

TURNING TALK

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

TURNING TOMORROW'S TREASURES

Number 155 : May 2007

Book in Now

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.

Coming Events

Activities Beyond our Clubrooms

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.

10 to 12 August 2007. Taieri Woodworkers Club. U-Turn Berwick 2007. A weekend to practice and learn new wood skills in a relaxed social atmosphere at Berwick Forest Camp.

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

15 and 16 September 2007. Woodcraft 2007. Guild of Woodworkers, Wellington.

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

TIMBER

WOODTURNING BLANKS, SLABS, & PLANKS
GOOD SELECTION TO CHOOSE FROM

RECUTTING AND MACHINING SERVICE

PHONE OR FAX 09 238 6197

JIM DOWNS

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Our Website is www.sawg.org.nz

This list 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 4 April: Wood Toxicity

by Cathy Langley

Sergio Battistessa, a family doctor, began turning about three years ago with the Franklin club. He decided to use his access to medical research and international databases to check out the claims about wood toxicity. He found there is not a lot of objective information, but he's researched what is available and he had prepared a presentation that mixed statistics with humour.

Wood itself is not toxic (notwithstanding a report from 60 AD claiming that four soldiers died from wine stored in yew flasks.) It's the dust that matters, and the smallest particles are the most dangerous. Face masks will catch some of the larger particles and will make turning more pleasant, but for someone who turns a lot, the appropriate protection is the filtration provide by a dust extraction system with "needlecraft" bags, or a portable respirator. (The "best value" respirator is the Triton, according to an Australian report in 2005.)

Breathing problems have been documented by some turners with woods such as rimu, kauri, tawa, hardwoods, spalted timbers, and MDF, but the small amounts of formaldehyde in MDF don't appear to be a problem.

Research into the long-term health of furniture workers showed a significantly higher incidence of cancer of nose, throat, lip, lungs, and liver. There is also research showing that occupational asthma, once contracted, goes away in only 50% of cases once exposure to dust is stopped.

There was a lot of comment and discussion throughout Sergio's talk, with many members suggesting additional precautions such as ensuring airflow through and out of the workshop.

Sergio also noted that if you smoke, none of this advice matters at all.

Although Sergio's statistics were sobering, he remains a keen turner and his advice could be summed up as: recognize that wood dust is dangerous over time, and take precautions appropriate to the amount of turning you do and your own desire to minimize risk.



ORNAMENTAL TURNING GROUP

The Tool Slide

Here we are considering the table supporting a router, or other cutting tool, which can move a high speed cutting tool while a piece of turned wood is held in a slowly rotating chuck on the lathe. The idea is that we want the table to be pushed back and forth with a rose engine style template so that the cutting tool will make a pattern on the work. Sounds easy.

Just have a big board firmly attached across the lathe bed and slide another board on top of that. Needs a bit on each side to keep the moving board on course with perfect accuracy. Needs another couple of bits to stop the moving board from lifting upwards. It will be pushed one way by the rose engine but needs a couple of springs to bring it back again. Sit the router on top and all should be well.

Not so. The friction between all these parts means that it does not move easily. Getting all the meeting faces perfectly smooth improves things, but not enough. Adding a lubricant is likely to gather dust and dirt and make the situation worse.

Some tiny ball bearings between the fixed and moving boards would surely be a fix – but they would escape.

Remember now that the total thickness of the two boards must be as small as possible because the router will be on a swivel turret which takes up some height and its cutter needs to be at centre height of the lathe.

Mac's answer is radial linear bearings as shown in the photo. These are easily fitted with most of their height down a hole in the lower board. They work in all directions so there is no way that they can be fitted in the wrong direction. The flange means that incorrect hole depth is an issue only if the hole is too shallow – so drill it right through. Individually they are cheap at \$15.00 but putting a number over the length of a slide will add up a larger bill.

Now it takes far less pressure to move the tool slide.



In Our Clubrooms Second Term 2007

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 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.
- Sat 19 May** **Ornamental Turners.** Start time 1:00pm. Learn and share in this precision art.
- Wed 23 May** **Tapa and Other Embellishments.** The interesting tapa process will be shown by Dave Harnes, with other embellishments.
- Sat 26 & Sun 27 May** **Training Course. Making the product artistic** with John MacKinven. Read the Training Plan for further information.
- Wed 30 May** **Hands On.** This is the opportunity to make those Tea Lights.
- Sat 2 June** **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.
- Wed 6 June** **A Thin Bowl and Piercing.** Gordon Pembridge will provide a little insight into the delicate work he has been doing.
- Mon 4 June** **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.
- Sat 9 June** **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 June** **The Nelson Woodworking Centre.** Bob Yandell tells us about his time there.
- Sat 16 June** **Ornamental Turners.** Start time 1:00pm. Learn and share in this precision art.
- Wed 20 June** **A Bird, or maybe something else.** George Flavell will turn something for us.
- Sat 23 & Sun 24 May** **Training Course. Bowls** with Ian Fish. Read the Training Plan for further information.
- Wed 27 June** **Planning for the Christmas Sale.** A discussion on preparing your work for the Christmas sale, led by Tom Pearson.
- Mon 2 July** **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.
- Sat 7 July** **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.
- Sat 14 July** **Ornamental Turners.** Start time 1:00pm. Learn and share in this precision art.

Term Three 2007 starts 18 July 2007.

Club Night 25 April 2007. Tea Lights

by Cathy Langley

A tea light is a nicely-finished bit of wood with a recess for the kind of shallow candle that comes in a foil cup. For the first night of the term, I brought along some classic tea lights, large and small.

However, my demo added a glass cylinder cut from a wine bottle to protect the flame and to add elegance.

Cutting the glass cylinders is a topic in itself, which is described in a separate article. You will also need candles which can be purchased from \$2 shops or supermarkets in packets of 10 or more.

As shown in the cross-section, the glass cylinder sits in a groove on a turned base, with the top edge of the cylinder covered by a turned ring. The three components are glued together to ensure that no glass edges are exposed.

You need a blank that is about 15 mm thicker than what you'd need for the base of the tea light. First you create the ring. Refer to the cutting diagram: Cuts 1 and 2 are about 5 mm and 10 mm deep respectively, and cut 1 needs to be a bit wider than the thickest part of the glass (check it by presenting the cylinder after you've done cut 2.). After making cut 4, shape the outside of the ring and sand through all the grits. Before parting off (cut 5), bring the tailstock up so the ring can fall onto your live centre when it's cut free.

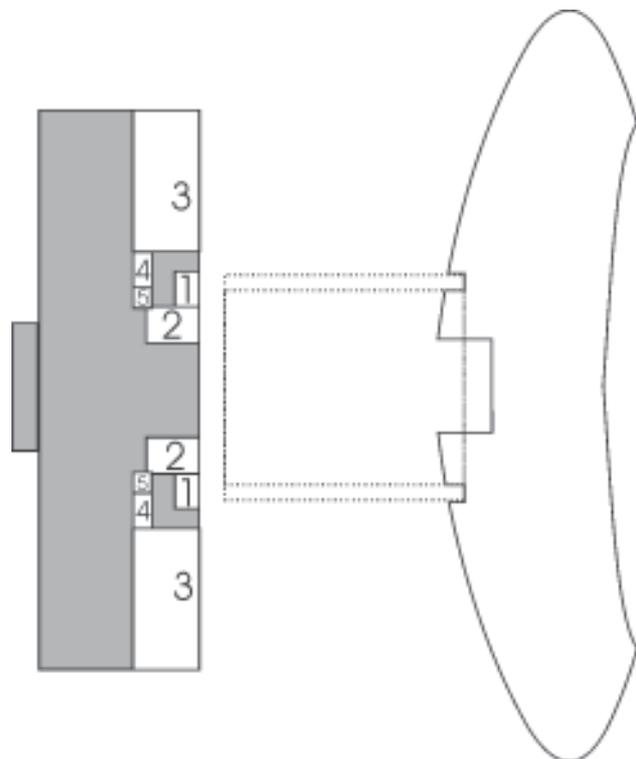
Turn the tealight base with a recess deep enough to hold the candle, and turn a groove for the base of the glass cylinder. Note, the two ends of the cylinder may have slightly different diameters. Plan to put the rougher end of the cylinder in the groove on the tealight base, because that end won't be visible if you cut the groove deep enough.

Sand and reverse onto a candle-sized jamchuck, bringing the tailstock up to secure the base so you can shape and sand the underside. Remove the remaining stub off the lathe.

You can sand the ring by hand, or you can make a cylinder that has strips of sandpaper wrapped around it in various grits, plus a Velcro hook disk on the end for fixing sanding disks. This allows you to sand the inner surface of the ring by passing the ring over the cylinder, moving from one grit to the next, and then sand the top surface of the ring by rotating it against Velcro-backed discs.. If you didn't sand the outer surface of the ring before parting it off (see above), you could sand it at this point by jam-chucking it on a turned cone held between centres.)

To glue the glass and wood together, use 2-part epoxy. (I am experimenting with clear "glass paint" from craft stores, which looks white when applied but dries hard and clear.) Make sure you have positioned the ring so that no glass edges are showing, and check to make sure the glass cylinder is sitting straight.

To extinguish the candle, don't blow it out, as this could splash wax over the base or the glass. Place a ceramic saucer over the tealight and the flame will go out in a few seconds.



Wikipedia Definition (abbreviated)

A **tealight** is a candle used in tea or food warmers. It is different from a regular candle in that it is encased in a thin metal cover and liquefies completely while lit. They are also suitable for accent lighting and heating scented oil. Some tealights smell nice because they have perfume in them. In tealights the wick is tethered to a piece of metal to stop it from floating to the top of the molten wax and burning before the wax does. Generally, tea lights give off very poor light unless grouped together with many other tea lights.



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Cutting Glass Cylinders

by Cathy Langley

There are many recommended tricks and methods. This is what works for me after trial and error. Each wine bottle provides two cylinders.

Remove the label from a bottle of wine. (Fill the bottle with hot water from the kettle; most labels will then peel off easily and any remaining adhesive will come off with solvent or D-Solv-It, a citrus-oil cleaner that gets anything off anything. If the hot water doesn't work, then the label is a type that must be soaked off.)

Turn a small bowl from waste wood, and leave the spigot on for re-mounting. Turn a wooden cork or get a plastic-covered cork from a port bottle.

With the bowl on the lathe, mount the clean, corked bottle on the lathe, with the tailstock pressing into the centre of the cork, holding the base of the bottle firmly in the bowl.

Attach "stops" to your toolrest, 55-60 mm apart. For example, you could use bits of bamboo skewer and masking tape.

Use a diamond glass cutting wheel with a handle ("Diamantor" brand, from a hardware store for about \$8) to score the bottle in 3 places. Squeeze turps from a cotton ball over the area to be scored before starting, then brace the cutter on the toolrest against the "stop" for stability, and press the cutting wheel hard against the bottle for one full manual revolution. If you can't hear the wheel cutting, you're not pressing hard enough. The idea is to end up with wheel exactly where you started. Don't cut over an area that's already scored (it will damage the wheel.) I'm told that an oil-filled cutter cuts more easily but the Diamantor is cheap and does work.

Use a triangular needle file to go over each scored mark, ensuring that there are no breaks in the scored lines.

Put newspaper or a tea towel in the bottom of the kitchen sink.

Put the bottle in a saucepan, and pour hot water from a jug into the saucepan around the bottle, exactly up to the lowest scored line. Keep over low heat for 2-3 minutes, then carry the bottle over to the sink and run cold water over that line.

Be patient. After a full minute, hold the bottle upright and look for light reflecting on the break in the bottle at the scored line.

If the break goes most of the way round, put the scored line back under running cold water and very gently tap the line with a wooden or plastic utensil. The cut should spread around the bottle, and the bottom will quietly drop onto the wet tea towel.

If the break hasn't gone very far around the bottle, put it back into simmering water, give it a few minutes, and then repeat the cold water process. You might have to do it a third time. Eventually it will break.

Sometimes it won't break cleanly; it depends on the glass. Thicker bottles seem more likely to be a problem.

Repeat the process for the other two cuts, standing what's left of the bottle in simmering water exactly up to the scored line in each case.

If a break is uneven and there's surplus glass at one spot, you can snap off the excess using the grooves at the end of the cutting wheel's handle.

What to do with the bottoms and tops? Thanks to Bob Yandell for one idea (to be reported here if it works) but I'd like more; please let me know if you think of anything practical!

Training – Platters and Hollow Forms

"You have a full house for the weekend", he said. Then came the excuse "My wife asked me to go to the supermarket but I tripped and broke a bone in my foot". So, we were 9. One arrived looking like death warmed up "I am reacting to a flu jab" and he went home. So, we were 8.

Now what makes 8 woodturners smile and be happy all weekend? Being challenged with new woodturning, trying out new toys, seeing others make things they would like to do, achieving things they have never done before – or just a weekend out? Certainly not the latter as all applied themselves diligently to the tasks of making platters and hollow forms.

We worked through the process of making a platter, then the process of making a hollow form, then adding some embellishment. Truth is, we could talk for weeks about each one of these subjects but the talking was relatively brief with a goodly bit of time on the lathes – enough time for many bags of shavings!

There are just so many different shapes that can be called a platter, and then so many things that can be done to that shape to make it better or worse. Same goes for hollow forms – such a variety of options. Perhaps that is the real enjoyment – something new every moment of the two days.



Turnfest Australia 2007

by Barry and Carole Knowles

Turnfest 2007 (30 March to 1 April) was held at Koorablyn, Australia, located in Beaudesert Shire and nestled in the South Queensland hinterland about 1 hour south of Brisbane Airport and inland from the Gold Coast.



This was a three day event with many of the participants taking the opportunity to have an extended stay. South Auckland Woodturners Guild was represented by ourselves, Terry Scott, Heather and Ross Vivian, and past member Greg Sutton. The weather was wonderful with pleasant mid to high 20s for the duration. The resort was taken over by Turnfest which meant that all 100 rooms were utilized accommodating the 280 woodies (including partners) and the 20 organizing staff.



Turnfest was officially opened by the Mayor of Beaudesert Shire who welcomed everybody to the weekend. As this was the fifth Turnfest the organizers produced an anniversary cake. This consisted of a mini-lathe surrounded by a suitably decorated cake.

Then followed the introduction of the 14 demonstrators: Christian Delhon (France), Mike Mahoney (USA), Lindsay Dunn (NSW), Terry Scott (NZ), Stephen Hughes (Victoria), Vic Wood (Victoria), Terry Martin (Qld), Tony Hansen (Qld), Ken Wraight (Victoria), Don Powell(Qld), Liz & Neil

Scobie(NSW), Guilio Marcolongo (Victoria), and Andi Wolfe (USA).

There were some 90 rotations over the period starting daily at 7.30am and the last at 8pm. It was full on for the whole time and it became a logistics nightmare trying to decide who to watch.

The demonstrators we saw (it was impossible to see them all) were excellent. The intricate items they produced in such short times impressed us and finished pieces were 100% perfect – no sanding marks, and in fact very little sanding was required. Some of the highlights were: Tony Hansen making ebony stems for wine glasses, Guilio turning his famous Perry Box, and Lindsay Dunn producing Pomanders. Andi Wolfe showed us how to decorate her pieces with amazing leaf work using pyrography and colour. Our own Terry Scott proved to be very popular. His sessions were packed out with standing room only. These are only a few examples of the many varied and interesting demonstrations we witnessed. All pieces produced by the demonstrators were raffled off on the last day.

The evening rotations were very entertaining. One of which was entitled “The 4 Mexicans” involving Vic Wood and his “apprentices” (Guilio, Ken, and Stephen) these three had been taught their craft by Vic. The apprentices turned two bowls only to have them sliced into several pieces by Vic who considered them inferior products. The three then produced a somewhat modified piece.

Another presentation was “Fast and Furious” where there was a competition to see who could produce a finished piece the quickest.

To summarise this was a very successful weekend; a huge amount of work had been put in to make this a wonderful occasion. We all couldn’t wait to get home and produce shavings and try out some of the new ideas, and tips we had seen.

We recommend this event to all our club members. It is well worth the effort to cross the ditch and witness some of the world’s finest woodies in action.



Silent Auction

In our clubrooms. Closes at 7:00pm 9 May. Items 1 to 17 are from Harry Akast, 18 to 20 are SAWG property, and items 21 to 114 the late Ron King, Life Member of SAWG.

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---|
| 1 | Teknatool TL1000 lathe & accessories | 57 | Box of odds and sods |
| 2 | 50 mm Nova scroll chuck & 100 mm jaw set | 58 | Tool rest table |
| 3 | 50 mm Nova scroll chuck | 59 | Adjustable table |
| 4 | Tool rests (3) to fit TL1000 lathe | 60 | Hole saw set and gloves |
| 5 | Teknatool AV Centre System | 61 | Hole saw set |
| 6 | Jacob Chuck 13 mm | 62 | Hole saw set and carborundum stone |
| 7 | Jacob Chuck 8 mm | 63 | Hacksaw and wrench |
| 8 | Cup Tool (Teknatool) with spares | 64 | Electric motor and grindstone |
| 9 | 8 mm Sorby HSS spindle gouge | 65 | Electolux vacuum cleaner |
| 10 | Tool Set No.1 - 1¼" Skew, parting tool, Roughing gouge | 66 | Test Rite vacuum cleaner |
| 11 | Tool Set No.2 - Parting tool, ¾" scraper, ½" spindle gouge | 67 | Cascade vacuum cleaner |
| 12 | Tool Set No.3 - ½" skew, ½" scraper, ½" spindle gouge | 68 | Lead weights, oil can and bits |
| 13 | Tool Set No.4 - 1" skew, ¾" roughing, ½" spindle gouge | 69 | Drill set |
| 14 | Tool Set No.5 - ½" skew, parting tool, 6 mm spindle gouge | 70 | Drill set, sanding disk, etc |
| 15 | Tool Set No.6 - 8 mm spindle gouge, ½" & 1¼" scraper | 71 | Profile gauge, oilcan and bits |
| 16 | Box sundries - Spur drive, sizing tool, Ezylap hone, callipers (3) handles (2) wire wool, sanding kit | 72 | Drill sharpener |
| 17 | Box sundries - Sanding drum, wax, callipers (4), handles (3), wire, protractor, vernier callipers, 6" ruler, etc. | 73 | G cramps |
| 18 | Long lathe bed with motor | 74 | G cramps |
| 19 | Triton Super Jaws | 75 | G cramps |
| 20 | Woodfast lathe with variable speed unit | 76 | Grannies tooth |
| 21 | 6 inch buzzer and blades | 77 | No 6 Stanley plane |
| 22 | Trojan pull saw | 78 | No 6 Stanley plane |
| 23 | Dyco bandsaw and blades | 79 | No 4 Stanley plane |
| 24 | Tanner bench saw and blades | 80 | Extension lead and box of bits |
| 25 | Tanner thicknesser and blades | 81 | Extension lead and box of bits |
| 26 | ¼ hp motor with sanding head | 82 | Carpenters apron and box of bits |
| 27 | Box of odds and sods | 83 | Grease guns, straight edges, wire wool, etc |
| 28 | Box of odds and sods | 84 | Files and screwdriver |
| 29 | Box of odds and sods | 85 | Tenon saw and dividers |
| 30 | 4 woodturning chisels | 86 | Big G cramps |
| 31 | 4 woodturning chisels | 87 | Fuel can and bits |
| 32 | Makita variable speed jigsaw | 88 | Chest of drawers and contents |
| 33 | Box of odds and sods | 89 | Free wheeler and paint scrapers |
| 34 | Box of odds and sods | 90 | Wood turning chisels |
| 35 | Box of odds and sods and electric motor | 91 | Wood turning chisels |
| 36 | Bundle assorted dowels | 92 | Wood turning chisels |
| 37 | Box of concreting gear | 93 | Wood turning chisels |
| 38 | Makita hand planer and blades | 94 | Wood turning chisels |
| 39 | 17 carving chiseld in box | 95 | Wood turning chisels |
| 40 | Cabinet with 20 drawers of odds and sods | 96 | Wood turning chisels |
| 41 | Makita router | 97 | Tool box and contents |
| 42 | 2 wooden planes | 98 | Jacobs chuck and parting tool |
| 43 | Mitre box and tenon saw | 99 | Hacksaw and bolt cutters |
| 44 | Wood vice plus | 100 | Fret saw and bolt cutters |
| 45 | Spray painting compressor and gun | 101 | Box of router bits |
| 46 | Sandpaper box and sandpaper | 102 | Pipe wrench and spanners |
| 47 | Double ended grinder | 103 | Ship's wheel nut cracker |
| 48 | 100mm angle grinder | 104 | Ship's wheel nut cracker |
| 49 | Level, square and long drill | 105 | Toolrest table and lay shaft |
| 50 | Level and square | 106 | Toolrest table and bowl toolrest |
| 51 | Tool box and assorted tools | 107 | Tenon saw and square |
| 52 | Cabinet and three carpenters saws | 108 | Circular saw blades |
| 53 | Rollers and paint brushes | 109 | Makita 4" sander |
| 54 | Set of stock and dies | 110 | Pair of sash cramps |
| 55 | 1/2" drive socket set | 111 | Pair of sash cramps |
| 56 | 4 tarpaulins | 112 | Pair of sash cramps |
| | | 114 | Mitre box and tenon saw |

New Editor

Next month, and for as many months thereafter as he chooses, Mike Clausen is the new editor of your newsletter. Bob Yandell has offered to assist him and I am sure all who have contributed in the past will continue to do so. May we even wish for more assistance please? Mike would particularly like someone with camera skills to be part of his team.

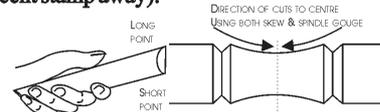
For my part, I have enjoyed five years of newsletter compilation, with your help, and will continue to write and photograph all those things I enjoy.

A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO WOODTURNING

Original artwork and text by George Flavell

Now in its fourth edition with 52 pages of clear line drawings and text specifically aimed at the learner turner. Safety, wood gathering, tools, spindle work, bowls, hollow forms, and more.

Just \$20.00 sent to the editor of this newsletter (more if you live further than a 90 cent stamp away).



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