

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

20th
Anniversary
Year

Issue No 169

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

September 2008

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Club Meetings:

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

Club Rooms:

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

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A Big Day's Night...

Once in a while the SAWG holds a "hands-on" club night meeting at which the usual meeting formalities are quickly dispensed with and the main item on the agenda is the "hands-on" session when all the dozen or so lathes are engaged in the production of the Term Project or whatever takes the fancy of the members. Help and advice is available for those who need it. Last Wednesday night was a bit different. As usual, the doors opened at 5pm, keen members were soon engaged in working on their projects and piling up the shavings. Others were checking out the library or the club shop, or standing around with a coffee and talking with mates. However, most were attracted to a large display of wood, tools and assorted gear that was to be sold by a "silent auction" that night. At 7pm the formal part of the meeting began. Notices were announced, decisions were made, the "show and tell" table session was brief, the weekly raffle of wood was conducted and formalities concluded. The lathes were quickly fired up again by several members keen to progress their Term Project balusters and focus again went back to the goods to be auctioned. Much pondering and discussions, bids were recorded and regularly revised. Finally, the close of bidding was announced and there was a scramble to check if one's last bid had been successful. The winners lined up clutching the bidding slips and their money and were soon happily hauling away their purchases. With luck, they would find room to put them in their workshops, and perhaps even make use of them. No matter, they had got a bargain and the money was going to some good causes. Afterwards, the clean-up of shavings and unsold goods, and the club treasurer and her team busy counting the proceeds. Lights out, and the doors were locked around 9pm. The treasurer went home to prepare the financial reports for the monthly committee meeting on the following Monday night, and the editor to process these photos and finalise this newsletter. Another busy and successful club night. All good fun!



**PLEASE RETURN ALL LIBRARY BOOKS, MAGAZINES AND DVDS BEFORE
END OF TERM 3** The clubrooms and library will be undergoing extensive renovations, we want to get everything up to date, and your cooperation is requested.

Club calendar

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.

Sat 6 Sep **Upskills Morning.** Doors open 8:30am. Improve your skills, help others improve, or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy coffee and chat.

Wed 10 Sep **Sanding Arbors** - Mac Duane shows how, using car engine valves.

Sat 13 Sep **Working Bee.** Doors open 8:30am
Your chance to put back into the club

Wed 17 Sep **Bandsaws and blades** - Alan Gator, Saw Doctor, shares his knowledge.

Sat 20 Sep **Ornamental Turners.** Starting 1pm
Learn this fascinating craft and help make and use a Rose Engine.

Wed 24 Sept **End of Term 3** - Judging of balusters
Term project plus a special invitation to "Participation" visitors to demonstrate their skills.

Fri 26 - Sun 28 Sep **'Participation 2008'** - Our big collaborative event of the year.

Sat 29 Nov **Christmas Party - Jim Downes' farm, \$5 entry, BYO & a plate**

Aoraki Certificate Courses -

Sun 19 Oct Stage 2 Lesson 6

Sat 1 Nov Stage 2 Lesson 7

(Refer Cathy Langley for details -

Ph. 09 630 2091; c.langley@xta.co.nz)

NOTICE: UPSKILLS SESSIONS

We regret that due to recent lack of support, Upskills sessions on the first Saturday of the month are suspended until further notice.



**The South Auckland
Woodturners Guild**
is a member of the

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



Coming events

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29 Aug-16 Sept - "Crawled Out of the Woodwork" An exhibition of wood artwork by established NZ artists, celebrating wooden sculpture for its artistic nature.

Work by John Ecuyer, Martin Edwards, Mark Jones, Peter Mitchell, **Gordon Pembridge, Graeme Priddle**, Edward Pumipi, **Terry Scott & Karen Walters**.
Uxbridge Gallery 1, 35 Uxbridge Rd, Howick.
Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm, Sat 10.30am-3pm

12-14 September Kawerau National Woodskills Festival.
Opening night Thursday 11 September.

13 Sept - 5 Oct - "From Bowls to Boats" annual Northland Kauri Festival exhibn. and competition - The Kauri Museum, Matakoho

20 Sept 'Settlers' Day 2008' - demonstrations, wear period costumes, enjoy a fun day

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. Book your space **now** - not many left!

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

18 October - Official opening of Franklin clubrooms
More details 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



Editor's Corner

When this issue comes out Spring will have arrived, ushering in the eternal reminders of the emergence of new life, hope, the stirrings of Nature and new opportunities - at least in our minds and hearts. The Olympic Games are over and we can again focus on the more important things, like getting back to the lathe and making heaps of shavings, if not great works of art.

Of course, the Games are also a cameo of our own lives with their emotional highs and lows, their focussed dedication on achieving personal goals, their team participation and support. And, isn't that also a part of woodturning?

Bring on the next new challenges!

Cheers,

Mike Clausen, Editor

Fruit of the lathe



Bob Yandell's "potential" avocado gets a sample dremel texturing treatment.

President Bob Yandell and Carole Knowles combined their talents to demonstrate their solutions to providing a high fibre diet which didn't go off in storage during summer. Terry Scott also pitched in with his contribution of a tempting bowlfull of food for the eyes. Carole chose to bring tears to the collective eye with her version of a bunch of pickling onions ready for hanging in the pantry, while Bob contented himself with a 'potential avocado' - potential (uncompleted) shape, stalk, texture and colour that was full of unrealised promise, potentially. His reward was a 'potentially' vociferous applause from his audience.



Essentially, the discussions revolved around the various options available when it came to creating the realistic colourings, textures and tactile qualities that really brought a bowl of faux fruit to life. The appropriate shape could readily be determined by studying the real thing and using good, basic tool skills. Colouring was somewhat more challenging and much depended on the combination of wood and media, whether it was a stain, sprayed lacquer, or acrylic. The discussion consensus was that experience and experimentation helped considerably, as in all modes of creative endeavour.



And, as they say, a good night was had by all - a fruitful evening, indeed.

(Where did all the corn come from? - Ed.)



Spot the Ring-ins

Just to show how much Nature emulates Creative Art (or is it the other way 'round?') see if you can identify the real fruit (if any) in Terry Scott's bowl - above left, or in Carole's bowl - above. There are no prizes for the winner! See the answer overleaf.

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Club night action

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Inlaid Platters

Bryden Thorpe shows how its done



Bryden has been turning for a good number of years and has developed his own techniques for making inlaid platters. Instead of always using a vacuum chuck, for example, he employs "low tech" sandpaper covered face plates of mdf. to hold his discs. Pressure is applied through the tail stock to hold things in place. Simple and effective.

Preparation: A selection of 5 - 10mm thick slices of contrasting coloured wood for the inlays (New Zealand Natives) - off-cuts can be useful here; a "sacrificial" mdf. disc, slightly wider than the proposed diameter of your intended insert - cut a chuck holding tenon in one side. These discs should be slightly larger in diameter than the intended size of the platter inserts.

Bryden also used a home made sanding table which was mounted on the lathe banjo.

A sanding disc mounted in the chuck was used in conjunction with the sanding table.

Method: Preparing the platter. He secured the blank platter disc against the sandpaper-faced disc set in the chuck by using the tailstock. He proceeded to turn the bottom surface of the platter. A chucking dovetail or spigot could be included here, but Bryden chose to glue a prepared chuck mounting-disc to the bottom. The underside of the platter was sanded to finish standard. The platter is now reversed into the chuck and the upper surface turned and detailed as desired. A recess is then turned in the centre to accept the inlay disc, the depth being a few millimetres less than the thickness of the proposed inlay slices - usually 3-4mm difference would be good.

Preparing the Inlay: On a piece of cardboard or Formica draw a circle, the diameter should be 10ml - 20mm larger than the diameter of the proposed inlay piece. Divide around the circumference the radius measurement. This would give you 6 segments. Cut out one segment you have drawn to use as a template and use it to cut out 6 segments. Using the chuck-mounted sanding disc and the banjo-mounted table, sand the segment edges flat and square and to size as per the Formica/cardboard template. Glue the segments on to a mdf. disc minus the last segment. This piece will need a final sanding to get a perfect fit. Allow the glue to dry overnight. Next chuck the mdf. disc with segments and turn flat and to size (diameter) to fit into the recess which was cut in the centre of the platter. This step needs care and accuracy to ensure a square and firm fit into the platter. Glue (PVA) into place and leave overnight to dry.

Finishing: Mount the platter in the chuck and turn the segment area to suit the face of the platter. Sand down through the grades. If you have been careful there shouldn't be any gaps around the segments.

Apply the finishing treatment of your choice.

Display: To better show off the platter Bryden makes a display stand from 10mm dowels inserted into turned and drilled matching cylinders (see photos). The cylinders are pre-drilled (in the square) before turning. This will ensure accurate placing of the 10mm dowels.

The basic inlay principles can be used for a wide variety of projects, large and small, including a coffee table as shown (left).



Solutions to Fruit Bowl challenge: The real fruit are - Terry's bowl: avocado with label, plum, red pepper. Carole's bowl: lemon and orange. Bon appetite!



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Quick & Easy Threaded Inserts for Boxes & Urns

by Raymond Lanham



One of the easiest ways to create threads on boxes and urns is to **NOT** create them! Unless you have the specialized tools, creating threads on turned vessels can be difficult. I found this concept from Brad Adams to be just my “cup of tea.” Since PVC fittings are inexpensive and readily available, this “How To” will discuss the creation of threaded inserts the quick and easy way.

First, purchase male and female 1-1/2” clean-out fittings from a hardware store or plumbing supply and install the female part of the fitting on your chuck by expanding the spigot jaws to fit the inside diameter. Then using a sharp scraper, remove the exterior knobby surface until it’s smooth.

Using a thin parting tool, create a 1/8” shoulder on the end and then create a 1/8” tenon right beside the shoulder on the end of the female fitting as shown in the photo on the right. Part off the insert and clean up any rough edges with fine sandpaper or a sharp knife.

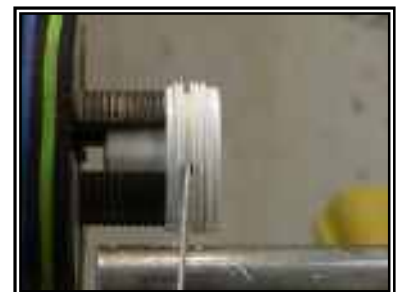
The shoulder will position the insert flush with the top of your box/urn.



Now, insert the male part of the clean-out plug into your chuck and hold it by the square end as shown in the photo to the left. The task now is to part-off about 1/4” of thread with a fine parting tool, taking care to cut as cleanly as possible.

The width of the parted-off insert will be closer to 3/8” wide because the thread actually begins about 1/8” from the end as you can see from the photo at the right.

Once the piece is parted off, clean up the edges of the PVC with a sharp knife and fine sandpaper.



With the two pieces parted off, you now have male and female PVC threaded inserts.

You must create a tenon on the underside of the lid, and a rabbet in the portion of your box/urn that will be the bottom.

A small amount of CA glue into the joint between the PVC and the wood is all you’ll need to fix each threaded insert securely to your box lid and bottom.

(Note: Before the glue sets, ensure the top is correctly aligned with the bottom, in all respects, when the two parts are screwed firmly together - Ed.).

*This article was submitted by Ray Lanham of Dallas, Texas, USA.
(also refer “Roll yer Own Tool Rests” in our July 2008 issue).
For more practical ideas on turning and improvements to your work
shop go to his website - coeur-de-larbre.com.*

*Ray is an regular reader of “TurningTalk” and has kindly offered a
variety of useful articles which will be published over the coming
months. Many thanks, Ray.* - Ed.

Kawerau Woodskills Festival

12 - 14 September

Fri & Sat 9:00 - 4:30pm

Sun 9:00 - 3:30pm

Woodturning, Carving, Marquetry & Intarsia,
Toys/Models/Replicas, Home Furniture,
Whakairo/Mythology

A great day out for all the Family

Out and about

a lucky escape...

When Terry Scott turned up on a Club night recently he was sporting a cool set of Shades. We all thought he was starting a new trend - 'the world famous woodturner trying to avoid recognition by the media' - sort of thing. His demeanour was also slightly subdued (for Terry) but we thought that might be part of the new persona, too.



However, the reality was revealed when he stood before the meeting and removed his dark glasses to reveal a black eye and a savage cut on his cheekbone.

While turning a salad bowl, it suddenly split in two at about 700 rpm. One section flew across his workshop - after first smacking him in the face! Fortunately, he was wearing a pair of safety glasses which took the brunt of the impact before breaking, but a piece of the shattered eyeglass was still sticking into his cheek, just below his eye. Blood everywhere, and a momentary blackout resulted. Strangely enough, Terry acknowledged that he'd had a premonition before he turned on the lathe, but he'd shrugged it off and didn't reach out for his safety visor hanging nearby.

On examination later, the bowl seemed to have developed a crack which was unnoticed at the time. Terry said that the whole thing just happened in a flash, leaving him with the sinking feeling that he had been blinded.

"The safety glasses saved my sight, but from now on, I'm always going to wear a full face-shield as well. I was too complacent, and nearly paid a terrible price!" he said to his very thoughtful audience.

That said it all...

TERM PROJECT REMINDER

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CLUBROOM BALUSTERS

Deadline - Wed 24 September



Dimensions are critical. Length must be exactly 500mm, plus the spigots at each end which must be 20mm long x 20mm in diameter, i.e. a total length of 540mm overall. Max. diameter is 75mm.

Drill a 20 mm hole in a waste block to test the fit. Undercut the shoulder at top and bottom, to ensure there's no gap showing between baluster and handrail. The design is up to you. Mark the top spigot "T" for "top" so we can install it as you intended!

For inspiration, have a look at the ones that are already in the clubroom. For those of you with Internet access, there are many sites showing sample designs, including:

<http://www.woodworkscompany.com/balusters.html>

<http://www.brownwoodinc.com/custom-turning/default.html>

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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

Once Around the South

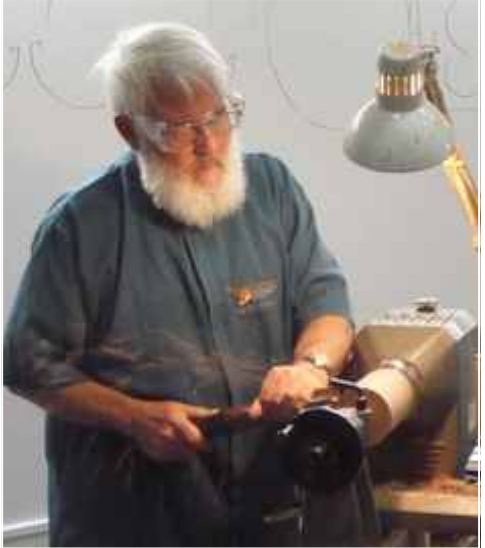
by Dick Veitch

The timing of a couple of South Island events gave me the choice to forego one, or return to the North Island in between them, or fill my time with interesting things in the South Island. I chose the latter.

My method to fill the time was to email all the woodturning clubs and ask whether I could visit them. I soon had a very full diary with plans to visit ten clubs, attend the unique Southland woodies gathering at Taringatara, do a demo at the NAW AGM, meet with others to discuss the Aoraki Training Programme, and collect beech from the West Coast. In between those engagements my sisters who live at Amberley had long "to do" lists, in return for food, laundry, trailer loans, and the comforts of family.

During the time I was down there you will have seen the weather forecasts and reports like "Best snowfall in years", "State Highway One closed at Kaikoura", and "Residents evacuated from Amberley Beach".

Yes, I was amongst all that but also dodged most of it. The flooding was watched out the kitchen window. The snow fell when I was comfortably in a warm house. Where roads were closed there was an easy diversion. When we were collecting wood on the West Coast it was a fine sunny day with clear views to Mount Cook – yes, you know the saying from that part of NZ "When you can see Mount Cook it is about to rain". We did not stay long enough to check that out.



Most of my demonstrations had something go wrong – just shows I am not as good as I thought. I lost count of the number of hollowed wild-flower vases I made; plus a few lidded boxes; wet turned bowls; and offset pot pourri. The great delight of the turning was to make tube forms from a fresh-cut gum tree. When first cut the wood showed nice growth rings and some long stress ripples. Within 24 hours it would wrinkle and bend beautifully (see photo, left). Now I just have to work out the best finish for these.

I returned home with 6000km on the car, a few kilos on the waist and a lightning-struck computer and phones to fix. Welcome home!!!!

Below and top right: Dick "filling in time" with a demonstration at the NAW AGM in Christchurch.





Richard Lawton

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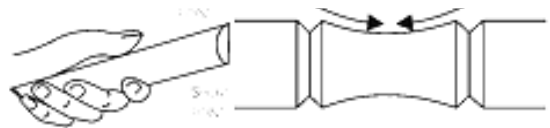
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