

# TURNING TALK

## Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

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Number 113 : June 2003

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### Programme for the Second Term 2003

We will continue to meet at Papatoetoe High School 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 6:00.

This term sees the continuation of a Table Prize for each term – so keep your good work and lessons learned flowing to the show-and-tell table each meeting night.

11 June **René Baxalle** shows how he does weaving on bowls.

18 June **Grant Oxenbridge** of Carba-Tec will talk about their new shop and setup in New Zealand.

25 June **Dick Veitch** to show slides from CollaboratioNZ, the Utah Symposium and a few other bits of woodturning.

2 July **Fred Irvine** will demonstrate thread chasing and will answer any other woodturning questions you may have.

This is also the show and tell scoops night – get all those scoops on the table.

Term three starts 23 July

### Nearly There

This is an extract from the AGM minutes of 28 May 2003:

*“The Chairman of the Building Committee (Mac Duane) reported that after three years of hard work and frustration, the building committee has been successful in gaining an interim confirmation of tenancy from the Manukau City Council for space in the Cecilia Convention Centre in Papatoetoe. This is expected to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Papatoetoe Community Board in June. The Guild could expect to take over occupancy toward the end of July 2003.*

*As part of the agreement the Guild has offered to provide labour to build a 20m partition, with the Manukau City Council providing the materials.*

*The initial agreement is expected to provide 5 year tenure with rights of renewal.*

*Questions and discussion then followed regarding the venue and the ways in which members could use it and means of funding on-going operations.*

*T Scott identified equipment that would be required (in addition to the lathes) to set up the workshop, for example a bandsaw, drill press, and a good bench grinder. He recommended that new equipment be purchased and moved that the meeting authorise the purchase of the equipment up to the value of \$1500.00. Seconded by B Hannah / carried.*

*Jim McCarthy then thanked the building committee on behalf of the members for their efforts over the last three years.”*

There is obviously a lot of work to be done and pieces to be acquired to make these clubrooms truly our home. While there is no need for a massive working bee, all offers of help and equipment will be welcomed by the committee and there will be opportunities for all club members to contribute in some way. This also extends beyond just the establishment of a work and meeting place to consideration of appropriate planned and long-term club activities to enhance woodturning in the best way for current and future club members.

**Guild Correspondence to:** 6 Taylor Road, Mangere Bridge 1701. bnchartley@paradise.net.nz

President:	Terry Scott	297-7051
Vice President:	Dave Harmes	579-8722
Secretary:	Bill Hartley	622-1182
Editor:	Dick Veitch	298-5775
Treasurer:	Colin Mitchell	577-2259
Committee:	Len Bacon, Mac Duane, Terry Meekan, Brian Petterson, Les Sivewright.	

**Newsletter contributions to:** 48 Manse Rd., Papakura.  
Or dveitch@kiwilink.co.nz or fax 298-5775

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## Club Night 7 May 2003. Fishy's Finish

from Greg Sutton

Professional Turner Ian Fish gave us a talk and demonstration on how to obtain his style of finish. Ian started his programme for the evening with a run down of his career to date. He always wanted to build boats as a teenager but an academic career was his parents preference. Science and maths being his speciality resulted in a career in specialist paint finishes for the New Zealand climate, evolutionary adaptations and ongoing developments for car finishes, and house paints. Years of blending these chemicals for the required improved results left him with an allergy to working with chemicals.

Ian told us several anecdotes of mistakes in the field of paint and chemical mixing, one in which the release valve on a particular batch of resin was stuck and all the cars in the car park of a large paint company got a sticky coat of goo and all the glass in the building had to be replaced. Ian decided after a long illness not to return to the chemical industry but to concentrate on expanding his hobby of woodturning into a professional career.

Ian now moved on to talk about finishes, mainly pertaining to wood and woodturning. He explained to us how, after trying many types of finish, the one he now uses is the one he always returns back to, leaving vegetable oils and water based finishes alone. His favourite finish for the most part is cellulose lacquer – the type thinned with MEK (acetone) – with a teak wax top coat.

Ian went on to explain the importance of shape and form of the piece, finish next, then grain of the wood last. Achieving a good finish, sanding to 400 grit, Ian said he rarely goes higher than 400. He then gives a liberal coating of highly inflammable 50150 lacquer solvent mix, putting it on with a brush working quickly revolving the piece on the lathe by hand. Needless to say eye and lung protection should be worn as well as having a well ventilated working area. Allowing this to dry he stands to one side and then switches

the lathe on and off quickly to allow the end grain straws to empty. Then, with the lathe stationary, he cuts back the lacquer with 0000 steel wool, revolving the piece on the lathe by hand. He then applies teak wax with a paper cloth, buffs with a paper cloth with the lathe running to a polished finish. He then leaves it to settle for about a week and then re-waxes the piece to achieve the level of finish required.

It was then question and answer time.

Ian answered all sorts of questions on how to make sure you stay safe in your workshop area. Are you making sure spontaneous combustion does not occur by letting application cloths evaporate individually and openly on the lawn, and then soaking them in water before disposing of them carefully. Always check manufacturers instructions before opening a product (safety first).

Ian then went on to talk about prices in galleries and how they charge approximately 2.4 times above the normal retail price selling the artists reputation along with the piece, with the galleries insisting that price denotes quality.

In conclusion this was an extremely informative evening from an exceptional woodturner and a very interesting man. It is with our utmost thanks to Ian Fish and I am sure we will now see much improved finishes on all our woodturning.

PS. Don't forget Ian now deals with Technatool products as an agent and will always try to give us a best price and also is the inventor and agent for Fishy's Tool Rests.

## Rolly Munro Hollower

If you order your nice new Rolly Munro Hollower through the Guild shop (Les Sivewright, Manager) then the Club will get a small percentage return.

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## Government Funding of Woodturning Activities

from Bill Hartley

Mark Van Dadelszon, President of the Hawkes Bay Woodturners Guild, was guest speaker for our meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May. He provided an interesting account of how their Guild has developed their own clubrooms and how they fund their on-going costs.

The Hawkes Bay Woodturners Guild used to share the use of the Pakowhai Hall with other organisations which caused problems. For example, it required that all their equipment had to be unpacked before and repacked after each meeting – a 40 minute exercise each time.

An opportunity came to move into part of the old dairy factory at Pakowhai. The building suited their needs, it had a 30m x 8m work area, loading dock, storeroom, room for a social area and room to build a gallery for sales. It needed a lot of work and the community trust which owned the building wanted \$5000.00 a year in rent – both formidable challenges for a club of 70 members who pay \$35.00 a year each in subscriptions, and which was spending \$250.00 a year for their accommodation. Members needed to be convinced that this would be a viable on-going proposition

Mark Van Dadelszon set about working out how the move to the dairy factory could be achieved. One of the first steps he took was to establish the Guild as a charitable society and they are now set up in such a way that they get the benefits of being a charitable society with the assets of the Guild protected from the risks of the commercial agreement for the lease of the property.

Mark also contacted the Ministry of Education who advised him of ways in which the Guild could receive government funding for Guild activities which would provide regular income. This required the Guild to establish a relationship with the local Eastern Institute of Technology, become part of their community education programme and thereby eligible for government funding. The Eastern Institute of Technology receives funding for woodturning activities provided by the Guild and passes a portion of that on to the Guild (Regular Guild meetings meet the criteria for funding). Income from this source is enough to cover the lease payments. The Guild is also able to generate its

own revenue from activities that they organise themselves separate from the EIT e.g. weekend woodturning demonstrations.

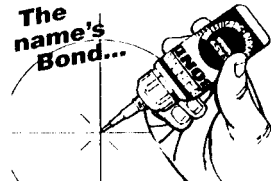
Renovations to the building were budgeted to cost \$18,000.00 and were largely funded by \$10,000.00 from the Eastern Central Community Trust and \$5,000.00 from a local Pub Charity. Final costs are expected to be about \$15,000.00 due to cost savings in materials.

Once developed, the proposal was put to members and a majority decided to go ahead with the move to the dairy factory. A 5 year lease with 2 x 5 year rights of renewal was signed and the renovations commenced (The Community Trust installed power in the building). Guild members have put in approximately 1500 hours of work, mostly at weekend working bees. The renovations have now largely been completed and the new clubrooms are in regular use.

Plans are in place to establish other means of providing income. These include a shop in the building, to be manned by Guild members to sell member's work on commission, and the renting out of the facility to other craft groups.

Mark recommended that the SAWG do something similar. i.e. provide woodturning as a community education class in association with a local tertiary or secondary institution and receive government funding. Looking at what the Hawkes Bay Woodturners Guild has achieved it provides food for thought.

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## Candlesticks

from Bill Hartley

Mike Lewis was kind enough to provide a demonstration on candlestick making following the Annual General Meeting of the Guild on 28 May 2003. Mike brought in the plumwood candlesticks that had won him first prize in the spindle work category at the Royal Easter Show and proceeded to explain and show what went into their making.

The winning design is based on the "golden mean" a ratio of 61.8% to 38.2%. This can be seen in the ratios of the diameters of the top, base and waist and in the location of the waist along the length of the candlestick. Mike says the key to making these candlesticks is in the planning and preparation – all measurements are worked out prior to commencing turning.

Mike starts with the candle he's going to use – he measures the base diameter of the candle, adds about 4mm each side to allow for the finished wall thickness – and this gives him the diameter for the top of the candlestick. He then applies the ratios of the "golden mean" to this diameter to derive the diameters of the waist and base.

For example, a top diameter of 29mm works out to a waist diameter of 18mm and a base diameter of 47mm (approximately). The location of the waist of the candlestick depends upon the height of the candlestick, but is 61.8% up from the base.

Mike commenced by mounting a piece of plum tree branch in a scroll chuck with the outer end supported in the live centre of the tailstock and reduced the branch to a cylinder. He then fitted a home-made steady to support the cylinder, fitted a jacob's chuck and drill bit in the tailstock and drilled an 18mm hole in the end (the top), deep enough to provide a secure fit for the candle (This was gauged to fit the candle he was going to use). Next he tapered the hole to match the taper on the base of the candle using a small square scraper; and sanded and finished the hole.

After removing the steady, drill bit and chuck, Mike fitted a pre-made tapered plug into the tapered hole and brought

the tailstock up to centre. This held the wood as he turned it between centres. Before starting he marked the locations of the top, waist and base on the toolrest and, with the aid of a pair of callipers and a parting tool, Mike established the diameters of both ends and the waist of the candlestick.

He then commenced the shaping, starting with a roughing gouge to work down to close to the finish dimensions, then a skew chisel to complete the final shape.

After sanding to a fine finish and tidying up the top, Mike removed the candlestick. He placed a drive-centre in the headstock, reversed the candlestick in the lathe between centres and trimmed off the base.

Thanks Mike for an entertaining demonstration – and an example of the practical application of the "golden mean".

A tip Mike wants to pass on is how to prevent a candle melting so fast and dripping wax all down the side as it burns. What's the secret? – put the candle in the freezer for a day before you plan to use it. The chilled wax fixes the problem!

### For Sale/Wanted/Give Away

A Tanner 6" buzzer with a set of spare blades. But the motor needs repair or replacement. Offers to Dick Veitch, 298 5775.



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## Franklin Arts Festival 2003

Congratulations to the prize winners:

### Section 1 Hollow form

1st T. Scott

2nd D. Wilde

### Section 2 Decorated bowl or Platter

1st S. Marshall

2nd T. Scott

### Section 3 Bowls

1st R. Snook

2nd T. Scott

Merit S. Marshall

Merit A. Sarginson

### Section 4 Lidded box

1st S. Marshall

2nd C. Jensen

Merit T. Scott

### Section 5 Miniature

1st T. Scott

2nd R. Graham

Merit S. Marshall

### West Franklin Woodturners Club Award

1st C. Jensen

2nd R. Snook

## Coming Events

TreeWorkX Open Day, 5 July 2003

NAW Demonstration Day and AGM, 19 July 2003.

Participation 2003, at Tanner Engineering, 2 & 3 August 2003

National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau, 12 to 14 September 2003

Tauranga Festival of Woodcrafting at Baycourt, October 17-19 2003

Spin Around Waitaki, Waitaki Woodturners Guild Clubrooms, 31 October to 2 November 2003

The Art of Turned Wood, Aotea Centre, 10 to 22 November 2003

Papakura Christmas Sale, 8 to 24 December 2003

Timber and Working with Wood Show, March 2004

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The early bird may get the worm, but it is the second mouse that gets the cheese.

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## Rolly Munro Demonstration

Rolly will be demonstrating his hollowing tool at Robertson and Sinclair showrooms from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on 19 July 2003. The tool will also be for sale. The Robertson and Sinclair shop will also be open for purchases.

This even is open only to NAW members and the NAW AGM will be held at 1:00 pm. It will be worth the NAW membership fee of \$45 just to see the demo.


If undelivered, please return to:  
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