

# TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 208

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

February 2013

Wednesday 13th February

## Moulds and Epoxy Pens - Bruce Wood

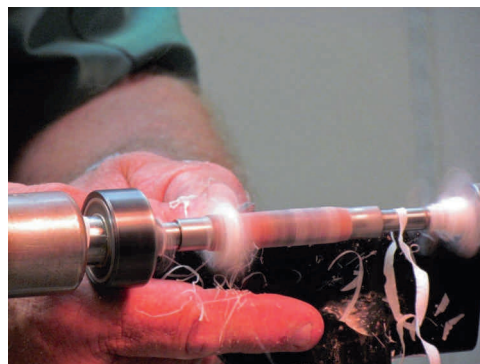
Report by Dick Veitch

Most of us think of pens in the woodturning world being wooden pens. Then we might think of a bit of acrylic or deer antler being made into a pen. Then we may have seen those bits of snake skin and little circuit boards embedded in resin and sold as a pen blank. Such is the progress of our knowledge about pens. Next week or next year there will be another bit of pen magic before us.

The array of pen makes and models is enormous. The Carba-Tec catalogue lists 15 pen and pencil kits. A quick look at one website showed 33, another 36 and many with different names to the first site. For a number of models you need different hardware to mount the pen on the lathe and most of that needs to be purchased. Then you need wood, or acrylic, or bone, or the blanks of things embedded in resin. If you want to embed your own treasures in resin you can purchase a silicone rubber mould, and you may need different sizes – one for each pen type – and the mould will have a limited lifespan.

Bruce Wood set out to learn how to make the moulds he needed. This is surely more flexible and quicker than trying to buy in a new mould from time to time. Also much more fun.

Now that we have seen what Bruce worked out, with the aid of a couple of very good articles on the web, the process is fairly straightforward. This is now all written up as a project on our website, and included in this newsletter.



If you want a lot more information, have a look at

- <http://www.exoticblanks.com/instructions/RS%20Manual.pdf>
- [http://content.penturners.org/library/tools\\_and\\_jigs/simple\\_and\\_easy\\_mold\\_making.pdf](http://content.penturners.org/library/tools_and_jigs/simple_and_easy_mold_making.pdf)

With both these sites it is well worth going back to the home pages as well and seeing all the wonderful things they have.

Bruce used some blue two pot silicone named Silicon Moulding Rubber from NZ Fibreglass 109 Morin Rd., Panmure. \$139.00 for two litres. This had a pot life of five minutes.

Also available is the pink silicone: "Pinkysil" available from Top Mark Products Unit 4 136 Marua Road. \$110.00 for one litre which has a pot life of 20 minutes.

Bruce went on to pour some epoxy resin around one of his prepared pen brasses, and then to turn and polish a previously poured resin pen. This one had a silver fern wrapped around a black-painted pen brass. Very nice.

PS. I checked the spelling. Silicon is the chemical element. Silicone is a durable synthetic resin with a structure based on chains of silicon and oxygen atoms with organic side chains.

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### Club Meetings:

Wednesday Nights 7:00pm  
(Doors open 5:00pm)

### Club Rooms:

Papatoetoe Community Centre,  
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### Website:

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## Contributors this Month

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Dick Veitch  
Photos - Ross Johnson



**South Auckland  
Woodturners Guild**  
is a member of the  
**National Association of  
Woodworkers NZ Inc.**  
and the  
**American Association of  
Woodturners**



Our meetings are held Wednesday evening in our clubrooms in the Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe (see [www.sawg.org.nz](http://www.sawg.org.nz) for directions). The official meeting starts at 7:00pm.

For those wishing to make use of the machinery, do some shopping, check out the library, get some advice, or just socialise the doors open at 5:00pm.

Meetings include General Business, Show & Tell, Reports on Club Events and the demo or activity listed below.

Further information and the most up-to-date calendar can be found on our website at <http://www.sawg.org.nz>

## Club Meeting Programme

### Term 1 2013

Feb	27th	Alan's 800km walk in Spain - Alan Day
Mar	6th	Lidded Box - Graeme MacKay
	13th	Hot Rod your Lathe - Dick Veitch
	20th	Natural Edge Bowl - Bruce Wiseman
	27th	TBC
Apr	3rd	From the Tree to the Lathe - Ian Outshoorn
	10th	Potpourri Bowl - Ross Johnson
	17th	Last Night Term, Life Member award, term project judging

## Upcoming Events

Mar	8th - 10th	Lake Taupo Woodturning Jamboree
	9th - 16th	Collaboration NZ 2013
	16th	Six Span Turn 'a' Round - South Otago Woodcraft Inc.
	23rd	Full day demonstration at SAWG by Peter Oliver. An interesting, and different, woodturner. See flyer for more information.
	23rd	Scrollsaw Workshop - Tauranga Woodcrafters Club
	28th - 1st	Easter Show
Apr	19th - 21st	Waioira Turn Inn - Otago Woodturners Guild Inc.
Sep	27th - 29th	SAWG Participation @ Camp Adair.

Regularly Updated Calendars of Events can always be viewed at [www.sawg.org.nz](http://www.sawg.org.nz) and [www.naw.org.nz](http://www.naw.org.nz) (including entry forms)

**Macs Maxim**  
*When it comes to going after what  
you want in life,  
don't take no for an answer!*

- Mac Duane





# Club Night Action

Wednesday 30th January

## Wig Stands - David Jones

Report by Lindsay Amies

For our first demo this year we had our Treasurer, David Jones, demonstrating how to make a wig stand. We have made wig stands for "Look Good Feel Better" for a few years now and this year these stands will be our term one project. Although we are not sure where the idea to make wig stands for "Look Good Feel Better" came from, it may have started down south in Hawkes Bay or the Manawatu. David mentioned that after Googling "Wig Stands" our web site came to the fore. There is a very good plan there which folk can download – Thanks Dick.

David made a few general points before moving on to the demo.

- The wig stand head size is important. Not too big, not too small. Check the measurements on our web site. David suggested a 160mm diameter
- The base size doesn't really matter but the finished article should look right and look balanced.
- The suggested height is a minimum. Someone with a long wig would rather the wig was hanging freely.
- The head preferably would be a lighter wood than the base (for stability) and the head in particular needs an appropriate finish Bunnings White Knight quick dry gloss enamel (isn't expensive) or Rushton's Danish Oil. Avoid wax products and some oils as these will affect the wig backing or even cause stains.

David then went on to demonstrate the modified Duane Method where the stand can be made with a 50mm chuck. Not everyone in our club has pin jaws.

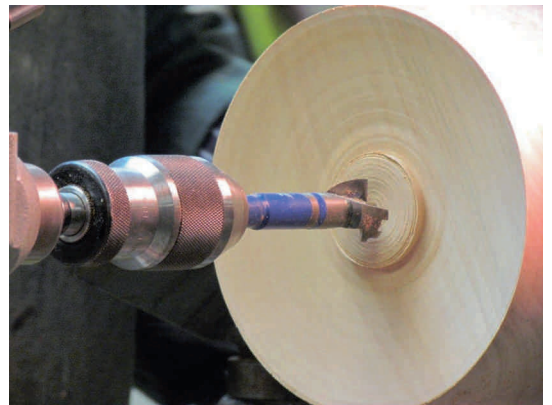
### In Summary

**The Head:** Drill a 54mm hole to take the 50mm chuck. (Use our club drill press if you don't have one at home). Use this recess to hold the wood and cut a spigot for your 50mm chuck. Drill a 25mm diameter hole a little more than 20 mm through the spigot. Clean up and sand. This will be the underside of the head. Reattach the wood by the spigot - be careful, don't over tighten, bring up the tail-stock to the wood as a precaution. Nicely round off the head and sand.

**The Base:** Drill a 54mm hole to take the 50mm chuck. Use this recess to hold the base and cut a recess. Cut a gentle curve towards the recess and sand. (You might like to cut a couple of rings where you can write your name/name of woods you have used/ and SAWG). Reattach the base by this recess, drill a 25mm diameter hole a little more than 25mm deep for the shaft and shape the upper side of the base. Sand, and decorate if you like as this will be the part of the stand which will be the most visible.

**The Shaft:** There are many different designs which can be chosen for the centre piece and David demonstrated his take on these. Then it was the small matter of gluing the three pieces together and there you have it. A nice looking wig stand that people will like and appreciate.

Thanks David. As a first time demonstrator at our club - well done!



## Kidz First

Report by John Smart



Well another year has gone by, and the South Auckland Woodturners Guild does it again. Whats that you may ask? Well it's what we at the Club call Kidz First and all the faithful do their best to make bowls and toys to donate to the hospital for Christmas.

The variety that arrives for delivery is amazing, anything from bowls of 100mm to 200mm and toys (if they have wheels we all know where the influence comes from). We then get all of our partners to attend under the guise of the end of year final meeting, to get them wrapped. We are also happy to have another friend in Rachael that arrives with great selection of knitted toys Teddy Bears etc.

As we did not have participation in 2012, (where each turner makes a bowl) a week out the number of bowls was down on previous years, we where lucky in that our stalwart Dick Veitch had a large number of Guess the Wood Competition bowls that had done duty and needed to found a permanent home.

Then came delivery day when Mac Duane, Rachael Lunnon and myself packed them into my car and we all went to Middlemore Hospital to meet Joanne Hand, Rebecca Reid and the Team from the Middlemore Foundation. We were restricted from calling and delivering to Kids First, as it was out of bounds because of a bug that was rife at the time, so we concentrated on meeting and presenting gifts to the aged patients who were expected to have Christmas in the establishment. We spent approximately 2 hours there talking to the patients and staff plus we were invited for a cup of tea with the staff which was most enjoyable.

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## More Wig Stands

Report by Dick Veitch

Forty more wig stands went in to Look Good Feel Better in November 2012. They are smiling and their ever increasing customer numbers are happy too. But we can do more.

Nation wide they have more than 3000 women in the Look Good Feel Better programme, and this number is increasing. Wearing a wig over post-chemo baldness is a very important part of their recovery. Caring for that wig is equally important.

Your contributions are truly appreciated. Initially the idea was that each person who gained a wig stand would, in due course return that stand for use by another person. But they love the wood so much that many never come back.

Please make more. The domed top and bottom are excellent curve cutting exercises and the shaft a wonderful chance to use that much-loved skew.



## Mini Lathes - FREE Loans

The club has 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





# *A Lidded Box with a Difference*

Report by Jim Newland

It all came about when I had made a small lidded box as a 80th birthday gift that my wife wanted to give to Sylvia last July to use for her small knickknacks etc.

Some weeks later...

Tuesday 23rd of October. 4pm. I was asked to make a coffin for the 80 year old who was in hospital and was told to return home because there was nothing they could do to prolong her life.

Her daughter phoned me to say her dying Mother's request, was for me to make a coffin, should one be needed. Another lidded box only bigger this time. I informed the family whom I had never met I don't make coffins and never had. She said a plain painted one with no embellishments would do, so in a weak moment, I said I could make one for the old lady thinking I would have plenty of time. I asked "how soon?" The answer was sooner than later. How soon I asked? "Very, very, soon" she replied.

Next morning being Wednesday 24th 9am the phone rang to say that she had died during the night. The coffin was required urgently that day.

I needed to find out very quickly what the legal requirements, if any, were required for cremation etc. and the size of the body, feet etc. I made up a list and went to Mega Centre and bought the necessary materials. MDF because the coffin was to be painted in her favourite colour turquoise.

At midday the undertaker rang to say that the finished coffin would be required by the next day, Thursday 1pm for the "Viewing". This meant that I had to work late on Wednesday evening. Another late request was that the coffin was to be painted both inside and out to a specified mixed coloured formula of turquoise blue.

On Thursday surprisingly, at 8am the undertaker arrived to take the coffin, as he wanted it to be dressed up for the viewing!

I told him to return at the agreed time of 1pm as I still had to finish the painting of 3 coats, make 6 handles, and fit the lid. I finished with 2 hours to spare. Before the undertaker took the coffin away I did a test for size and found it too short for me as my feet hung over the end by approximately 6 inches. I had been previously told that I should be aware to make allowances for the height of the feet in order that the lid closed perfectly. However I heard no comments from anybody which meant the body must have fitted in okay.

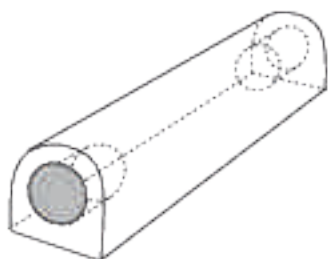
I was really zonked after the pressure of making a coffin in one and a half days. The cost was \$190 for materials and labour nil and I will not be accepting any more orders of this nature in the future thank you.

I would have liked to have been able to bring the coffin for the Show & Tell table but it no longer exists. You can guess why.

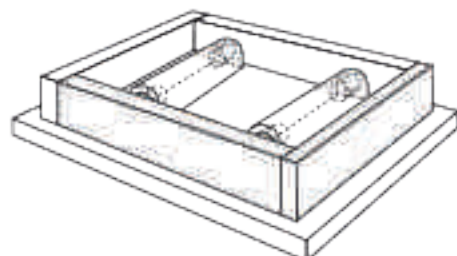


## EPOXY PENS

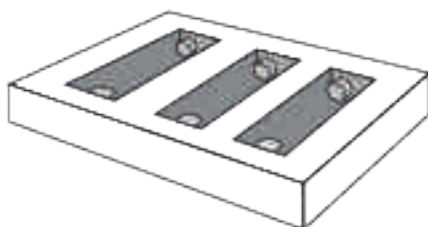
Pens are commonly made from one or two pieces of wood with a slim brass interior tube. This project plan is a method to pour epoxy resin around the brass pen barrel. A slim layer of decoration may be wrapped around the brass before the resin is poured. Nothing in this plan is to scale as you will need to modify all sizes and shapes to suit the pen of your choice.



Make model pen blanks over which you will pour silicone to make a mould. The short hole in each end must be the same diameter as the inside of the pen barrel you plan to use and 6mm deep. Overall length is about 2mm longer than the pen barrel you plan to use. Overall width and height is a little more than your planned pen width.  
Mixing of silicone and epoxy resin later in this project will be easier if you calculate the volume of this model pen blank now.



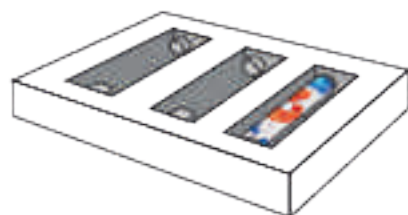
Make a moulding box to accommodate the model pen blanks over which you will pour liquid silicone. Make it so there is about a 15mm space between the model pen blanks and the sides, 10mm between each blank, and 10mm over the top. It will be easier to use if the sides are removable. Stick the model pen blanks securely to the floor of the box with double-sided tape. Calculate the volume of silicone needed to fill the box. Mix the two pot silicone and pour. You will need to use a syringe to ensure that the holes in the ends of the blanks are full of silicone.



When the silicone is set, remove it from the box and remove the model pen blanks.

Put your prepared pen tubes into the mould. They should fit neatly onto the stoppers at each end of the mould with a millimetre or two between the end of the brass and wall of the mould at both ends.

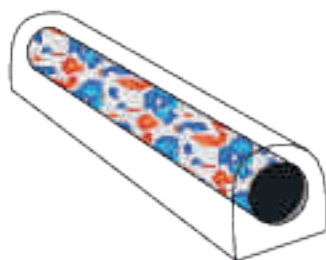
Calculate the quantity of resin required, mix the two pot resin and pour.



When the resin is set, remove the pen part by flexing the mould away from the ends. If you take care of the mould it will be good for many more pens.

Sand the end of the pen part down to the brass. Do not try a pen mill but use a sanding table or make a jig to ensure that the pen part is perfectly at right angles to the sandpaper. This may make a little burr on the inside of the brass - remove this.

Turn and finish the pen part. Work as you would for a wooden pen part and then proceed on to very fine sandpaper and resin polishing pastes.





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*Remember, if I cannot break it, no-one can!*




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