

TURNING TALK

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

TURNING TOMORROW'S TREASURES

Number 152 : March 2007

In Our Clubrooms

First Term 2007

These activities are in our clubrooms in the Papatōetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatōetoe.

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 7 March Clinic and Hands-on to make those Term Project pens. Bring your problem pieces, tools for sharpening, and your project making gear.

Sat 10 March 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 14 March Pewter in Bowls. The interesting process of inlaying pewter into bowls will be shown to us by Rex Haslip.

Sat 17 March Ornamental Turners. Start time 1:00pm. Learn and share in this precision art.

Wed 21 March Routing on Spindle Work. This is ornamental turning on a grand scale. Farouk Khan won the Best Baluster Award and will now show us how this work is done.

Sat 24 & Sun 25 Mar Beginners Training Course. Tutor, Terry Meekan. Fully booked.

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

Our Website is www.sawg.org.nz

Wed 28 March Turning Deer Antler. We have seen deer antler as finials, pens, and lidded boxes. Terry Scott will show us how some of these things are done.

Mon 2 April Upskills Evening. Doors open 7:00pm. Every turner can improve their skills, or help others to improve. Or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy the evening.

Wed 4 April Toxic Woods and other things. Woodturning stirs up a lot of dust and vapours and can involve other nasties. Dr Sergio Battistessa will discuss the implications of this.

Sat 7 April 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 morning. Yes, this is Easter weekend but it is also the first Saturday of the month.

Sat 14 April 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.

Term Two 2007 starts 25 April 2007.

Coming Events

Activities Beyond our Clubrooms

31 March 2007. Deliver entries to the Royal Easter Show.

5 to 9 April 2007. The Royal Easter Show is open to the public.

20 to 22 April 2007. DIY Court at the Autumn Home Show.

2 and 3 June 2007. Waimate Woodcraft Expo. To have a number of woodworking competition categories including Woodturning Open Traditional and Woodturning Open Artistic.

7 to 9 September 2007. National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau. Opening night Thursday 6 September.

28 to 30 September 2007. SYMPOSIUM 2007 Run by Hawkes Bay Woodturners Guild at Lindisfarne.

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>

Club Night 7 February. Pens

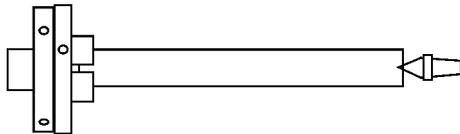
by Farouk Khan

Dick started his pen making demonstration with 7 minutes silence whilst he mounted and drilled a pen blank and proceeded to turn a single part pen. The blank was mounted in a four jaw chuck and the 3.5mm hole made by holding a drill bit in a mole grip and drilling the hole 3or 4mm at a time. The end of the pen was then opened to 4mm and a 4mm pop rivet head (without the mandrel) was inserted into it and the tailstock brought up. The pen was turned to shape and finished with friction polish. The pop rivet head was removed and a bic refill inserted.

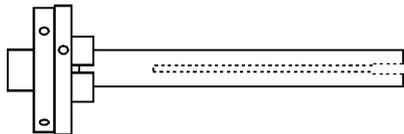
The main part of the demonstration was producing a two part pen to suit a standard "Slimline" pen kit available from most turning suppliers. Dick selected a suitable blank and then cut it in half, each part slightly longer than the brass tubes supplied in the kit, having carefully marked the blanks so that they would be reassembled with the grain matching. He then drilled 7mm holes in each part, (from the mating ends) using a jig to hold the pen upright in his pillar drill. The brass tubes were then glued into the blanks using polyurethane glue, having first roughened the outside of the brass tubes. The inner part of the tube was also marked (to facilitate grain matching later). Dick then used a pen mill to clean up the inside of the tubes as well as the ends of the blanks giving a neat, square end level with the brass tube. The blanks were then mounted on a pen making mandrel with spacers between and at each end of the blank. The blanks were then turned to shape making use of the spacers to set the diameter of the ends. Dick then sanded the pens stopping the lathe at each grade and sanding along the grain, finally applying a suitable polish. Dick completed his demonstration by assembling the pen (ensuring the grain matched) using the lathe as a press.

This was a very useful demonstration of pen making and should prove a spur to all members of the guild to produce lots of pens for the term project as well as single part pens for the visitor packs.

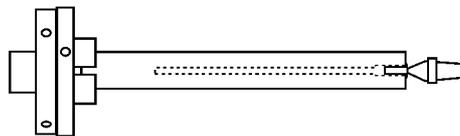
Long 3.5mm drills for the one part pens can be purchased from Enco Industries, 45 Springs Road, East Tamaki, or Trade Tools Ltd., 23 Olive Road, Penrose.



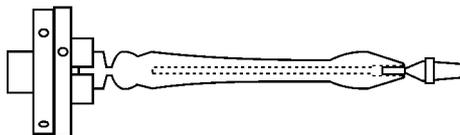
Start with a blank that is at least 190 long and 20 x 20mm. It is best to hold this in a 25mm chuck with the tail brought up for security. You can hold it in the centre of a larger chuck, for this make the blank longer. Round it off. Wind the speed up as this wood has a small diameter.



With the wood round, take the tailstock away. Use the dent made by the tailstock to start drilling a 3.5mm hole 130mm into the wood. Do this gently, withdrawing the drill after each 2 or 3 mm. Then drill a 4mm hole into the first 10mm of the wood. In soft wood the 3.5mm drill may have already made the start of the hole this large.



Insert the rivet part of a 4mm dia pop rivet in the drilled hole and bring the tail up again. Now shape the pen barrel. Knobs, beads, coves, burn lines, endless possibilities. Continue shaping and sanding until almost ready to part off at the headstock end. Apply the finish of your choice.



Part off. Remove but don't lose the pop rivet. Finish the parted off area. Insert a bic refill.

For detailed instructions on making two part pens look at the Projects page of our website www.sawg.org.nz

Club Night 14 February. Resin Inlays

Michael Bernard gave us a detailed demonstration of his methods of making a resin inlay in the edge of a bowl. In woodturning we now see seashells, pebbles, badges, toys, wooden shapes, and more, embedded in resin around the rim or in a hole in wood of turned items such as bowls, platters, picture frames, bottle stoppers, and more. In simple terms this is done by filling a hole with epoxy resin. But there is a little more detail to it.

The wood the resin is to be poured into needs to be dry and clean. The channel that is cut to hold the resin should be a slight dovetail shape to ensure that the resin stays in place. The surfaces of the part that is to be filled should be finished to whatever standard the worker wants while ensuring that there is surplus wood, or a “fence” of card or masking tape, above the planned finish line so that the resin can be cast above the finish line and then be cut back when set.

Coating the inside of the hole with sanding sealer is recommended to reduce the possibilities of air bubbles coming from within the wood or the resin bleeding into the wood. If the inside of the hole is to be coloured then water-based school poster paint works well, providing it is allowed to dry thoroughly. This paint will be very visible in the finished product so apply it evenly, or with even patterns.

All sorts of little things can be embedded in the resin. Most can just be placed in the hole before the resin is poured. If it is necessary to glue the item in then use a permanent glue such as superglue or aliphatic resin. Use the glue sparingly as bits that extend beyond the item being glued will be very visible later. Do not use hot melt glue as this may release its hold when the resin warms up while setting.

Items which may hold air pockets need to either be glued in or introduced to the resin in a way that excludes the air. If there is a small air pocket the item may initially stay down in the resin but when the resin warms while setting the air will expand and the item may rise like a hot air balloon.

Mix the exact proportions of hardener to resin as stated on the product label. Make a stirrer from a smooth round piece of wood; round the end as well. Stir gently so as not to introduce air bubbles to the mix. Stir for at least three minutes and watch for the swirls in the mix to go away. Do not mix too large a quantity as larger quantities gain heat and begin their chemical reactions quicker than small quantities. The chemical reaction in the mix produces heat which may melt a plastic container and allow the mix to flow to unwanted places.

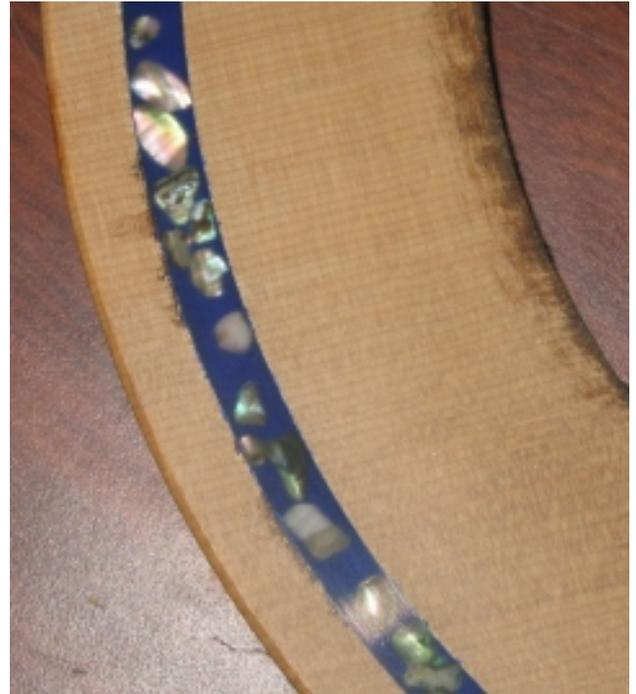
Once thoroughly stirred, pour the mix smoothly to fill the prepared space. Check after a few minutes and top-up as some mix may have flowed into hidden spaces. If there are air bubbles stopped part way up the mix then pass a hot gas torch quickly over the mix to slightly warm and raise the bubbles. Leave to set in a dust-free environment for at least 24 hours – a few days or a week will be better.

Cut back the surplus hard-set resin, and surrounding wood, with a chisel and sandpaper to the desired shape. Chisel cuts should be fine or chunks of resin may chip out. Finish

by going through the sandpaper grades to 1500 or 2000 grit. Use clean sandpaper for each pass and keep the touch light so as not to overheat the resin. After the sandpaper Michael's choice was Farécla G6 then G3 Paste Compounds (used for polishing fibreglass) followed by Meguiar's Tech Wax (for car polishing). This worked well.

An alternative is to rub the resin with Brasso then the 3M product “Finesse-it II”. Or Brasso then Silvo.

Today's resin of choice is Gemcoat ES 2:1 LV available from NZ Fibreglass Ltd., 109 Morrin Road, Panmure. Other products will work but most have slightly yellow hardener which discolours further with age.



Club Night 28 February 2007. Walking NZ

Some people play golf, some people watch motorsport on TV, some turn wood, some scratch in the garden – and they all enjoy it. There was no hiding the enjoyment Peter Coatesworth gained from walking the length of the North Island with his brother in tow.

He frequently referred to his brother being a little behind him as they walked along drawing their pack-laden golf trundlers – hence my reference to “brother in tow”. But they really were a team sharing rushing traffic, quiet periods, nights under the stars, sneaks into haybarns, the people they met, and the people they really did not want to meet.

They walked from Cape Reinga to Wellington with 26 days on the road. They did have to take some time out but then returned to continue from the exact same spot. And they chose to go around via National park rather than along the Desert Road.

The surprise end to his talk was a box full of tools collected along the roadside.

Club Night 21 February. Captive Rings

by Bob Yandell

The demo began with Terry tabling Mac's goblet with 48 captive rings of three different sizes, a few were lost during the evening, and then Terry upstaged him with a metre long goblet with in excess of 148 captive rings.

The actual demo began with Terry re-enforcing some basic rules for turning: Check alignment of Tail Stock & Head Stock.

Baby Rattle

Terry started with a square piece of wood long enough to turn a rattle of approximately 80mm in length to a diameter small enough for a baby to hold.

Points to remember when choosing the wood: It must be strong so the baby will not be able to break it. Ash is a good timber. Don't use any wood that is toxic or will stain for example Puriri will stain a baby's mouth yellow.

To make the baby's rattle turn a knob at each end small enough for the child to hold. The knob can be created using a parting tool, skew chisel or spindle gouge.

To make the rings use the parting tool to turn slots/grooves to a depth of 8mm and apart the width of your intended ring and wide enough to get the ring tool in to cut the ring. Shape the outside of the ring and sand.

Create the ring by using a ring tool. Keep the ring tool in the centre of the slot and turn behind the ring on both sides. Don't go straight in to prevent having a flat bottom on the ring; work instead using a curving motion on both sides of the ridge. Again, use a gentle touch – force is not needed here. Sand the back of the ring and the stem.

Complete as many rings as you wish.

Tall Goblet with Captive Ring(s)

Turn the piece to the required diameter with a 50mm spigot on the end and remount in a chuck.

Put a three-armed steady on the lathe. Support the piece with this steady and the chuck leaving the goblet end free to turn. Make the goblet cup.

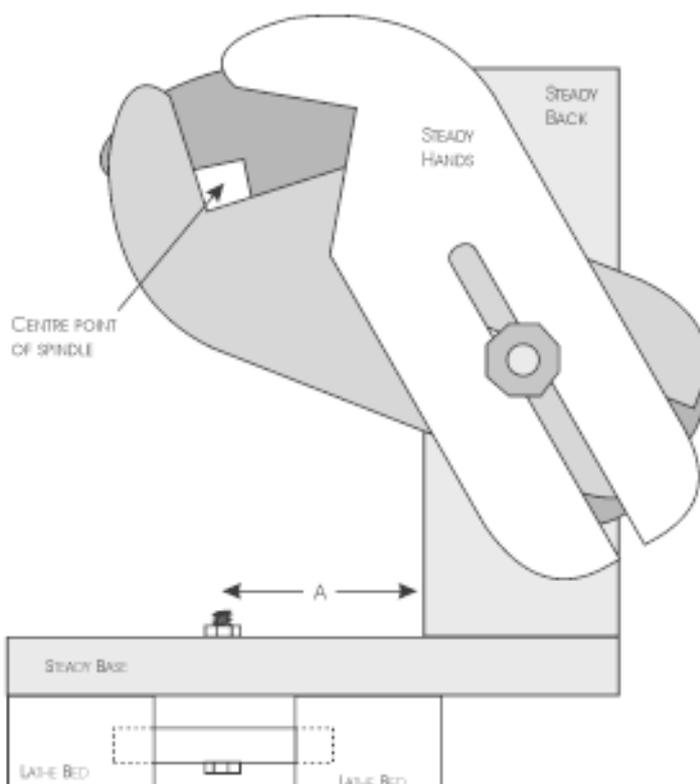
Now hold the piece with the tail stock and a live centre pushing a shaped foam covered block into the goblet cup. Remove the steady.

Make rings the same way as with the rattle but because the stem of a goblet is usually thin the opportunity is there to make several rings of different diameters at the same point on the stem. The key with both the rings and the thin stem is not to push too hard. Let the tool do the work. If you push too hard the ring will break.

Support the piece with your non-chisel hand as you start to make the small rings and thin stem. Sand each ring as you work down the stem.

This is a steady for thin spindle work.

The distance "A" that the steady back needs to be from the centre line of the lathe is only a little more than the radius of the largest spindle work which may need support.



The steady back should extend a little above the centre line of the lathe to provide good support for the steady hands. Three steady hands hold the work, two from behind and one in front. These are best made of a dense material such as 10mm industrial formica. The rotating work can wear away softer materials such as mdf. Lubricate the rotation contact area with wax. The hex nuts shown holding the steady base to the lathe bed and holding the steady hands to the steady back can be replaced with wing nuts.

Turangi Jamboree – End and Start

I could count the lathes, rave over the quality of Fred's work, thank the wood and tool vendors, say how great it is to have a free lunch, and a heap more. But that is not really what the Turangi Jamboree is all about. It is the people, the sharing, the learning, the talking. And it got that way by evolution, rather than design.

This is the last year that Jim Noor will be organising the event and next year will be the first time for it to be held in Taupo. But, Lake Taupo Woodworkers are determined to keep it just as good as ever.

Jim Noor was the prime mover of the Turangi Jamboree and started it in 1995 at the behest of Alan Wybrow, organiser of the Otematata Experience, so that the two events could share the cost of getting an overseas woodturner to NZ. Jim recalls seeing the people crowded around demonstrators for the whole weekend – they enjoyed it. Bonnie Klein, David Ellsworth, and other great names passed through.

As time went by the financial sharing failed and Turangi Jamboree changed to be a bunch of woodturners bringing their own lathes and watching each other at work – sharing, talking, learning. Some have specially purchased a more portable set of equipment to make such outings easier. Jim thinks this is a far better event for more people (but don't let this put you off the Symposium type event where there are a number of demonstrators to choose between).

When there are 40 or more lathes, tool and toy vendors in the hall, truck and trailer loads of wood outside, a free lunch and Sat evening BBQ, the days are really full. Yes, there are times when many are gathered around one lathe but then they return to another part of the hall. Many do their own thing but wandering around the hall there are always new projects and work methods to be seen. Then there are times when a number of people collaborate to make piece – this year a gift and thank-you for Jim Noor.

Next year we look forward to being at Taupo and seeing whether Nikki Penlington (President) and Robbie Graham (Secretary) can maintain the standards Jim has set.



Welcome to New Members

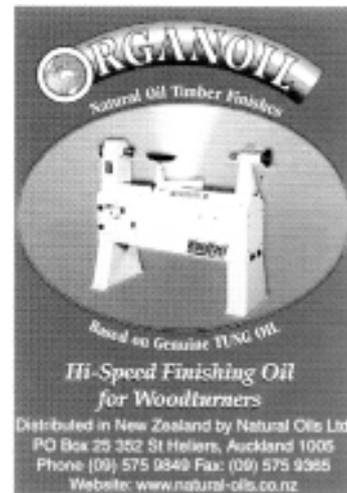
We welcome: Cheryl Atkins of Manukau City; Peter Gray of Pakuranga; Bernie Hawkins of Papakura; Marie Yandell of Howick; and Bill Alden of Mangere Bridge, and wish them all many years of happy woodturning. If you recognise some of the surnames here, yes, they are family members of current club members and some are already planning to improve their position in the woodturning order by taking one of the training courses.

SAWG Membership

Right now we have 114 members – as is usual at this time of year membership is down a little as some have yet to pay their subscription and some have decided not to renew.

Last Newsletter

This is the last newsletter to go to those who have not renewed their subscription. We sincerely hope they will continue to be members and continue to enjoy woodturning.



Fern Leaves by Gordon Pembridge

South Auckland Woodturners Guild Training Plan 2007

We welcome all woodturners, and prospective woodturners, to participate at a level commensurate with their skills. First Saturday morning and first Monday evening of each month is Upskills (except where there is a clash with other club activities). Members are encouraged to bring all sorts of problems and help requests. The fourth or fifth weekend of each month is used for programmed training. Six weekend-long courses are planned.

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, unless otherwise specified, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm in the SAWG Clubrooms, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe. Please be early so as not to disrupt the course for other students.

This training will be open to all comers on a first-in-first-served basis. Applications should be made to The Secretary, Tom Pearson, 12 Kirkmay Place, Kohimaramara, Auckland, and will be accepted only when full payment is made.

Maximum numbers in each course is 11 participants. Costs per person are: Beginner \$10.00; all other courses \$95.00. 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. When each course is confirmed as a functioning event, participants will be provided with more detailed information about their course.

Beginner:

24 and 25 March with Terry Meekan. A trained teacher and skilled woodturner. Terry also teaches woodturning classes at Aoraki Polytech.

28 and 29 July with Fred Irvine. An excellent teacher and highly skilled woodturner. Fred also teaches woodturning at the Waikato Institute of Technology.

In these courses you will be 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).

All the tools that a beginner needs will be provided but participants are encouraged to bring, learn about, and use their own tools.

Wood will be provided for this course. You will need sandpaper and finishing wax/oils for your projects – these can be purchased from the club shop.

Subject Specific Courses:

28 and 29 April. Platters and Hollow Forms with Terry Scott and Dick Veitch. Terry is the acknowledged master of platter making. In this course the platter size will be limited but the design, process, and enhancements, remain the same. Dick has the hollowing tools and participants will be assisted to good design and wise processes to make hollow forms.

26 and 27 May. Making the product artistic with John MacKinven. John is an acknowledged wood-turning artist with wonderful teaching skills. His specialty is adding value – applying a range of techniques to give your woodturning a creative lift.

23 and 24 June. Bowls with Ian Fish. Ian is certainly the best in New Zealand to discuss and teach shape and form in bowl making. He will also help you adjust your tools and tool handling skills for better bowl making.

25 and 26 August. Adding to the bowl with Granville Haworth. Granville has that wonderful ability to just add that little something to make the woodturning more attractive to the buyer

In these subject specific courses: Participants should already know how to sharpen woodturning tools, mount wood on the lathe, and turn it into something. They 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 these courses the tutors will discuss and enhance the aspects of participants' work and work practices in relation to the subject of the course while the trainee creates turned items on the lathe.

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 (details will be in the course-specific information provided to registered participants), some incomplete turned items for finishing, and completed items for critique.

TIMBER

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Fishy's Day

This was a purely commercial day organised by Ian Fish to sell more of his product range to more woodturners. It was also great to get more members from other clubs to visit our clubrooms and Ian organised interesting demonstrations by John Mackinven and René Baxalle.

With more than 60 people present I hope Ian met his goals as it is good to have his products and expertise available. Treeworkx was also there with a table loaded with product and a trailer load of wood outside – another organisation that is worthy of our support.

Russell Snook and Chris Jensen brought along a trailer load of kauri from Stilmilling. Thanks to them for helping Stu whose health is not the best.

Also there was Peter Hewitt, owner of Woodcut Tools, ready to discuss the Woodcut products and gain a few new ideas.

John Mackinven enhanced the edges of a few broad-rimmed bowls with texture and colour. So simple, so neat. His training course on 26 and 27 May should be great.

René Baxalle showed the process for making one of his boat forms – a vase shape cut and joined with a ring insert to ensure strength.

The inter-club competition was a rolling pin won by North Shore. The South Auckland team (second place) of Dick Veitch and Luke Crowsen were by far the fastest but should have had some spies out to check the other teams who were so slow that the South Auckland team could have spent nearly a quarter hour more on finishing.



I am assured that our president did really turn some wood off this table edge



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On a repair shop door:

We can repair anything. (please knock hard on the door - the bell doesn't work)

Notice of Annual General Meeting

In accordance with the rules of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held in the clubrooms on Wednesday 16 May at 7:00pm.

Web Watch

by Terry Scott

<http://www.billluce.com/>

Bill Luce and his wife have recently updated this site with more pictures and explanations than it had previously. Bill discusses the relationship between visible wood grain and the overall impact of certain forms. He states that he is a manipulator of wood and his forms are impulsive and different. I believe he is a turner who is prepared to push the boundaries.

<http://www.wondersofwood.net/>

Binh Pho's Woodturning Gallery

As a refugee to America, much of Binhs work derives from his past. With much of his work being thin walled, pieced and airbrushed. Each piece tells a story of Asian influence. Beware of this site as once you are in you won't want to leave. So much so that I am sure you will be tempted to order his latest book River of Destiny

Guild visit to Linbide Tools

by Farouk Khan

On 23 February Mac Duane and three members of the Guild visited Linbide tools to see how carbide tipped tools are made. Trevor Lindsay very kindly hosted the visit taking us on a tour of the factory and briefing us in detail on the processes involved in manufacturing tipped saw blades and tipped as well as solid carbide router bits. The visit was fascinating and instructive covering a whole range of technology from hand welding carbide tips on router bits to robots locating, welding and grinding carbide tips on saw blades. The first machine visited in the factory was a huge laser cutter which cut out complete circular saw blanks (including teeth, gullets, centre bore, and noise reducing slits)

much like a scroll saw cutting through balsa wood but more quickly and accurately. Watching a robot selecting, orienting and then microwave welding tiny carbide tips to saw blades was equally intriguing.

Trevor explained that around 60% of his production was exported around the world including a considerable amount to the USA, demonstrating the quality and ingenuity of this NZ Company. Indeed throughout the visit Trevor stressed how important the quality checks were to ensure that the company kept its excellent name and that industry was provided with the tools they needed.

Overall, this was an excellent visit and I strongly recommend it to anyone interested in manufacture of tools. (Please see Mac if you are interested). Check out www.linbide.com for their range of products.

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

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