

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 192

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

March 2011

Fishy has a Field Day!

The annual **Turning Tools Open Day** was held on Saturday, 26 February and followed the **Ian Fish** formula for a very successful day with guest demonstrators **Malcolm Zander** and **Fred Irvine**, instant gallery, raffle, silent auction and special pricing for the benefit of members and turners from further afield.

A good turnout of attendees at the Open Day ensured that Fishy had a grin from ear to ear as the till rang out for much of the day. Ian says he was delighted to see so many "funny boring old men (and ladies) enduring the heat" (presumably he includes himself in this description) to spend money with him and the other merchants represented – **Treeworx** and **Timberley**.

Pauline Fish tells me that the day was successful commercially with a steady stream of sales (can you imagine Ian acknowledging that?), commenting that the demonstrators were "very well received". This year in contrast to previous Open Days, little actual turning was done by demonstrators who instead spoke to their respective topics.

Fred Irvine is a tutor at Waikato Polytechnic and patron of the Waikato Guild. He, according to Ian, is a "top bloke and top turner/demonstrator who is a friend to every turner" and spoke on jigs that can be used when turning to make things. He conveyed a multitude of good ideas and tips which were thoroughly appreciated by attendees.

Malcolm Zander took as his subject "Form and design". Malcolm is an expat Kiwi resident in Ontario, Canada for the past 30 some years who took up turning after his retirement in 2000. Malcolm emphasised "seeing" examples of form and design in everyday life whether it be from nature, magazines, architecture or wherever and giving what Ian described as "one of the best talks on design I have ever heard". A survey of the audience demonstrated how appreciation of form is fundamental to human nature and surprisingly consistent. Mike Clausen observed that humanity seems to be hardwired to appreciate the sensual nature of form both from a visual as well as tactile perspective.

Both the instant gallery and the silent auction featured over 100 items each indicating the continuing popularity of these features of the Open Day. The instant gallery prize of a \$100 Turning Tools voucher was won by **Ross Johnson**.

In the aftermath of the Christchurch Earthquake, it has been decided that all open day proceeds from the raffle, silent auction (normally going to SAWG funds) as well as a hat passed around during the day, are going to the Earthquake appeal and will be donated through the Red Cross. Malcolm Zander also donated his appearance fees, both from the preceding Wednesday SAWG meeting and the Open Day, to the Appeal bringing the total financial contribution to date to over \$2300 – a very commendable effort. Additionally, I understand Malcolm also donated his fee for demonstrating at the Franklin Guild weekday meeting. To donate, you can either give your donation to SAWG Treasurer Dave Jones or direct to the Red Cross at www.redcross.org.nz/donate. Details remain sketchy, however it is understood that a Christchurch Woodturners Association member has lost his life in the 'quake as the impacts of this devastating event unfold and touch us all. Our thoughts, as are turners from all over the world, are very much with the Association, as they are with all who are most directly affected.

At times like this, we can more fully appreciate and value the calibre of the kiwi spirit – resourceful, resilient, strong, adaptable, generous and well led.

Kia Kaha! (be strong)



Pauline and Ian Fish



Fred Irvine



Malcolm Zander

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Club Meetings:

Wed nights - 7.00 pm
(Doors open - 5.00 pm)

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Credits and kudos this month:

Mac Duane
Ian and Pauline Fish
Ross Johnson (Photos- Mr Reliable)
Gordon Pembroke
Terry Scott
Dick Veitch
Pepi Waite
Bruce Wiseman
Malcolm Zander (web images)

Mistakes, Misspellings etc

All Mine!



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



Coming Up...

All the activities listed here are in our clubrooms in the Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe (see www.sawg.org.nz for directions). On our regular Wednesday evening meetings, the official meeting starts at 7.00pm and is followed by a "Show-&-Tell" session where members display and discuss their work.

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

We have a Table Prize for each term. This is members work on display - lessons learned (half-finished, flawed, or failed) to the best you can do that has been brought to the "Show-&-Tell" table during the term.

SAWG Term 1 2011

2 March	Spindle Turning- Legs for stools, Wig Stands with Phread Thurston
9 March	Wednesday Working Bee (3pm)
9 March	Hands-On Spindle Turning
16 March	Pens with Bruce Wood and Michele Pointon
23 March	Habitat for Humanity
30 March	Platter Embellishment with John Whitmore
6 April	Natural Edge Bowl with Bruce Wood
9 April	Saturday Working Bee
13 April	Last night of term, judging of term project, Kaleidoscopes with Lee Riding
16 April	A Day with Rolly Munro

Coming Events

7 Feb- 8 May	"Cutting Edge- The Art of Turned Wood" Exhibition at Pataka Museum of Arts and Culture (Wellington)
5 March	Six Span Turn 'a' Round (South Otago Woodcraft)
11-13 March	Lake Taupo Woodturning Jamboree (Taupo)
26 March	Scrollsaw Workshop (Tauranga)
1-3 April	Waiora Turn Inn (Otago)
2-3 April	Guild of Woodworkers Symposium (Wellington)
21-25 April	Royal Easter Show (Auckland)
9 July	NAW AGM (Franklin)
23-25 Sept	SAWG Participation 2011

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

Macs Maxim of the Month

**"At this time, enjoy the gift
and privilege of life"**
-Mac Duane



Shavings

Seems this has created a stir from a number of readers with enquiries ranging from "How can I make it?" to "Can you tell me more about the most dangerous jig of the year" (from the 2010 Christmas awards).

For those wanting to refresh their memories, Warwick's article in the November 2010 issue of *Turning Talk* is available at www.sawg.org.nz/News%20Letters/sawg%20news%201011.pdf)



Gordon Pembridge has successfully sold his pierced bowl entitled “Sandy Bay Pohutukawa” for an undisclosed price (but rumour has it that he has bought a new boat– are these two facts related!) Congratulations Gordon.



Following the success of last years Participation, enquiries have been coming in ever since from turners both nationally and internationally seeking to book for the next one.

The successful "live-in" format will again be a feature as well as the regular raffles, instant gallery and competitions. The theme for the weekend is "Something for the kitchen".



Final reminder to get your entries in for this years Easter Show- **entry close off is 18 March.**

The show runs from 21–25 April 2011



This month's mystery tool once again comes from Trademe: (And while it bears a passing resemblance to a bean cutter, evidently it is not)



Perhaps no longer much call for needle cutters any more?

From “Stu’s Shed” comes this video of a visit he did to a wagon wheel manufacturing facility in Ballarat, NSW. Using belt driven machinery (with some innovative mechanical automation), this is how wagon wheels continue to be turned. While there, have a look around the site– some good vids on a wet day. The mortising machine would be perfect for 3 legged stools!

Go to <http://stusshed.wordpress.com/2011/02/08/episode-79-wagon-wheel-manufacture/>

A red and black djembe drum, a traditional West African percussion instrument. It has a wooden body with a black finish and a red drumhead. The drum is shown from a side-on perspective, highlighting its hourglass shape and the texture of the drumhead.

From Richard Raffan comes a link to a YouTube video he found commenting "you don't need a fancy lathe or tools". The video shows behind the scenes footage of what is claimed to be "one of the biggest drum factories in the world".

Page 3

(Continued from page 3)

Located in Bali, they manufacture Djembe drums using some pretty rudimentary equipment but extraordinary turning and embellishment skills.

Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=dF9F1rNMOy8&NR=1 (Ian Fish will probably not appreciate my sharing this link but will appreciate the craftsmanship)!

Cutting Edge Woodturning Exhibition

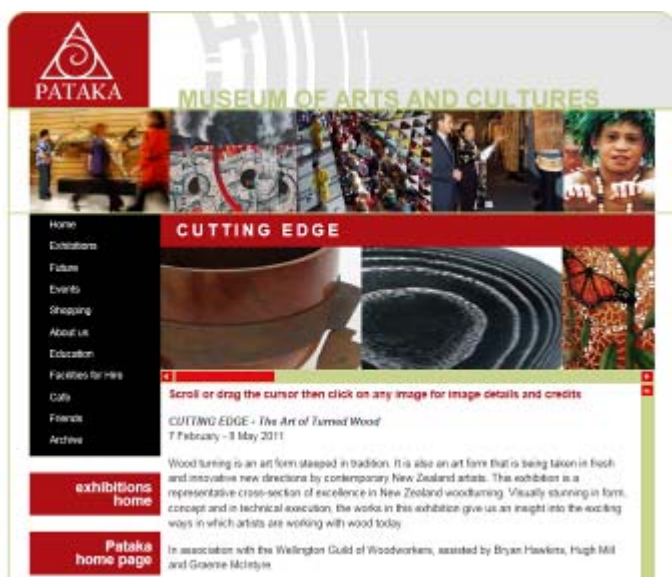
If you plan on a trip to Wellington between now and 8 May, be sure to go to the Pataka Museum of Arts and Culture in Porirua, Wellington who are holding the "Cutting Edge- The Art of Turned Wood" exhibition.

In association with the Wellington Guild, this exhibition features works from well known NZ turners (including our own **Gordon Pembridge, Terry Scott** and **Dick Veitch**) and is intended to be a representative cross-section of excellence in woodturning as an art form and the "fresh and innovative new directions" woodturning artists are taking wood today.

Details available at www.pataka.org.nz/image/tid/11 while better photos (at least of some of the pieces) can be seen at www.naw.org.nz/gallery/Porirua_2011/cutting_edge/index.html

Terry Scott says of his selection to participate in the exhibition:

"I feel very honoured to have had one of my works accepted for this juried exhibition being placed alongside so many top New Zealand wood artists. I am still pinching myself...I am sure that Gordon and Dick are doing the same".



Other examples of work from the "Cutting Edge" exhibition:



Graeme McIntyre Detail



Robbie Graham



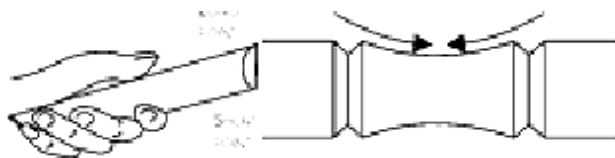
John Mackinven

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO WOODTURNING

Original artwork and text by George Flavell

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.

Just \$20.00, sent to the Guild Secretary.



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.





At YMCA Camp Adair 23-25 September

PARTICIPATION 2011

It's on again 23 to 25 September, 2011

Woodturning for Everyone

Sharing, Watching, Learning, Teaching, Enjoying

When: Fri 23rd Sept from 8:00am til late, Sat 24th 7:30am til late and Sun 25th 7:30am to 3:00pm

Where: At YMCA Camp Adair, Hunua (Limited to the first 90 paying participants)

The theme for the weekend is "Something for the Kitchen".

There will be prizes for the most useful item and the best one made collaboratively.

Each Participant will be given a piece of timber to make a bowl for Kidz First at Christmas

Bring a lathe and stay for the whole weekend

Don't have a lathe? You can book a club lathe free of charge. Conditions apply.

Everyone bring some wood – or purchase on site from the shop and sponsors.

Bottomless tea and coffee (cake if someone gives it). Friday lunch BYO.

All other meals are part of the deal.



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Woodcut Tools. Makers of chisels, bowl savers, hollowing tools, sharpening jigs, and more.

Treeworkx treeworkx@xtra.co.nz Off n ons, Astra dot Sandpaper and a lot more.

Check out their website www.treeworkx.co.nz/treeworkx_online_catalogue_print.htm

Ross & Heather Vivian, P.O. Box 7, Stratford, Taranaki. Ph. 06 765 5219. E: h.vivian@xtra.co.nz

Ross will be bringing a truckload of wood or you can also order your preferred selection.

Carba-Tec, 110 Harris Road, East Tamaki. Ph 09 274 9454. www.carbatec.co.nz

Wattyl, 15 Jack Conway Ave, Manukau. Ph Jason 09 263 6848

Timberly, Burnmaster Woodburner, Astra dot, some tools. timberly@xtra.co.nz Ph 09 297 7051

Steel Tools Ltd, marketing King Arthur's Tools www.katools.com Ph 06 751 0114

Motor Technologies, Variable speed units for your lathe. Brent. Ph 0508 315 063 09 917 4570

Jim Downs Timber, Ancient Kauri cut to order 15 Coulston Rd, RD 2, Pukekohe. Ph. 09 238 6197

Complete and return this part of the page with your payment

"Participation Registration, Terry Scott, 320 Hunua Road, Papakura"

Please make cheques payable to South Auckland Woodturners Guild. Ph 021 998 493 / 09 297 7051

This form, with full payment, must reach Terry Scott before 8 September.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment: Full or part weekend just \$140.00. All meals. Details with your receipt.

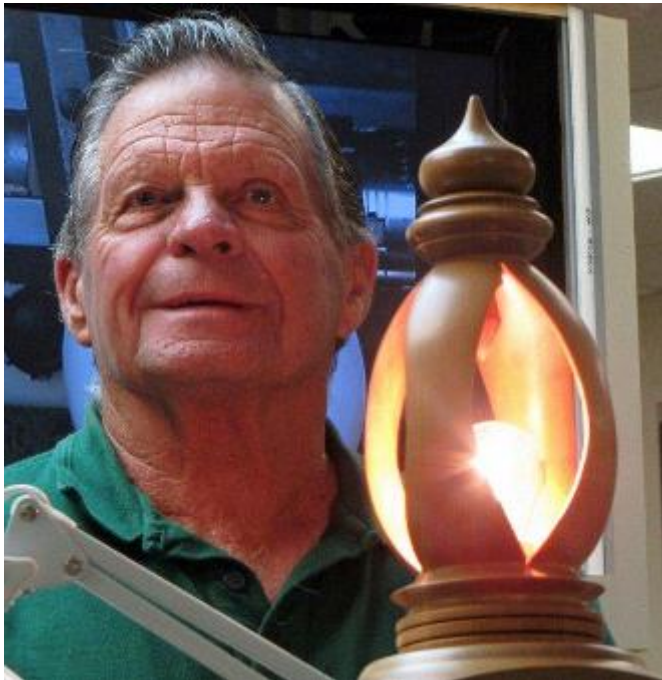
One day only (meals but no accommodation) \$70.00. Fri _____ Sat _____ Sun _____

Total \$\$ Paid _____ by: Cheque Visa/Mastercard (add 5% please) Cash

Or pay by Direct Credit to South Auckland Woodturners Guild - Account No 11 5373 0561428 02
please put your name in the "particulars to be shown on the statement" section.

I will be bringing my own lathe _____ I would like to book a club lathe please _____

Show and Tell



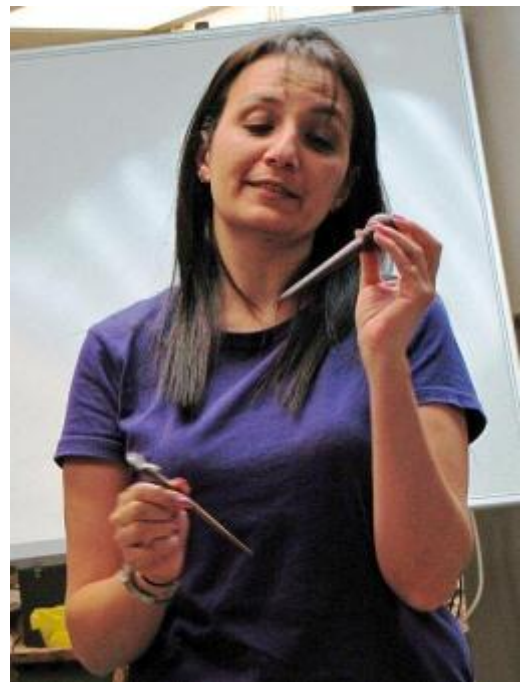
Colin Wise is "delighted" with his candle light



Scalloped edge platter by Jim Newland



Cam Cosford proudly discusses the evolution of his masterfully executed segmented vase (and right)



New member Sharon Share enthusiastically shows off her turned hairpin

Wednesday 2 February

First Club Night of the New Year Term Project– A 3 Legged Stool Presented by Dick Veitch

While I showed a three-legged stool made with every surface turned on a lathe, there are many other shapes that may be made by many other methods to meet many other maker designs or whimsies.



The stool top may be square, triangular, rectangular, ovoid, round, or irregular. It may be turned, hollowed, flat, carved, curved, or natural. The legs may be matching, smooth, patterned, irregular, carved, straight, curved, or natural. They may be attached to the top with a blind mortice, wedges, or glue and hope, with their spread held by stretchers as bars, Y shapes, a little platter, T bar, or the legs may hang free.

Almost all stool patterns suggest that the legs be set at an angle of 10° from the vertical – after that there are no rules but I do have a few suggestions.

If you are turning legs on your lathe then do make them exactly the same size and shape – or each a very different size and shape.

Whatever setup you use to drill the leg holes in the top or the spreader holes in the legs, set it up once for each process and drill all the holes. This means that you must turn all legs to the same point in the process before drilling – it is far easier to return each leg to the lathe than it is to return the drill to the same angle.

Now, I wonder what variety will be there for judging on the last night of term – 13 April.

Footnote: Count or Calculate?

When David Dernie was demonstrating the drilling of holes for the three legged stool the question was asked: "Can I calculate the length needed for the stretcher instead of trying to measure the gap first?" The answer to that question is now known but the person who posed the question is unable to use the answer (no prizes for guessing who

this might be!- Ed).

Indeed, when the question went around the World Wide Web there were many answers from people who said – don't bother, just measure the gap, and a few with some mathematical suggestions.

The answer which you can read, and follow if you desire, is on page three of the three legged stool project sheet on our SAWG.org.nz website.

Report from: Dick Veitch

Editors Note:

As usual, Dick has prepared a comprehensive project sheet. This is available at

www.sawg.org.nz/Projects/three-legged%20stool.pdf

Wednesday 9 February

Resin Inlays with Pepi Waite

Despite being a student woodturner and claiming some nervousness at presenting to more experienced turners at the outset, Pepi made a very capable presentation of the technique of inlaying resin into turned bowls and well demonstrated her competence and knowledge of the method. Her passion for this technique came through as she spoke at length and in detail of the requirements for success in managing epoxy resin inlays.



It was apparent that she had gone to great efforts to make a good presentation having come with explanatory sheets (available at the North Shore Woodturning Guild site www.wood.org.nz/content/pdf/Pepi%20Waite%20Epoxy%20Resin%20Inlay%20for%20Bowls.pdf) as well as examples and prepared blanks at various stages of production.

Pepi acknowledged the benefit and learning she had enjoyed in the Aoraki program as well as the tutelage she had received from amongst others Dick Veitch and John Whitmore.

Perhaps the key message from Pepi was that for resin inlays to be successful, wood must be dry. She stressed this a number of times.

While I feel that the techniques are intriguing and complicated (and no doubt rewarding), it is not my thing at this stage as I advance my own learning. I appreciate the amount of work that goes into resin work but the cost of materials as well as the time and effort required mean that I would find it difficult to recover these.



(Continued from page 7)

An excellent demonstration, well prepared and very enjoyable – thanks Pepi!

Report: Bruce Wiseman

Wednesday 16 February

Three Legged Plant Stand With Bob Yandell

This report is not instructions on how to make a three legged table but rather a summary of Bob's talk. If you want more details then a check on our web site, or the magazines in the library is the way to go.

Making a table should not be a costly exercise. The requirements may look daunting if you visit a hardware store, however this need not be the case. "Road kill" as we often call it, in the form of abandoned/damaged drawers have sufficient timber in them to make tables as will be described. You will often see that they were children's drawers as they are painted or have stickers all over them but the timber is often mahogany or rimu.

The process is divided into four parts, top, support, column and legs. Bob advised that the legs are the most important part. It really is making three legs the same that is the trick. So plan before you start, make a story stick or a stick with all the measurements on it. You can do whatever you like as far as a design goes but when push comes to shove, stay with traditional looks and you won't be far off the track. Another tip from Bob was to tape the spigots if you were oil finishing the legs so no oil got onto them thus ensuring a good glue bond when they were assembled.

Then the central column was designed and made. Again a stick of timber with the design on it is a great help. The location and construction of the mortises, spigots etc is to your own individual design. The tip here was the construction of a hexagon. Draw a circle with a compass, then without altering the radius, mark off the six points around the circumference of the circle.

The top was not a problem but did require some prior thinking. Determine the top from the bottom or as Bob said which was up and which was down. Use a face plate with screws that will get hidden by the support ring (immediately below the top). This faceplate exercise is open to your imagination and there are many variations on the theme. After the top was the support ring and then it all can be assembled.

This assembly process did generate some discussion. It looks like there are many ways to skin the cat here so again it's suggested that the web site or the articles that appear in woodworking magazines, which the club have in our library, are the best place to get information.



Many thanks for the talk Bob. It generated a lot of discussion and that can only mean that you had everybody's attention.

Report: Phread Thurston

Wednesday 23 February

Malcolm Zander

I was "lucky" enough to be asked by Dick to write a few words on Malcolm Zander: this took me straight back to my school days when you are safely sitting in the crowd at assembly and the headmaster picks you out of the crowd and volunteers you for some unbelievable challenge far beyond your comprehension and ability !!! . Anyway now that I have checked my rubber arms and my wife assures me they are not broken enough to get out of writing this little bit on Malcolm Zander, here goes.

All jokes aside we were very lucky to have Malcolm here to share his knowledge with us with some very informative and interesting demonstrations.

Malcolm draws inspiration from nature "the greatest artist of all is nature" he says. This is an excellent way to start off with a great design, look closely for repeated patterns in nature, e.g. honey comb, fern leaves and the shape of a nautilus shell. Other inspiration can be had by looking in museums for ancient ethnic pottery shapes or go to galleries to view modern flowing shapes such as glass work and ceramics or pottery. A lot of work that we might think of an original shape has already been done thousands of years ago. Some of the pierced motifs Malcolm produces are inspired from his chemistry e.g. the hexagonal shapes from steroid molecules.

I found some of his reasons for turning the wood thin interesting, one in particular was the wood is turned thin so that the pierced motif was not lost when viewed from an angle, this is particularly important on a form that is round. Reading from Malcolm's notes he says he has a lace fetish and blames Binh Pho for this. Of course this would be another reason for thin turning. Importantly, thin turning is

"the greatest artist of all is nature"

Malcolm Zander



(Continued on page 9)

not for showing off the technical skills, but to show perhaps delicacy lightness, beauty and to help the visual communication of the subject matter.

Malcolm uses dry wood (timber such as Black Walnut, Pink Ivory and Ebony) for his thin turning so that it moves less; you can sand it on the lathe too. Some of us use the thin wet turned method which depending upon the type of wood can move very much indeed, this could be explored as an advantage depending upon what you want to achieve.

The tools, Yes! more tools for all those "toolaholics" out there. Firstly a dental hand piece, ouch! ... It's ok, this is wood carving not your teeth, even if it does sound a little similar to a bad experience you might have had (next time at the dentist think of woodturning). The dental hand piece is used as a precise cutting/carving tool, the advantage being that the cutting bit is at right angles to the tool so that you can rest the tool on your finger (not the cutting bit) to get nice precise and steady cuts. The disadvantage is that this tool does not have much torque (another reason for turning the wood thin). A different tool for this type of work is the NSK Presto hand piece. Once again from the dental industry this tool has more torque but can tend to burn the timber as the cutting bit is turning very fast, between 350,000 to 400,000rpm. Malcolm spends a lot of time cleaning the cuts up with diamond files and sandpaper. In my experience too there are no easy and reliable shortcuts to this. To sand his pieces Malcolm uses from 120 grit to 2000 grit sandpaper.

Malcolm has moved to some new and exciting work by deconstructing his turned pieces, in particular a bird which was truly amazing.

I also attended the demonstration on Form and Design. I leave you with some points to ponder and quotes to think about from Malcolm's demonstration.

Aspects of Form

- Texture
- Positive and negative space
- Static and dynamic forms
- Balance and proportion
- Decoration and finish
- Form and function
- Symmetry and asymmetry
- Ellipses (some of you will know about these from Aoraki design course)



Malcolm Zander negatively pressurizes the working area around his lathe in a plastic tent finding this is the best way to manage dust

Some quotes that I liked

"We learn form not from the eye but from our sense of touch"

John Sloan

"Arcs are more boring and less beautiful than varying curvature curves"

Mike Darlow

"After colours have faded and grain patterns have become obscure, only the form of a bowl will ensure its survival as a desirable object"

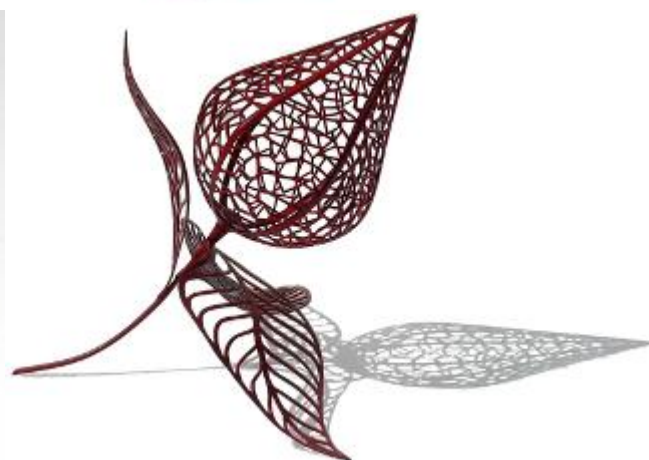
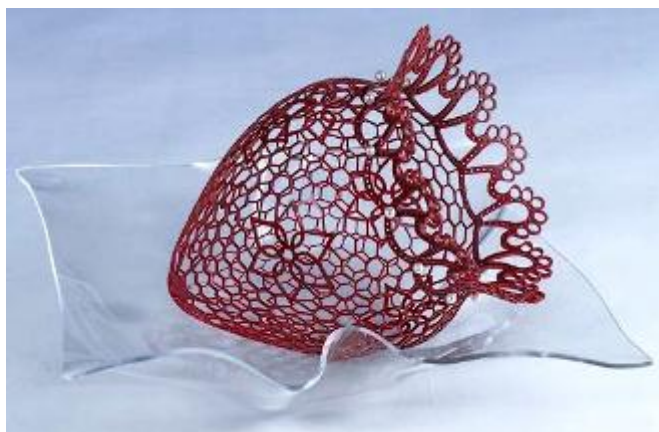
Richard Raffan

Happy woodturning

Report: Gordon Pembridge

Malcolm Zander dot Com

As members will appreciate, it is not possible to do the beauty and artistry, nor the calibre of Malcolms work, justice in a 2 dimensional printed page however I would encourage you to go to www.malcolmzander.com to gather a more full appreciation of his work. In the meantime, a selection of some of his works are reproduced here to whet your appetite:



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