

# TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

20th  
Anniversary  
Year

Issue No 171

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

November 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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# Quo Vadis?

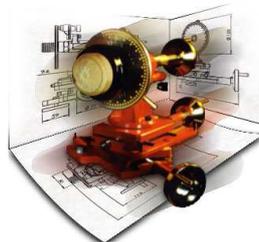
**Where are you going?** A question asked by God of Peter as he fled from Rome and his impending martyrdom. A pivotal moment in Peter's life as he was confronted with his natural desire for self-protection and the avoidance of his 'responsibilities'. As mere woodturners, we are not faced with such dramatic choices, thank goodness, but the quote has endured 2,000 years as a call to reflect on our direction in life.

A recent demonstration by Terry Baker, a somewhat 'larger than life', 'rough-diamond' Aussie personality on an NAW sponsored tour of New Zealand, provided an unexpected stimulus for a number of the more philosophically-inclined attendees. It was not so much his technical skills, artistic flair or showmanship, but his very strong personal philosophical approach that caught peoples' attention. He has travelled widely in his woodturning career and his collection of handwritten and colourfully illustrated journals gave an insight into someone who has developed a keen insight into mankind's awareness and relationship to the world around us. The qualities of different materials (especially wood), the sub-conscious, pleasurable reactions to the subtleties of form, tactile surfaces and heft of a well crafted object. Creativity, in its fullest artistic sense, requires not only a special vision but also the technical knowledge and skills in order to be expressed. We do well to continually challenge and enhance our technical skills so that our creativity can emerge freely without distraction. But it is the creativity that brings not only a new dimension to our work, but an enhancement of our lives and even the lives of others. A goal worthy of the challenge.

Woodturning is a marvellously complex and diversified activity and can sometimes reflect much of the motivating factors in our own personalities. In a sense, actions can speak louder than words. Check out these pictures, mark the one (or more) that have the most appeal, and see if they accurately reflect why woodturning appeals to You. There are no 'right' or 'best' answers, but it might give you another insight into your makeup and perhaps provide an incentive for reflection on 'where you are now', and other directions you could explore for a more satisfying personal life.



A - Abstract art, creativity



B - Hi-tech, intellectual



C - Making money



D - Physical challenge, creative



E - Utilitarian ware



F - Fun things for family and friends

# 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 the rest of the year 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 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 Down's farm, \$5 entry, BYO and a plate**  
Wed 3 Dec A duck - Andrew Bright  
Wed 10 Dec "Inventions" - a trio of inventors share their ideas  
Wed 17 Dec **Final Night of the Year** - Wrapping of *Kidz First* lolly bowls, judging, supper (bring a plate to share)

## **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SALE**

Yes, the sale is on again in Accent Point, Papakura, from 8 to 24 December. Members who wish to participate in the sale, either as sellers of items or helpers on a day should talk to Dick Veitch to be allocated sale numbers or a place on the roster. In the last two weeks of November there will be handouts for members to use to invite friends to be at the opening night on 7 December or just come to see and buy later in the sale. We will also be asking club members to distribute these handouts in those areas of South Auckland with people likely to come to our shop.



**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

**11 to 15 December 2008. Display and sale of wood-craft.**  
Guild of Woodworkers Wellington.  
Shed 11, Queens Wharf, Jervois Quay, Wellington.  
Open to the public, times as yet not set, but probably 10am till 4pm.

**13 to 15 March 2009. Taupo Jamboree.**  
Lake Taupo Woodworkers Guild  
Spa Hotel Complex, Upper Spa Road Taupo  
Same Venue as last year but in a bigger area, so let's see you all there and help make this the biggest and best yet.  
For further details, please contact Robbie Graham.  
email: robbie@wildwoodgallery.co.nz

**28 February 2009 - Fishy's Open Day - SAWG club-rooms.** (Details to be advised next month)  
*For more details on these and other events, nationwide and overseas, check out the latest update on*  
[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.  
(Ph: 09 630 2091; c.langley@xtra.co.nz)



## *Editor's Corner*

*When I took over the role of editor from Dick Veitch in June 2007 to enable him to move on to other woodturning roles and involvements, it was with the thought of acting as the fill-in backstop until another more worthy volunteer came along. It's funny that there always, everywhere, seems to be a great lack of volunteers for the job. Perhaps it's because woodturners are more 'hands-on' people, preferring to work with tangible things rather than an intangible medium which is notoriously short-lived. Whatever...*

*Now it is my turn to step aside and make way for someone else so I can turn my time and declining energies to other things. As the astronauts said - it's been one hell of a ride! I've learned a tremendous amount about my computer skill shortcomings and of the unfailing patience of those who have come to my aid in times of dire need.*

*I've made new friends from all over the world, who also have offered encouragement and material support.*

*I've explored new realms of the wonderful world of woodturning - which have both humbled and inspired me. My deep gratitude to you all.*

*I happily offer the same legacy to my successor, Bob Vandell, to whom I will try to offer whatever support he needs. I'm sure you will all do the same.*

*Cheers,  
Mike Clausen*

# Off-centre Potpourri

By Dick Veitch

Select a bowl blank\* approximately 200mm wide by 100mm deep and drill two screw chuck holes, one in the centre and the other offset about 15mm. Secure the blank to the lathe by the centre hole and turn the bowl to the desired shape with a flat base of about 85mm. To shape the curved top surface of the bowl you have two options - either turn the rounded top while the bowl is attached by the original screw chuck, shaping from the headstock outwards and “downwards” cutting against the grain, or make a dovetail in the base and reverse the bowl into the chuck to shape the top surface. Sand and finish the outside of the bowl as there will be no chance to do this later. (Do not apply any wax until the bowl is finally completed).

Re-mount the bowl on the second hole. Identify and mark the new centre of the bowl which is now offset on the lathe. Turn a spigot for your 50mm chuck and then reverse-mount the bowl for hollowing.

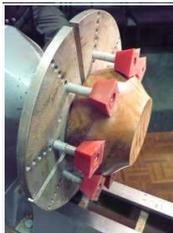
Carefully measure the diameter of the potpourri lid. Smooth off the top of the bowl, using gentle cuts, mark the diameter of the lid and start the hollowing process to an initial depth of about 20mm. Note that the lid of the bowl is now off-centre. Take care not to make the lid opening too wide at this point, making a snug but not too tight fit after the top surface is completed. Now carefully shape the curve of the top to give a clean, crisp edge with the upward form of the bowl (see photo at top). The bowl can now be hollowed out with a bowl gouge or hollowing tool, undercutting slightly.

Check the fit of the lid in the opening. Sand through the grits and finish the top of the bowl.

Remount the bowl using Cole jaws (or a jam chuck) to finish the base, removing the off-centre chuck spigot if necessary. In the photo, Dick has replaced the standard holding studs with modified Vicmarc PVC studs on home-made extension bolts to provide a more secure grip.

Pewter potpourri lids are generally readily available in different patterns and sizes. To ensure a neat fit, check that the rim circumference is actually round and clear of projections (these can be ground off, if necessary) and the underside of the rim is smooth.

\* e.g. *Black Maire*, a NZ native timber, is an excellent wood for turning as it can be finished almost straight off the chisel. Ideal for a sealer and hard wax finish. One of the few woods in the world suitable for ornamental turnery and excellent for paper-thin translucent work when turned wet. For more information on other suitable timbers, refer to “A Beginners Guide to Woodturning”, a South Auckland Woodturners Guild publication. See back cover of this newsletter).



## Bowls for Kidz First

Over the years, the South Auckland Woodturners Guild has made many hundreds of small bowls, filled them with colourful lollies and distributed them to children in the local hospital over Christmas. The ritual is now an integral part of the final club-night of the year when the whole club, along with many spouses, form a production line to fill and cover the bowls with cellophane tied with coloured ribbons. The bowls are made with donated wood at the Guild's annual 'Participation' 3-day event (see October 2008 issue) with more being made during the final term of the Guild's year. Last year 200 bowls were produced, more than there were children in the hospital over the Christmas period, so the remainder were distributed to children in two other nearby hospitals.

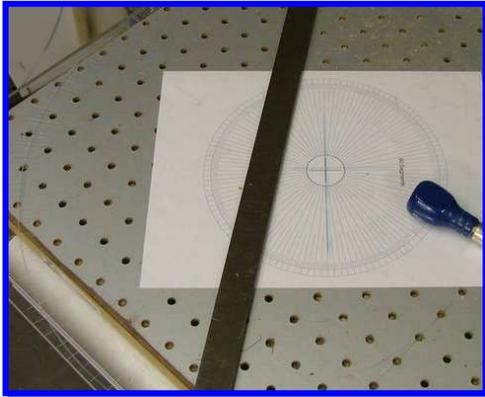
Pictured (top right) are some of the 50 plus bowls made at 'Participation 2008' and, on the right, part of the assembly team in action last year. More bowls will be added to the collection before the end of this year.



Make your own...

## Accurate Index Wheel

(and easy to build, as well)



Once I realized that I needed an index wheel, I found myself stumped. There were many suggestions on the internet but none seemed to fit my *PowerMatic 3520B*. Then a woodturning friend of mine, Pam Reilly, published an article in the summer issue of 'Woodturning Design' and I knew my answer had arrived. I began with a piece of Plexiglas 3/16ths thick and 21" sq. I downloaded a grid from: <http://www.smithart.us/download.htm> and began. I placed the grid under the Plexiglas, marked the center point and with a pair of dividers drew a 20" dia. circle. Then using an awl and a metal ruler, I proceeded to transfer the segments from the grid to the circle I had drawn. First 60, then 120, then 240 segments.



I marked the 120 segments with a scratch awl and then marked the 240 segments with a "Sharpie" felt tip pen. To enhance the circle and the segment lines prior to cutting, I used white chalk which I rubbed into the scratches on the surface of the Plexiglas.



I used a 1½" Forstner bit and a power hand drill to drill a hole right in the center of the Plexiglas. Although my lathe has a 1¼"-8TPI shaft, there is a 1½" dia. step 3/16ths wide right in front of the bearing at the headstock. This is the surface upon which the index wheel will snugly reside and be held in position by my OneWay Stronghold and Talon chucks.

I then mounted the wheel on my lathe and proceeded to true up and smooth the edge of the Plexiglas with a sharp round nose scraper, prior to cutting the slots. I lightly chamfered the sharp edges of the Plexiglas as well.



Using a plywood stop that I clamped to the table of my band saw, I proceeded to cut all the slots into the edge of my index wheel. For the first series of cuts the stop was ¼" from the back of the blade. For the remaining set of slots, the stop was positioned right at the back of the blade so that there was a significant, visible difference in size between the slots.

(continued on next page)

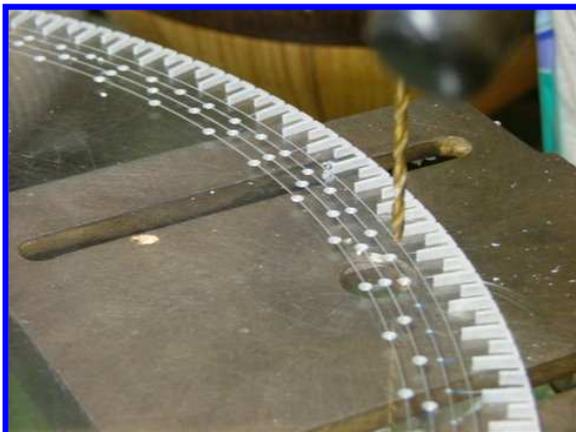
## Make your own Index Wheel - continued

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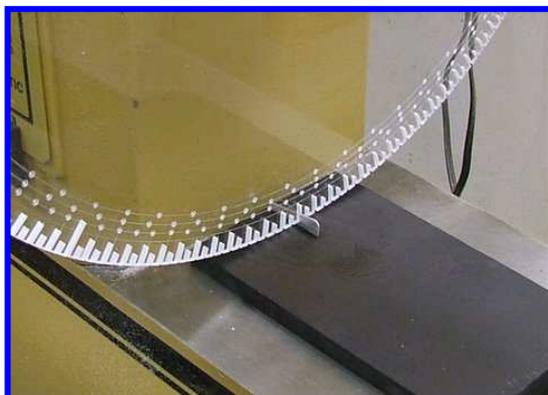


Since each slot was a rough saw kerf as it came off the band saw blade, I had to create a method for smoothing each of the slots individually. The aluminum I intended to use as the indexing stop was 1/16<sup>th</sup> thick so I needed to actually increase the width of each slot as I smoothed the edges. I accomplished this using cloth-backed sand paper from Klingspor. By doubling a thin strip and pulling it through the slot until the aluminum would fit I was able to make each slot an exact fit. This was, perhaps, the most boring part of the entire project but was necessary to eliminate "slop" between the indexing stop and the slot.

The carrier for the indexing stop was two pieces of 1/2" Baltic birch plywood glued together. One piece was cut to fit exactly between the ways of the lathe and the top piece was cut two inches wider to provide the sliding surface. Since I keep the ways of my lathe waxed, the plywood carrier slid smoothly without any other surface preparation. I painted the top and sides of the carrier with flat black spray paint. All that was left then was to insert the aluminum stop into the slot in the plywood carrier and glue it in place with CA glue.



Installing the index wheel on my lathe, I used a diamond point tool and created (scratched) four evenly spaced circles around the outer edge of the wheel. Then using a centering square, I marked the circles for 60, 80 and 120 index positions with a china marking pencil. I proceeded to center punch each of my marks around each of the circles and then drilled shallow holes at each center punch mark. The inner circle is 60 segments, the next outer circle is 80 segments and the next outer circle is 120 segments. The outside edge of the index wheel is 240 segments, providing an infinite variation of index positions which can be achieved.



If you have any questions about making this wheel, please email Ray at: [ray.lanham@coeur-de-larbre.com](mailto:ray.lanham@coeur-de-larbre.com)

*Thanks, Ray, for sending us another one of your excellent home workshop projects - Editor.*

# Terry Scott tests a new Woodcut product

### Help! Another new toy...

*Woodcut* have just brought out another profile on their chisel tips.

Why, I don't know, as this new swept-back winged version will put them out of business because you now will need only one chisel. This will do it all.

The grind as shown in the photos really is a universal grind. I have been using swept-back wings for a few years after watching a Mike Mahoney demo.

Everyone in the States is using this grind, and I soon discovered why.

1. Roughing down the blank - no problem.
2. Cutting the spigot - no need to pick up a parting tool or the skew, as, with the tool lying on its side, a clean cut is possible, meaning less sanding in that tight corner where spigot meets bowl
3. By dropping the handle – I achieve a clean finishing cut (Fig. 1). As seen by the shavings it can remove waste from the inside in a jiffy
4. The bevel angle means you can come in from the edge and not have a catch on the end grain (Fig. 2)
5. A clean sweep from rim to centre - the angle means the cut is kept square off the workface so the handle doesn't hit the rim causing the bevel to lift and make a catch (Fig. 3)
6. The dimple is easily removed as you can continue the cut in one motion. This chisel tip was used straight out of the packet. I wanted to use it in Peter's profile before I attempted to sharpen it and mess it up
7. *Woodcut* will shortly be supplying some mild steel, mock-up, double-ended templates of all the grinds so the turner can use them as a reference. A great idea, as some of my grinding attempts look something like the dog has been chewing on.

OK. Bowl done! How would it go on a bit of spindle work? No worries, mate! Even trimming the end for a spigot was easy as the short bevel allowed instant contact.

There is only one problem with this 13 mm swept-back model. I am going to have to buy a 10mm one as well.

Sorry, there is another problem. After I had turned out 6 large bowls, the tip was a little blunt and so when I ordered a 10 mm gouge, I had to also have a True Grind system. I'll let you know how I find that in another article. All I can tell you is I wonder why I didn't get one sooner.

A question I put to Peter: "But why have you ground the tip as a swept-back, leaving less flute for resharpenering". His reply: "We have added extra flute on the next batch". Good man!

Will I now use this chisel exclusively? Are you kidding? I'd have withdrawal symptoms. My 'toolaholic' addiction is so bad!

In my last article I said I was going to grind a new 13mm 35degree tip and see how many grinds I can get. The tools are placed on the grinder and I do 3 sweeps across the stone, which is my normal sharpening method. Every 3<sup>rd</sup> time I

re-dress the stone. So how is it going? Well, I am on my second stone and still the original tip after 175 grinds, so far, and I am well under half way. It should be noted that my usual aggressive approach is used (often the tip is blue). I have been doing the grinds in a series of five and then letting the tip cool. No, I haven't stood there and continuously ground every time I go to the workshop - I do a few cycles. So even a professional turner who grinds 4 or 5 times a day would have another year to go before having to change the tip.

Not bad, at \$15 a year.



Cheers, Terry.

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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. Turning blanks and a variety of finishing materials are available for purchase at the club shop.

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

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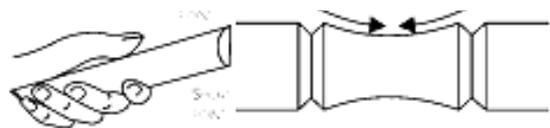
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with a Sustainable Forest Management Plan in N.Z.

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