

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

20th
Anniversary
Year

Issue No 167

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

July 2008

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Club Meetings:

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

Club Rooms:

Papatoetoe Community
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Papatoetoe,
South Auckland, NZ

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Franklin Arts Festival Woodturning Winners

This popular annual event draws entrants from a wide spectrum of the creative arts and some of our 'regulars' usually do well in the Woodturning section. This year was no different with a high standard of creativity and workmanship in evidence. (Spot the "ring-ins" whose fine work keeps our people on their toes).



Best 1st Time Entrant -
Mike Lewis



Best Overall - Robbie Graham



Decorated Bowl or Platter -
1st - Dick Veitch



Decorated Bowl or Platter -
2nd - Robbie Graham



Franklin Woodturners - 1st
- Andrew Bright



Hollow Form - 1st
- Terry Scott



Hollow form Vase - 2nd
- Mike Lewis



Lidded Box Miniature -
1st - Andrew Bright



Lidded Box Miniature -
2nd - Dick Veitch



Ornamental - 1st -
Robbie Graham



Undecorated Bowl - 2nd
- Andrew Bright



Undecorated Bowl - 1st
Dick Veitch

Club calendar

20th
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Coming events

Third 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.

Visitors are welcome at any of our Club events. Please phone the Secretary or a Committee member for more information.

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.

Sat 12 July Working Bee. Doors open 8:30am
Your chance to put back into the club

Sat 19 July Ornamental Turners. Starting 1pm
Learn to make and use a Rose Engine.

Wed 23 July TERM 3 BEGINS
Term Project - Balusters -
(Demonstrator to be Confirmed)

Aoraki Course: Lesson #3 - Sat 26 July
Lesson #4 - (1st of 2) - Sun 27 July

Wed 30 July Plate with Inlay - Bryden Thorpe

Sat 2 Aug Upskills Morning. Doors open 8:30am. Improve your skills, help others improve, or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy coffee and chat.

Wed 6 Aug Spindle Multi-demo - Aoraki students

Sat 9 Aug Working Bee. Doors open 8:30am
Your chance to put back into the club

Wed 13 Aug Demo to be advised

Sat 16 Aug Ornamental Turners. Starting 1pm
Learn this fascinating craft and help make and use a Rose Engine.

Wed 20 Aug Demo to be advised

Sat 23 Aug Aoraki Course Stage 2

Wed 27 Aug Demo to be advised

Sat 30 Aug Aoraki Course Stage 2

Sun 31 Aug Aoraki Course Stage 2

2008

12 July - Treeworkx Field-day

Gates open at 8:30am. Check with Tom Pearson re car pooling for the event

Sat 19 July, - NAW Annual General Meeting
1pm at the University of Canterbury, College of Education, Dovedale Ave, Christchurch

12-14 September Kawerau National Woodskills Festival.

Opening night Thursday 11 September. Entries due 1st August. Exhibits due by 29 August.

20 and 21 September - Woodcraft 2008.

Guild of Woodworkers Wellington
Horticultural Hall, Laings Road, Lower Hutt.

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.

1 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

We are now into the second half of 2008 and the relentless pace is, if anything, gaining momentum as we move deeper into winter. This month's issue offers an eclectic variety of reports and articles that epitomise the complexities of the world of woodturning - a weekend creative workshop by two very talented Australians and the creative art of a Kiwi, all drawing their inspiration from the work of Mother Nature in their different environments; a Texan's do-it-yourself solution to a universal problem with toolrests; a health professional's guidelines on how to ensure a more healthy workshop environment; a demo on the old skills involved in making walking sticks, and, surprisingly, the news that Google ranks our website number one in the world in its listings on woodturning. Add to all that the invisible, behind the scenes work by committees and individuals to make sure that meetings are organised, special events are being planned and maintenance is carried out. Whatever happened to Winter hibernation?



The South Auckland
Woodturners Guild

is a member of the

National Association of Woodworkers NZ Inc
and the
American Association of Woodturners



Editor's choice



Releaf VIII

Notes from Robbie Graham

Releaf VIII Wood: NZ Beech; Length: 290mm (11 - 1/4")
Thickness: 4mm

This is number 8 in this series and is turned in one piece with very little carving to achieve this form.

The main leaf is airbrushed green and the outer leaves blue. I pierced the centre forming a leaf pattern rather than just having a hole. It was my first go at piercing and I think it worked out OK but it would have been easier if it had been about 2mm thick instead of 4mm.

The piece of wood had a few bug holes in it. I had thought of filling them but decided to leave them, which would give the piece more character.

Ragged 1 Black Maire Height: 250 mm (11")
Diameter: 200mm (8")

This piece is turned then carved on the inside with a Dremel, then carved on the outside with an arbortech. Instead of burning this piece, as I did with the piece I called flambé, I airbrushed it with watered-down black acrylic paint and a light spray of gold.

Many images of creative work come across my screen and from time to time a particular piece catches my eye. These two pieces have appeared before in our newsletters but I felt that they deserved a special display to show off their qualities, even if our technical reproduction limitations don't do them full justice.

Robbie Graham from Lake Taupo, NZ, created them.

I hope you find them "something special" - as I do. If you have a "special piece" that you would like to share, email it as an attachment, with some brief detail notes, to the Editor, cheers@slingshot.co.nz.



Ragged 1

Bits and pieces ...

Google rates SAWG #1

Type in 'woodturning' on Google and see what comes up first on their list of 1,690,000 references (in only 0.14 secs) - Yes, it's us!

Apparently, ratings denote the volume of 'hits', downloads and other factors when determining Google's placement of data. Full credit to Rex Haslip, our webmaster, for this achievement. Amazing, but true (as at the past few days).

Wanted - a Nova 3000

Guild member Graeme White is looking for a Nova 3000 lathe to get himself started along the path to a full and happy life in retirement. Anyone who can help him achieve this worthy goal should give him a call on -

(09) 299 9307 or Mob: 027 688 8570

Monique Parsler, Technical Services Manager for Watty (NZ), recently gave a very comprehensive and thought provoking presentation on the safety aspects involved in using the many types of wood finishing products now available on the market. The presentation involved a broad ranging discussion on the composition, ingredients and application methods of many of the more commonly used finishes - lacquers, oils, stains, acrylics, water-based paints. A slide show, part of which is reproduced below, focussed on the effects and preventive measures that should be employed, particularly by those with certain medical pre-dispositions or those making more extensive use of some of the more toxic substances. A question and answer session ranged over theoretical and practical aspects in greater detail so that by the end of the presentation most members came away with the very clear message of the importance of a greater awareness and understanding of the possible implications of how they used their favourite finishing materials.

Irritant Contact Dermatitis

- Irritant contact dermatitis occurs when chemicals or physical agents damage the surface of the skin faster than the skin is able to repair the damage. The dermatitis or eczema is often well demarcated with a glazed surface but there may be redness, itching, swelling, blistering and scaling of the damaged area. The severity of the dermatitis is highly variable and depends on many factors including:
 - Amount and strength of the irritant
 - Length and frequency of exposure (eg. short heavy exposure or repeated/prolonged low exposure)
 - Skin susceptibility (eg. thick, thin, oily, dry, very fair, previously damaged skin or pre-existing atopic tendency)
 - Environmental factors (eg. high or low temperature or humidity)

Avoiding Irritant Contact Dermatitis

- Wear solvent resistant gloves – PE/EVAL/PE, PVA, PVC/Nitrile rubber when using all solvents excluding water
- Wear barrier cream or cotton gloves when sanding
- If it's too late, then wear gloves even when washing dishes or using any other cleaning solutions
- Use moisturiser after washing your hands – especially after wearing gloves
- It is important to recognise how you are in contact with the responsible substance(s) so that, where possible, you can avoid it (them) or at least reduce exposure

- Irritant contact dermatitis is usually treated with the following:
 - Emollient creams
 - Topical steroids
 - Antibiotics for secondary infection

Solvents

For hobby woodturners, solvents mostly occur in spraying lacquers and have varying degrees of toxicity. Spraying atomises the substances, making it easier to be absorbed into the body via the lungs.

Clearing the AIR - Solvents

- Wear a powered respirator with the correct filter
- Make sure the area is well ventilated during and after completion of the job
- Get your hands on a Flame Proofed fan to help move the air
- An air purifier left on after working will help keep the air clean

Effects of Wood Dust

- Exposure to wood dust has long been associated with a variety of adverse health effects, including dermatitis, allergic respiratory effects, mucosal and non-allergic respiratory effects, and cancer. Contact with the irritant compounds in wood sap can cause dermatitis and other allergic reactions.
- The respiratory effects of wood dust exposure include asthma, hypersensitivity, pneumonitis, and chronic bronchitis. Both the skin and respiratory system can become sensitised to wood dust. When one become sensitised to wood dust, he or she can suffer severe allergic reactions (such as asthma or dermatitis) after repeated exposure or exposure to lower concentrations of the dust.
- Other common symptoms associated with wood dust exposure include skin and eye irritation, nasal dryness and obstruction, and prolonged colds.

Clearing the AIR - Dust

- Powered Respirator - be cheap and keep an eye on TradeMe and other sale sites
- Good Vacuum Cleaner - make attachments so that the intake nozzle can be positioned to remove most of the dust, whatever the job
- Empty the vacuum cleaner regularly - the dust compacts on the walls of the bag and significantly reduces suction
- Try using the wet sanding method which does not produce dust
- Wear a hat to keep dust out of your hair. When you leave the workshop, leave your overall and hat behind to save taking the dust into the house.

a weekend with the Scobies

- Dick Veitch reports

It is a rare event when two demonstrators can fill a day in the clubrooms with totally new things for almost all the assembled viewers - Neil and Liz Scobie did just that on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 June.

Neil started on Saturday with a "Group Designed Bowl" and had everyone clipping bits of paper to their preferred bowl shape. From that collection the group voted on a bowl design and he made the bowl. Then he went on to make a pair of doughnuts. The finished sample he brought with him looked interesting so the process to get to that point was the bit to learn. After that came the sea pods or squirts - the final touches determine what they will be after starting out with a similar turning process.

The squirts sprang to life when Liz added colour. Fairly simple, fairly quick, but with a touch of magic. Sunday 09:00 start but the lathes were already spinning by 08:30. No way was a dutiful President going to stop that to say "Welcome everybody". It was a full house for 20 people to do all those Scobie things themselves - 10 turning wood and 10 painting. Lunch. Swap over so everybody got a go at doing everything. All eyes and minds were on the work. If the look on the face was not joy then it was simply concentration.

Lunch time was barely enough to chew a sandwich and coffee break just to get the coffee, put it beside the lathe and fill it with shavings. Why was the day so short?



Overseas Correspondence

"Roll yer Own" Tool Rests

from Ray Lanham, Dallas, Texas, USA

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Dissatisfied with your current tool rest? Wish you had a longer or shorter one? Help is on the way. With a limited bit of foresight, ingenuity and money you can make all the tool rests that you'll ever need. Not a welder? No problem, just take the pieces to a welding or muffler shop and they'll help you out very inexpensively.



One of the secrets to these new tool rests is a clever concept now being marketed by the Robust Lathe company http://www.turnrobust.com/Comfort_Tool_Rests.html. Aside from the curved steel shape to support your hand, they epoxy a hardened steel 1/4" dia. steel rod to the top edge of the steel to provide a surface that won't ever ding, nick or need to be filed flat.

You can adapt this new "low-tech" solution to your own lathe needs with some 1 1/2 x 1 1/2 steel angle cut to the sizes you need. Also purchase some 1/4" drill rod or cold rolled steel to epoxy to the top of the angle iron. You'll also need a length of 1" dia. cold rolled steel rod for the posts. Since these pieces of steel are usually sold in 10' and 20' lengths, this would make an ideal project for your turning club so many others could enjoy the camaraderie of making these tool rests together at a much lower cost.



After welding the posts to the steel angle which had already been cut to size, all that remained was to epoxy the 1/4" rod to the top edge and paint them. I wanted a small tool rest for pen turning, a longer than standard tool rest (16") for reaching into deep bowls and a 90 degree corner tool rest.



Make certain that you use 5 min. epoxy and do one side at a time. Remember, "Less is More" so wait 10 minutes or more before turning the tool rest over and gluing the other side. The epoxy creates a "fillet" between the angle iron and the rod which is more than enough to keep it in place.



PM tool restsnot available.

Robust Tool rests.....\$50 each

Doing it myself.....PRICELESS!

This article was submitted by Ray Lanham of Dallas, Texas. His website is www.coeur-de-larbre.com. Check it out! His cover note is also included as it expresses so graciously the generosity and openness that is so evident among fellow woodturners, wherever they may be. Thanks, Ray.

Michael,

Here's an offer of a "Make your own tool rests" contribution for your news letter if you think it's useful for the Guild members. I appreciate getting the news letter and the ideas expressed.

Pax Tecum,

Raymond Lanham

- 'Remember.....the happiest people don't have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything they have!'

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Happenings

TERM 2 AWARDS WINNERS

Table Prize - the award for the most items presented on the *Show n' Tell Table* for the Term was shared equally by Carol and Barry Knowles.

The Term Project - a platter, by Colin Mitchell (illustrated) was declared the winner.

Life Members' Award - awarded to the best piece on display on the night, was awarded to Luke Crowsen's platter.



Members show some of their skills learned at the Neil and Liz Scobie workshops.

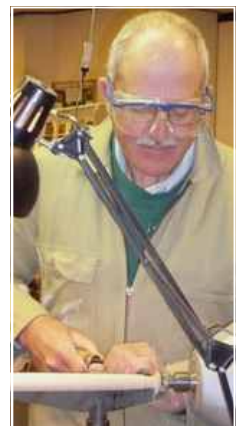


Doughnut Chain (left) and Squirt (above) by Dick Veitch. Bowl by Colin Mitchell



Phil Youens makes his Walking Sticks

Hardwoods, such as Matai, Rimu and Teak are Phil's choice when it comes to making his 'traditional' walking sticks but the choice is wide open when it comes to Hiking sticks. He starts with a straight, clean length of timber about 30x30x950mm which he turns between centres, using a 'steady' to control flexing. A straight taper is formed with a 25mm diameter at one end and 20mm at the other, adjusting the 'steady' from time to time as required. A purpose-built, extra long tool-rest can be a real boon at this stage to save having to frequently move the standard size tool-rest. Alternatively, two banjos, one either side of the 'steady', can prove helpful and avoids dismounting the 'steady' as work progresses down the shaft. A spigot is turned at the narrow end to accommodate a rubber foot and another spigot is turned at the wider end to support the handle. Because of the uneven finish caused by the inevitable amount of flexing of the shaft while turning, Phil resorts to some heavy-duty hand sanding to achieve a smooth finish to the shaft. He finishes with 240 grit. The handles offer a variety of style opportunities: the use of matching or contrasting woods, carved to fit the hand or traditional umbrella handle shapes. Grain direction and strength are important in curved shapes. The common element in Phil's models are his method of attaching handle to shaft using the spigot turned on the top of the shaft. A hole is strategically drilled in the handle to accommodate the spigot and securely glued in place. Decorative treatments can be applied to the handle and/or the shaft for individuality. Hiking sticks are somewhat longer and more 'rustic' in finish and appearance, often being whittled from a handy branch with a sharp knife. A hole is drilled near the top to accommodate a hand loop of sisal cord and a hand-grip of sisal lashing is secured below it. Most of Phil's sticks are custom made to order with individual decorative features and of a length to suit the new owner.



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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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