TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 216 **Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild** **March 2014**

Wednesday 26th February

Deer Antler Box - Terry Scott

Report by Wim Nijmeijer

Terry started by telling us a bit about the deer buttons in general and what to look for. Antlers from the Wapiti deer have the biggest crowns. Many of the boxes he makes are sold to Asian customers. Terry bleaches the buttons in Janola to generally clean the buttons prior to turning.

Starting the demo, a pre-prepared waste block (pohutukawa – more on this later…) was mounted. The broad face of the button was already sanded. A 3mm hole was drilled in the centre of the button. The waste block was faced off and a small nipple was turned for the 3mm hole to position the antler button. The antler button was then glued to the waste block.

Terry produced another antler button already glued to a waste block and this was now mounted in the DVR and the tailstock brought up. The lathe was set at approx. 2000RPM and a fingernail grind chisel was used to shape the bottom of the box. During this time 5 samples of bottom bowls were shown, and some beautifully made boxes by Carole Knowles. Final shaping of the bottom of the bowl and the wing was done with the skew chisel, including a small bead at the wing. A hacksaw was used to cut the tail end off.

Then the spigot was shaped, including a small "V" for better holding power in the small chuck jaws.

Sanding is usually done to 1500 grit followed by finishing with EEE polishing paste.

A heat gun was used to melt the glue and remove the bowl off the waste block; the bottom bowl was then remounted in the small chuck jaws, and supported by the tailstock/waste block. The waste block was then subsequently reduced in size to allow for the shaping of the top of the wing and to allow for more access to turn the inside of the box.

The skew chisel was used for the final shaping of the top of the wing.

Terry mentioned to watch out for the wings, as they are razor sharp.

Next the waste block was removed to allow for the final shaping of the inside of the box. The recess for the lid was cut first, using a parting tool made from a hacksaw blade. Then a "depth" hole was drilled with a flattened drill point.

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Notice Of Annual General Meeting

The South Auckland Woodturners Guild AGM will be held on the 21st May 2014 at the clubrooms.

Papatoetoe Community Centre
Tavern Lane
Papatoetoe

In this Issue

SAWG Committee

President
Bruce Wood 626 3840

Vice President
Darryl Pointon 027 458 2229

Secretary
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Treasurer
David Jones 299 5110

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Ian Connelly 296 1312

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Lindsay Amies 537 1597
Carole Knowles 09 233 6682
Cathy Langley 630 3091
Terry Scott 297 7051
Dick Veitch 298 5775

Webmaster
Michele Pointon 021 582 229

Club Meetings:

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

Club Rooms:

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

Website:

http://www.sawg.org.nz

Correspondence

Robert Smith
21 Omana Heights Drive
Maraetai
Auckland 2018
rasmith@ihug.co.nz

Newsletter contributions

editor@sawg.org.nz

Contributers this Month

Mike Clausen
Mac Duane
Philip Johnstone
Graeme Mackay
Gary McDonald
Wim Nijmeijer
Terry Scott
John Smart
Murray Wilton

Photos
Ross Johnson/Ian Connelly

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.

Futher 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 2014

Theme of Natural Edge.

April

2	Using a Router with a Lathe - Dave Dernie
9	Out of Firewood - Warwick Day
16	Last night of term

Term 2 2014

May

7	First Night Term 2 - Programme TBC
21	SAWG AGM

Upcoming Events

April		
	4 - 6	Waiora Turn Inn - Otago Woodturners Guild Inc.
	17-21	Coca-Cola Easter Show
May		
	18	Manawatu Woodworkers Guild Open Day
July		
	26	NAW AGM - Waikato Guild of Woodworkers, Te Rapa
October		
	2-5	Woodturning New Zealand International Symposium 2014, South Auckland Woodturners Guild
	31 - 2 Nov	Spin Around, Waitaki Woodturners Guild, Oamaru

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

Macs Maxim

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door !

- Mac Duane

Shavings

KEEPING A SHARP MIND IN RETIREMENT

As we slowly move through retirement, we need to keep ourselves occupied with small projects.....Like this guy.

I know, I saw it right away too.... No safety glasses or hearing protection.

And I caught something else that is really important: he has no gloves on.

I might be up in age but I am still sharp as a tack.

http://www.duskyswondersite.com/nature/trees/

Trees are the oldest and the largest living things on earth. Some are weird, some extraordinary, some gorgeous, and some shaped by the human hand to fascinate and amuse.

Have a look at the site above - amazing.

Beautifully Turned Out

Reproduced from http://www.middlemorefoundation.org.nz/christmas/beautifully-turned-out

Even macular degeneration and fading eyesight couldn't keep Mac Duane away from Middlemore at Christmas.

Mac and his great mate John Smart – who does the driving - are members of the South Auckland Woodturners Club, which has been visiting the hospital at Christmas for many years.

And 2013 was no different – except that toymaker Rachel Lunnon tagged along - as the pair visited elderly patients.

Armed with countless hand-turned bowls filled with treats, the pair made their way around challenging staff and patients to make one of the hundreds of beautifully crafted spinning tops work. "Get it right and you can keep it," they challenged.

Few did, but plenty had fun trying.

"It's incredible how something as simple as an old-fashioned spinning top can still give great pleasure," Mac said.

After 21 years on the committee, Mac reckons he's slowing down a bit, particularly with his eyes not what they were, but John says he just shows him the way.

Members craft the wooden bowls, toys and other gifts throughout the year, but particularly at "hands-on nights" when the club meets.

The gifts are distributed and go as far as Waiuku and Pukekohe.

A lot of these will have been made from timber we've recovered from around Takanini," John said. "So that little spinning top might be brand new in the sense we've just made it, but it is 1000 years old."

Mac reckons that's nothing. "The swamp kauri we get around here is 1000 years old, but up north it can be up to 35,000 years old."

The club has members who can recover fallen trees and take pieces off stumps. The timber is left to dry so it can be worked, before being shaped into something new, useful and absolutely Kiwi.

Merry Christmas Rachel, and the skilled craftsmen of the South Auckland Woodturners Club.

Club Night Action

Wednesday 29th January

Burl With Natural Edge - Terry Scott

Report by Philip Johnstone

This demo about turning burls and started with Terry impressing on us the expense of getting burls (or burs) from Australia. The story he told us about shipping them in ended up with each burl being costly, and cooked.

There are many theories on how a burl forms, but one Terry believes is the one where if a tree is scarred or wounded in any way, the burl forms like a scab over the wound.

Terry likes to protect his supporting hand with a glove because the burls are very brittle and so produce hard chips rather than shavings.

The burl Terry selected was almost round, so he had no great trouble finding the centre. He mounted the burl on the flat side with a screw chuck and started turning with the tail stock up against the work. He then went through all the standard things with making a spigot, and shaving down to a platter shape. Terry made a ring from MDF to support the edge because the finished piece would only be 3 or 4 mm thick. Turning the piece over, he started on the inside with very small cuts. He smoothed out the ridges with a negative-rake scraper, and then made a bead to give it a central point.

Terry thought the burl was worth finishing so he didn't turn the spigot off. All he had left to do was sand it, turn the spigot off, and put a finish on. I enjoyed the demo and I hope that when he completes it he will bring it to the club for show and tell.

Club Night Action

Wednesday 5th February

Sharpening With CBN - Dick Veitch

Report by Graeme Mackay

So Dick set forth with the opening comment about the need for quality of tools, chisels and processes for sharpening thereof. A lively discourse on the need to have a method for the remembering of the sharpening process. It is not like a nursery rhyme or learning the times table, rather the basis for good woodturning: “no sharpen, no cut”.

The basis of the process could be called “the great what”. A wonderful list of what things to be covered in the process of sharpening:

What with	tools and equipment
What to	standards
What why	why this method
What	safety things
What	sharpening materials
What	hardness material
What	each material is best for
What	size/diameter
What	speed to use them
What	clean applications sounds are
What	it’s like to hear it
What	safety things

Materials came out in a Long list that includes a lovely new wonder: Cubic Boron Nitride (CBN), a new material with cost saving ability and quite a neat ring tone. A high clean sound when gently tapped in a bell like manner.

Other materials discussed included: Carborundum, white alumina oxide, pink or blue be alumina oxide, tungsten carbide green, microcrystalline, Diamond (not the steel chisel) and Cubic Boron Nitride

Cubic boron nitride sharpening systems:

And so to the newly introduced CBN sharpening system, which come with a number of advantages, including producing a fine polish type finish. The new disc system does not need scrubbing or dressing - unlike the standard White Aluminium Oxide grinding disc currently in use. It comes in a variety of standard grits commonly 80 and 180. Dick Veitch noting a preference for 180 grit. The latter being less aggressive on cutting and working well with grinder units that turns around to 2000 rpm rather than the standard 2900 rpm for White Aluminium Oxide discs.

An advantage of the new CBN system is that it maintains a fixed diameter. The White Aluminium Oxide discs become smaller with each use. The curvature of the bevel becomes more concave and thus changes its usage and feel. A feature of the new system is a need to have soft hands when applying the chisel to the disk surface. The sound of a correct application is clean and even.

Sharpening chisels-especially the club ones

The recipe needs to be exact and repeatable. The SAWG system was designed to produce a standard angle and shape. The process was designed to keep it easy and repeatable, and maintain the same angle. So that each time a tool is picked up, the angle and shape are the same.

The club uses the woodcut system, holder and was using spacers. Now that the wheel is not changing size the woodcut slide has been modified with a pin through a hole. There is a different hole for each of the standard bevel angles.

Follow the instructions at the grinder. Select the correct tool holder - the colour-coded ones are fixed angle for the club tools. Put the chisel in the holder with 50mm protruding. Set the slide to the correct position using the pin. Gently touch the chisel to the grinder. The objective is to sharpen, not grind the tool away.

How do I know when my chisel is not sharp?

Feel it

See It

Hear It

Happy sharpening; Graeme Mackay

Club Night Action

Wednesday 12th February

Fence Post - Linsday Amies

Report by Murray Wilton

The material can be old fence posts from the farm, or any other timber that has weathered in the outdoors (lamp posts, telegraph poles, etc.). Timbers can be matai, totara, Australian ironbark. He showed samples of vases used for dried flower arrangements, blocks used for door stops, and a vase with a 1903 Edward VII coin inserted (the approximate age of the post). One piece was the cross bar of a telegraph post containing an 1873 coin commemorating the year in which telegraphy started in NZ. These timbers can be turned to produce clocks, paper clip dishes, business card stands and so on. For vases, dried flowers, and other items can be obtained cheaply at $2 shops, and you can also use flax leaves, dried grasses, raupo stems and dried seed pods.

There's not a lot of turning involved, but a good deal of finishing and cleaning up. Lindsay recommends the use of three different scrapers, especially on hardwoods, and they need to be constantly sharpened. Soy oil is applied to keep dust levels down while sanding. Lindsay uses a drill and sanding disks for sanding. He emphasized the need for safety equipment, especially helmet and mask, because old timber can be flawed and unbalanced on the lathe and is inclined to split and "explode", especially during off-set turning.

THE PROCESS (Vase)

1. Choose the top and bottom depending on the state of the timber and the amount of natural edge you want to achieve.

2. Mark the centre point at both ends (as far as this is possible in timber with an uneven edge). The piece needs to be as square as possible so that the lower end turning is even. Keep the best end for the bottom which won't be turned or finished (in vases and bottles at least).

3. Line up on live centre held in a chuck and begin with a slow speed, with another live centre at the tailstock end, increasing gradually until you are sure it will stay put. Use a roughing gouge for the first cuts. (Lindsay's first piece proved to be rotten underneath and went nowhere.)

4. Sometimes it's best to cut a spigot and mount in the chuck rather than using live centres at each end.

5. Use soya oil when sanding to reduce harmful dust from timber you know little about other than its age. As the oil wears off, add more. The oil also has the benefit of showing up ridges and hollows which is helpful to achieve a smooth finish. As linseed oil is used for the final finishing work, the soya oil used initially won't be a problem. As sandpaper becomes clogged with oily dust, give it an occasional brush to remove the debris. Finish by sanding along the grain.

6. Mount your chosen drill (say, 30 mm auger bit) in a Jacobs chuck and use slow speed to drill out the hole in your vase.

7. Turn off a spigot (if required) with a gouge and the parting tool.

8. Use drill and wire brush to clean up the base which is the rough natural external post timber you want to feature.

9. Finish with linseed oil applied with a brush. Rough end soaks the oil up quickly but the oil will bring out the rich colours of the hardwood.

10. Inserting objects in the finished article. To place, say, a penny in your vase, use a 1 ¼ inch drill (pennies are 31 mm in diameter). Fix in place with wood glue or, if you prefer, set more deeply in a covering of resin for further enhancement. In either case, ensure the hole is deeper than the penny thickness as it shouldn't end up proud of the finished article.

11. Finally, clean the penny and seal with lacquer.

Club Night Action

Wednesday 19th February

Green Turning - Ian Outshoorn

Report by Gary McDonald

Ian is current president of the North Shore guild and is currently turning on a T60 Harvey lathe, a recent article in Creative Wood magazine - Dec 2013 written by Ian is a good read. Now if you own a T60 you tend to work in the XXXL size range after all why turn at 400mm when you can turn 600mm plus.

Kicking off Ian had a barrel of macropcarpa (Cupressus macrocarpa) that he had prepared beforehand that was roughly 800mm by 600mm. He stepped us through how he had prepared the barrel marking the pith at each end before making any cuts. At this stage it is useful to have some idea about how you would like to process the barrel identifying which parts you may utilise for platters and bowls etc and making the cuts accordingly. Cuts from the side can be used for mushrooms a past favourite of Ian's.

Safety was a reoccurring theme throughout this demonstration with Ian covering off chainsaw safety, applying the 2 metre rule, only inviting others in when required and using chocks to stablise a log that may roll. Personally having seen first hand what a small chainsaw can do to human flesh when someone was not wearing chaps has left an indelible print that means before I even get my chainsaws out protective gear is the first thing that goes on even if I am only making one cut.

I picked up a couple of useful points here on preparing the log cut lengthways and on a slight angle so as not to clog the outlet. As always sharp chains make the process easier.

Ian likes to leave around 100mm either side of the pith when preparing his cuts and this can be used for pepper grinders or the like.

Splitting the barrel we were stepped through the blanks that Ian had prepared that would be bowls or platters. Ian had brought along his small disk – only XXL this has a radius of 600mm that he uses to determine where the centre of the bowl would best fit after reviewing growth rings on the inside and outside to determine what part is best for the base of the bowl and where to align centre. This appears to a novice such as myself a useful additional to add to my tool set.

Once centre is determined some technique and safety tips on using a bandsaw were covered off with Ian utilising a heavy card stock disk to assist when cutting circles on a rounded part of a log. Next we covered off use of faceplates where stainless steel tek screws are used, these offer several advantages as they do not discolour or stain the timber but a word of caution these may become brittle with Ian recommending a new set of screws at a regular frequency.

When attaching unbalanced timber of moderate size and upwards woodworm screws are not recommended. As this bowl was on the small size 350mm or so, 25mm spigot jaws were utilised as a preferred attachment. Over this size face plates are recommended. Drilling out the centre with a forstener bit ensures that when gripping the end the jaws do not bottom out.

Having managed to successfully lock a chuck onto my lathe last year and the lost skin in removing it there was a timely reminder on how to mount a chuck correctly a couple of modified XXL spanners used to nip up the chuck and I have one less job to do as at participation last year I was advised to cut the ball off the t bar on one of my Allen keys this allows a more direct fit into the keyway.

With the blank mounted on the lathe time to get wet turning or almost again Ian stepped through his safety preparations covering off PPE including a polycarbonate visor, his workshop setup and some useful information regarding actual speed of the outside of a mass. For example a 600mm diameter at 400 RPM piece can be travelling at 45 kph at the outer edge.

Lathe speed and body position were of real interest to me with some great advice and knowledge being shared. Over the years Ian has noticed that over 1000 rpm things tend to go upwards and under 1000 rpm things tend to go downwards. Ian takes the lathe speed up until things begin to wobble then backs off, if there is no wobble at 1000 rpm then that is the final speed setting.

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Club Night Action

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Wet turning (Ian uses this term as he does not like the term “rough turning”) not only to prepare items for storage but also presents an opportunity to refine and practice technique. When wet turning on the T60 he turns left handed this provides a better body position and means that his body is not in a direct firing line of shavings or any large chunks coming off. At some stage this is a technique I would like to try as my limited wet turning has indeed been a wet experience.

A quick check of the toolrest and into it with a 16mm bowl gouge on a pull cut. Ordinarily the XXXL 19mm is deployed but as mentioned this bowl being on the smaller side of his regular turnings it was deemed adequate or almost. Ian prefers and actually recommends two of each size tool which allows him to determine or compare sharpness regularly and proceed with efficiency or maybe the guys a tool junkie I will reserve my decision but I can see the merits in what he is saying if the budget allows.

At this point it was evident that Ian was thinking about the next stage and the final requirements paying attention to avoid torn end grain and managing features that appear in the timber as he progresses. A really useful tip was to be aware of a knocking sound which is a sign of possibly pushing too hard, tool not sharp enough or travelling a little quickly his standards for wet turning as evidenced by the sample bowls and platters passed around are very high with attention to a good finish. With the final outside wet turned shape almost complete Ian mentions that he likes to establish maximum diameter before completion so things do not become truncated. Once around with a regular size 10mm bowl gouge with the 130mm concave spigot (for consistency when stacking bowls and some leeway for timber movement) a preferred size and the centre being marked with the same gouge. This allows establishment of centre exactly at a later stage when timber has moved.

Expanding spigots are not generally recommended when wet turning large blanks due to their smaller grip on the circumference with Ian noticing over the years that novice turners can manage to lever or break them off when experiencing dig ins.

Once the inside has been formed aiming for consistency in wall thickness is key for even drying - this can vary with a guide of wall size ranging from 10% of the diameter for smaller bowls to approximately 25-30mm for larger 500-600mm forms, the edges are rounded as this can be a point where cracks may develop.

75mm long jaws may be used if you wish to create a spigot on the inside of the bowl for reaching later.

Log shield is recommended to seal the outside and the rim of the bowl but do not seal the inside. Wax around the foot of the bowl but be sure to brush this out well when sealing. When remounting you may wish to scrape around the spigot with a woodworking chisel to clean up any lumps of log seal that may be present.

Bowl storage is an aspect that I had not considered here Ian recycles timber from pallets cutting them into 10mm square sections 150mm or so long. These he places in a triangle so the next sized bowl can be stacked it is key to keep all the triangle pieces in line as you progressively get higher so uniform support for the lower bowls is there. Date and name the piece.

Ian’s top tips.

Safety is paramount from start of process to finish, establish workshop rules.

Time is a key be realistic in what you can process otherwise give it away. If necessary you can bag timber for a couple of weeks.

You are wet turning not roughing out.

Be nice to your timber.

The couple of hours flew by and if time permitted I would like to explore the role bowl savers can play in green turning but there is always another term. Thanks Ian for an informative evening and I look forward to another visit.

Lastly why turn 400mm when you can turn 600mm+ with a T60!

Club Night Action

Deer Antler Box - Terry Scott
Continued from page 1

The inside of the bowl was then completed, undercutting the bowl to enable reverse mounting for the removal/reshaping of the bottom spigot. A scraper was used for the final finishing of the inside of the bowl. The wing was then decorated with Terry's "Textura" texturing tool. The chuck and bowl were removed from the lathe.

Next was the lid-same process-waste block, etc.

With the tailstock in place, the underside of the lid was first turned, then the fit of the lid to the bowl, followed by the finishing of the underside of the lid. The underside of the lid was also textured at that time.

Terry then proceeded with the removal of the remainder of the material when…… the waste block failed!! (Terry claimed that he knew this was going to happen since he put the defect there in the first place!!!-Yeah right!!) Anyway it shows that these unforeseen incidents can happen to the best of us, and I personally feel a lot better!

Recovery was very swift, and very quickly Terry continued by making a new waste block, etc. remounting the bowl, fitted lid to the bowl and proceeded with the shaping of the top of the lid. The lid was then glued to the bowl, and the waste block and tailstock removed. Final shaping/finishing was then completed.

A recess in the lid for the finial was then made, and the chuck including box and lid were removed from the lathe.

Another chuck (how many does he have???) was fitted to make the finial. The finial was made from ebony, which came from a piano key! But that is another story……

The DVR was set at 3000RPM and a start on the finial was commenced.

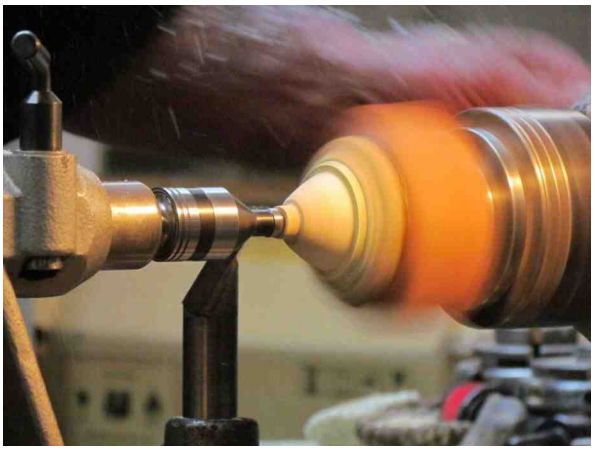
The finial was not fully completed, but the process was explained.

The pre-shaped finial is normally glued to the lid and then turned as an assembly, using a "cone" in the tailstock for final shaping of the finial.

All in all it was a very interesting and well-prepared demo.

As usual the demo was expertly carried out and a lot of info and advice was given during the process.

Thank you Terry.



Symposium 2014

A Woodturning Symposium is being put together by South Auckland Woodturners Guild, it will run from the 2nd to the 5th of October 2014, Wesley College Paerata. After the success of the 2012 event, with everybody leaving with great big smiles we are expecting to see all those that attended last time and the people that regret not attending last time. Everybody got so much out of it from new turners to the old hands, there was so much to learn and see at every level, that it is the one event this year not to be missed.

Demonstrators for the event will be (profiles available on the sawg website - http://www.sawg.org.nz)

Cindy Drozda	David Nittmann
Cynthia Gibson	Richard Raffan
Mike Gibson	Joey Richardson
Robbie Graham	Vaughn Richmond
Theo Haralampou	Neville & Emma Walker
Shane Hewitt	Bruce Wood
Phil Irons	Ken Wraight

For updated information on the Woodturning New Zealand Symposium 2014, check our website regularly http://www.sawg.org.nz/symposium-2014/

Show and Tell - a few of the faces we are seeing

Wim Nijmeijer - I'm not creative, Yeah Right

John Moat - I want bigger but only have small bits of wood

Gary MacDonald - Wet turning, thought I would try too

Raed El Sarraf - Terry showed me how to make stirrers

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