

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 156

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

July 2007

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Michael Bernard 09 425 6782

Vice President

Dick Veitch 298 5775

Past President

Farouk Khan 580 2366

Secretary

Tom Pearson 575 4994

Treasurer

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Editor

Mike Clausen 525 3586

Members:

Mac Duane, Terry Meekan,
Gordon Pembridge,
Don Wood, Terry Scott,
Les Sivewright, Bob Yandell.

Webmaster

Rex Haslip 267 3548

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Club Meetings:

Wed nights - 7.00 pm
(Doors open - 5.00 pm)

Club Rooms:

Papatoetoe Community
Centre, Tavern Lane,
Papatoetoe,
South Auckland, NZ

Contact us:

Website: www.sawg.org.nz

Secretary - Correspondence to
12 Kirkmay Place,
Kohimarama, Auckland
tom.pearson@xtra.co.nz

Newsletter contributions:
4/4 William Ave, Greenlane,
Auckland 1061

The BIG DAY OUT!

N.A.W. AGM

Saturday 21st July 2007 - SAWG Clubrooms

All are welcome to come along to take in the demos by some of New Zealand's top turners, enjoy a tasty (free) lunch and attend the Annual General Meeting of our National Association of Woodworkers. This is a great opportunity to mix and mingle with some of the country's leaders in New Zealand's woodturning world, to share ideas and to learn about the latest developments and issues which could affect us all.

* * * * *

Note: Only NAW current members may vote at the AGM, but everyone is welcome to attend the meeting

PROGRAMME

9.30am Demos - Terry Scott & Dick Veitch
12.00 Lunch - courtesy of the NAW
1.00 Demos - Jim Manley & Rolly Munro
2.00 Annual General Meeting

Demonstrations continue after the AGM until 4.30 (or later)

The event is sponsored by the National Association of Woodworkers and is free to all Guild and Club Members. For catering purposes, please advise your Club Secretary in advance if you will be attending

Club calendar 2007

Third Term

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

On our regular Wednesday evenings, the official meeting starts at 7.00pm. For those wishing to make use of the machinery, do some shopping, check out our library, or get a little extra advice, the doors open at 5pm.

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.

- Mon 9 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 14 July 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 July Spinning Tops (Term project).** A multi-turner demo led by Farouk and two others.
- Sat 21 July NAW AGM and Demonstration Day.** In our Clubrooms. All welcome. Lunch provided.
- Wed 25 July Dick Veitch - slide show** of AAW and Utah Symposiums plus "birding" shots from Dick's USA visit.
- Wed 1 Aug Ken Port Rotomount presentation**
- Wed 8 Aug Don Wood - Talk** on the development of the Flat Bush area.
- Sat 11 Aug Working Bee.** Doors open 8:30am.
- Wed 15 Aug 4-in-1 Off-centre turning - Luke Crowse**
- Sat 18 Aug Ornamental Turners.** Start time 1pm. Learn and share in this precision art.
- Wed 22 Aug Terry Scott - Winged bowls.**
- Sat/Sun 25/26 Aug Training Course - Adding to the bowl** with Granville Howarth.
- Wed 29 Aug Hands On - spinning tops (Term Project)**
- Sat 1 Sept Upskills Morning** Doors open 8.30am. Improve your skills, or help others to improve - or just come along, turn some wood and enjoy the morning.
- Mon 3 Sept Upskills Evening.** Doors open 7:00pm.
- Wed 5 Sept Carbatec visit (To be confirmed)**
- Sat 8 Sept Working Bee.** Doors open 8:30am.
- Wed 12 Sept Lidded Box - Michael Bernard.**
- Sat 15 Sept Ornamental Turners.** Start time 1pm. Learn and share in this precision art.
- Wed 19 Sept "Ready, Steady, Turn" - Terry Scott and Gordon Pembridge** to compete simultaneously turning a bowl each. Michael Bernard will comper the fun challenge. This is also the last night of the Term when your spinning tops will be tested and judged.

(Note: Upskills Evenings depend on pre-registered attendance. Please register and check with the Secretary to see if sessions are still on.)

TERM 4 STARTS WED 10 OCTOBER 2007

Coming events 2007

- 5th Jul till 5th Aug 2007. Guild of Woodworkers, Wellington "Turnings Plus".**
An annual exhibition of woodcraft.
- 14 Jul 2007 Treeworkx Open Shed Day.**
Starts 9.00am at their Shed near Matamata.
- 21 Jul 2007. National Association of Woodworkers AGM and Demonstration Day.** Hosted by the South Auckland Woodturners Guild
- 10 to 12 Aug 2007. Taieri Woodworkers Club. "U-Turn Berwick 2007".** A weekend to practice and learn new wood skills in a live-in, relaxed social atmosphere at Berwick Forest Camp.
- 7 to 9 Sept 2007. National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau.** Opening night Thursday 6 September.
- 15 and 16 Sept 2007. Guild of Woodworkers, Wellington. Woodcraft 2007.** Horticultural Hall, Laings Road, Lower Hutt.
- 28 to 30 Sept 2007. Hawke's Bay Woodturners Guild** will be running the **New Zealand Woodskills SYMPOSIUM 2007** at Hastings.
- 28 Sept to 28 Oct. Waikato Guild of Woodworkers Artspost Exhibition.** Victoria Street, Hamilton.
- 9 to 12 Oct 2007 Sydney Collaboration 2007**
The venue is Chevalier College in Bowral (in the beautiful southern highlands, 140 kms south of Sydney).
- 26 to 28 Oct 2007. "Participation 07"**
At South Auckland Woodturners Guild Clubrooms.
- 2 to 4 Nov 2007. Waitaki Woodturners Guild, "Spin Around Waitaki"**

For more details on these and other events, nationwide and overseas, check out the latest update on "What's On" in the NAW website - www.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm

Editor's Corner

Two months into my role and already I have been struck by the amazing amount and variety of the achievements and contributions made by our members in their different fields, in different ways. This last month, for example, two of our members - Terry Scott and Dick Veitch were actively involved and demonstrating their skills at the AAW Symposium at Utah, one of America's most prestigious gathering of woodturners. Gordon Pembridge, winning national and international recognition; young Luke Crowse has astounded knowledgeable turners with his confident and creative self challenges in producing works involving very demanding technical skills. Our club-night demonstrators, some for the first time, have stepped up to the lathe and delivered very competent and professional presentations with flair and humour. The committee has worked hard to produce an entertaining and exciting programme - each and every week. Les Sivewright continues to expand the shop's range of tools and other products. The list goes on. There are many other such instances, not forgetting those who work tirelessly in the background to ensure things run smoothly, often without recognition.

As a new editor, I find it a humbling and challenging role to do justice to all that is happening in the Guild - and we are but half-way through the year!

Bring it on, everyone!

Club night demonstrations

Update on Bottle Cutting for Tea Lights

- Cathy Langley shares feedback on her recent tea lights demo.



Several Guild members have provided suggestions and corrections to the process I described in the May *Turning Talk*.

1. A glass cutter will quickly become dull if you touch it, because of the acids on your skin. Buy a new glass cutter and do not touch the cutting wheel.
2. Dip the cutter in light oil before scoring the bottle. A sharp, oiled cutter will produce a continuous line if you press firmly as you rotate the bottle. There is no need to press really hard, and no need to use the edge of a file to deepen the scoring line. (Thanks to John Smart, Colin Mitchell, and Ross Grant – these tips make scoring much easier.)
3. Rather than tape little “stops” to your tool-rest to keep the cutter straight, Bryden Thorpe suggests making a dowel to fit in your banjo with a channel in the top for the cutter. Reposition your banjo for each cut. Most bottles are a bit oval, so make sure the channel allows the cutter to go forward and back as you rotate the bottle.
4. Alternatively, if you are cutting many bottles, you could do as Mac Duane did for a similar project, and make a flat toolrest with holes bored for metal posts that can be shifted from one hole to another. Brace the cutter against a post for each cut.
5. While you are running cold water over a break that appears to have spread all the way round the bottle, grasp the bottom and tug very gently, rather than tapping with a wooden spoon. The cylinder may come away cleanly in your hand. If it doesn't, do another hot/cold cycle.
6. I've had poor success with heavy bottles, and much greater success with lighter-weight bottles that have thinner walls. The best results have been with bottles that have a low, sloping shoulder, rather than a high shoulder. But to minimise disappointment, collect several bottles before you start!

- Cathy Langley

Term Project Winner - Tea Lamps

A wide variety of creative designs was on display for Cathy Langley to judge - a gimbaled entry, mounted glass lamps, discus and saucer shapes and others, but the one that caught her eye was a representation of a lighthouse complete with a candle lit glass beacon room.

Congratulations to Bob Yandell!

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Piercing & Thin-walled Bowls

- Gordon Pembridge

9 May 2007

Gordon has been turning for just three years but has already gained international recognition for his “trademark,” delicately pierced, ultra thin-walled bowls. His artistic and technical skills have been honed by over 30 years experience as a commercial graphic designer and artist and his comparatively recent ‘discovery’ of woodturning has opened up new horizons for his creative talents.



As a preliminary admonition, Gordon showed several disasters from his workbench - pieces in various stages of development, some almost complete, to graphically illustrate the commitment and determination required in his type of work where bowl walls are turned to thicknesses of between one and two millimetres before the delicate designs are pierced. A very steady hand, a delicate touch, great patience, exceptional three-dimensional awareness and a strong philosophical outlook are preliminary requisites for this type of work. That's before you get to the obvious artistic, creative, and conceptual design skills that are required to turn a chunk of wood into a delicate piece of fine art. All in all, a real challenge!



Strong, fine grained wood such as cherry or pohutukawa is carefully selected for structural flaws or blemishes. As Gordon generally prefers to finish his pieces with a black satin finish stain and airbrushed final coats of iridescent colours, the natural grain is not a major design consideration. The outside shape of the bowl is first turned and completely finished. The insides of the bowls are turned in careful 10mm steps to the required thinness (between 1-2 mm), finishing as you go. The bowl is then re-chucked for a final light finishing cut which is critical to get the outside perfectly circular and centered. Lathe speed should be approx 1,500 rpm max. as any faster can tear the thin bowl apart. Careful progressive wall measurement is necessary to ensure a consistent thickness. Sand carefully through the grits to avoid heat checks.

Design - with the bowl mounted on the lathe, Gordon uses the index to grid the bowl into segments using the rule of 1/3 on vertical and horizontal axes. Carved feet give “lift” to the bowl. The design, either manual or computer designed, is sketched in with a soft pencil. Carving/piercing is done with a high-speed (400,000 rpm) engraver/cutter - an oil-less model to avoid stains. He wears ear plugs and ballistic-quality safety goggles, has an electric fan near the work to cool the cutting and a proper gas-sealed mask to filter out the fine dust. The tungsten cutter is de-clogged frequently on a scrap of aluminium. Great patience and total focus are required over several hours. The (cutter/spray painting) compressor is oil lubricated, 40psi, and very quiet to maintain concentration. Two bean bags support the delicate work, another acts as an arm rest. Finishing is a whole subject in itself and flows from Gordon's years of graphic art experience.

Gordon is happy to give one-on-one advice on choosing the right equipment and will even show you how to use and clean it correctly.

An absorbing and illuminating demonstration!

- Mike Clausen

Club night demonstrations ...

Preparing for the Christmas Sale

Wed 7 June '07

As a reminder that members should start making up items for the December sale, a discussion and 'mini demonstrations' were held. **Luke Crowson** demonstrated one of his Christmas trees and did a very fine job with samples of what he successfully sold at the last sale - from a miniature tree which needed a magnifying glass to see it; to a tree about 350mm high.

Ross Grant then showed us his display stand for bag handles which had proved an effective sales aid.

Tom Pearson finished with an assortment of simple 'under \$10 items' which sell readily. Some observers were seen scribbling notes so perhaps we will have additional participants at this year's sale.

- Tom Pearson

George Flavell - "A Bird, or maybe something else"

Wed 27 June '07

George himself is really "something else" when he steps up to the demo lathe. Quietly unassuming but with a glint in his eye, a rich fund of yarns to pepper his demonstrations, a great sense of drama and humour, and tremendous talent - when he winds up that lathe all the people in the front row turn white and start to wish they were somewhere else! But not for long - his mastery of the skew engaging a whirling off-center piece cup-chucked with his tennis ball gadget evoked sheer admiration and recognition that they are watching a man with years of experience who has done it all before - hundreds of times.

George draws his inspiration from a close observation of and an affinity with nature. Molluscs which had drilled themselves into the sedimentary layers under the Manukau Harbour, the flight of birds as they soar and wheel in flight, the flowing lines of streams and hills. He also draws on the rich traditions of his Maori ancestral carving lore as well as an appreciation of the work of the British Columbian First Nation peoples in Canada. "Observe nature. Think outside the box," he says, "then move on from there".

His first project was to illustrate a design based on the rock-boring mollusc. He had already prepared a 300 x 100 cylinder, partly hollowed out from one end with a spigot on the other. The open end of the cylinder was then mounted on the lathe between a tailstock centre and a cup chuck into which had been glued a well worn tennis ball. The ball fitted snugly into the open end of the cylinder and literally acted as a ball joint, enabling the piece to be mounted in-line or even angled off-centre from the tail stock. The piece was then turned on two tail-end offset centres to a tapered oval shape. Carving chisels then were used to shape the open end to closely resemble the open mollusc.

His second demonstration involved the making of a bird with outstretched wings as it wheeled in flight. The basic outline had been band-sawed and a spigot was then turned on the back and chest of the bird. The horizontal profile, top and bottom, was then turned to create the body thickness and the thinner, sweeping lines of the wings in the fashion of a winged bowl. Delicate cuts refined the curves of each wing and tail feathers to give a realistic impression of a bird wheeling in flight. Sanding was done using a long slab of foam plastic wrapped with sandpaper. Details of feathers, the beak and head were carved with a mini belt sander and chisels. A most impressive and entertaining presentation!

- Mike Clausen

John MacInven Course Report

26/27 May 07

Six Guild members wanting to take their turning up a level (and also wanting to have a really good weekend) registered for John MacInven's course on embellishment on the 26th and 27th of May.

Instead of beginning with a formal presentation on methods, design, or materials, John asked us what we wanted to do and then helped us do it, giving us the advice and information we needed as our projects progressed. Terry Scott and Mac Duane had arranged for sandblasting equipment to be available, and John had brought an extensive supply of tools and colouring agents. With the addition of our own tools and materials (some of which we'd never used), we had far more options than time. Tea breaks gave us a further opportunity to tap into John's wide experience, and we got advice and help from each other, as well, throughout the weekend.

Seeing something in a magazine is inspiring, and watching a demo shows you the steps to take; but there's nothing like doing it yourself. We experimented with techniques including texturing, masking, staining, inlaying, and sandblasting. We used dyes, stains, paints, flax, patinating wax, gold leaf, a reciprocating carver, and texturing tools. We learned what didn't work, as well as what did, and we all came away with ideas and information that we're keen to use.

- Cathy Langley

Training Course Report -

Bowls with Ian Fish - 23/24 June 07

Ten club members arrived early on Saturday with their bowl blanks, gouges at the ready, to learn how to make better bowls. Fishy started by stressing the importance of 'form' and how we can make our bowls look better, then went through the grinding process to make sure we had correctly sharpened tools. Our sins were exposed and some of us had to regrind our gouges and correct bad habits. Grizzles from some, but the results showed a major improvement in technique and finish.

- Tom Pearson

New Member's First Bowl

Do you remember the feeling of holding your very first turned piece? Perhaps you still have it tucked away on a shelf somewhere. No matter if someone helped you through the various stages of preparation, chucking, holding the gouge and "rubbing the bevel !!!" Finally you held it proudly in your hands. Your first creation! **Glen Penrose**, age 15yrs, a 3rd year pupil at Alfriston College and a Junior Guild member for only two months has made that all-important discovery for himself and is already planning his next projects.

Welcome to the wonderful world of woodturning!



Hot tip

Acetone will dissolve CA glues, unplug the tips and caps and unstick you from whatever you are stuck to.

- Terry Scott

TreeWorkx Competition Winner

Town & around

Franklin Arts Festival
-26/27 May

Congratulations to all of our members who submitted entries in the June 07 TreeWorkx Competition, a competition in which Clubs send in photos of their best or most significant work exhibited during Club 'Show and Tell' sessions. The competition is open to all NAW members and, since level of experience is taken into account, a beginner has as much chance of winning as the most experienced.

The "Best of the Best" receives a TreeWorkx Sanding System Freewheeler Gift Pack, valued at \$100.

This year the top prize was awarded to **Bruce Wood** for his spalted wood bowl.

Other Club member entrants were:

- **Luke Crowsen** - Three winged vessel and a Deer Antler lidded box.
- **Cathy Langley** - Glass bottle Tea Lights
- **Gordon Pembridge** - Koru-fern bowl
- **Terry Scott** - Beaded Kauri platter; Manta-Ray bowl
- **Bryden Thorpe** - Display stand

For details, check out the NAW magazine *Creative Wood in New Zealand - No.85, Winter 2007* for pictures and more information.

(A special award should also go to our photographer, Dick Veitch, for taking and submitting the Club's entries. - Ed.)

Franklin Arts Festival Images



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Terry Scott reports -

Congratulations, Dick, and to Luke for his win in the first-time entry Category.

Well done, Robbie, who took out the Best of Show for the second year running with one of his leaf vessels. (I hope to see Robbie as the Judge next year.)

Chris Jensen was the judge this year, with an obvious bent towards conventional works and pieces that had that 1 to 3 ratio.

Being a judge last year, I know how hard it is to make a decision on category winners as you realize on looking at the work that each piece has been created with effort and a love for your hobby.

The general consensus from the public was that the standard this year was a lot higher than in the past, with the standard of finish and overall quality high.

It was a disappointment that more Franklin members didn't enter into the Franklin sponsored category with there being only 4 entries.

How can we encourage members to participate in events such as this and the Easter show? Even if you don't win, the free advertising that you receive with your work being viewed by the public and the chance of a sale is well worth while.

I often get commissions from what I have displayed. Are some put off by the entry fee - or just not interested? My view is that pieces being shown at the clubs each week on the table are of a high standard and need to be saved for display at such events. By entering you get to see your work displayed next to other turners and learn what you have to do to improve or reshape your forms, what sells, etc.

It has to be noted that in the Art section they had fewer entries by about 40 this year with the total only being 1000 entries over all the exhibits. Woodturning had 3 less entries

Franklin Arts Prize list

1. Hollow Form, Vases: 1st R Anderson; 2nd Dick Veitch
2. Decorated Bowl/Platter: 1st Robbie Graham; 2nd G.Cross
3. Undecorated Bowl: 1st Dick Veitch; 2nd Russell Snook
4. Lidded Box Miniature: 1st Andrew Bright; 2nd Terry Scott
5. Artistic/ Ornamental: 1st Dick Veitch
6. Franklin Wood Turners Club Award: 1st Andrew Bright
7. First Time Entry Award: Luke Crowsen
8. Best Overall Exhibit: Robbie Graham

Take a turn in the park



Make a diary note to visit **Cornwall Park** on **Sunday 15th July** to check out the scenery and a woodturning demo by three of our members (10am - 4pm) The Park organises a year-long series of events and attractions and SAWG has been a regular invitee to stage a woodturning demo in the Huia Lodge Information Centre.

This year **Terry Meekan, Norm Jenner and Bob Frear** will be doing the honours for the Guild and they would no doubt welcome a bit of banter and encouragement.

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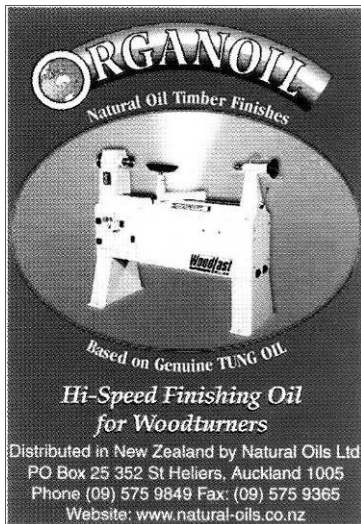
JIM DOWNES

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Mini Lathes - FREE Loans

The Club has a few mini lathes available for use by members in their home workshops, club events or the clubrooms.

They come complete with a Nova chuck and a set of tools. Usually they are available for two weeks, but depending on demand, extra time can be arranged.



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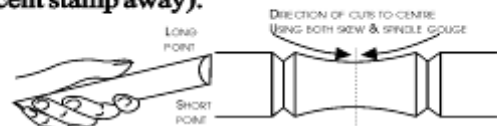
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A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO WOODTURNING

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).



SOUTH AUCKLAND WOODTURNERS GUILD

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