

TURNING TALK

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

TURNING TOMORROW'S TREASURES

Number 153 : April 2007

In Our Clubrooms

First and Second Terms 2007

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 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 (Easter) 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.

Sat 21 April Ornamental Turners. Start time 1:00pm. Learn and share in this precision art.

Wed 25 April (Anzac) Term Project. Tea Lights. Cathy Langley shows us a variety of options for these small and interesting woodturning items. Think about more and different options for your entry into the term project.

Sat 28 & Sun 29 April Training Course. Platters and Hollow Forms with Terry Scott and Dick Veitch. Read the Training Plan for further information.

Wed 2 May Wildflower Pots These come with the difference that they are hollow and light. Dick Veitch shows us how to get there.

Sat 5 May 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.

Mon 7 May 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 9 May Pepper Grinder. A simple way to make these spindle-turned items will be shown by Andrew Bright.

Sat 12 May 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 16 May South Auckland Woodturners Guild Annual General Meeting. Followed by one of the latest woodturning videos if there is time. Bring a plate for a nice supper.

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Our Website is www.sawg.org.nz



Club Night 7 March 2007. Hands On

Pens, pens, pens. It was good to see so many lathes and people in action making more than just pens and getting all the advice they asked for.

The pen jar is filling thanks to many club members – now almost enough for the coming year – nice to see.

AGM Notice

The Guild rules require that nominations for committee positions must reach the Secretary 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. This year that will be 2 May for the AGM on 16 May 2007.

Welcome to New Members

We welcome Martina Molloy, a florist from Glen Innes; Peter Ross, a toolmaker from Pukekohe; Marcus Dawkins, retired auctioneer from Christchurch; Michele Pointon, a financial controller from Drury; Evan Woodroffe, a new Junior Member from Te Atatu Peninsula; and Barry Knowles, a woodturner manager from Mangatawhiri.

We wish you all many happy years of woodturning (or helping woodturners).

Beginner Training Course

by Tom Pearson

On 24/25th March Terry Meekan faced a group of 11 new, excited and somewhat nervous trainees, many who had not previously used sharp pointy things on spinning wood. After a short talk on wood holding and safety, Terry demonstrated how to make a honey dipper and off they went to start making stuff. On the first day some of the techniques used were horrible to watch but next day all beginners were handling the tools competently – a testament to Terry's capable teaching and guidance at the lathe. Pieces of wood flew about the room occasionally but by the end of two days, everyone knew how to make a honey dipper, goblet or scoop, lidded box, and bowl.

Coming Events

Activities Beyond our Clubrooms

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

14 to 21 April 2007. CollaborationNZ 07. A collaboration of artists working with glass, metal, ceramics, wood, and more. McGregor's Bay, Whangarei.

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

20 May 2007. Manawatu Woodworkers Guild Open Day. Open day involving nine woodworker clubs from the lower North Island.

1 to 3 June 2007. South Westland Woodturners and Woodworkers Guild. Learn and Turn. South Westland Area School, Harihari.

1 to 3 June 2007. Taranaki Woodcraft Festival 2007. Waitara War Memorial Hall, Waitara. Woodturning Traditional, Woodturning Artistic, and College Age.

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

9 to 17 June 2007. Franklin Arts Festival. Pukekohe Town Hall, Massey Ave, Pukekohe. Six woodturning competition categories. Entry forms to be in by 3 May.

5 July to 5 August 2007. Guild of Woodworkers, Wellington. Turnings Plus. An exhibition of woodcraft.

14 July 2007. Treeworkx Open Shed Day. Starts 0900 at their shed. SH 27.

21 July 2007. National Association of Woodworkers AGM and Demonstration Day. Hosted by South Auckland Woodturners Guild.

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>



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Club Night 14 March 2007. Pewter

This is an ancient metal alloy. Roman pewter items are very rare. The use of pewter was common from the Middle Ages (5th to 16th century) until the development of glass and china making during the 18th and 19th centuries. Unlidded mugs and lidded tankards may be the most familiar pewter artefacts from the late 17th and 18th centuries, although the metal was also used for many other items including plates, dishes, basins, spoons, measures, flagons, communion cups, teapots, sugar bowls, steins, and cream jugs. Pewter gradually stopped being used and by 1850, it was just about gone, replaced by china and glass. By the 20th century, however, the craft was brought back with the making of spun and cast items such as jewellery and decorative giftware.

Rex Haslip showed us how pewter can be used in woodturning as a decorative filler or part of a decorative vessel.

But first he explained what it is – an alloy of mainly tin with varying small amounts of copper, lead, bismuth and antimony. Variations in the quantities of the lesser metals will change the hardness and appearance of the finished product. Pewter has a low melting point between 225 and 240°C depending on the exact alloy mix. Thus it can be easily melted and will scorch, but not burn, wood it contacts (unless you melt it in a crucible to a higher temperature).

The easy way to use it is by melting the end of a stick of pewter with a soldering iron so that the molten metal drops into the void that is to be filled. It will not flow into narrow confines or bind with the wood, and it will shrink a little as it cools.

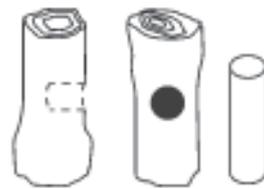
To help the pewter stay in place the void to be filled can be given a dovetail shape and when the pewter is cool give the edges a generous dose of CA glue.

The pewter can then be cut with a sharp chisel and sanded. Sand and polish it through the grits to 2000 and then use a fine abrasive polish.

Pewter is sold by the kilogram, currently about \$32.00/kg, and is available (phone first to place your order) from Dominion Lead Ltd. (now listed as DML), 622 9106; or Hayes Metal Refineries, 520 2059.



Pewter Bobbin Vase



Take two pieces of well-grained branch wood 20 to 30mm dia and about 35mm long, and a shorter length of dowel. Drill dowel-size holes into each piece of the branch wood.



Glue the three pieces together so that the bits of branch wood are at 90° to each other and only a few millimetres of dowel is showing between them.



Mount between centres with the centre line of the dowel along the centre line of the lathe. Turn until the branch woods are just round.



Make a former with foil and card that fits tightly around each piece of branch wood and rises well above mid-level.



Pour molten pewter until it is above the dowel to ensure that it stays in place. Rotate the wood and former a little and add more pewter to the lower side. Repeat the rotation and filling until the band of pewter around the dowel is completely up to the level of the branch wood all around.



Repeat the rotation and filling until the band of pewter around the dowel is completely up to the level of the branch wood all around.



Add a generous dose of CA glue to the joint lines between the pewter and branch wood.



Turn the pewter down to the level of the branch wood and then turn both the pewter and branch wood to the vase shape of your choice.

Any hole down the middle must be narrower than the diameter of the dowel.

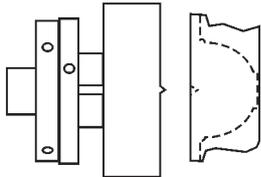
For a full-page printout of this project go to www.sawg.org.nz and find the Projects list.

Club Night 21 March 2007. Deer Antler Box

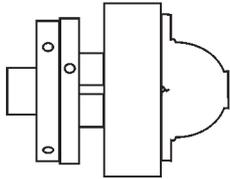
Delightful fine turning, but it still must have good shape, form, and finish. Terry Scott made it look easy. But from the outset – getting the deer antler buttons – to the finish, even he had to have his thinking cap on to get it all perfect. Just a portion of all the information Terry provided is in the project shown below.



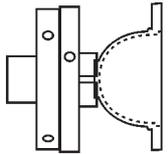
For a full-page printout of this project go to www.sawg.org.nz and find the Projects list.



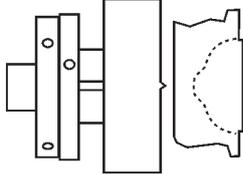
Sand flat the broad face of a deer antler button which is to be the bottom of the box. Drill a small dent at the centre point. Face off a waste block attached to a faceplate or chuck. Leave a little nipple in the centre for the drilled dent to position the antler button correctly. Glue it on with hot melt glue.



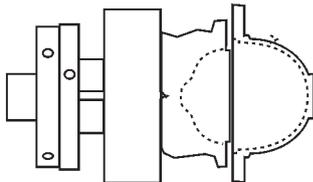
Turn the outside. Make the foot into a spigot for re-mounting on a small chuck.



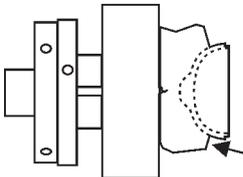
Remount in a small chuck and cut the inside, complete with a rebate for the lid to fit into. Finish this by sanding to a very fine grit with wet and dry paper lubricated with water. Apply a hard wax. Set this part aside.



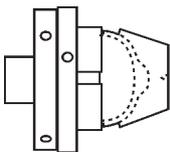
Mount the piece for the lid as you did for the bottom, but this time with the widest part away from the waste block.



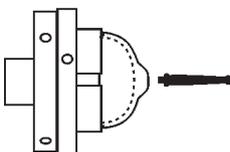
Cut the underside of the lid to the point where the rim and spigot that will fit into the rebate of the bottom are complete. Jam fit the bottom, tidy the foot, sand and finish the outside. This completes the bottom - set it aside.



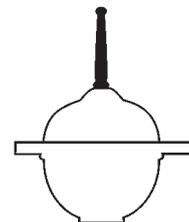
Hollow, sand, and finish inside the lid. Also cut and finish a bit up the sides. Then part off as shown by the arrow.



Remount by the spigot in a chuck or make a jam chuck of hard material. Sand and finish the outside.



If a finial is to be added, cut the spigot of the finial with the finial wood mounted in another chuck. Cut a hole to fit the finial into the lid of the box and glue it in. Turn and finish the finial. The box is now complete.



Club Night 28 March 2007. Routing on Spindle Work

Farouk Khan brought along his device which he called a "Router Lathe". Then he proceeded to demonstrate that indeed it would make an entire piece of spindle work and needed nothing to do with a regular lathe. Mac Duane followed with a device he has made to produce spiral router cuts on spindle work mounted on a regular lathe.

With a long squared blank mounted in it the router lathe has three main operations: the router can be stationary and the wood rotated to produce beads and coves; the router can be moved longitudinally while the wood is stationary to produce veins; the router can be moved longitudinally following a pattern while the wood is turned very slowly to produce extended ogee and other shapes.

Farouk had a fine array of samples that he had turned in pine. With better wood this machine would surely make some very nice pieces.

He said his particular model is now out of production. There are similar devices still available in Australia and the USA, at least, with some better features and a lower price than that given by Farouk. They would cost between \$300 and \$400 to get.

Mac's device used wheels and pulleys to rotate wood held in a normal way on a lathe and, at the same time draw a router along the length of the wood. For this device it is best to prepare the wood in a regular way on a lathe first, although, with a few modifications, it could probably do all the cuts that the router lathe could do.



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I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

The Royal Easter Show Art Hall

Well done South Auckland Woodturners Guild Members. In total 21 people entered 83 items in the show to take away 29 prizes. Eleven of these people (52%) were SAWG members who took 20 (69%) of the prizes. Indeed, only four of the people failed to win any prizes and by the look of their work that was just a very near miss.

Now, sit back, relax, and consider the pictures. Sorry, I can't give due service to all the wonderful work so look at the Gallery on www.naw.org.nz

Now, start thinking about the Royal Easter show in 2008 – we need more competition and there are many of you with excellent work. You could easily be in that winning lineup.





Royal Easter Show 07. Woodcraft Winners

Small Bowls. (less than 250mm dia.)

- First: Gordon Pembridge, Fern Leaf
Second: Mike Lewis, ancient kauri/pohutukawa laminated bowl
Third: Terry Scott, Midas Touch 2

Large Bowls. (greater than 250mm dia.)

- First: Dick Veitch, From the Sea
Second: Pepi Waite, untitled
Third: Luke Crowsen, 4 in 1 Bonfire
Merit: Phil Quinn, Kauri on Mac

Plain Bowls

- First: Ken Thomas, Willow-Oak
Second equal: Dick Veitch, eucalyptus fruit bowl
Second equal: Michael Bernard, Puriri Wave

Plates/Platters

- First: Stephen Petterson, Compass
Second: Michael Bernard, kauri platter
Third: Jason Crowsen, Ripples in the Sand
Merit: Terry Scott, In the Groove



Hollow Forms/Vases

- First: Brian Arthurs, monkey puzzle with jarrah and corian rim and base
Second: Dick Veitch, Wildflower Pot
Third: Terry Scott, Wheat Vase

Domestic Ware

- First: Michael Bernard, Milking Stool
Merit: Dick Veitch, oak vessel

Lidded Boxes

- First equal: Dick Veitch, Houhere
First equal: Robbie Graham, Twist & Turn – black maire

Ornamental

- First: Gordon Pembridge, Paua River Bowl
Second: Phil Quinn, Pacific Vase
Merit: Gordon Pembridge, Fern Leaf Bowl

Woodcarving

- Second: Russell Snook, Paua shell

Pictures in Wood

- First: Allan Sanson, scrolled hand saw

Best Item by a First Time Entrant: George Cross, The Power of One

The Aucklander Prize: Bruce Hannah, set of candlesticks

Youth Award: Jason Crowsen, Ripples in the Sand

Best Overall Woodturner: Dick Veitch

Supreme Exhibit: Gordon Pembridge, Paua River Bowl





ORNAMENTAL TURNING GROUP

by Mac Duane

The normal group of ornamental enthusiasts turned up.

I had made a version of the flat bed rose engine that Colin Crann had developed and demonstrated two months ago. He made his from customwood which tended to flex quite a bit. As I had some 12mm industrial formica, I

made a prototype which is much more stable than customwood. It also has the advantage of being able to be threaded, a great help when building up things like this.

It was set up on the DVR lathe but would also fit a TL300 or any other lathe with a similar centre height.

We tested, played, and had a brainstorming session which decided that instead of using a flexible drive it would be better to use a router on a compound vice. This means making a whole new table to carry the two-way traveller, but it is almost complete and should be working for our April meeting.

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