

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 214

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

November 2013

Wednesday 16th October

Spinning Top - Dave Gillard

Report by Gary McDonald

This was David's 1st presentation and not without a few palpitations I'm assured, as the demonstration of his spinning top proceeded he was able to both keep focused on his tooling and engage with the audience.

David sells his tops commercially and the design he presented was not from his normal range. He describes his tops as a heritage design built to be passed through the generations providing enjoyment for all ages.

He started with a predrilled blank of kauri 220*80mm, at the end of the blank was a centre drilled 11mm hole to a depth of 75mm this accommodates the spinning top dowel. 80mm from the end was a 25mm hole that allows the cord to be wound around the dowel.

Effective use of the white board showed this better than I can describe.

The blank handle was roughed down to round with the handle shaped and formed using roughing, spindle gouges and detailing with the skew. A good tip I picked up was David had used masking tape over the tips of tools for travel purposes.

When shaping the handle David emphasised not to finish too close to the live centre in case of run off as it is polished. When building his tops for market he prefers to finish the ends of the handle on the belt sander then by hand.

Light use of sandpaper to 400 to finish off then out came the moonshine. This is a product that David has developed which he uses as his preferred finish. Ordinarily finer preparation would be employed to bring out the results but with time of the essence 400 was deemed satisfactory.

At this point the sample bottle was passed around with various ingredients being proffered but at this stage mums the word!

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Club Meetings:

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

Club Rooms:

Papatoetoe Community Centre,
Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe, Auckland,
New Zealand

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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 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 4 2013

Theme of Toys, Knick Knacks and Decorations.

December

4th - Christmas Decorations, Hands on - Bruce Wood

11th - Tractor - Robert Smith

18th - End of term, BBQ, Life Members Award, Term Project Judging,

Upcoming Events

2nd - 24th December 2013 - SAWG Christmas Sale - Cnr Great South Road, Queen St
Papakura

2nd - 5th October 2014 - Woodturning New Zealand International Symposium
Wesley College, Paerata

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

Macs Maxim

Go anywhere
as long as it's forward!

- Mac Duane



Club Night Action

>> *Continued from page 1*

Next step onto the top itself, now I'm not sure if it was the moonshine or the palpitations had slowed down significantly that David was able to answer questions as he proceeded.

The top was a preformed blank of kauri rounded to a diameter of 60mm *30mm this had a puriri dowel glued into it of 10/10.5mm 80mm long.

Using a hard timber such as Pohutukawa or puriri for the top shaft contributes to the longevity and will last the test of time.

During the development of his tops for market, a strive for perfection and in consultation with some club members a jig had been developed that inserts into a 50 mm chuck made of plastic chopping board that allows the dowel to remain centred as the top is formed allowing it to run true when finishing both sides of the top.

The skew was employed in the shaping of the top, a small catch but a good recovery with the top taking shape nicely. At this point I should mention the dowel has a flare in it near the top head that allows the top to spin without it rubbing on the handle.

With final shaping complete the Timberly texturer was engaged. David had made a modification to this great little tool that I personally enjoy playing with, where he had reshaped the handle that allowed the tool to be used for detailing close to the chuck with safety.

He also introduced a prototype chatter tool for some additional detailing.

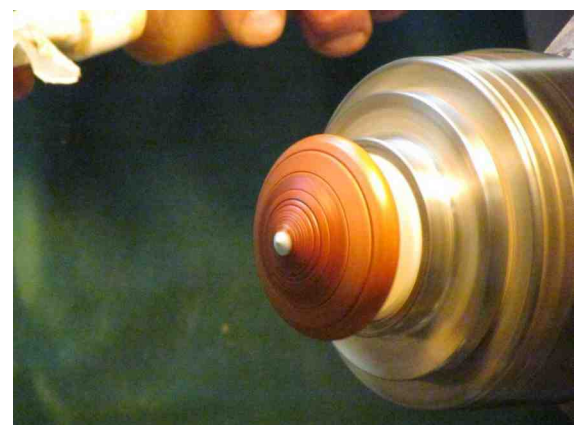
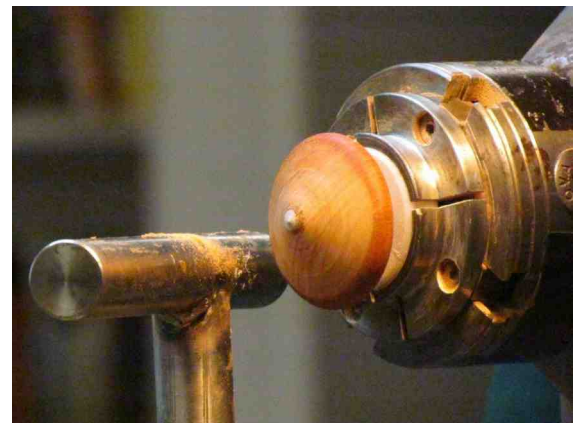
The tip of the top was drilled with a shallow hole that allowed for a portion of knitting needle to be inserted. Again the thought in the design was showing through with the knitting needle meaning the top can be used on a variety of surfaces.

Out with the moonshine again and the lathe running at speed. David has in the past used gilders paste to add some colour to his tops, personally I prefer the rich colours of the timbers used.

Into the final stages with another design thought being highlighted, when drilling the hole for the cord through the dowel, David recommends this is approximately 3mm from the end so it allows the top to remain in the handle readily without it moving. Time did not allow us to cover off the cord pull toggle. Cord types and lengths may vary from hessian to polyester with a recommended starting length of 800mm.

David finished off with an eleven nail balancing trick just to prove that his moonshine does not affect your abilities like its namesake!

Another project to add to my ever growing list and I look forward to seeing David up there again at another date.

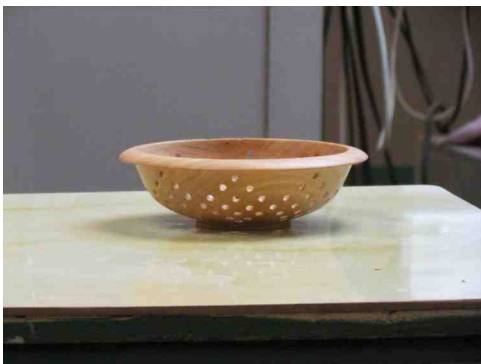
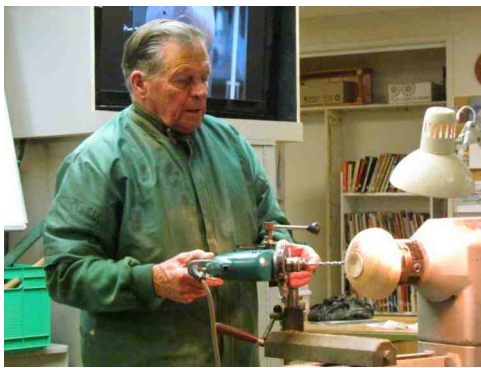


Club Night Action

Wednesday 11th September

Colander - Colin Wise

Report by Bill Alden



Colin like all good demonstrators came with prepared pieces of wood at different stages.

The outside was turned to correct shape, don't forget to give it a rim to hold on to.

Once turned to the required shape, a former of ply or similar should be prepared with the correct curve cut to the outline of the outside. This will assist when indexing and marking vertical lines (use a soft pencil). on the outside for setting out the drilling pattern.

The discussion then centred on patterns and Colin advised that a diamond pattern seems to be the most desirable. The circumference of the bowl was then divided into 5 or 6 divisions ready to lay out the pattern of your choice.

Colin then produced an old style electric drill press stand adapted to fit into the banjo of the lathe. The holes were drilled 5 mm deep at right angles to the circumference of the bowl. Don't forget the bottom which also requires some holes.

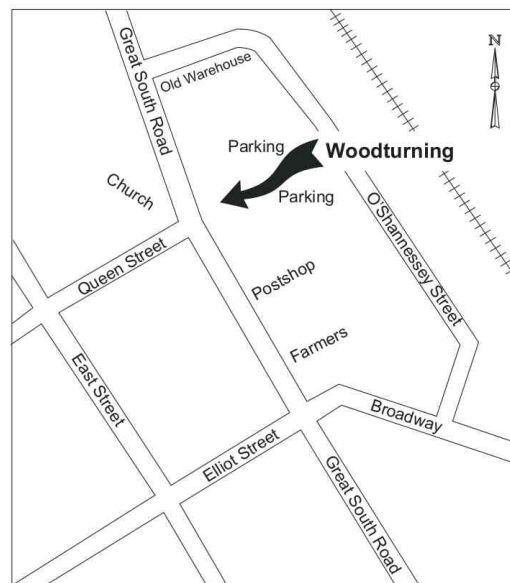
After being drilled the inside was hollowed out to less than 5 mm.

These bowls are mainly decorative but with the correct finish could be used to drain the veggies.

Christmas Sale of Woodturning

Our Regular christmas sale has started in Papakura, the shop this year is the old Sahara Tent Restaurant, at the intersection of Great South Road and Queen Street.

2nd - 24th December
Monday to Friday 9:00am to 6:00pm
Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00pm
Sunday 10:00am to 3:00pm



Club Night Action

Wednesday 18th September

Threaded Nutcracker - Bruce Wood

Report by Murray Wilton

The presentation began with some nutcracker jokes, a few a little close to the bone in mixed company, but that was water off the duck's back of maestro President Bruce Wood. He had to be on his game because, in addition to the usual suspects, he had the beady expert eye of the Bay of Plenty woodturning guru, Doug St George, in attendance. Doug is the Immediate Past President (3-year term) of the Tauranga Woodcrafters' Guild, a life member there and a leader of craft classes in the Bay. He is also a regular contributor to Creative Wood, the National Association of Woodworkers (NAW) magazine.

Nutcrackers of various kinds have been around since the 15th century when it was common to produce them in the form of warriors, knights and kings. The nut was placed in the mouth of the figure and then cracked by using a lever in the back of the figure. Beautifully carved and painted wooden versions were popular in Germany in the 19th century when they were often given as Christmas gifts and table decorations. They were more for show than practical use.

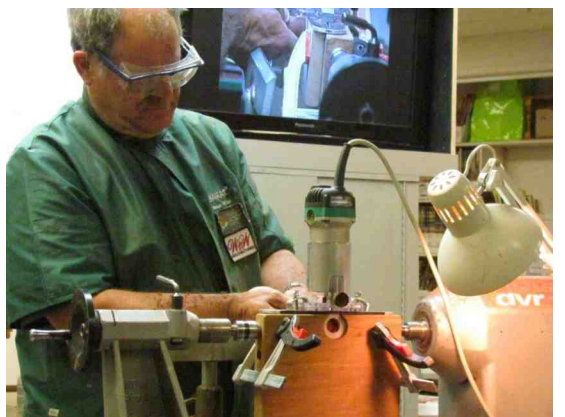
Bruce began his nutcracker lecture by showing examples of various nutcracker versions. They included the president's gavel, which would very simply crack any nut, although perhaps leaving the interior fruit a bit of a mess. More dainty but doubtfully effective, was the American 4-rod nutcracker which operates by a twisting motion, bringing the four rods into contact with the shell. "Wouldn't work on macadamias", someone called out. Then there was the BONK (Bart's Original Nut Cracker) which led to a further outpouring of unseemly jokes. Finally Bruce produced some finished product threaded nutcrackers and showed what he was about to produce. Well prepared and organized, as always, Bruce displayed working plans, exactly to scale and beautifully drawn by the master craftsman.

THE NUTCRACKER BODY

First select your timber. For obvious reasons it needs to be hardwood and Bruce had chosen Australian jarrah which is not only as hard as steel but also has rich, red wine colouring. He starts with a block measuring 95 mm square and 67 mm deep. Finding the centre he cuts a 54 mm hole 53 mm deep in the top end. A 7/8-inch hole is bored about 15 mm from the top to make the threaded female section. Holding the top end of the block in the chuck jaws, he uses a 1-inch tap to cut the thread in the 7/8-inch hole. (All these mixed metric and imperial measurements are because Bruce's threading equipment comes from the USA.)

The next step is to turn the block to about 95 mm diameter (not a critical measurement, but seems to be right for the job), using his fancy digital calipers which give measurements to three decimal places. He cuts a 50 mm spigot on the outer end and shapes the block until it is rounded off to 68 mm. Next remove the block and place the spigot (bottom) end in the jaws and round off the top end to 68 mm. This is the time to cut any special features into it (grooves, curlicues, etc.). Hollowing is fairly easy, working from the 54 mm hole already bored from the top end of the nutcracker body. Bruce starts with a 6 mm Munroe hollowing tool and works away until the wall thickness is around 13 mm (again checked periodically with the digital calipers). A Munroe scraper is used to finish the hollowing. However, with good sharp tools you can finish your nutcracker body very well without having to re-mortgage your house. Finish with sanding in the usual way, then re-mount using pin jaws in the hollow and turn off the spigot at the bottom end. When re-mounting, line the inside of the hollow with rubber strip to avoid damage from the pin jaws.

Continued on page 6 >>



Club Night Action

>> Continued from page 5

THE THREADED ROD

Start with a square 25 x 25 mm rod about 120 mm long, Bore a 12 mm hole about 15 mm from one end then mount between centres and round off to 1 inch. Smooth off and remove ready for threading. The male thread is cut using a router and special jig. Beall Tool Company sell the components (not very cheaply, it needs to be said you will want to be into this field in a big way with a commercial outcome to make the expense worth it, or else have deep pockets).

After cutting the male thread, mount the plain end of the rod in pin jaws, again using rubber to avoid marking the rod. Complete the finishing work, remount and work on finishing the threaded end. Make the tip of the threaded end slightly concave, drill a 2 mm hole about 2 mm deep and tack an upholstery pin into it to provide a solid face to the nut.

To make the turning handle, mount another small block about 100 mm long and round off to just under 12 mm so it will pass freely through the 12 mm hole in the rod. For 10 mm at each end of the handle, reduce diameter to 9 mm, for an overall length of 76 mm. The 9 mm section is to hold a ball at each end of the handle. Finish and sand. The balls are cut from a 25 mm square block. Different timber can be used to give a contrast. First drill a 9 mm hole 10 mm through and then mount on a jam chuck plug with a 9 mm extension of about 15 mm to hold the block. Mark the centre and 10 mm each side. Turn to a perfect sphere of 20 mm diameter. Make a second ball the same way, finishing and sanding, then glue one ball to one end of the handle. Pass the handle through the hole in the turning rod, then glue the other ball on the other end of the handle.

FINISHING

Complete the finishing job using the Beall buffing system. Colour-coded buffing wheels ensure they are only used with the correct finish. Use the larger buffing wheels on the body and the smaller ones on the handle. Start with Triple-E cutting compound (yellow buffers). Follow up with White Diamond compound (white buffers) and lastly apply Carnauba wax in small quantities to the buffing wheels (red) and complete the finish.

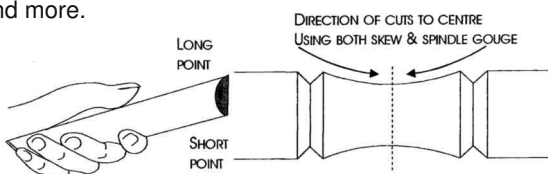
Another interesting, informative and expertly presented demo from our President Bruce Wood. Well done and many thanks. We all learn something new and useful at each meeting.



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO WOODTURNING

Original artwork and text by George Flavell
Edited and computerised by Dick Veitch

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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 Darryl Pointon or a Committee member



Club Night Action

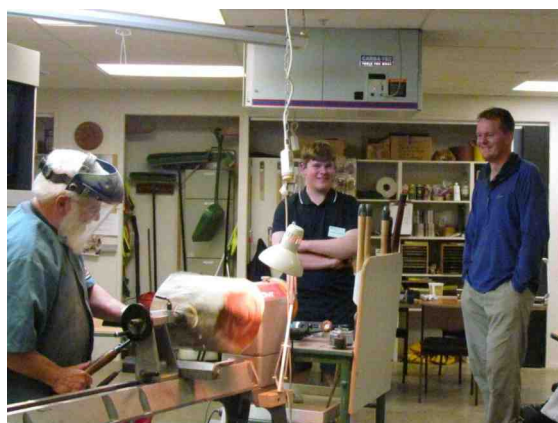
Wednesday 25th September

End of Term Challenge

Report by Ian Connelly

For something different Richard and Andrew Johnstone arranged a challenge for Dick Veitch, Terry Scott and Gordon Pembroke. There were a set of rules given. They were each given 10 minutes with the tools, not allowed to compare notes, referees reserved the right to change rules at any time. The wood provided appeared to be a little questionable. Of course with these guys rules meant nothing, it soon developed into all three of them going for it.

It was a great night, highly entertaining and I think the pictures say it all.



SAWG Participation 2013

Thursday 26th September - Sunday 29th September
Report by Ian Connolly - Photos by Terry Scott



Participation has turned into a biennial event, with a symposium the alternate years. Even with it not happening last year, everybody was in full form, with over 50 participants and almost as many lathes.

Having an official start on Friday, but for many turners we started Thursday and got a whole extra day. People from all over the North Island attended, giving the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make many new ones as well.

There were a number of interesting things being turned, one of the notable ones is pictured here with Cam Cosford's Flyer as Terry Scott named it. (Terry took all the photos). Cam's talent really came through as he solved each of the issues that occurred up on the maiden flight. He appeared to find this much easier than cooking toast, but that's another story.

Many thanks to Terry Scott and Dick Veitch for the organisation of the event, the vendors that supported us, also all the other helpers that helped make it happen and assisted in the clean up at the end.

I am looking forward to the 2014 Symposium, check out the details on our website www.sawg.org.nz and start saving your pennies.



Club Night Action

Wednesday 23rd October

Oddy Bits - Graeme Mackay

Report by Dave Armstrong

Graeme discussed the concept of using all manner of scrap wood from left-overs, failed projects, toys and even very small bits of wood most of us would use to start the fire with, to create interesting items. We can all appreciate the reasons we get left with scraps of what would be useless left-overs but to Graeme these small bits are treasures. He emphasised the usefulness of scraps and mentioned he has boxes of bits he can turn into anything, maybe even just for practice.

Before starting his main demonstration he mounted a very small piece (a failed Christmas tree) to show some inventive ideas using the Skew and the use of colour to highlight his decoration and conclude his practice. Part of this demo was to show the necessity to have Super Glue handy to stem blood flow.

Into the main demo, Graeme drew up his thoughts for the project on the white board then assembled his wood pieces from some scrap wood. A suitable scrap for the wobbly base about 140x100mm and one about 200x25x25mm for the person.

He then mounted his base piece on a screw chuck and proceeded to turn it to a shape similar to a wig stand base. The rounded part being the bottom to enable the finished piece to wobble. He created a spigot on the bottom then removed the base from the screw chuck and re-mounted it into a Jaw chuck. He proceeded to turn some detail into the top and used some colour to highlight. The next step was to remount the base on the Screw chuck and re-turn the bottom, removing the spigot.

He mentioned to not make the base too pointed but to create a more gentle curve so it would rock and return upright.

At this time he measured and noted the hole size where the screw chuck had been so he could turn a suitable spigot on the base of the person for mounting into the base later.

Graeme then proceeded with the final stage by mounting the wood for the person between centres and roughed it down to a cylinder approximately 20mm diameter. On one end he created the small spigot to mount into the base and the remainder was turned to form beads in the shape of the person. This detail was all done using the skew. He viewed this as good skew practice.

Graeme then assembled the Wobbly person. Job done.

In his usual fashion, Graeme made the demonstration very interesting and stressed that these small fun projects should not be taken too seriously. The odd slip here and there and the subsequent re-think of shape and design all serve to enhance our tool skills to make good what would otherwise be firewood.



As the photographer managed to avoid Graeme's face in this demo, this shot is from a previous demo.



Library

Bob Yandell has done a lot of work getting the library sorted out over the last few months. There are a number of books that are missing. Most likely buried in a pile of books at members or ex-members houses.

There is no penalty for returning the books. It will save us significant funds not having to repurchase what we already own, which will make us all happy.

Missing Book List

7	Woodturning Techniques	G M C Publications
37	Intermediate Woodturning Projects	G M C Publications
48	Woodworking with the Router	Bill Hylton & Fred Matrack
50	Carving on Woodturning	Chris Pye
58	Woodturning A Fresh Approach	Robert Chapman
59	Turning Boxes with	Richard Raffan
63	Understanding Woodturning	Ann & Bob Phillips
64	Turning Pens & Pencils	K Christensen & R Burningham
66	Woodturning A source book of shapes	John Hunnex
67	Making screw threads in wood	Fred Holder
68	Turned boxes, 50 designs	Chris Stott
69	The Complete Backyard Book	Ed Goodman & Finch
71	The Complete Guide to Sharpening	Tony Boase
75	Decorating Turned Wood	L & M O'Donnell
77	Contemporary Turned Wood	Leier, Peters & Wallace
79	Masterful Woodturning. Projects & Inspiration	Gary Roberts
82	Controlling Workshop Dust	Rick Peters
87	Bandsaws	Mark Duginske
88	Woodcarving	Allan Durst
94	The Bandsaw Book	Lonnie Bird
95	The Lathe Book: A Complete Guide to the Machine &...	Ernie Conover
97	Taunton's Complete Illustrated Guide to Turning	Richard Raffan
98	Workshop Machines (New Best of Fine Woodworking)	Eds of Fine Woodworking
99	Pyrography Workbook: A Complete Guide to the Art of...	Sue Walters
100	Classic Woodturning Projects with Bonnie Klein: 12 Skill...	Bonnie Klein
101	500 Wood Bowls: Bold and Original Designs Blending.....	Ray Leier
111	Chris Child's Projects for Woodturners	Chris Child
117	Wood Lathe Projects for fun & Profit	Dick Sing
125	Easy to make toys	C A Kunou
126	The Bandsaw Book	Lonnie Bird
127	Puzzles In Wood	E M Wyatt
159	Great turning projects for the smaller lathe	Bill Bowers
180	Spindle Turning-The Best of	The Woodturning Mag

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



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