Ian Fish gave us their ideas on sharpening woodturning chisels and some additional opinions came from the audience.

The lack of a sharp edge may be the single greatest reason that some woodturners do not enjoy their turning.

An 8" grinder with a 120 grit white oxide wheel is the preferred option. The 8" size produces less curve within the bevel on the chisel and this results in a better cut. However, some people consider that the face of an 8" wheel is travelling faster and thus grinds too fast – but not all grinders run at the same speed and faster is not necessarily worse.

If you need to buy a new grinder make sure it is one that will get going quickly, ie, it has a motor with primary and secondary windings. You will need to fit it with a white oxide wheel. Be sure to leave the big printed cardboard washers on each side of the wheel and that the centre packer washer is the right size for the shaft of your grinder. Ensure that there is no dirt on any of these parts and do not over-tighten the nut or the stone may shatter.

A new wheel will probably require dressing to ensure that it runs true. A used wheel also requires regular dressing to keep the surface clean. A flat diamond dresser is recommended. The wheel must run true so that you can gently stroke your chisels on the stone to sharpen them.

All your tools that have a straight edge, such as skewers and parting tools, can easily be sharpened freehand on the flat tool rest that is fitted to the grinder. Often a bigger tool rest will be an advantage.

Gouges need to be moved simultaneously in many directions to get a good sharpen. Experienced woodturners can do this, but most woodturners don't get enough practice and will make a better job using a jig of some sort. Remember "The lack of a sharp edge may be the single greatest reason that some woodturners do not enjoy their turning." This is not just the sharp edge but a good smooth bevel behind that edge.

After grinding, the chisel can be honed. A honing paste on a solid background or a diamond card can be used.



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## Club Night 23 August 2006. Maori Carving

by Gordon Pembridge

Peter Coatsworth entertained us with some hilarious stories and some carving too. There was a story in there about a huge load of heart kauri which he still is going strong on after many years of carving.

No sooner had I started taking notes on Maori carving with Peter, when he said he does not take notes on maori carving because the stories differ as all of the traditional carvings are passed down verbally and through practical carving i.e. not a lot is written about maori carving. Peter demonstrated his skill and speed at the carving bench. He always keeps both hands on the tool so as to avoid cutting himself with the RAZOR SHARP chisels. Having said this Peter said he had cut himself on several occasions but has now learnt his lesson.

On small work such as gift boxes Peter uses a padded glove and pushes the chisel through the cut, he uses a mallet only on larger work to rough out shapes.

Thankyou Peter for your very entertaining demonstration. The carving was great and the stories that you narrated as you carved were excellent too!!



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## Intermediate Turning Course 26/27 August

by Tom Pearson

Granville Howarth from the Whangarei club put seven of us through our paces over this weekend, teaching us turning techniques, gadgetry, hollow forms, colouring, texturing, recovering from disasters and much more.

First off was to prepare a blank for 'off centre' turning, shaping the base and gluing on an MDF block for finishing next day. To complete the top we had the choice of making beads, texturing with a dremel or carving – some did all three with the hollowing done off centre. A first for all of us.

Next up. Granville produced bowl blanks made with his bowl saver which we hollowed (two each) and glued together and finished next day as hollow forms – another great technique.

We learned how to 'crackle' a bowl rim, power sand without leaving bumps 'n hollows in the centre, how to apply lacquers and oils, apply and sand off super glue to prevent staining, pouring epoxy and inserting objects into resin, burning effect on natural edges and bowl saving.

Granville had rather cunning gadgets, which most of us will be copying – lots of sketches and photos of these were taken. They included a length of 3" x 2" timber with strip of sandpaper attached for making straight bases and rims for gluing; a 3 legged base with screw tops to ensure a level base for pouring epoxy; extensions to Cole jaws; jigs for vacuum chucking; measuring guides for bowl saving.

Time didn't permit us to make platters but Granville demonstrated this by forming a 400 mm platter with beads top and bottom in about 5 minutes. Lucky Pres. Farouk now has the job of finishing that one and showing us the result.

The two days were simply not long enough to complete all tasks set but our skill levels have progressed by a giant leap and we all have projects to complete at home. The course under Granville's brilliant leadership showed the importance of taking time out to improve our turning skills. Take these opportunities as they arise.



## Damaged Chucks

by Bruce Hannah

At the last working bee most of the Guild's chucks were stripped, cleaned, lubricated and re-assembled. During this process it was found that in some of the Teknatool chucks the travel restricting screw had been damaged to the extent that the screw head slot was broken off and the screw could not be removed. The bottom of the jaw slide had also been damaged. It would seem that some person or persons had wanted the jaws to open beyond their limit and had used the "bigger hammer" principle

In Teknatool chucks there is a screw (see photo) which limits the expansion movement of the jaws. ***This is a safety measure!! If you are expanding the jaws and they suddenly don't want to move any further, on no account try to force them!!*** Either re-size the spigot, use a different chuck or ask for help.



## On the Web

Bruce Hannah suggests you look at <http://www.hobbitouseinc.com/personal/woodpics/index.htm> Certainly a lot of wood pictures on the little bit I looked at.

My notes from watching Bin Pho demonstrating say the air tool he uses is: "NSK 38 psi = 330,000 rpm. Model Presto US\$380 + regulator. Oil-less, 1/16 shank." Look at <http://stores.profitablehobbies.com/Detail.bok?no=64> He added that he gets six months work before the bearing gives out and a new bearing is US\$140. Cheap burrs may run off-centre and will kill the bearing faster. For cutting he uses long, thin, tapered burrs #699L and #169L and for texturing #1L and #2L. You can find all these, and a lot more, on the same website.

## Welcome to New Members

We welcome Andrew Findlay, Bob Norris (also a member of West Auckland Guild), Ron Ashford, Paul Neilsen, and Tony Cotton. We wish you many years of enjoyable woodturning.

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## Utah Symposium 2006

The instant gallery was a treat to see. Colour, shape, fancy, plain, the whole gamut of woodturning – and some pieces that may have spent little time on a lathe. Some, perhaps many, of the 450 participants at this symposium work all year to make a grand item for the instant gallery – it is the pinnacle of their year. Others simply select the best bits from their cupboard – excellent work and more like my expectations from the above average woodturner. The end result is more than 600 items on display and serious difficulty for me to select a representative few to accompany this article. Many items are for sale and a goodly portion were sold – selling your work to another woodturner is surely a good test of your work.

There are no trade stalls at this symposium but after the BBQ on the Friday evening there is a swap meet in the car park. Mostly wood but a few tools, videos, books, and other bits all worth a look.

Demonstrators (22) came from all over the world and all were excellent. They spread their work over 100 demonstration sessions. This gave participants a difficult choice of options as each person can watch only 10 sessions over the three days – maybe fewer if one wants to spend more time in the instant gallery.

The demonstration subjects are hugely varied, so while some may be of little interest to one sector of the participants they are of great interest to others. For me that still left a huge number of options. From past experience I know that I will learn something, or lots, from any of the demonstrations. I still take time to select my preferences, and thus plan to get to each demonstration room early, and to take time out from demonstrations to view the instant gallery when the crowd is thinner.

This year I chose to watch Mark Baker demonstrate “Little change, big impact”; Nick Arnall on decorations; Michael Mocho “On lathe textural techniques”; Nick Agar “Bowl, flame, verdigris, wax”; Liz O’Donnell applying colour; Kip Christensen with 10 projects; Bruce Hoover on lids and finials; Allan Batty on sharpening; and Robert Fehlau on texture and colour. If you want to see the full programme and information about the demonstrators go to <[www.utahwoodturning.com](http://www.utahwoodturning.com)>

From all of that I have a heap of notes and a head-full of ideas. I just hope I can turn them into something made with our native woods for you to see.

The next Utah Woodturning Symposium is proposed for 21 to 23 June 2007.

## Participation 2006

This event is now fully booked. It promises to be a great weekend.

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## AAW at Louisville

They told me it would be a big event and that it would be held within a hotel. I had a pretty good idea what you could fit into one hotel so they were surely boasting.

I also knew that the hotel rooms were booked out as they had no room for me. Nearby hotels were expensive so I emailed the local woodturning club contact for suggestions. Within a few hours two club members named a cheaper suburban hotel and offered transport, and two club members invited me (unknown Kiwi) to stay in their homes – wonderful woodturner hospitality.

Well, they were not boasting. The hotel was big and 1897 people were attending. Add to that the people running 55 trade stalls, 32 demonstrators, and maybe the committee and volunteers, the total was well over 2000.

The demonstrator list of 32 names read like a portion of the Who’s Who in Woodturning. The real difficulty was to choose which demonstrator or which subject to watch. There is no way that I can report here on the demonstrations as I attended just a few of the 140 offered.

One of the reasons I saw only a few demonstration was the time required to view the 1200 items in the instant gallery, and take a few photos there. Any attendee can put items in the instant gallery and, for some, it is surely the pinnacle of their woodturning year. Every imaginable style of woodturning was there: big, small, complicated, simple, plain, segmented, stained, painted, and pierced. Less colour than I expected and a lot of carving on turned items. But no feet on bowls as we have started to see in New Zealand – indeed there was little lift to the bowls that I could see among the crowd. Every quality of woodturning was there too – great to see obvious beginners so proud of their work; but sad to see obviously talented turners ending with a brush-marked varnish finish.

Then I skipped another demonstration to wander among the trade stalls. You and I both know I did not need to buy any new tools but..... The outstanding first impression was of a sea of wood but further inspection showed an even greater number of chisels of almost every brand. After that you could probably find most of the nick-nacks of the woodturning world or catalogues to allow you to purchase more. The brand-name range of the lathes on display was huge, including a number that I had not seen before, with most models being used to show their abilities.

So I left with bags full of toys and brain full of ideas. Next year it will be at Portland, Oregon, at the end of July. I plan to be there but, again, I know my problem will be to select what not to see as I know it will all be good.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.





## Vaughn Richmond Demonstrations

At Our Clubrooms Wednesday 4 October 2006

All Interested People are Welcome

**Daytime session** starts 10:30am. Please be seated and ready by then. That means arrive earlier and enjoy a coffee. Bring your lunch. This demonstration continues until 3:30pm.

The door fee for this session is \$25.00

10:30 to 12:30. **'Carving'** – The combination of woodturning and woodcarving on a suitable piece of wood can enhance the look and value of the work. A few simple cuts in the right place can have a great effect. Vaughn will discuss and demonstrate basic design processes, and how to use palm chisels and power tools to create pleasing designs in your work.



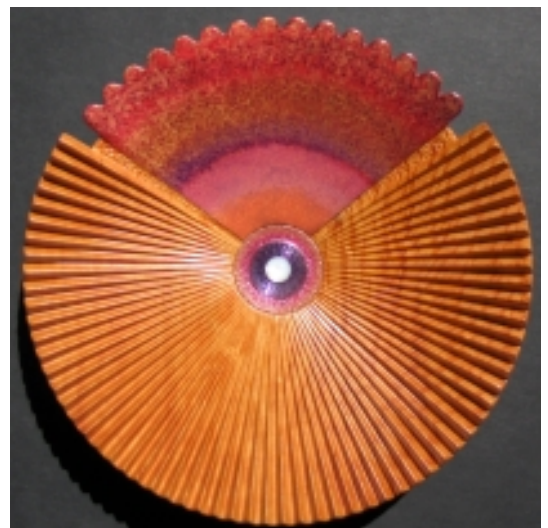
1:30 to 3:30. Start with a few slides from the **'Lathe Turned Art'** collection – with emphasis on work by other notable Australian turners. Then some **"Making Shavings"** – a session where Vaughn just turns, and turns. There is no set format other than an ongoing interaction with the audience as pieces of work develop from a blank into a finely turned object. Invariably these sessions turn into a questions and answers forum, and are great for someone who just wishes to sit and watch how Vaughn goes about his woodturning. But in this session Vaughn will bear in mind that we do not wish to detract from the next session which calls for a Vaughn signature work.

The clubrooms will remain open from the end of this session until the start of the evening session for those who wish to use a lathe or any other club facilities.

**Evening session** starts 6:00pm. Please be seated and ready by then. That means arrive earlier and enjoy a coffee. This demonstration continues until 9:00pm.

The door fee for this session is \$20.00

6:00 to 9:00pm Start with a **slide presentation** of selected images showing Vaughn's progress in the world of woodturning. Then more **"Making Shavings"** in the direction of a **Vaughn signature piece**. We certainly do not expect to see him finish this work but do look forward to hearing his ideas and seeing his methods.





## ORNAMENTAL TURNERS GROUP

### Mac Duane writes:

Well, the third Saturday of August has been and gone. As nobody was using the clubrooms in the morning, Les and I decided to give the balustrades a coat of finish paint.

With the painting done, I sat down to have some lunch and wait for the droves of Ornamental Turners to arrive.

But only two drove in, one all the way from Thames. Later, two more arrived.

We had a long discussion on a small copy lathe that our friend from Thames had made. We also discussed how we can get more members involved in this interesting aspect of woodturning. We do have a Rose Engine Lathe available for use by members to add a little extra to their work.

We do need numbers to get this Ornamental Section of SAWG to be a goer. I look forward to more interest in the future.

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