

# TURNING TALK

## Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

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Number 122 : April 2004

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### Coming Events

- Royal Easter Show, 7 to 12 April 2004
- Harihari Learn to Turn Jamboree, 4 to 6 June 2004
- Franklin Arts Festival, 13 to 20 June 2004
- Treeworkx Open Day, 10 July 2004
- Participation 2004, 7 and 8 August 2004
- National Woodskills Festival 2004, Kawerau, 10 to 12 September 2004
- National Woodturning Exhibition, Putaruru, 16 to 20 October 2004
- Spinaround Waitaki, 29 to 31 October 2004
- Christmas Sale, Papakura, 13 to 24 December 2004
- Timber and Working With Wood Show, Auckland, 8 to 10 April 2005



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Or dveitch@kiwilink.co.nz or fax 298-5775

**Our Website is** [www.sawg.org.nz](http://www.sawg.org.nz)

### “To The Point”

A lidded box of ebony and deer antler

by Terry Scott

**Royal Easter Show 2004**

**Best of Show**

First, Category 8, Lidded Boxes

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## Programme for the Second Term 2004

We meet at our clubrooms, upper level of the Allan Brewster Recreation Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe, at 7:00 pm. For those who wish to make use of the machinery, do some shopping, or get a little extra advice, the doors open at 5:00 pm.

This term sees the continuation of a Table Prize for each term – so keep your good work and lessons learned flowing to the show-and-tell table each meeting night.

Sat 16 April **Working bee.** 08:00 to 12:00

Sun 17 April **Open day** for the public to see our new rooms and to meet members at work.

Wed 28 April **A pair of goblets** is the project for this term. Demonstrated by Dick Veitch. There will be a hands-on goblet evening mid-term when any help you need will be available. The goblets made during this hands-on evening may be put forward for a prize from Motor Technologies at the end of this term.

Sat 1 May **Upskills Day.** For any member to improve their turning skills. Tutors on hand at the clubrooms 0800 to 1400 to answer your questions and help with your problems. Use the club lathes and tools, or bring your own tools. Booking in with Terry Scott is preferred please.

Wed 5 May **Equipment Maintenance** on the club equipment and all the tools you bring along. This will be a demonstration on maintenance of lathes and bandsaws and your opportunity to discuss maintenance of your equipment.

Sat 8 May **Working bee.** 08:00 to 12:00

Wed 12 May **Back to Basics** mounting the wood and making a bowl demonstrated by Rex Haslip.

Wed 19 May **Annual General Meeting.** Supper to follow (if you bring a plate).

Sat 22 May **Sorby Tools / Teknatool** presentation of products. Clive Brooks from Sorby UK will show us their range of products. Teknatool reps will also be there and all Auckland woodturners are invited to attend.

Wed 26 May **Hands-on goblet making.** There will be experts available to advise you on your work. The goblets made during this evening may be put forward for the prize from Motor Technologies at the end of this term.

Wed 2 June **Guitar Making** by Andy Rust. This does include only a little woodturning but the whole operation is worth seeing.

Sat 5 June **Upskills Day.** For any member to improve their turning skills. Tutors on hand at the clubrooms 0800 to 1400 to answer your questions and help with your problems. Use the club lathes and tools, or bring your own tools. Booking in with Terry Scott is preferred please.

Wed 9 June **Multi-demo and Sharing.** An evening with all lathes in operation doing different things for you to see and try for yourself.

Sat 12 June **Working bee.** 08:00 to 12:00

Wed 16 June **An Oval Chuck** will be shown to us by Neil Aston of West Franklin. This is a chuck that you can make for yourself

Wed 23 June **Our Website** brought to the clubrooms by our webmaster, Rex Haslip.

Wed 30 June **Sharpening evening.** Any tool that cuts. Led by Jim Downs with chainsaws and other saws. Bring your own blunt tools to get the sharpened.

This is also the show and tell night for the pairs of goblets that you have made. They will be judged by Brent Wray of Motor Technologies and the prize awarded. The goblets put forward for this prize will become the property of Motor Technologies Ltd.

Term three for 2004 starts 21 July.

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## Club Night 3 March 2004. Hands-on Embellishing

It was all go with almost 101 embellishing methods in use.

Dremels, paint, sand, brushing, burning and scratching.

With all those club lathes available there was room for all who wanted the space. It is also wonderful to feel free to make as much mess as we like and not have to worry too much about the time it will take to clean up at the end of the day.

I look forward to seeing the results of this evening and to have more evenings like this.

### IAN R. F. FISH

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## Club Night 10 March 2004. Organoil

Ernie Williams from Organoil in Australia gave us a fine demonstration of the use of their products for fine finishes on woodturning. His associates Andrew Vickery and Richard Lawton were there too (testing or learning?).

Organoil is Tung Nut Oil based. It is impervious to water.

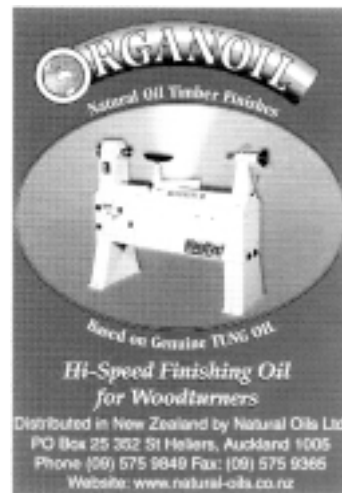
There is Woodguard to go on wet wood and Woodwipe to rejuvenate old surfaces.

Organoil Danish is close to the original Danish Oil with a high percentage of Tung Nut Oil. He recommended the same wipe-on wipe-off and leave 24 hour process that many of us follow for other Danish oils.

There is also Woodsheen which will not darken the wood but does require many coats to get the desired finish.

Ernie demonstrated the use of Hi-Speed Finishing Oil for Woodturners. As the name implies, this has been formulated for on-lathe use. He stressed that woodturners do need to follow the instructions which are on every tin of this oil. Do not use any sanding sealer before using this product and then never apply more than the prescribed two coats of the product.

He certainly made a nice job of the outside of the bowls we had prepared for him.



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## Club Night 17 March 2004. Wood Gathering

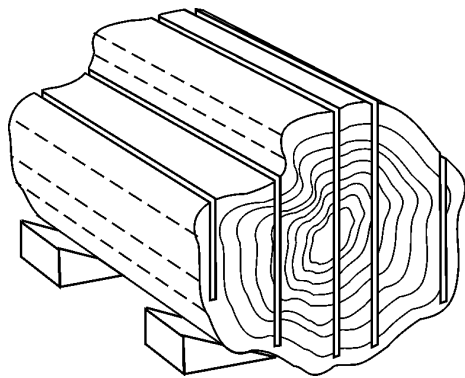
Ian Fish shared with us his experience of wood collecting that has allowed him to maintain a good wood supply for producing many hundreds of bowls and platters each year. Obviously he buys some wood but this is about the other wood that comes his way.

A common call is "I have felled this wonderful big tree in my garden and you may like it for woodturning". This may be accompanied by a statement on the huge size of the tree – to be treated with caution; the ease of access to the log – to be carefully checked; a request for payment; and the need to remove the log very soon. A lot of good wood comes from such sources but there are also many false calls – so check them all out.

Ian is a boat owner so has had the ability, and obvious pleasure, of finding and towing home large chunks of wood from remote beaches.

His obvious preference is to get a whole log and mill it. If he can then further process the wood he will do so but if not, he will re-assemble the log (no fillets), wrap it in a tarp or plastic and stow it in a cool shady place.

As soon as possible after milling he will wet turn to the bowl and platter shapes he likes with a bowl wall thickness about 10% of the diameter of the piece. In this process he includes a foot or dovetail inside the bowl for later re-mounting. Later mounting of the roughed out wood in this manner allows the outside of the piece to be cut and finished in the same manner as one would turn a bowl or platter from dry wood.



For most woodturners collecting blocks is the more common scenario and Ian had some good advice on that.

Use well maintained equipment and go to the site with spare chains, wedges, levers, and appropriate clothing.

Cut lengths from the log that are a little longer than the diameter of the log. Place the wood in a secure position and make the first lengthwise cut through the pith. If there is already a crack in the pith area, your first cut should be along that line. Don't go right through at this stage so that the log will stay together in its secure position. Make further cuts to either side of the centre to platter or bowl sizes depending on the shape and size of the log. Finally, finish each cut and the log falls apart.

Mobilcer the ends of these blocks and fillet stack them in a place away from wind and heat.

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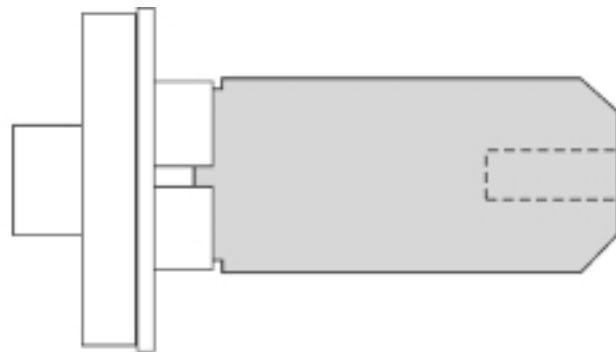
## Club Night 24 March 2004. Bottle Stoppers

Terry Scott brought the simplicity (and problems) of bottle stopper making to the Guild.

As a nicely centred hole is needed for the dowel, this task is really best done using a scroll chuck. Yes, I am sure you can make a bottle stopper without a scroll chuck but from time-to-time one with a drunken lean will be built.

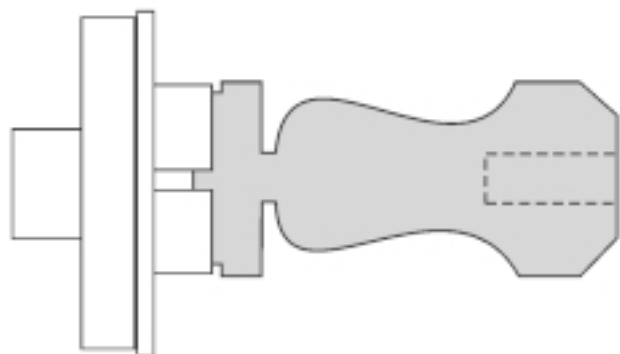
If you prefer to turn the top end instead of decorating it then the wood may be re-mounted after parting off with a Teknatool woodworm screw into the dowel hole; or by gluing in the dowel and then holding that in a 25mm scroll chuck (a 25mm Nova chuck closes to 8.5mm. Nova pin jaws close to 11mm so a cardboard packer may be needed); or by using a 10mm pinchuck.

There are as many variations in the shape and size of bottle stoppers as your mind can dream up. Care does need to be taken to ensure that they are not too tall for fridge use, if that is intended.



Mount a 85mm x 40mm x 40mm block by the corners in a 50mm chuck.

Drill a 10mm hole 20mm into the end.



Work on towards the headstock creating the shape of your choice. When the headstock end is narrowed ready for final parting off, sand and finish the work.

Part it off and decorate the parting area with some dremel work.

Glue a 55mm long piece of 10mm dowel into the 10mm hole. Then glue a cork onto the dowel.

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## Club Night 31 March 2004. A Cooking Class

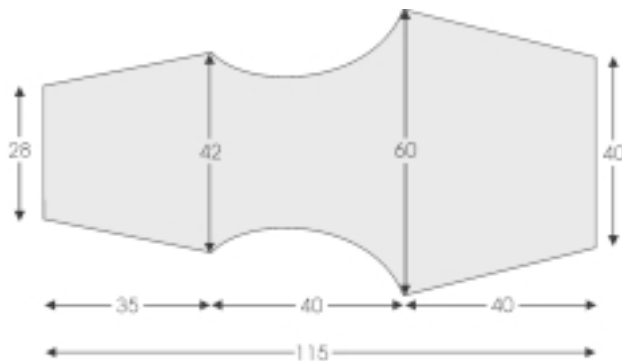
Mac Gray introduced us to that thing that keeps the fingers out of the pastry when fitting it to those little tin pie dishes that fill our kitchen cupboards for regular or occasional use. This device is also known as a tartle.

His model was double-ended to fit two pie tin sizes. Others can be made for larger or smaller tins.

The making starts by rounding off a length at least 130 mm long and 70 mm square. The wood may then remain between centres or be re-mounted in a chuck. The latter is better as the between centre mount will finish the job with a tailstock hole in the end of the wood.

To get his diameters correct Mac measured and marked the rounded wood at the points where the width needed to be correct.

He then turned each section down to meet the required diameters and finally parted off.



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Oooooops! Did you here about the fellow turner who had purchased a nice new Nova 3000? He called the supplier, "Hey, the pulley is half inch and the motor shaft 5/8". The supplier kindly suggested he take a screwdriver and gently move the plastic cover off the motor shaft.

## Royal Easter Show. Woodturning Winners

### Category 1 Small Bowls

First. John MacKinven. 381  
Second. Brian Petterson. 282  
Third. Brian Petterson. 283  
Merit. Dick Veitch. 653  
Merit. Jack Renwick. 111

### Category 2 Large Bowls

First. René Baxalle. 121  
Second. Bob Norris. 185  
Merit. Don Smart. 491

### Category 3 Plain Bowls

First. Colin Holt. 179  
Second. Colin Holt. 171  
Third. Mike Lewis. 103  
Merit. Brian Petterson. 281  
Merit. Dave Harmes. 473

### Category 4 Plates/Platters

First. Stephen Petterson. 551  
Second. John MacKinven. 383  
Merit. Terry Scott. 134

### Category 5 Hollow Forms/Vases

First. Ted Senner. 542  
Second. Terry Scott. 139  
Merit. René Baxalle. 127

### Category 6 Domestic Ware (ornaments)

Merit. Bruce Hannah. 222

### Category 7 Domestic Ware (utilitarian)

First. Bruce Hannah. 233  
Merit. Mike Lewis. 105

### Category 8 Lidded Boxes

First. Terry Scott. 132

### Category 10 Sculptural/Abstract

First. Terry Scott. 141  
Second. Mike Lewis. 107

### Category 11 Miscellaneous

First. Mike Lewis. 108

### Best First Time Entrant

Ted Senner. 542

### Best of Show

First. Terry Scott. 132  
Second. Stephen Petterson. 551  
Third equal. John MacKinven 383  
Third equal. John MacKinven 381

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## Timber and Working With Wood Show

We helped at the NAW stand along with others from Auckland clubs. We also helped the organisers of the T&WWW Show by managing their woodworking competition.

The NAW is very thankful for the display space provided by the T&WWW Show. The prime purpose of this is to advertise the NAW and secondarily to take the opportunity to advertise woodturning clubs – Auckland and nation-wide.

The competition area was for furniture, carving, and woodturning. The entries were great and Ellerslie Club took away the club prize as a result of the very nice chair and table entered by Tor Toft. Jim Downs gained a prize for his very nice table and John MacKinven took out two prizes for his woodturning. Best of the show went to Albie Hall with another magnificent platter.



The number of people who pause to look seems to be endless and some stop to talk. So, there were two people rostered to talk and two people rostered to turn for all the hours of the three days of the show. Every year we meet people who are unaware that woodturning as a hobby is so widespread and that there are clubs cater for their needs.

But we were not the only woodturners at the show. The total count was seven lathes in action with others awaiting a buyer. Two were there as public demonstrations of woodworking and woodturning. Others were part of product displays such as Teknatool, Carba-Tec with Rolly Munro on the hollower, and Ian Clark with the Symtec.

Between all this were the stands of tools, wood, polishes, and more. The greatest noise came from the cross-cut sawing competitions, particularly when the girls got going.



## Turangi Jamboree

Not all round wood – far from it with carving, chairs, clefting, a shaving horse, spoon jig, colouring, carving, a dog, and more.

Chris Hooton (President), Jim Noor (Organiser) and others from the Lake Taupo Woodworkers Guild are the makers of this wonderful weekend. And they do it well.

There are no special demonstrators – but look around the hall and it is full of special things. Tea and coffee is there all day. Lunch was free this year. The Saturday evening BBQ was as good as ever but the wind was off the mountains so we returned for a few more hours on the lathe.

My count was 30 lathes and 120 people paid to be there so there were always people watching, talking, asking questions.

My problem was that Rex Hall was just nearby and he is always up to something different. He started with a thing turned many different centres – I could not work it out from his drawings and cannot describe easily either. When that was done smaller bits of fruitwood went on and off the lathe and it was only after assembly started that it was clearly a dog in the making.

It was good to see Malcolm Pettman there with a lathe, Mark von Dadelszen with stains and paints, JR with his Colt, Tom Prince with a bungy pole lathe, Treeworkx with wood and sandpaper, Jim Lowe with half his shop, and Country Aire Crafts with their busload of goodies.



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## Woodcut Seminar

Demos you want, demos you will get. A walk around the hall revealed the full array of woodturning: Paul Beckett with his huge turnings – Mark Port on a Mercury – Fred Irvine with treadle lathes – Rex Hall with his inventions. Bluey Hall all the way from Southland, Soren Berger from Christchurch, Shane Hewett and Granville Haworth from up north. Ian Fish from North Shore (but really an SAWG member) and Trevor Gillbanks on the sharpening stones.

In the middle a huge Woodcut sales table. And room at the edges for The Woodturning Shop and Treeworkx. Outside the door, timber aplenty – provided you got in early and the Symtec display.

Some 40 people took the opportunity to arrive at Totara Springs on the Friday evening and stay the night. It is certainly a pleasant location. Soon after 9:00 there were 230 people so the number of demos was justified – if only to spread the customers out a little.

The NAW ran a Name the Woods competition using some of the bowls SAWG members saw in February along with a lot of new additions. There should have been a handicap put on SAWG members as Rex Haslip won the competition with Terry Scott third. Russel Snook of West Franklin was second.

The instant gallery was well attended with some very nice work. Everyone had a chance to vote and they put the work by Grant Parker at the top of the list with Ron Cathcart second and Chris Jensen of West Franklin third.

A pleasant day out.



## JR comes to SAWG

Jim Manly has been read by many through his writing in the various incarnations of the journal of the NAW, and he has been seen by many at the Turangi Jamboree and Woodcut Open Days. But for Saturday 3 April we had him all to ourselves, shared with a few members from other Auckland guilds.

Jim is a well practiced demonstrator who prepares and presents his work well. It was a pleasure to watch him at work and listen to his experience.

When he agreed to do a full day demonstration for us he offered a long list of potential subjects. From these the committee chose four that covered a variety of topics considered suitable to all levels of club membership.

He began the day with discussion and demonstration of tool sharpening – something we can all learn more about. I missed this but later saw his “skew gouge” which is like an Elsworth but with an even longer sharpen down each side. He used this chisel to good effect when cutting the foot and underside of bowls.

Skew Basics was the next subject and there are many of us would benefit from being able to turn all that he said into practice.

His bowl design session looked at three basic shapes which he called “tea”, “nut” and “ogee”. All had a similar foot to give a bit of lift, but after that there were significant differences. He discussed in some detail how to get an acceptable edge – square to attract the eye – and how to complete the undercut of the nut bowl with a single sweep of the gouge.

After lunch he went on in similar detail about platter design, stressing the need for an adequate rim but considering the underside to be of less importance.

The final session was about wood colouring and he modified the colours of some bowls by fuming, patinating wax, liming wax, boot polish, and ebonising. Having the right bit of wood to start with he created magical changes. The right bit of wood is obviously a key.

JR’s visit was supported by funding from the National Association of Woodturners. We thank them for their assistance with this very educational day.



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### Want Some Wood?

Native and exotic timbers suitable for woodturning can be purchased from many places. Here are the addresses of a few that are close to home:

Rosenfeld Kidson, 513 Mt Wellington Highway. Phone 573 0503. Mostly exotic woods in milled planks.

Carba-Tec, 104 Harris Road, East Tamaki. Phone 274 9454. Bowl blanks of Australian timbers.

Jim Downs, Coulston Road, R.D. 2, Pukekohe. Phone (09) 238 6197. Mostly native woods in slabs.

Russell Snook, Aka Aka, R.D. 2, Waiuku. Phone (09) 235 2855. A variety of native timbers.

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