

# TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 163

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

March 2008

## In this issue:

Coming Events	2
Editorial	2
Term Project - Goblets	3
Demo - Scoops	4
Polytech Course	5
Awards; Open Day	6
Terry's Hot Tips	6
Aussie Perspective	7
Bits & Pieces; 16 Tips	8
Allan Sanson Tour	9

## SAWG COMMITTEE

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Les Sivewright, Bob Yandell.

### Webmaster

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### Club Meetings:

Wed nights - 7.00 pm  
(Doors open - 4.00 pm)

### Club Rooms:

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

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## Guess who made the front page of the AAW website's Photo Gallery 'Photo of the Day'... again?



Once again Gordon Pembridge's work has featured on the prestigious Front Page Photo Gallery of the American Association of Woodturners' website. His latest offering drew a maximum rating of 10/10 and attracted a sizeable viewing of 675 hits - no small feat - when it first appeared on the 9th of February this year. Calling it "Pearly Ferns", Gordon commented that the inspiration behind his piece was a fern beside a back country stream when he was out fishing. It is 170mm diam x 100mm high, macrocarpa and has a lacquer finish with a pearl colour.

Terry Scott's work has also featured a number of times lately, and it's great to see our members firmly establishing our guild's presence on the world scene. Congratulations to you both.

## FIRST TERM PROJECT CHALLENGE

Mac Duane has set the members a Term Project challenge that can be addressed on a number of different levels, each according to one's technical skills level, creativity and imagination (see inside for details).

That, in a way, epitomises the attraction of woodturning in that it caters for such a wide variety of involvement that can bring great satisfaction in achievement to beginners and experts alike.

We look forward to the end results.



*Wedding Goblet signifying eternal love*

## Club calendar

### First Term 2008

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, get a little extra advice, or just socialise, the doors open at 4pm.

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, brought to the 'show-and-tell' table each meeting.

- Wed 5 Mar**     **Goblets** - Hands-On night  
**Sat 8 Mar**     **Working Bee.** Doors open 8:30am  
                  There are always cleaning tasks and repairs to be done - your chance to put back into the club
- Wed 12 Mar** **Natural Edge Vase** - Dick Veitch  
**Sat 15 Mar** **Full day Demo - Robbie Graham**  
                  See advert p 4 for details
- Wed 19 Mar** **Woven Insert Bowl** - Joe Hosken  
**Sat 22 Mar** **Ornamental Turners.** Starting 1pm.  
Learn and share in this precision art. Your chance to help make some Rose-engine lathes (**NB.** date to be confirmed)
- Wed 26 Mar** **Allan Sanson - Scroll saw demo**  
**March 29/30** **Aoraki Course "Intro to Woodturning for Beginners". Limited places. Apply NOW to Cathy Langley**  
**Wed 2 Apr**     **"Something Eccentric"** - Andrew Bright  
**Sat 5 Apr**     **Upskills Morning.** Doors open 8:30am. Improve your skills, or help others to improve. Or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy coffee and chat.
- Wed 9 Apr**     **Tool handles** - Cathy Langley  
**Sat 12 Apr**     **Working Bee.** Doors open 8:30am. There are always cleaning tasks and repairs to be done - your chance to put back into the club
- Wed 16 Apr**     **Off Centre Boat** - Luke Crossen  
                  **Term Project judging - END OF TERM**  
**Wed nights 23/39 Apr** - No formal meetings but clubrooms are open from 5pm
- Wed 5 May**     **Term 2 Begins**



The South Auckland  
Woodturners Guild  
is a member of the  
National Association of Woodworkers NZ Inc  
and the  
American Association of Woodturners



## Coming events

### 2008

- 7 to 9 Mar 2008. Lake Taupo Woodturning Jamboree** - to be held at the Spa Hotel, Taupo. For further info contact Robbie Graham, Ph: 07 377 0469 or by email : [robbie@wildwoodgallery.co.nz](mailto:robbie@wildwoodgallery.co.nz)
- 8 Mar 2008. "Six Span Turn-a-Round".** South Otago Woodcraft Inc. To be held at their clubrooms, 18 Crown Street, Balclutha.
- 20 to 24 Mar 2008. Auckland Royal Easter Show.** In the Art Hall, ASB Showgrounds, Greenlane.
- 18 May 2008. Manawatu Woodworkers Guild. Open Day and Interclub competition** Arena 5, Waldegrave Street, Palmerston North.
- 26 to 28 Sept 2008 "Participation '08"**  
**South Auckland Woodturners Guild's big annual international event. Book early.** Details to be announced later.

*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](http://www.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm)*

### Editor's Corner

Those of you who receive this newsletter on your dial-up computers will have been pleased that you did not have to go and do the dishes while waiting for it to download, as with some of the previous issues. That means that you can download it and settle down to start reading before your "significant other" is aware of the situation and hands you the dishcloth. The marvels of technology are working (for once) in your favour. Thanks to Dick Veitch, we now have a new, improved version of the Pdf conversion software installed (DeskPdf, available as a free download). This enables a 25% increase in the number of pages with approximately a 33% reduction in the original file size of this issue. Test samples using other layouts/content offered even bigger reductions, but apparently certain aspects of this issue's content didn't allow that.

So, more for less, which has to be good in these inflationary times. *NB. The price has still remained the same, too!*

Continuing the technical note, I am using *MS Publisher* and *Faststone Image Viewer 3.5*. However, taking my own advice from last month, I'm always looking to find better ways of doing the job (without spending megabucks).

Suggestions are welcome.

Meantime, I hope you enjoy this offering.



## Club activities

### First Term Project - a Goblet by Mac Duane



On the first night of the new Term Mac Duane did the honours and demonstrated the basic techniques of tackling the Term Project - a Goblet. To add a little zest to the challenge, he produced a 'ringed' goblet - not a 40 ring version as he has done on past occasions, but a single ring only, to encourage us all. Again, to show that it is not really necessary to have a lot of specialised tools in your rack, he completed the job with his trusty bowl gouge and a parting tool (as well as an optional Forstner bit, Jacob's chuck and a pair of handmade undercutting tools made from hacksaw blades - just to show he is up with the play).

Note that rings are **not** a requirement for this project

As with all woodturning projects, the choice of materials and design is all important, and success depends on how well the choices and execution are carried out. On these things we will be judged!

Select a clean, straight grained piece of wood, turn to a cylinder with a spigot on one end, mount the spigot in a scroll chuck and you're in business.

Mac used a Forstner bit to start the hollowing process and set the planned depth of the inside of the bowl shape. The inside hollowing was completed with a bowl gouge. Now address the outside of the bowl, defining the side thickness and shape. Do not at this stage fully undercut the bowl but leave a solid stem for security. If you wish to include rings in your design, they can be formed and separated from the bowl end before finishing the final shape of the bowl and the stem. Use a parting tool to define the width and depth of the ring, clear space on both sides to permit tool access and carefully shape each side of the ring, gently undercutting from both sides until it separates from the stem. Light sanding during the process will assist with the final stages. Secure the ring/s with adhesive tape to the base or the bowl to enable you to complete the bowl and stem to the desired shape. This is a good time to do all the sanding, working through the grades, before the stem is fined down to its final thickness. Finishes can be applied at the same time, if desired.

Now complete the base of the stem and the foot, sand and finish, then part off, undercutting the base slightly to ensure stability.

For ideas on form and design, it is worth checking the web for goblet and chalice designs. You might be amazed at the rich history of such a basic concept.

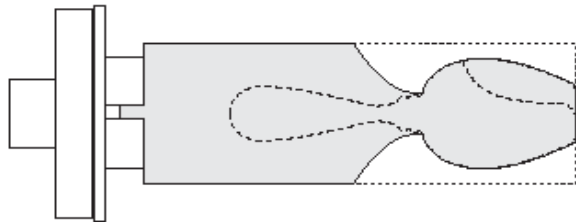
*Good luck!*



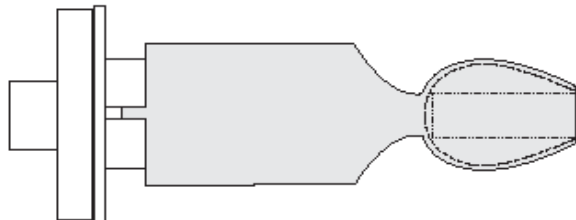
# Club activities Demo - Mike Bernard's Scoops

**MICHAEL BERNARD** once again treated us to one of his informative and entertaining demonstrations on how he makes (flour) Scoops. While the detailed plans and the photos show different designs and methods, the basics are the same: select clean-grained, non-toxic woods; use non-toxic (or no) finishes; always check clearances BEFORE switching on the lathe; use appropriate (slow) speeds; ALWAYS keep arms and hands clear!

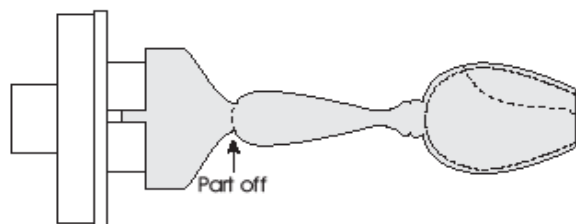
The instructions here are to make a scoop about 175mm long with a 75mm scoop in the end. But you may make one to whatever sizes and proportions you like. Start with a blank 70 x 70 210mm. Mount this between centres, round off and turn a spigot on one end.



Remount by the spigot in a scroll chuck. Cut the outside of the scoop to shape but not right down to the thinness of the handle.

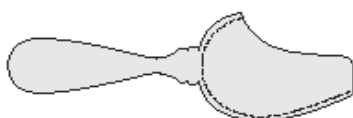


Drill the centre out of the scoop and then continue to hollow the inside. Wall thickness should be even as it will be exposed later. Finish and sand the inside.

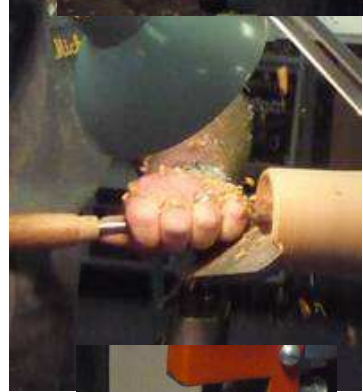


Work the very bottom of the outside of the scoop and the handle down to shape while leaving an adequate attachment to the chuck. Sand and finish the outside of the scoop and handle.

Part off. You can do this carefully, and to a shape, if you plan to hand sand or dremel the end. Or you can use the remaining wood to make a jam chuck to remount the scoop by the cup end.



Bandsaw off the unwanted part of the scoop. Sand the cut edge to shape and add your desired finish.



A design variation uses a pre-turned ball and handle. A cup-chuck is made to fit the ball which is then hot-melt glued inside with the handle at about 45deg, as shown. Use a Forstner-type bit to hollow out the ball and complete the hollowing with your choice of tool. Use careful, light cuts at slow speeds and watch out for the whirling handle! Carefully remove the ball from the cup-chuck using turps and hand finish to taste. Some research will show a wide variety of designs are possible. Start with our website: [www.sawg.org.nz](http://www.sawg.org.nz) - from which the above plan was taken.





## Club activities Aoraki Polytechnic Certificate in Woodturning



At the end of last year, SAWG entered into an agreement with Aoraki Polytechnic to offer a Certificate in Woodturning, the only accredited programme of its kind in New Zealand.

The Certificate programme begins with a two-day Introduction to Woodturning, covering the basics of the lathe and tools.

There are then three stages of learning ("Fundamentals", "Intermediate" and "Advanced"), each including both compulsory and elective courses. A typical course involves 6 hours of instruction and supervision in our clubrooms, followed by practice on your own and an assessment by the tutor.



Our first two-day "Introduction" course, taught by Terry Meekan, was attended by 10 club members, all of whom are now keen to carry on. **We will run another introductory course on 29/30 March** and we are developing a training plan for the rest of the year that covers all of the courses in the "Fundamentals" stage.

This is an excellent opportunity for turners at all levels to gain new skills or fill in the gaps; to have fun; and to gain formal recognition of the expertise you develop. The course, costing \$20, is available to all SAWG Members and enquiries from non-members are welcome.



**More detail on course content and enrolment is provided in information sheets located next to the sign-in book, as you enter the clubrooms (or ask Cathy Langley or Bob Yandell for a copy by email.)**

## Your Chance to see **Robbie Graham** in Action!

LEARN how to make  
a globe box with a  
twisted lid



or a three-sided  
textured vase



and have a close look at  
other examples of Robbie's  
artistry



**Two demonstrations -  
starting 9am and ending at 4pm.**

Tea and coffee provided, bring your lunch.

**Charge only \$20 - payable at door**

*There will be a raffle so bring some cash*

**SAWG CLUB ROOMS  
Saturday 15th March**



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## Creativity reigns ...

Ornamental Birdhouse by Gil Jones of Lake Seminole, Georgia, USA.  
Aromatic Red Cedar and Spalted Oak.  
152mm x 63mm.  
The Bee is a decorative shirt button.  
For more on his work - ([gbjones1@alltel.net](mailto:gbjones1@alltel.net))  
Thanks, Gil, for your email.



Spot the penny!  
Dick Veitch got more than he bargained for with this bit of wood.



No wonder the bloke in the centre looks a bit tired. Some people really think BIG!

## Ian Fish's Open Day

Turning Tools Ltd held an Open Day at the SAWG clubrooms on Sat 23 February and around 80 woodies turned up from all over to see Shane Hewitt and Rolly Munro show their skills and impart their knowledge. In between demos, the shop stalls offering a wide range of Teknatool, Munro, Woodcut and Treeworkx products did a brisk trade. Tea, coffee and scones fortified the troops who also bid at a silent auction for an astonishing array of bric a brac ranging from tools to jams and garden produce. Proceeds from the auction and a raffle went to the SAWG education fund, and all had a great time, as the photos show.



## Talented Members Recognised in end-of-year awards



The Committee's SAWG End of Year awards showed some perceptive creativity at last December's meeting. Pictured above are:  
Lindsay Amies - "The Ark" (*overloaded vehicle on a timber gathering trip award*)  
Robert Smith - "Most Improved Woodturner"  
Farouk Khan - "The Beast Mover" (*see p.7*)  
Bernie Hawkins - "The Keen As" award (*always first to arrive at club meetings*)

Other 'awards' included:  
"Best Muffin Maker" - Susan Berry  
"The Devious DVR Duo" - Barry & Carole Knowles - (*husband and wife team with 'his & her' DVRs*)  
"ASL (Anti Scraper League) Supremo" - Ian Fish  
"Manic Woodturner" - Terry Scott  
"Best Sweeper Upper" - Mat Moa  
"Best Chuckers" (**U**nchucked **F**lying **O**bjects) - Bruce Pewley, Mac Duane

With such a wealth of talent available the Guild's future is no doubt firmly assured!

## Terry's Hot Tips

### Tip #1

#### Airbrushing Techniques

Terry recommends checking out a website which offers great introductory lessons and videos on how to get started. Well worth a look. Go to:

[www.howtoairbrush.com/lesson%201.htm](http://www.howtoairbrush.com/lesson%201.htm)

### Tip #2

#### "Belt grinder"

A 'portable tool grinder' when your bench grinder is too many steps away. Choose a fine grit for touching up that edge.



### Tip #3

#### Websites worth checking out -

Brendan Stemp's new website - (off-centre and resin inlays)

[www.brendanstemp.com.au/](http://www.brendanstemp.com.au/)

Carrol's Woodcraft Supplies, Australia (@ good NZ\$ rate!)

[www.cws.au.com/index.html](http://www.cws.au.com/index.html)



## Overseas Correspondence

### An Aussie's Perspective on SAWG Participation '07

I first met Terry Scott in 2005 at Phillip Island's *Turnaround Down-under*, and the friendship that has developed is one based on a mutual respect for each other's work in woodturning. I still remember my first collaborative piece, it was one done with Terry at *Turnaround*, and is one that I treasure. Terry (and a host of other Kiwis) has been a regular visitor to Phillip Island so when he suggested I visit his part of the world and attend *Participation* I felt a sense of obligation to return the favour. I also was keen to visit that part of New Zealand I had not been to before.

I wasn't quite prepared for the manic pace with which Terry leads his life but soon was made aware of what the immediate future had in store for me. After an early morning arrival into Auckland's airport and getting to bed at 4:00 am I was woken with a knock on my door at ... well I can't even remember such was my state of mind. But every inch of my consciousness told me it was too early! I had a demo to get organized so I resigned myself to the inevitable, shook myself awake and got into it.

I must admit to being a little concerned about the demo I was to do that night because it was to be in front of several well-credentialed woodturners: Dick Veitch, Gordon Pembridge, Giulio Marchelongo and Terry (these were the ones I knew of). Terry was also concerned because I had made no contingency plans for any stuff ups I might make (he obviously had little faith in me!). However, everything went well and I was delighted with the comments I received after I had finished. Ian Fish, in particular made a point of speaking to me afterwards and if I had known of this man and what he knew about woodturning I would have been even more nervous prior to starting.

Meeting Ian reinforced one observation I had already made about the SAWG and that is it is over endowed with high calibre woodturners. Not many clubs around have such a high number of quality woodturners and woodturners with an immense wealth of knowledge. The SAWG is very fortunate to have these members, as they must contribute significantly to the vitality of the club and the quality of work produced. Before leaving for NZ I had formed the opinion that there was something special going on in the world of woodturning in this part of the world because I had seen so much interesting and creative work being produced. The concentration of so many good woodturners in the one place must contribute to a wonderful environment where ideas can be developed and are exchanged.

My meeting with Ian was also significant because, as I later found out, he was a member of the ASL (anti scraper league). In fact, I think he might be Supreme Leader, which would be something he would never admit to, such is the subversive nature of this group. They represent a way of thinking that is in complete opposition to me, which meant a healthy rivalry throughout *Participation* was born. I was encouraging those more **open minded** woodturners to have a go at

shear scraping, at which point Ian would utter words of disdain and express his disappointment with those reaching for the scraper, as he walked off, hands in the air. It provided great entertainment for the weekend and I sincerely hope I have managed to shake the foundations of the ASL.

I must, however, admit to gradually finding myself understanding Ian's point of view as I worked more and more with New Zealand's indigenous timbers over the period of my visit. I live in an inland area of Victoria where Red Gum and Buloke grow in abundance. These timbers are very different to timbers such as Kauri and Rimu, not only in colour but also hardness. I mention this because if it weren't for shear scraping it would be close to impossible to get a good cut off the tool when working on these timbers. When I was introduced to shear scraping it was with huge relief I took it on, because it meant less sanding. At *Participation*, as I turned a piece of Rimu I was reminded of my early days in woodturning when I used timbers like Huon Pine and when a good clean cut could be achieved with a bowl gouge. So, one's opinion of shear scraping, I suggest, is heavily influenced by the timbers one uses. I reckon I can handle a bowl gouge pretty well but when turning a piece of fiddle back red gum nothing beats the shear scraper for clean cutting.

I was also reintroduced to heat checks, something that doesn't concern us Aussies who turn hard indigenous timbers. I felt like a real dill when I asked Terry what the marks in my bowl were. I had encountered heat checks before but so long ago I had forgotten about them. Perhaps I thought, with technology developing at the rate it is, they didn't exist anymore.

*Participation* was a terrific event and, I'm sure will continue to grow in popularity. Such events are well worth attending no matter what your ability as there is so much exchanging of ideas, techniques and points of view. Travelling overseas to such events adds even more to the experience.

I also like to see how people transport their lathes and the various ways they set up their workspaces. The pieces of one inch pipe stuck into the end of the lathe bench and used as handles when moving the lathe was an idea I will be stealing. However, first prize for LTDs (lathe transportation devices) goes to Dick Veitch who has devised the best system I have ever seen. Another prize must go to Farouk - I think it could be the 'sheer determination' prize. Moving that VB76 of his to the *Participation* venue was one of the wonders of human endeavour. But I'm glad he did because meeting such a beast (the lathe not Farouk) was a most memorable moment.

The SAWG is a terrific club with great members and impressive facilities. I certainly enjoyed meeting and chatting with those I had only communicated with via the internet and many of the others that attended *Participation*. I'll be back! - *Brendan Stemp*

# Bits and Pieces

## Why Wander

- by Dick Veitch



Long Drill and Olive Pen



Long Drill and Pens

Why does that long drill bit not cut a nice straight hole? The obvious answer is that the central point of the bit is not exactly central – maybe so. Indeed for brad point bits and long augers with a serious twisty bit to start the hole, the 'not exactly central' theory may be true. But long twist drills commonly go off-line while augers made for drilling lamp stands and the like keep a good line.

Even after years of serious dieting I can't get inside the drill hole to watch, so must rely on a theory which goes like this: If a long drill has two equal cutting surfaces on opposite sides of the drill then it is likely to go off line when one side of the hole is harder wood than the other. The hard wood pushes the drill tip off line and the opposite cutter removes the softer wood on the other side.

Shell augers, as used for things like standard lamp stems, cut only on one side of the bit. They need a pilot hole or the support of a lathe tailstock to start the cut. The cutting is slow and the swarf needs to be removed frequently. The hole is straight.

Making one-piece wooden pens is my most common use of a long thin drill (3.5mm) and I have had problems with the hole diving off to one side. Some woodturners stick a decoration in the hole; others make only fat pens; some keep the drilled hole as short as possible (and then have to cut the biro insert - messy); and I mutter and throw the wood to the bin. Some timber types are OK but olive must be one of the worst and was also one of my demo downfalls.

I had Olive pen blanks from a tree which had been planted by Sir John Logan Campbell about 1880 in Cornwall Park. Very appropriate for a demo in the Cornwall Park Information Centre. But the drill went out the side of every one I tried.

I have now put my new knowledge of long drills to the test and ground one side of my pen drill to be blunt and a little shorter than the sharp side. Four Olive pen blanks later and no wayward holes - my point is proven.

Now I hear muttering – "but I just sharpened my long drill and it always cuts perfectly". Look closely, have you sharpened the tips to exactly the same length or, quite by accident, made them a little different in length or sharpness?

If sharpening both sides of a twist drill as I describe is too difficult then just grind the entire end off the long twist drill so that the face slopes from one side to the other. At the cutting edge the angle of sharpness should be similar to a regular twist drill. This drill will also cut straighter but you still have to empty the swarf very frequently. It also needs a pilot hole to begin the cut.



Shell Auger - old version



Shell Auger by Hamlet



Long Drill sharpened with 40/37 degree angles



Long Drill usual point

## 16 HOT TIPS TO KEEP YOU SIZZLING

### MORE IDEAS THAN TIME?

Do you get frustrated if you "never seem to get anything done."?

Here are sixteen techniques to pack more fun and more woodturning into your leisure time.

1. Prioritise your projects. List partially completed, current or future projects.
2. Alternate long/difficult and short/easy projects.
3. Add a regular woodturning session to your daily schedule – it may be only half an hour.
4. Don't let household chores interrupt your scheduled turning time. Do the chores later.
5. Don't let family, friends or the telephone interrupt you.
6. Work mentally at woodturning while showering, commuting, walking, jogging, etc.
7. Take advantage of inspiration. If you think of a "hot idea" turn it NOW.
8. If deadlines motivate you, set one.
9. If deadlines pressure you, don't set one.
10. Buy good equipment – not the dearest, the best.
11. Learn the most efficient techniques. Read, listen, ask questions, experiment.
12. Store supplies and tools in the right way in the right place.
13. Make sure your work area is safe, convenient and comfortable.
14. Get support from your fellow club members.
15. Support yourself – don't put yourself down for not producing the perfect turning. No one is perfect – just keep trying.
16. Above all – have fun.

This article is reprinted from "Faceplate" - September 1995 (Thanks to Terry Meekan)



# Allan Sanson On Tour - Demonstrating at the SAWG Clubrooms Wednesday 26th March , 7.00pm (by courtesy of the NAW)

This is your chance to see Allan Sanson, one of New Zealand's foremost scrollsaw artists and a demonstrator at the Hawke's Bay International Symposium 2007.

He is making a demonstration tour of the central and upper North Island under the auspices of the NAW and will be demonstrating his exceptional skills at the SAWG Clubrooms on Wednesday 26 March, at 7pm. As this is a regular club-night meeting there will be no charge for SAWG members.

He will be demonstrating each day at the Royal Easter Show, Greenlane, and is also scheduled to demonstrate at the North Shore Woodturners Guild meeting on Tuesday 25th March and the Franklin Woodturners Club on Thursday 27th March.



*Shown are some samples of Allan Sanson's prize winning work.*



**Allan comments:** "With a change of work I became a handyman carpenter. My hobby, wooden toys, grew. In 1990 I left fulltime employment to make my hobby a fulltime business. I then found a new hobby – scrollsawing, otherwise known as fretwork. This allowed me to continue with my love of woodworking but have a change of direction. Scrollsawing is an activity I can do while relaxing. 'Patience' is the key.

Scrolling is big in the USA but not so big in New Zealand where I teach classes to foster this art. While I acknowledge that there is still a lot for me to learn, I do have many years of experience and experimentation behind me and I am always willing to talk to others and pass on what I have learned. In this way I hope to open more people up to the potential scrollsawing has to offer, not just as an art-form in its own right, but perhaps even more so in terms of the potential it has to be included in 'all' forms of woodwork. Once the basic skills have been acquired, the limitations are only restricted by the imagination."

Allan is also experimenting with combinations of other media to enhance his work and to open up new design opportunities and directions. Come along ready to pick up his 'transferable ideas'.

## TIMBER

WOODTURNING BLANKS, SLABS & PLANKS  
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PHONE OR FAX 09 238 6197

**JIM DOWNS**

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## Mini Lathes - FREE Loans

The Club has a few mini lathes available for use by members, at no cost, in their home workshops, club events or in the clubrooms.

They come ready to go (just plug & play) 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. Blanks for turning are available for purchase at the club shop.

Enquiries to Mac Duane, Tom Pearson or a Committee member.

**ORGANOIL**  
Natural Oil Timber Finishes

Based on Genuine TUNG OIL

**Hi-Speed Finishing Oil**  
for Woodturners

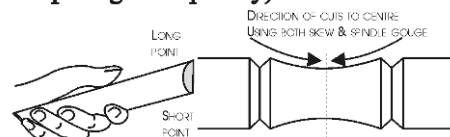
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