

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

20th
Anniversary
Year

Issue No 165

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

May 2008

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Les Sivewright, Bob Yandell.

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Club Meetings:

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

Club Rooms:

Papatoetoe Community
Centre, Tavern Lane,
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This month we celebrate our

20th AGM & Anniversary!

On Wednesday 14th May we are holding a combination of our Annual General Meeting and a celebration of our Guild's 20th Anniversary . . . and it's a time well worth celebrating! Over those 20 years the club has grown from that first meeting of a handful of enthusiastic woodturners meeting in a high-school wood-work room to a thriving, dynamic community of over 140 members, young and old, men and women, who get together at least once a week in a large, well-equipped clubroom that is the envy of many clubs around the world.

Inside are anecdotes from some of those early members, an Honours Board of special contributors as well as the usual reminders of the past, present and future activities that mould this club.

In these days of so many uncertainties, we do well to recognise and pay tribute to those who have freely given their time and talents to bring us so far to where we are today.

You are very welcome to join in our celebrations, wherever you are!

Winning Smiles from a pair of Winners

When the end of Term One Awards were announced Dave Small (left) and Bruce Wood had something to smile about. Dave's bowl won him the Life Members' Award which included a \$150 gift Voucher for the best piece presented on the night. Bruce Wood collected the Term Project Prize with his goblet, the design of which he had adapted from a woodturning magazine. When it comes to celebrating their wins they will be well prepared for generous servings.

Congratulations, guys, and to all the other contestants!



Down Memory Lane

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Peter Knox and Doug Tanner reflect on the early days

I have been rustling through a couple of boxes of past records and photographs taken at various times over those earlier years – in particular the photos taken during the 10th Birthday celebration which featured the original four Life Members and Foundation members of the Guild i.e. Bob Main, Clarrie Wills, Ron King and Derek Johnson cutting the birthday cake. Derek Johnson was the foundation Secretary until 1994 when I followed as Secretary for the next seven years.

Mac Duane and I joined the Guild in 1993 and within a short time we were drawn together on the Committee. Then in 1999 we were teamed up to work towards the South Pacific Symposium held at Eastern Beach, Pakuranga. The Committee at the time worked assiduously prior to the event sponsored by the NAW. As an international event it was a great success. It was a special time for the Guild with the official launching of the booklet 'The Beginners Guide to Woodturning' written by George Flavell and edited and produced by Dick Veitch. Since then the booklet has been upgraded several times by Dick and has become a national and international reference for woodturners.

From about the 1995 – 2000 the call for having a permanent Clubroom facility became louder and louder as circumstances began to rapidly change with the Manurewa H.S. indicating that our tenure for weekly meetings was to end. As it happened rather abruptly, the search then went out to discover the possibilities for acquiring premises that would permanently meet the needs of the Club. Mac and I spend many a time attending meetings with the Manukau City Council members and Papatoetoe Community Board pressing our case which was eventually conceded to in 2002. Now the SAWG has conceivably the best Club room set up in the country. Congratulations to the Committee and the members for achieving such an accomplishment.

The Easter Show began in a small way when Ian Fish handed the woodcraft organisation over to the Club to carry on the exhibition of pieces provided by the Auckland Club members in 2000. From that point on the Club's small sub-committee of Mac Duane, Dick Veitch and myself worked alongside the Easter Show organising committee to press ahead with our intentions to expand the woodcraft section through the competitive nature of the exhibition as well as having pieces available for shop sales. Thanks to Mac, Dick and the supporting members of the Club the Royal Easter Show has become a national event. A real accomplishment from a simple beginning.

There were occasions when a number of members got together to travel further afield. Namely the time when about 20 of us spent a weekend visiting the Ancient Kauri Museum north of Kaitaia (Awanui) hosted by Alby Hall. The journey up was frequently punctuated by Irish joke tapes that had us reeling in laughter. The return journey was taken over by our tour commentator Brian Pederson who made the trip back around the coast so very interesting. It was a great experience. I hope the above can help in a small way to highlight the Club's 20th birthday celebration. I know that Mac will have plenty to add as well as others who beavered away to make the SAWG the top Club of the country - a fact which I'm very proud to be part of. A big cheer for turning 20 and a special greeting to all my friends.

Best wishes, Peter Knox

Peter is a current and Life Member of SAWG and is now living "abroad" in Christchurch. He says the decision to move to the South Island towards the end of 2003 has meant that he misses the stimulation that is ever present within the innovators of the Guild. "On the other hand however I've been instrumental in helping the North Canterbury Wood Craft Club to finally purchase and relocate a Church hall as our permanent Clubroom after three years of negotiations. I learnt a lot from the SAWG experience prior to 2003".

Doug Tanner remembers -

When I joined the club we met in Manurewa High School's woodwork room - no lathe. I could not woodturn but joined for commercial reasons, mainly to understand what wood turners expected in the lathes they used and that we (Doug's engineering business) made. After watching many demonstrations and with my wife encouraging me to get a hobby, I started turning. I got my lathe in 1990 and did one of the weekend training courses we ran at our Penrose business to teach woodturning. Allan Bell was the tutor. The first plate I made still stands on the pelmet in the lounge. It took something like 12 hours to make, has no chuck marks - there were no chucks then - a clean bottom (no screws), and I've forgotten how I did it. However, I still enjoy my hobby!

Tanner Engineering was a highly respected and successful business making heavy automotive equipment and machinery, including woodturning lathes which were noted for their robust construction. On the property was a large concrete block shed containing a number of Tanner Lathes which were used for woodturning classes sponsored by the company. It was also the location of the Ellerslie Woodturning Club (where I first became involved in woodturning) until the business closed down and the club transferred its membership to the SAWG in 2004.

Doug has made a significant contribution to the development of woodturning in New Zealand, where many of his lathes are still in use. Our grateful thanks, Doug! - Editor

20 years of **PROGRESS**

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Any anniversary is a good time to pause, take stock and reflect on the things that have brought us to our present situation. We are in great shape right now - membership is now 140 plus and growing steadily, there is a healthy and gradual increase in its diversity of ages, gender, race and occupational backgrounds, all contributing to our vitality and integrity. Our financial situation is strong and this enables us to look ahead with confidence to the future. We have first class club premises and facilities, with a prospect of further development in the not too distant future. We are fully equipped with over 12 lathes, each with its own set of tools, as well as other new equipment, all in top working order. There is a well stocked club shop and library and a three-level staged demonstration area seating 70, complete with video cameras and TV setup. Formal weekly meetings, which always include a demonstration, are supplemented with other training and special interest sessions and the place is generally humming.

But above all, we have been blessed with the wise leadership and inspiration of a succession of able and generous people who have freely given a great deal of their time and effort to make things happen. Not only the designated leaders, but all the others who have worked behind the scenes. To these, and all our generous sponsors and supporters, we gratefully acknowledge their dedication and contributions. Because of their efforts we are now well positioned to move forward to meet the new challenges and great opportunities that lie ahead. Because of our past, we have a great future. Let's make the most of it!



Ian Fish addresses an intent audience at a recent Open Day which drew over 80 'woodies' to explore the trade stalls, dust off their credit cards, take part in a silent auction and enjoy demos by Shane Hewitt and Rolly Munro. The facility is always busy with training courses, demonstrations, workshops and other activities and features the latest Teknatool Nova DVR lathe and two-camera video equipment.

LIFE MEMBERS & year elected

Bob Main	1991	Peter Knox	2002
Derek Johnson	1993	Mac Duane	2004
Clarrie Wills	1994	Doug Tanner	2005
Ron King	1998	Terry Scott	2007
Jim McCarthy	2000	Dick Veitch	2007
Gordon Broome	2002		

Ben Smith joined on 28 September 1988 . He recalls -

"I think that it was early in 1988 that a short piece, with a photograph, appeared in the Papakura Courier. It featured a man, recently retired, who was turning wood and talking about how enjoyable a pastime it was. He gave his phone number and said that he would be pleased to hear from anyone with a similar interest. I rang right away and the guy came over to my house. We had a good talk and he helped me no end. I had just started to use a very basic lathe that I had made and I certainly needed some help. Of course the man was Bob Main and many others phoned him too. I think he visited them all and organized a meeting in Papatoetoe from which the South Auckland Woodturners Guild was formed. We started weekly meetings at the Browns Road School and the membership rapidly increased. Bob's personality and hard work in those days provided a wonderful foundation for the club and it is fair to say that subsequent presidents, every one of them, have achieved remarkable results."

SOUTH AUCKLAND WOODTURNERS GUILD - GUILD EXECUTIVES -

<u>Date</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Vice - Pres.</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Club Shop</u>	<u>Editor</u>
2007	Michael Bernard	Dick Veitch	Tom Pearson	Cathy Langley	Les Sivewright	Mike Clausen
2006	Farouk Khan	Michael Bernard	Tom Pearson	Cathy Langley	Les Sivewright	Dick Veitch
2005	Terry Scott	Farouk Khan	Mike Clausen	Cathy Langley	Les Sivewright	Dick Veitch
2004	Terry Scott	Dave Harnes	Mike Clausen	Cathy Langley	Les Sivewright	Dick Veitch
2003	Terry Scott	Dave Harnes	Bill Hartley	Colin Mitchell	Ron King	Dick Veitch
2002	Terry Scott	Phil Yuens	Stuart Purvis	Colin Mitchell	Ron King	Dick Veitch
2001	Mac Duane	Terry Scott	Peter Knox	Colin Mitchell	Ron King	
2000	Mac Duane	Terry Scott	Peter Knox	Clarrie Wills	Ron King	
1999	Mac Duane	Chris Christiansen	Peter Knox	Clarrie Wills	Ron King	
1998	Terry Meekan	Mac Duane	Peter Knox	Clarrie Wills	Ron King	
1997	Terry Meekan	Mac Duane	Peter Knox	Clarrie Wills	Ron King	
1996	Murray McElwain	Terry Meekan	Peter Knox	Clarrie Wills	Ron King	
1995	Murray McElwain	Terry Meekan	Derek Johnson	Clarrie Wills	Ron King	
1994	Ron King	Murray McElwain	Derek Johnson	Clarrie Wills	Ron King	
1993	Ron King	Murray McElwain	Derek Johnson	Clarrie Wills	Ron King	
1992	Jim McCarthy	Ron King	Derek Johnson	Clarrie Wills		
1991	Jim McCarthy	Ron King	Derek Johnson	Clarrie Wills		
1990	Bob Main	Mac Gray	Derek Johnson	Clarrie Wills		

Club calendar

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Coming events

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

- Wed 7 May** **Term 2 Begins**
Term Project - Platter or Plate -
Demo by Terry Scott
- Sat 10 May** **Working Bee.** Doors open 8:30am
Your chance to put back into the club
- Wed 14 May** **Annual General Meeting**
- Sat 17 May** **Ornamental Turners.** Starting 1pm
Learn to make a rose engine.
- Wed 21 May** **Decorating platters -** Gordon Pembridge
- Wed 28 May** **Finishing Multi-demo -** Mike Bernard to chair with panel incl: Ian Fish, Cathy Langley, John Smart
- Wed 4 June** **Hands On -** Platters & plates
- Sat 7 June** **Upskills Morning.** Doors open 8:30am. Improve your skills, help others improve, or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy coffee and chat.
- Wed 11 June** **Router on lathe work -** Veining & fluting - Dick Smith
- Sat 14 June** **Working Bee.** Doors open 8:30am
Your chance to put back into the club
- Wed 18 June** **Coffee Table -** Bob Yandell
- Sat 21 June** **Ornamental Turners.** Starting 1pm
Learn this fascinating craft and help make a Rose-engine lathe
- Wed 24 June** "The Kermadec Islands" - Dick Veitch
- Sat/Sun 28/29 June - Neil & Liz Scobie workshops**
- Wed 2 July** **Walking Sticks -** Phil Youens
END OF TERM - Term Project and Life Members' Award judging
- Wed nights 9, 16 July - No formal meetings -** but clubrooms are open from 5pm for those wanting to use the equipment, turn some wood or enjoy coffee and a chat.

2008

- 17 May - "South Island Fun Day Event".** The North Canterbury Woodcraft Club is to host the South Island Fun Day event to be held at Sparks Museum Northbrook Road, Rangiora, Chch.
- 18 May - Manawatu Woodworkers Guild. Open Day and Interclub competition.** Wood work on display. Active demonstrations.
- 30th May - 1st June 2008 - Learn and Turn Jamboree.** South Westland Woodturners and Woodworkers Guild. The "Learn and Turn" Jamboree this year is to be held at the South Westland Area School, Harihari.
- 12 July - Treeworkx Field-day**
Gates open at 8:30am. More details coming soon.
- Sat 19 July, - NAW Annual General Meeting, 1pm** at the University of Canterbury, College of Education, Dovedale Ave, Christchurch
- 26 to 28 September - Participation 2008**
This annual event will again be held at the South Auckland Woodturners Guild Clubrooms. Reserve this date. Further details to follow
- 10 to 12 October - Tauranga Woodcrafters Club Annual Show**
Greerton Community Hall, 1263 Cameron Road, Greerton, Tauranga. Woodcraft made by club members will be for sale. Active displays from six guest exhibitors including Shane Hewitt and Robbie Graham.
- 31 Oct to 2 Nov - Spin Around Waitaki**
Waitaki Woodturners Guild
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

It has been a very busy month, one way and another. Some great demos (to which I wasn't always able to do justice in the space available), a lot of material to process for publication (again, I wasn't able to include it all), workshops, meetings, discussions about innovations in training programmes and club management ideas, and thinking about the club's Annual General Meeting and 20th anniversary year. I even managed to turn a goblet for the Term project - the first for quite a while.

Just check out these pages and see some of the things that are going on and what else is coming up over the next few weeks and months.

The newsletter editors' workshop was a great opportunity to gain a new perspective and discuss common difficulties and ideas.

We all need time-out, and input from friends, to help us function better. Make the most of both!



**The South Auckland
Woodturners Guild**

is a member of the

National Association of Woodworkers NZ Inc

and the

American Association of Woodturners



Club activities

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Allan Sanson & his Scrollsaw

Woven flax inlays

Joe Hosken's demo showed how simple it can be (if you know how) to add an attractive, natural decoration to wide-rimmed bowls or platters.



At any \$2 shop you can get flax bags or placemats with varying weave patterns. With any pattern, there will be an imaginary line that connects a series of intersections between the strands of flax. Use sharp scissors to cut along this line at one edge. It's OK for it to be a bit wavy – follow the weave. This prevents small bits coming away from the edge of the cut strip.

Decide where you would cut a parallel line, connecting the intersections, to make a strip (but don't cut yet.)

Turn and fully finish a bowl or platter with a 2mm-deep recess in the rim, the same width as that strip.

Brush PVA glue along the cut edge of the flax, over the full width of the strip to be cut, ideally using the quick-drying sort (Carba-tec sells three types.) When it has become tacky but not fully dry, cut the parallel line, relying on the glue to hold the strip together. Remove a bit from each end of the strip so that the weave at the end forms an indented "V".

Run PVA glue into the recess, using a brush to get it right up to the corners and sides of the recess. Lay in the cut strip, glued side down. Because the glue on the strip is not fully dry, the weave will adjust to the curve.

Repeat the process for the next strip. Where ends meet, use tweezers to slide one bit of flax under another other, to match the weave. For the final strip, test the length by presenting it to the recess, before adjusting the length of the strip and laying down the layer of PVA.

Use the edge of a paper-hanger's seam roller to press the edges of the inlay all around the recess, continuing until the glue is firmly holding the edges of the flax. Thin some PVA with water, 1:1, and brush it over the entire inlay, working it into all the cracks and overlaps. When it's fully dry (overnight), you can then seal it with sanding sealer.

Variations include dyeing the flax before applying any glue, or brushing paint lightly on the high spots.

You can also line the interior of a bowl with flax. Turn a platter or shallow bowl that has a rim with a slight undercut. Use a paper strip to measure the maximum length of a line that follows the inside surface across the full diameter, and mark a circle with this diameter on a piece of woven flax. Find the four spots on the circle where the cut will expose very short bits of flax, and cover these spots with sellotape. Cut the circle.

Cover the wood with PVA and lay the flax circle in, sellotape up. Press it into the centre, push edges up under the rim, and press the edges with a seam roller. Use a putty knife and a box cutter to slice off any excess at the edges. Remove the sellotape, paint the inlay with diluted PVA, and apply sanding sealer the next day.



Take a Gingernut biscuit and, presto, it's a jigsaw puzzle, or a gingerbread man, or a duck, or anything you like - provided you have the skills of Allan Sanson.

After pointing out what to look for when buying a scroll-saw, Allan introduced an array of different saw blades for a wide range of materials and projects. He explained his techniques for getting into a hole or out of a tight corner - very useful skills! With patience, a steady hand and a creative mind, the modern-day jigsaw created colourful works of art or practical kitchen utensils. At the end of his fascinating demo a large number of members kept him busy with questions and close inspections of a collection of his workmanship.

It looks as though quite a few home workshop scroll saws will now be dusted off and put back to work.



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- Thanks to Cathy Langley

Club activities

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Tool Handles -

Cathy Langley shows how

Aoraki Polytechnic Introductory Course #2



Following on from last November's successful debut, a repeat two-day "Stage 1 - Introduction to Woodturning" course for Certification was run at the end of March at the SAWG clubrooms. There was a full complement of attendees under the tutorship of Terry Meekan, with the assistance of Mac Duane, Cathy Langley and Tom Pearson.

The skills covered resulted in the production of a honey dipper, a goblet and a bowl by each 'student' and, judging by the amount of shavings and the big smiles as they walked away at the conclusion of the two days, the course was a great success.

Following the Introductory course, the programme includes three levels of instruction: Woodturning Fundamentals, Intermediate Woodturning and Advanced Woodturning. Each level involves a number of set and optional modules involving formal tuition plus personal "homework" to practice or complete projects that demonstrate one's skills for final assessment by the tutors.

Those students who enrol with Aoraki Polytech can achieve a recognised Certificate in Woodturning as part of a Government-sponsored joint-education programme.

This tertiary education programme is not just for beginners. Experienced turners may find the initial courses easy but they will benefit from going "back to basics" and will, of course, have a formal qualification to enhance their CV.

The next level courses programme will be advised shortly.

Address enquiries to Dick Veitch, Bob Yandell or Cathy Langley.



Apart from the cost savings, making your own handles can offer a number of benefits – basic skills practice; custom-made shapes and sizes to suit your work and techniques; easy differentiation between tools on a cluttered work-space; the personal satisfaction of using your own customised tool – to name a few.

Initial steps in making handles are:

- Choosing the size and shape
- Selecting straight-grained wood
- Sourcing the right diameter metal tube (e.g. copper) for the ferrule

The ferrule prevents splitting of the handle under pressure. Cut it to length and clean the inside with a round file. Face the ends using a belt sander, or by mounting it on the lathe (scroll chuck or jam chuck) and trimming with a gouge or scraper.

Tool handles can be turned entirely between centres, using a Jacob's chuck in the headstock to drill the hole. However, here's another method. Mount the blank by gripping one end in a chuck and supporting the other end with the tailstock. Turn to a cylinder of the required maximum diameter and square off the tailstock end.

Using a Jacob's chuck in the tailstock, drill a hole the same diameter as the tool shaft (or for a tapered tang, drill



a "stepped" hole with two diameters, the deeper one a bit smaller than the smallest diameter of the tang and the other, half as deep, a bit smaller than the largest diameter).

Using a live centre in the drilled hole for support, turn a spigot a bit longer than the ferrule, sized to form a snug fit, with a slight undercutting of the handle's shoulder so the ferrule will be well seated. Push the ferrule into place, turn away the exposed spigot, and re-seat the tailstock in the drilled hole.

Turn the handle to the desired shape, add some decorative grooves, sand lightly if desired, and part off. The tool shaft can now be driven into the handle. A press fit

is sufficient for round shafts, but for tangs you could use a little epoxy or polyurethane glue. Apply Danish oil, and admire your handiwork!



Terry's Hot Tips

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I was recently asked to trial a new calliper on the market. My conclusion was that one would not do all the tasks you asked of it. Every piece has its own difficulties in measuring because of the shape, the size of the opening, etc. Therefore these tools are a *toolaholics* dream. You need them all!

(Yeah, right! Ed.)

Don't throw away your tired old computers -

-Terry (Mc)Scott has a use for them!

Need a hi-tech mini faceplate?

"No problems", says Terry. Because burls are so expensive I try and get something out of every piece I can. Often the face plates are too big so I use the **drive wheel** out of a computer as they fit nicely in the 50mm jaws. Much like a faceplate ring, but smaller.



Keep losing tools in the shavings?

The **magnets from computer hard drives** are also great as they are the Rare Earth type. Glue with super glue to the lathe and they will pretty much hold any tool or chuck key right where you want it. (Just don't try it with your watch).

Check out these Websites:

A great reference site for a heap of ideas - check the links section for instant response

www.laymar-crafts.co.uk/index.htm

Brian Clifford's on-line turning manual
(as referred to by Cathy Langley)

www.turningtools.co.uk/wtintro

Tanner spare parts - available from
Downtown Tools Power Tool Centre,
5 Walton St, Whangarei www.powertoolcentre.com

Neil and Liz Scobie

Two 1- Day Sessions

SAWG clubrooms

Sat & Sun 28-29 June

- Saturday - full day demos - \$20.00
- Sunday* - full day - 2x workshops
(1/2 day Neil, 1/2 day Liz - \$105.00 approx)

*Sunday nearly sold out.

Check now for any vacancies



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Creativity reigns ...

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In his March Newsletter, Ian Fish made some pertinent comments on creativity which I believe are well worth sharing. With Ian's permission, his edited comments are reproduced here.

I've just been to an exhibition of work by Gordon Pembridge and Terry Scott at The Morgan Gallery in Auckland.

If you need inspiration or want to see absolutely leading edge wood-art go and see. Gordon's work is what I describe as "pure form" vessels, very thin wall, a millimetre or less and perforated to form a pattern or picture. These are totally useless round wood vessels and extremely delicate. Stunning in their creation. See one on the cover of this month's *Creative Wood* magazine (and in the March issue of *TurningTalk*. Ed.).

Terry's work is very different. Some chunky, some designed to show the grain, every single piece – absolutely magic. You have to pick up Terry's work, you need to touch, to see the tactile quality, to feel the fair lines of his forms, and then there's the colour - wow!

Terry's work simply amazes. Where does he get the inspiration and time? Wish I had more money!

The skill level of these guys, and they're not the only ones, is miles ahead of us mortals. It's interesting how things evolve. In 1989 I was elected to the Craft Council Index, one of 5 wood turners in New Zealand and I guess I was a pretty good wood turner. Today, I couldn't even hold a candle to these two guys. The best work of 1989, today, probably wouldn't even get a merit.

Back 10 – 20 years ago though, people like Alby Hall, Graham Priddle, Soren Berger, myself and others I've forgotten were taking wood turning from a craft making "domestic ware" to the art form that it has become today.

Now there's nothing at all wrong with 'domestic ware', don't get me wrong, but we started pushing the acceptable norms – small feet, several feet, thin wall, texture, colour, other materials, etc, etc. Amongst the names above there were academically qualified artists - Alby Hall and Rolly Munro, and natural artists working in wood like John Mackinven. Form became paramount. Alby started his work with epoxy resin. Rolly can see things us ordinary people can't and then works out how to make them. I just concentrated on thin wall bowls on small or three feet and later texture.

It was about 15 years ago, too, when the NAW started bringing out overseas demonstrators – Richard Raffan, Ray Key, David Ellsworth, and many others. That's why we need the NAW and surely the advancement of wood art and wood working tools and machinery has been proof of that.

I wonder if in 20 years time Gordon and Terry will be saying 'Wow, I could never do that!'

Anyway, Terry and Gordon, thanks for sharing your work with us, for inspiring us and for challenging us and for being just ordinary wood turners willing to share everything.

Terry Scott's entry "Curl" which won 1st prize in the Small Bowls section, was "Supreme Exhibit in the Show" and helped him win the title of "Best Overall Woodturner"



Judging the Easter Show - my view by Robbie Graham

When I was asked to judge the Royal Easter Show and also do a demo at the South Auckland Woodturners Guild, I agreed to do both but wasn't sure which I was more nervous about!

Arriving at the Show venue and seeing one hundred plus pieces lined up on tables looked quite daunting. Working with another judge certainly takes the pressure off, as he has to take some of the blame if the participants aren't happy with the judging! I was lucky the other judge had similar taste and we didn't have any arguments.

Firstly we put pieces in their correct categories if we thought they didn't fit - and there were quite a few. Next we made a decision to take our favourite pieces and place them on plinths away from the other entries so we could view them without distraction.

We then picked the best three and with the score sheets we marked them and nearly every time it gave us the placing, although a couple of times it gave us a different result than our first impressions.

Quite a few pieces didn't quite make the cut but they only needed more time spent on sanding and they probably would have received a prize.

Originality often seemed to be the deciding factor. I guess at the end of the day the winning pieces have to appeal to you to be picked out of the bunch!

Robbie is a full time professional turner who lives with his artistic wife, Sue, on the shores of Lake Taupo. His creative work, with his flowing carved forms, are highly prized by overseas visitors.

Last month's issue of "TurningTalk" featured part of Robbie's demo at the SAWG - an Orb box with a spiral finial lid, along with a selection of prize-winning SAWG entries. Next month part 2 of his demo will feature.

For details about Robbie and his work, go to:

www.wildwoodgallery.co.nz

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Auckland

Out and about

Thanks to the generosity of member **Mat Moa** who donated a large tapa-cloth mat to the club, there is now a new feature-wall above the clubroom shop. The mat is a Tongan design based on traditional lines but with modern elements included in the pattern.

The mat was so large that there was not enough available wall space to display it all so the remnants will be available for members to utilise in their decorative tapa inserts on bowls and platters - see page 5.

Many thanks, Mat.

*(Of all the Polynesian groups the Kingdom of Tonga produces the greatest quantity of tapa, being geographically and climatically perfectly suited to the widespread cultivation of the Paper Mulberry. Distinguishing features of Tongan tapa (or **Ngatu** as it is more correctly termed) are its size, method of decoration and the presence of the numbered white border. A tremendous variety of images and motifs are in common usage as decoration on Tongan Ngatu, a significant proportion of which remain undocumented. The motifs are applied to the tapa by rubbing the cloth with natural colouring over design tablets called **Kupesi**, which are layed out on a curved log (Papa). The process is analogous to performing a brass rubbing and results in the images being loosely transferred to the new cloth where they are subsequently over-painted with a variety of darker pigments. Since the women involved in the making of the tapa sit on either side of the log facing each other, frequently the designs and numbers will alternate in their vertical orientation. A Tongan Ngatu is made as a large piece (**Launima**) measuring around 22 metres and as part of the ritual of its ceremonial use, the Ngatu gets cut into four or five **Langanga** pieces typically measuring around 2200 x 4000mm and distributed among the guests. - Ed.)*



Auckland Clubs' Newsletter Editors Hold Inaugural Workshop

In what was probably a "first" for New Zealand, and possibly even a world first, the editors from the four Auckland area woodturning clubs came together for a 3 hour workshop at the SAWG Clubrooms recently to share ideas and information on how they might better carry out their roles as editors for their respective club newsletters.

Producing a regular newsletter does involve the successful management of a wide range of skills and tasks from the initial concept through to final publication, and as volunteers, club editors do not necessarily have all the necessary experience, skills, support or where-withal at their disposal that is available to the professionals.

The full agenda covered such issues as editorial policies - content, format, readership target, publication and distribution; copy - topics, sourcing, editing, copyright issues; advertising and sponsorship; support team development and organisation; forward planning and time management.

Other issues included such practicalities as production and distribution options, data management and, the *Big Issue* - the choice of software programmes and hardware.

Laptop computers facilitated the demonstration of one another's software programmes and their respective merits and problems, and coffee and chocolate cake fuelled the participants.

It was a lively, interactive session which, in the end, ran short of time. Apart from the insights and practical ideas that emerged, a big outcome was the camaraderie that was formed amongst a group of individuals who generally work on their own. This opens the way to ongoing inter-communication and support that will bring many future benefits to the individuals and their clubs. More sessions will be held as required and as new issues and technologies arise.

Already under consideration are the possibilities of introducing the editors' workshop concept as an optional session at future national and regional NAW events, and even on the NAW website. A suggestion has come from an American club newsletter editor that the concept would be of much interest to American and Canadian editors as well. Preliminary investigations are already underway into the development prospects of an international website-based discussion format.

Ideas and suggestions are welcome. Watch this space ...

Ed.



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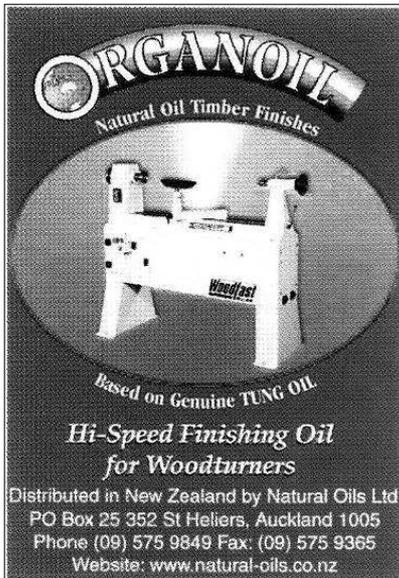
Mini Lathes - FREE Loans

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.



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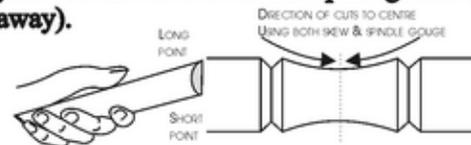
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