

# TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

20th  
Anniversary  
Year

Issue No 170

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

October 2008

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## The long weekend - "Participation '08"

It was a kaleidoscope of activity, fun, shavings, focus, enjoyment, challenge, camaraderie, raffles, coffee, home cooking, and a celebration of the joy of Woodturning. Around 60 people, 50 lathes, stacks of wood, tools and gear for sale over a 3-day festival at the SAWG club-rooms, 26th-28th September. *See you there next year!*



## SAWG COMMITTEE

### President

Dick Veitch 298 5775

### Vice President

Bob Yandell 537 3815

### Past President

Michael Bernard 09 425 6782

### Secretary

Tom Pearson 575 4994

### Treasurer

David Jones 299 5110

### Editor

Mike Clausen 525 3586

### Members:

Mac Duane, Cathy Langley,  
Terry Meekan, Terry Scott,  
Gordon Pembridge, Les  
Sivewright, John Whitmore,  
Don Wood

### Webmaster

Rex Haslip 267 3548

### Club Meetings:

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

### Club Rooms:

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

### Contact us:

Website: [www.sawg.org.nz](http://www.sawg.org.nz)

Secretary - Correspondence:  
12 Kirkmay Place,  
Kohimarama, Auckland  
[tom.pearson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tom.pearson@xtra.co.nz)

Newsletter contributions:  
4/4 William Ave, Greenlane,  
Auckland 1061  
[cheers@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:cheers@slingshot.co.nz)



# Club calendar

## Fourth 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.

**Note: Renovations to the building complex might be in progress for much of the 4th Term and our clubrooms may not be always available. Further information will be advised as it comes to hand. The schedule below may be subject to change.**

**Wed 1, 8 Oct 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

**Wed 15 Oct First Night of Term 4 - Term Project to be advised. Christmas Sale ideas:** Dick Veitch and Terry Scott to discuss pricing and Tom Pearson will make a gift item.

**Wed 22 Oct Small Bowl**, including ways to clean up the foot - Dick Veitch

**Wed 29 Oct Christmas decorations** - by Cathy Langley

**Wed 5 Nov Toys** - Bryden Thorpe

**Wed 12 Nov Hands On night**

**Wed 19 Nov Spinning Tops** - Dave Harmes and Luke Crossen

**Wed 26 Nov Pens - multi demo** - Phread Thurston and Les Sivewright

**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)



**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**

**20th**  
Anniversary  
Year

**5 Oct Terry Baker afternoon demonstration at Franklin Club.** SAWG members welcome.

**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

**1 November - Official opening of Franklin Woodturners Club's new clubrooms.** Collingwood Road, Waiuku. Starting 2:00pm.

*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)

## **AORAKI CERTIFICATE COURSES - 2009**

A full programme of Introductory (Stage 1) and Stages 2 and 3 Courses will run simultaneously from early next year.

**Extra Course Assistants** will be needed, on an "on-call" basis - Assistants could also enrol for the Course at which they will be assisting.

Intending Students and Assistants should contact Cathy Langley **as soon as possible** to be registered. (See next column for contact details.)

## **THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**

We appreciate the generous contributions and support for **Participation 2008** from our sponsors:  
Carba-Tec; GP Sawdoctors Ltd; Hunter Tool Systems; Jim Downes Timber; Machinery House; Motor Technologies; Natural Oils; Tool & Industrial Supplies; TreeWorkx; Turning Tools Ltd; Vivian Indigenous Timber;



## *Editor's Corner*

*A major highlight of this Term has been our annual "Participation", a three-day event. Our clubrooms are in the process of being shifted sideways into a similar sized area to make way for new Council administration offices. The whole inside area is currently being demolished and is to have a major make-over due for completion before Christmas - hence the apparent background chaos evident in some of the front cover pictures. With a lot of hard work by all concerned, the area was made workable for the event and despite the Spartan conditions everyone enjoyed having all the extra space, even if only for the event. Pity we can't keep it all next year. Never mind, next year's event will be something special, too. Cheers!*

## Bits and Pieces

### Eyes Right!

#### Guild's new safety policy



The Guild has re-affirmed its safety policy regarding eye protection for members when using any club machinery - lathes, bandsaws, grinders and drill presses.

**All members, including demonstrators, must now wear approved, one-piece safety goggles or full face shields when using any club machines.**

Hard won experience has shown that many two-piece safety glasses or goggles can break on impact, thereby causing a lens to separate from its frame and cause potentially severe damage, as shown above.

Illustrated below are examples of Guild approved protection.

Members are also strongly recommended to follow the same safety precautions in their own workshops.



## Treasurer's role changes hands

20th  
Anniversary  
Year



**Cathy Langley** is relinquishing her role of Guild Treasurer to David Jones and has taken on the demanding task of the Guild's Aoraki Course programme administrator.

Cathy took over the Treasurer's job in 2004 and has developed it to a high, professional standard which has enabled the Guild to move forward into a new era of financial accountability and strength.

**David Jones** is a semi-retired commercial accountant who has worked for Fletchers in various businesses for over 40 years and in Auckland for the last 20 years. He lives in Papakura on a couple of acres with Judith his wife, 2 dogs and 3 cats. He's been in the club for the last 4 years and says he really enjoys turning wood, although what he's really good at is "buying new tools, collecting wood, and bidding at silent auctions". He's a firm proponent of the theory that "he who dies with the most tools, wins".

Welcome to your new role, David, and thank you, Cathy, for a job well done.

## Term project: Balusters

The last club-night of the Term saw a number of awards presented and the winner of the Term Project, a baluster, was Mat Moa (*on the far right*).

Other Certificates to be awarded were:

- **Show & Tell Table - most offerings.**  
4 winners: Ross Grant, Bill Mack, Robert Smith and Bryden Thorpe
- **Life Members' Award for Excellence**  
Bob Yandell with his bowl with laminated native timbers.

The Life Members' Award is awarded at the discretion of the Life Members at the end of a Term or year, and selected from items presented by members on the occasion. It consists of a special certificate of achievement and a gift voucher for woodturning tools and equipment.



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## Wooden toy wheels



**Bryden Thorpe** enjoys making toys and has developed many jigs and gadgets to speed up his work. He often makes a number of toys at once, on an assembly-line basis - for example, when a number of wheels are needed for a train or trucking set. Here is one of the ways he makes a set of matching wheels, as for part of the train set above. In this case, the wheels are to be glued on a 10mm dowel axel which will rotate easily in an 11mm hole through the

engine's base plate. First he makes up a mandrel for his chuck, using a 10mm bolt threaded at one end. The bolt should be long enough to accommodate, say, four wheels, a securing nut and washer and the attached turned wooden section which is held in the chuck. A centering depression is drilled in the free end of the bolt to mate with the tailstock centre. Pre-drilled wheel blanks, roughly cut to size on a bandsaw, are threaded onto the bolt

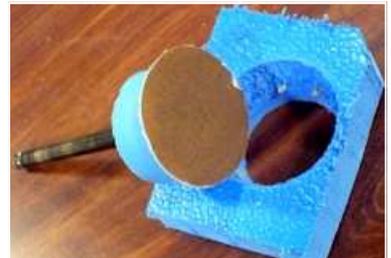


and secured with the nut and washer. The tailstock is brought up to stabilise the mandrel alignment and the wheels are quickly turned to the required diameter and lightly sanded. The whole assembly is removed and the mandrel is replaced with a small sandpaper faced disc which is held in the chuck. The wheel is centred on the disc and held in place by pressure from another gadget, a tapered cone fitted to the tailstock live centre. A decorative ring is then turned on the face of the wheel. If desired, the wheel can be reversed and another ring turned on the other side.

The whole system, which is capable of refinement to suit particular projects, is simple, time saving, inexpensive and effective.

## Engine valve sander

**Mac Duane** is said to have an eye for a bargain and when he came across some old car engine valves he knew just how to recycle them. Something about "carbon credits" came into it, it was suggested.



His recipe: First find, scrounge, beg or steal some old car valves. Roughen the head face with an angle grinder. Ditto with some pieces of closed-cell plastic sheeting about 20-25mm thick. Off cuts from a specialty shop are good, if your friends don't have some lying around. Cut them into squares somewhat wider than the valve heads, say 3x wider or so. Apply rubber contact glue to both the valve and the square, press firmly together and allow to set hard. Do several at a time.



Mount the valve shaft in a Jacob's chuck into the lathe drive shaft and bring up the tool rest to within about 20mm.



Mac now uses his low-tech dedicated "parting tool", made from an old hacksaw blade ground like a round nose scraper, to cut a tapered cone for his sanding block. The cone tapers to a wider diameter away from the valve head, the final diameter depends on the diameters of the sanding discs to be used. These can vary according to the size of the work-piece. Mac has made a number of different sized circle punches by angle-grinding one end on short lengths of assorted diameter steel pipes (see above). A strip of Velcro is placed on a solid block of end-grain timber and the Velcro discs are then punched out by a few blows with a heavy hammer. The same system can be used to cut out the sanding discs, instead of using scissors. Done!



All products available from the Wattyl Trade Depot  
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**Special rates for SAWG members.**

# Bandsaw blades

**Alan Gater (GP Sawdoctors Ltd)** brought with him a collection of vicious looking bandsaw blade sections and a wealth of knowledge and experience in the bandsaw blade industry when he came along to a recent club night.

His East Tamaki company specialises in HSS carbon steel bandsaw blading supply to industrial users in the meat, metal and timber industries. Bandsaw blading is imported in coils of up to 150 metres in length and 90mm width from the USA, UK and Germany. The lengths are then cut to order and welded on specialised flash butt welders. In some cases, it is possible to order a special blade by phone and it can be ready in the time it takes to drive to pick it up.

The first known patent for a bandsaw machine was in the early 1800's as the Industrial Revolution was starting in England. The advent of electricity, improved steel and welding techniques saw major developments and today the bandsaw is used in all industries - wood, metal and food, with specific machines for each application.

Blades come in basically three different metals, with a wide variety of teeth structures and widths to suit their applications. Blade metal technology improved dramatically after WW2 with Bi-metal blading used to improve cutting of steels in manufacturing. The basis of a good blade is in the steel quality and the manufacturing process which should give a consistent blade which is straight, has well ground teeth and accurate hardness and set.

### TYPES OF METAL FOR BLADES

**Carbon** - general purpose, suitable for all softer woods; low cost and therefore not worth re-sharpening, .

**Bi-metal** - hi-alloy steel fused with a flexible alloy steel, lasts 10x longer and costs 3x more than carbon blades, cuts metal and hard woods.

**Carbide** - a specialist blade developed to meet the need of cutting exotics such as carbon fibre, man-made laminates, etc. Uses the same backing as bi-metal with a carbide ball welded to the tips which are then ground on the face, sides and top. Lasts up to 30x the life of the carbon blade but as it is super hard it is also super brittle and best for use in very controlled environments. Prohibitive cost for home users.

### TEETH

**Tooth forms** will determine the speed, quality and accuracy of the cut. The general rule is a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 16 teeth should be in the wood at any time. Most woodturners use 3 or 4 tips per inch (tpi) "skip" carbon blades for roughing-out blanks. (See illustration for varieties of blades for a wide range of applications)

### MACHINE SET-UP

**Do not drop a folded blade on the floor to open it. Hold it with safety gloves, teeth facing away from your body and carefully release loops to spring open.**

Take folded blade to machine, have someone open the machine and check the tension on the existing blade (with a tension meter or sound tone when plucked). Remove blade. Open new blade, put it on (check teeth are facing in the right direction), and tension up to 20,000-25,000 psi. or same



Above: Mac Duane and Alan discuss setting up a bandsaw machine with a tension gauge.

Below: assorted blade profiles for different uses.



tone as previous blade. Close machine, check position of all guides, turn slowly by hand to check freedom of movement. Stand clear and start machine. Stop machine completely before making any adjustments.

### PROBLEM SOLVING

**Rough cutting** - teeth too coarse; not enough tension; bent tooth.

**Blade wanders** - needs more tension; blade too dull; rubbers worn; guides need adjusting.

**Blade stalls** - blade speed too slow; blade too fine for the work.

**Blade snaps** - blade rubbing on back guide; trying to cut a curve with too wide a blade; blade left tensioned up for long time without use.

### To contact Alan:

GP Sawdoctors Ltd, 21 Andromeda Crescent, East Tamaki, Auckland. Ph: 09 274 1700; Fax: 09 529 9081; Email: sales@gpsaws.co.nz

## DIY REMOTE POWER SWITCH

- Making a magnetic base remote switch for your lathe

by Ray Lanham, Dallas, Texas



Powermatic has a magnetic remote on/off switch that they sell for the 3520B. If you'd like to have one but can't afford the price, here is an idea that you might like if you like to tinker, have a little time, and some spare parts in your junk box. This will probably work for any lathe but you'll have to be the judge of that. Make certain you have a wiring schematic for your particular lathe, just in case.

Any good electrical supply sells an outdoor non-metallic toggle switch cover plate manufactured by *Carlton* that fits a *Carlton* outdoor electrical box. The cover plate is \$3.48 (all prices are US\$) and the weatherproof box is \$5.83. They are available in grey or white plastic. The switch is a simple 15 or 20 amp single pole light switch and sells from \$1.50 to \$3.50. A magnetic ground block (used in welding applications) is available at most hardware stores for \$3.50-\$5.00, depending on the current price. Total outlay should be less than \$20.00 and an hour of your "tinkering" time. You'll appreciate not having to reach around a rotating hunk of wood just to turn off your lathe.



Remove the bolt and the two hex nuts from the magnetic ground block and use a hacksaw to cut 1/4" off the length of the solid brass bolt. This will allow clearance for the switch after the block is mounted to the back of the box. Drill appropriately sized holes to fit the bolt and the wire you use to connect to the switch in the lathe headstock. Use only one hex nut to mount the magnetic block to the back of the box and tighten the nut as tight as possible. Screw a 3/8" electrical clamp connector for NM cable (part #20511) into the threads on the bottom of the box and tighten the two screws on the clamp to secure the wire to the box. Six to eight feet of wire should be long enough. I used part of an old extension cord. Grounding is not required because you are simply wiring in the remote switch "before" the switch in the headstock. The headstock switch must be in the on position for the remote switch to operate.



As you can see, I recently upgraded the *Carlton* switch and cover plate with a paddle type switch and plate available from Grizzly.

Good luck with your upgrade.

If you have any questions on the construction of this remote switch, you may email me -

ray.lanham@coeur-de-larbre.com

. . . Ray Lanham



*Note: In the interests of safety, this work should be carried out only by a qualified electrician. Equivalent materials are readily available in New Zealand. All prices are in US\$.*

*This article was submitted by Ray Lanham of Dallas, Texas, USA, who is a regular reader of "TurningTalk" and has kindly offered a variety of useful articles which will be published over the coming months. For more practical ideas on turning and improvements to your work shop go to his website - [coeur-de-larbre.com](http://coeur-de-larbre.com).*

Many thanks, again, Ray.

- Ed.

## Out and about

### NOVA CHUCKS' 20th ANNIVERSARY

In 1988, Teknatool developed and launched a revolutionary concept for woodturning holding. A world first 4-jaw self centering chuck for woodturning. The NOVA chuck was an instant success as woodturners loved the ease and simplicity to holding wood. Previously turners had to grapple with face-plates or complicated chucking systems, or have one solution for contraction holding and one for expansion holding. The NOVA chuck offered a true self centering action with instant change between contraction and expansion modes, and was an instant hit with turners.



Other innovations pioneered by NOVA in the chuck introduction in 1988 were:

- The Insert/adaptor system – enabling the standard chuck body to fit a wide variety of lathes, simply by changing the insert. This saved turners money – they didn't have to duplicate chucks if they wanted to set up on a different lathe, they only had to change their insert.



- The Woodworm Screw™ - unique and powerful screw chucking function, this provided tenacious grip in the end grain, and is quickly and easily mounted in the chuck.
- The unique and the extensive range of Add on Jaw accessories which fits across the entire range of NOVA chucks, and enabled turners to hold a wide variety of projects. Since then, there have been many, many imitators but NOVA chucks remain the most popular brand of chucks sold in the world. NOVA hasn't rested on its laurels for the past 20 years, but has been constantly improving and innovating – the current chuck line up has many high tech, innovative features which incorporate best practice and provide maximum value for the turner.

Check out the latest NOVA newsletter for details of a new competition and more product and project ideas and information:

[www.teknatool.com](http://www.teknatool.com)

PS. Check out their on-line video demo on their Live Centre System to see who's doing the honours.

## Mystery lathe ...

20th  
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I came across this old work horse in the Central Hawkes Bay Museum, Waipawa.

As you can see, it is a foot powered lathe of massive construction.

Unfortunately, I could not get any history from the museum but they agreed we could publish the image so long as we acknowledged the source.

The original image was rather cluttered so for the sake of clarity I have digitally cut the lathe out from the background.

Can anyone shed more light on this machine?  
- Bryan Peryer

### NEW! NOVA Swing-Away accessory.

Attach to your NOVA 1624 and NOVA XP DVR bed ends to quickly and easily swing away your tailstock or extra bed lengths when not in use.

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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



**Richard Lawton**

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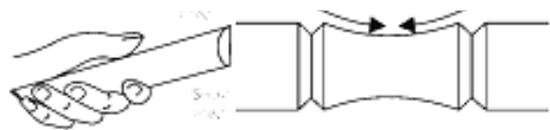
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