

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 217

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

May 2014

Wednesday 19th March

Natural Edged Box from a Branch - Bruce Wood

Report by Judith Langley

Opening the demonstration, Bruce displayed several examples of the Branch Boxes that he was to turn and outlined some of the pitfalls and problems that can be experienced when turning this type of box. The samples included Yew and Pohutukawa, and were handed around for members to have a close look at.

Equipped in the club's new face mask safety helmet and an invisible microphone, Bruce set about retaining everyone's attention by giving us an hours' non stop, full speed ahead demonstration.

Wood: a piece of Pohutukawa 90mm in diameter and 70mm long was selected, the centres marked at each end, Steb centres where mounted in the head and tail stocks, and the wood placed between centres.

Setup: build up the speed slowly to 1800rpm. Cut a spigot at each end, undercutting the spigot with a skew to accept the chuck jaws. Divide the branch $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ for the box bottom and top respectively, allowing a few mm to accommodate the parting tool, when parting off.

Part off the top from the bottom by cutting through as far as possible and then with a quick twist to break the remaining wood in the centre.

Box bottom: place the bottom section in the chuck – load up the Jacobs' chuck with a suitably sized Forstener bit (Bruce recommended the new tungsten tipped Brendon Stemp brand which come in sets complete with a 400mm long bit extension).

Measure the required depth for the box bottom before boring, taking particular care to allow for the point on the Forstener bit. Mark length on the bit and with the lathe running at 500rpm, start boring, you must keep winding in when using Forstener bits, to prevent the bit over heating. Measure and cut an upstand for the lid section, allowing for the lid to close over the bottom section.



A variety of tools can be used to finish off the box bottom, including the Soren Berger box tool, a skew or a square end scraper. Bruce demonstrated the Soren Berger tool and the square end scraper – both tools playing a part in the shaping and finishing of the box. The square end scraper was used to finish off – slightly angled down from the tool bar to give a very fine cut.

Finishing of each section: sand from 120 to 500 grit, ensuring you go through the grits as per the recommended standards. Coat with 'fast thin' Super Glue using a folded handy towel, speed up to 1800rpm to burnish off – being very careful not to stick oneself to the box or burn fingers, as the super glue gets very hot. Follow this by applying Triple EEE (a cutting polish) and then burnish with Shellawax. Apply sparingly and speed up the lathe to polish this off.

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Club Meetings:

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

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**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 2 2014

Theme of Clocks

June	4	Escoulen Mounted Clock - Bruce Wood
	11	Crescent Clock - Cam Cosford
	18	Robert Sorby Demo - Chris Pouncy
	25	Telegraph Cross Tree Clock - Dick Veitch
July	2	Last Night of term, Table Prize, Term Clock Prize, Life Members Award Turning Spinning Tops - hands on all club members

Term 3 2014

Theme of Boxes

July	23	First night of term - Programme TBC
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Upcoming Events

July	11-13	Manawatu Roundup at Ashhurst. Take a lathe, enjoy the turning.
	15	Entries Close Franklin Arts
	26	NAW AGM at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Hamilton. Free demonstrations.
	31	Entry forms due for the National Woodskills Competition.
August	26	Delivery of entries Franklin Arts
	29	Franklin Arts Opening
	30 -7 Sep	Franklin Arts
	31	Delivery of exhibits for the National Woodskills Competition.
October	2-5	Woodturning New Zealand International Symposium 2014, South Auckland Woodturners Guild

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

Macs Maxim

Thoughtfully, in the worst of times
the best comes out of us

- Mac Duane



Club Night Action

Wednesday 5th March

Tagua Nut - Dick Veitch

Report by Earl Culham

Although this was Dick's demonstration, the opening salvo was fired by Terry Scott. Terry contended that his demonstration of turning deer buttons last week, was upstaged by Dick putting his example of a deer button on the "show and Tell" table. It was a bit tough putting up an example that was better than he could do even before he had even even tried! So this week it was his turn; he had obtained a tagua nut from Dick and he had his example ready to upstage Dick's.

The tagua nut palm is a native of South America (e.g. grown extensively in Ecuador), also grown in the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Guam. Guam has a disease in the plants and any importations from that country have to be heat treated which changes the colour from white to a creamy colour. The nut is known as "vegetable ivory" due to its colour and consistency.

The nut is hard but has a cavity in the centre.

In the countries noted above, the nut is used for button making and carving for sale to tourists.

The tagua nut palm produces nuts in a bunch called a cabeza. The cabeza may take 3-8 years to fully mature and drop off the palm.



What can we use the nuts for? Lidded boxes, salt and pepper shakers, small vases are some examples. In this instance, Dick chose to make a vase.

Step 1

As near as possible, centre the nut between two small step centres, and turn to round taking all of the outer brown shell off the nut. Run the lathe at about 1800 and use a skew chisel. The nut cuts quite easily. Consider the shape you want and turn a spigot at each end; about a 12mmx1mm spigot on the foot end getting rid of all of the shell. The second chuck bit on the top is turned so that it can be used to clean up the foot.

Step 2

Use pin jaws to hold the top, bring up the tail stock to ensure centre and clean the foot using a small bowl gouge. Take care and be gentle so that you don't have the vase flying off your lathe. Turn a small concave in the foot as you would for a larger piece. Shape down to the foot using a skew. Finish off the shape with a scraper, then 400 and 1200 grit paper. (Terry poked a bit of fun at Dick, claiming his example didn't need sanding-one strike for him!)

Continued Page 4 >>



Club Night Action

Tagua Nut - Dick Veitch (Continued from Page 3)

Step 3

Re-chuck holding the vase by the foot this time and complete the shape. Remember the thirds rule when shaping and shape until it is pleasing to the eye. In this instance, Dick chose to have a natural edge top. Finish off with the scraper, gently of course and then the 400-1200 sand paper so that it will be as smooth as Terry Scott claimed he achieved without sanding!

A question from the floor related to finishing, Dick replied that wax can be used if desired but that can be done off the lathe.

Step 4

Reduce the speed to about 500rpm and drill a hole to the required depth. For the demonstration piece, it was a 10mm hole leaving about 2mm thick walls. Remember that there will be a hollow patch somewhere in the nut so insert the drill slowly so that it will stay on centre.

Using a special chisel called a "concrete nail", shape the inside of the top of the neck, then using a very special chisel called a bent concrete nail, gently hollow the inside of the vase.

Dick handed around an example he had made with pewter around the top, and another with a small motif on the side.

Terry also passed around his tagua nut turned to a shallow bowl but embellished with carving and colouring on the inside.

Dick's second demonstration was a lidded box. For this project refer to the SAWG web site, projects-box-tagua nut box. All you need is there.

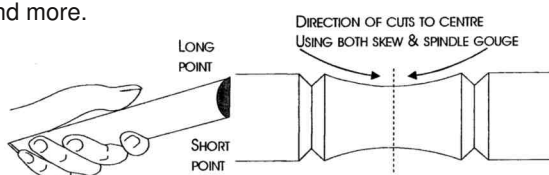
An enjoyable demonstration with some light hearted banter to enliven the evening, many thanks Dick.



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO WOODTURNING

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

Now in its sixth edition with 58 pages of clear line drawings and text specifically aimed at the learner turner. Safety, tools, wood gathering, spindle work, bowls, hollow forms and more.



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

Natural Edged Box from a Branch - Bruce Wood (Continued from Page 1)

To clean off the bottom of the box, turn the wood around, holding it very gently in the expanding jaws. Clean off the spigot by using a 55degree gouge and leave the bottom slightly concave – being mindful of the small amount of clearance. Check the bottom of the box by lying a steel ruler across it, there should be a slight concave finish. Seal with Super Glue and follow other finishing instructions.

Box lid: mount lid in chuck and clean off the face. Square off with scraper and use skew to cut recess. Finely defining the top to fit the box bottom. Do not rush the fitting stage and cutting of the recess as there is a fine line between the lid fitting too tightly and becoming too sloppy. Just take minuscule increments until you get the desired fit. Hollow the lid out to take the weight out of it and finish with a negative rake shear scraper so that a gentle curve is obtained. Sand and finish as for the bottom.

Take the lid off the chuck and turn it > hold very gently in the chuck. Oooooops – the lid was too small for the jaws > not all was lost > Bruce was out with the sticky tape in a flash and took up the slack by winding tape around the lid. Bring up the tail stock and shape the top with Bruce's favourite 55 degree gouge. Finally, remove the little centre left by the tail stock, sand and finish as before.

Result:

A very beautiful natural edged Pohutukawa box, turned and finished in under an hour.

Summary:

Whew, this was a great nights' demonstration and Bruce kept everyone on the edge of their seats, not daring to blink for want of missing some little tip. No doubt, Terry was in awe of the potential to market Super Glue in litres instead of the current 2ml bottles.

Thank you Bruce, your demo was great.



Woodturning New Zealand International Symposium 2014

2 - 5 October 2014

Wesley College, Paerata (30 Minutes South of Auckland Airport)

NOW ON THE SAWG WEBSITE

Full Registration Form

Programme

Profiles of all the Demonstrators with Descriptions of their Demos
(<http://www.sawg.org.nz/symposium-2014>).

We are going to have a blast.

(Just ask those that came to this event in 2012)

Club Night Action

Wednesday 9th April

Router with Lathe - Dave Dernie

Report by Warwick Day

David Dernie provided the club with an interesting talk on using a router on the lathe. He came equipped with several plunge routers and a laminate cutter. He also brought along a number of jigs which he had made.

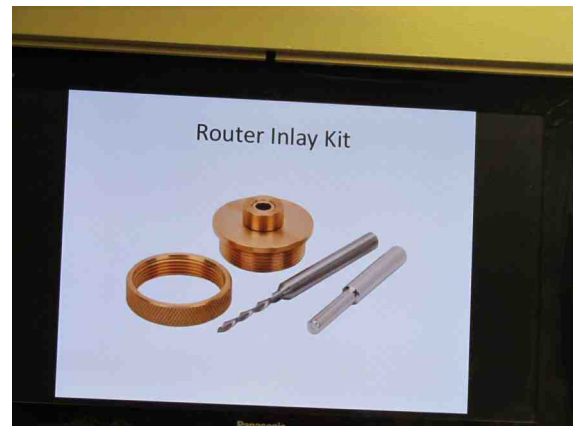
David served his apprenticeship as a cabinet maker and was trained in the use of spindle moulders and routers for making furniture. Using this knowledge he has been able to apply the techniques learnt to lathe objects.

Apart from the router and jigs David has made a number of router base plates and has 2 router inlay kit attachments; a small one from Carba-Tec and a larger one from Linbide.

He initially demonstrated how to cut an inlay pattern. The inlay material can be purchased from Bestwood in Browns Road, Wiri. The first step is to create a pattern which is attached to the wood the inlay is to be inserted into. Using his plunge router he attaches to it the 1/8 inch cutter, fits a space ring over the inlay kit bush and proceeds to cut a recess pattern into the wooden block. The thickness of the spacer is equal to the diameter of the cutter. He then removes the spacer ring and repeats the process over the inlay. If done correctly the inlay should fit perfectly into the recess that was cut into the wood. This process offers unlimited opportunities to enhance wood turning projects.

His second demonstration showed how to route flutes into table legs or other spindle items. He has made a long box which sits over the spindle item on the bed of the lathe. The construction accuracy is critical. Fitted to the laminate cutter a special base plate which allows the laminate cutter to traverse along the lathe bed over the spindle item. The positioning of the item is controlled by the lathes indexing plate.

I found Davids demonstration very interesting and looking forward to trying both techniques he demonstrated.



Club Night Action

Wednesday 2nd April

Out of Firewood - Warwick Day

Report by Bill Alden

Warwick began by showing some vases and boxes he had turned from pieces that did not appear to have much promise, showing that weathered and bug eaten wood can be made into items with character. On average a 50% success rate was achieved. One was a silver birch with only 2 small sections holding it together.

First job is to stabilise the cracks, this helps to reduce the disaster rate. Use superglue, 5 minute Araldite, Gemco 2 part putty, all of which can be coloured with poster paint as desired. Warwick suggested black to darken the colour

Warwick then mounted a piece of Feijoa on prepared spigots, where it is desired to retain bark it can be strengthened with superglue to hold it on. Warwick then turned a small vase, sanding through the grits wiping down between grits as particles may remain of the previous grit.

A thin coat of sanding sealer will fill the tubes and raise any loose grain to be sanded off. Polish with steel wool at speed, sanding sealer on its own will not last. Use EEE as next coat. Warwick uses the green Chux cloths as he finds the blue ones can stain the wood. Use pressure on a fast turning piece of wood. Final coat of Glow also applied with pressure at speed.

The piece was reversed and hollowed using a 55 degree bowl gouge. A depth hole can be drilled with a spindle gouge. He also used a cup tool to finish the hollowing. The inside was sanded to a finish and then coated with sanding sealer. The inside was then painted with a rough finish waterbased paint giving it 2 coats of black and when dry finishing with a layer of Patina.

Warwick then showed us his adaptation to cole jaws, using extension rods and longer screws to bring the holding buttons higher up to hold the piece near the centre. This enabled a firm hold so that the foot could be turned and finished.



Club Night Action

Wednesday 7th May

Wall Clock - George Archer

Report by Alan Day

George had a blank on the lathe already rounded, and the darker middle grain contrasted with the light outside to make the piece look really attractive.

He said, first decide what size dial you want, choose the appropriate size hands, then a clock mechanism with the length of thread to go through your timber, from 16 to 32mm.

He made a 100 mm external chuck bite, then inside that diameter hollows a space to take the clock mechanism, 75 round x 18 mm deep, must be flat, but the surface smoothness not critical.

George was using a gouge with a tip that he had been using for about ten years, but assured us that it had plenty of life in it yet, and an arc of his wood shavings was about to bury our President, Bruce - I'm sure it was unintentional Winking smile.

George turned the blank around and secured it in the 100 mm chuck, turned off the old chuck bite, and mentioned that one could put two circular grooves in the outer edge of the face, and the numbers or numerals can go in between, they can be positioned by having a disc with the 12 spaces marked out, or use the clock mechanism with the hands set at 12 o'clock, then move the minute hand around for each hour, the disc would be quicker eh!

Carbatec sells, a complete set of clock mechanism and hands of your choice in black or gold for \$17.90, separate sets of hands \$3.80, and made up clocks 90 – 100 mm wide \$25.60 – \$47.40 ready to be inserted, all of which may be posted out to you. It was suggested to buy the hands and mechanism from the same supplier as the shafts vary in size and style.

Thank you George, for being well prepared, and making it look so easy,



Club Night Action

Wednesday 8th April

Aoraki Woodturning Certificates



A number of club members got presented with their Certificate in Woodturning from the Aoraki course that has been running for a number of years in the club. Graduates of the course Annita Fritz, Mike Oswald, Les Whitty, Ross Johnson, Colin Wise, Colin Mitchell and Alan Day are pictured along with Cathy Langley who has put in many hours along with all the tutors to ensure that everything has run smoothly throughout the courses. Graham Goodwin (inset) also received his certificate the following week. Sorry Graham, don't have the photo from the event due to camera troubles.

Cathy detailed the incredible hours the tutors had put in to enable such a comprehensive course to be run

As a club we look forward to the continuation of the course under the National Association of Woodworkers (NAW), and hope many other New Zealand clubs continue to be involved too.



John Moat



Wim Nijmeijer



Graeme Mackay

Club Night Action

Wednesday 14th May

Triangular Clock - John Moat

Report by Dave Armstrong

John commenced the segment with his usual humour and offered many excuses before accepting the job to demo his talents tonight.

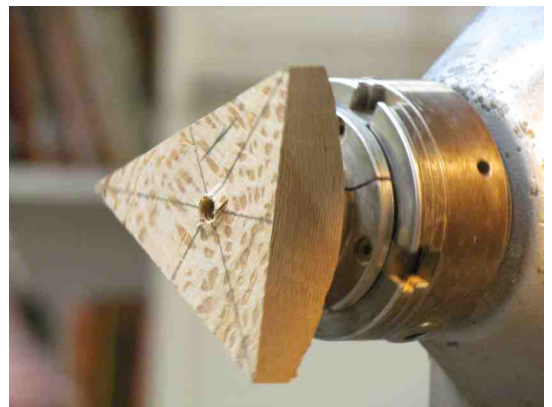
He pre-selected a nice piece of wood which he cut into a triangle on the Band saw. Although he did not give any specific dimensions it looked about 140mm x 50mm. The size would depend on the diameter of the clock to be inserted to get aesthetic proportions.

John found the centre of the triangle by measuring and marking half the length of the long sides and scribing a line to the opposite tip. This was done for both sides and the intersecting point was deemed the centre of the triangle.

John then made a mark on the edge of the wood to roughly show the finished tip of the clock. Next he mounted the wood between centres (he used a screw chuck) and proceeded to turn away the excess wood to form the rear of the block working from the centre out. After forming the basis of the curve to his mid point in the thickness he then formed a spigot so he could reverse the wood to form the front side later. At this point he sanded the shape using a drill and mandrel sander. He mentioned the pain hand sanding could inflict, hence his preference for the mandrel option.

John removed the work and reversed it into the scroll chuck and then used a Forstner bit to drill the hole for the clock mechanism, going deep enough to accommodate it. Next he turned the remainder of the front and again sanded through the grits. He again reversed the piece using the mechanism mounting hole onto Pin jaws and turned off the spigot, he tested the clock for fit (minor adjustments may be necessary), then he assembled the clock. It may be necessary to sand a small flat onto seating points if the clock won't stand at your desired angle. The finished clock looked good.

As a bonus, John also demonstrated his Beal Buffing System to finish his clock.



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



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