TURNING TALK Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

Number 128 : October 2004

Programme for the Fourth Term 2004

We meet at our clubrooms in the Papatoetoe Stadium Community 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 Wednesday meeting night. We are also adding a prize for the term project to be judged and awarded on the last night of the term.

NEW ACTIVITIES all members welcome

Every Monday afternoon, starting at 12:30 and going to about 3:30, is an informal meeting for handson time and less-planned demonstrations.

The third Saturday of each month at 1:00 pm the Ornamental Turning Group meets.

- Wed 6 Oct **A simple bowl.** Demonstrated by Dave Harmes. This is our term project with all small bowls that you wish to donate going to the Children's Christmas Gift Pack.
- Sat 9 Oct Working bee. Do your bit to keep the clubrooms up to scratch.
- Wed 13 Oct **Terry Martin**, artistic woodturner from Aus, shows off his work.
- Sat 16 Oct South Auckland Woodturners Guild Ornamental Turning Group inaugural meeting. Starts at 1:00 pm

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Wed 20 Oct **Inside-out turning**. Anton Posthuma shows us this ingenious process.

- Wed 27 Oct **Slide show** and discussion on Kawerau and TURNZ entries and prize winners.
- Wed 3 Nov **Hands-on night** for the project for this term simple bowls. Bring your wood and share your expertise or seek advice for improvement.
- Sat 6 Nov Upskills day. Everyone has a skill that needs improvement.
- Wed 10 Nov **Utah Symposium**. Selected pictures from the 950 pieces of the work on show from all over the world.
- Sat 13 Nov Working bee. Do your bit to keep the clubrooms up to scratch.
- Wed 17 Nov Achieving a saleable standard. Mike Lewis give his ideas on what is needed. Special techniques. Display. What to make for the Christmas sale. Bring your work for pricing.
- Sat 20 Nov South Auckland Woodturners Guild Ornamental Turning Group meeting. Starts at 1:00 pm
- Wed 24 Nov **Thin spindle turning**. Terry Scott shows how.
- Wed 1 Dec Last night of term. Bring a plate for supper. Hands-on making more bowls.

This is also the show and tell night for the simple bowls that you have made. With a prize-winner picked. And then we pack them all up for giving away to the children.

Term one for 2005 starts 2 February.

SPEEDY MONGRAMS

Shop 94, Manukau City Centre Embroidery, Screen Printing Computer Cut Vinyl Lettering Teams or One-offs

24 Hour Service

Shop Phone (09) 263-7492 or contact Len Bacon at SAWG Phone 0274-996-331

Club Night 8 September 2004. Wet Turning and drying

demonstrated by Dick Veitch

Roughing out green timber for drying

In green wood the cells are filled with bound water which will normally take one year for each 25mm of wood thickness to dry. For quicker drying, turn the blank to the required form but with a wall thickness that is 10% of the diameter of the work. Be aware that sap from green wood can be an irritant on your skin or damage your eyes.

Cutting

Shape the foot with a dovetail or spigot, shape the underside, rim, and hollow out the inside just as you would for a normal bowl but leave it thicker -10% of the diameter of the work. Cut gently to reduce torn end grain as parts of your cuts at this stage may be close to the surface of the finished work. Don't cut the dovetail or spigot too close to the minimum spigot size or maximum dovetail size as shrinkage may result in an unusable holding point. A centre portion may be left inside the bowl if you wish to re-mount the work on this side later, but keep this stem short and small for faster drying. Or remove the centre entirely and cut a dovetail for longnose jaw re-mounting. Re-mounting the bowl in a Cole jaw chuck, vacuum chuck, or turn to fit a wood chuck used with the tail stock, is only possible after the rim has been trued up. A small hole should always be left in the centre of the foot so that you can use the tailstock to help centre the work.



Maintain even wall thickness throughout to minimise distortion of the form. Thinner wall thickness in one section than another is likely to cause excessive distortion and cracking due to the unequal release of stress in the wood.

Detergent treatment

Soaking the roughed-out wood in detergent will reduce later checking as the wood dries. Use the clear type dish washing liquid detergent diluted one part of detergent to 6 parts water and soak the blank for four days. Then wax and store, or wrap and store, freeze-dry, or dehumidify, as detailed below.

Dry Store

The roughed out bowl is then completely sealed (with a wood sealer, not a plastic bag) and stacked in a cool, shaded,

ventilated area; or wrapped in newspaper; or put in a carton with its own shavings or shredded paper, and stacked away. Weigh the bowl from time to time and write down the date and weight. When the weight loss ceases, the wood is dry. Drying time is still about one year for each 25mm of thickness depending on the type of timber and freshness before roughing out began.

Dehumidifier

Fridges and rooms fitted with dehumidifiers will dry wood faster as they draw the moisture from the wood at a faster rate. This may also increase surface checking.

Freeze Dry

Another method is to place the roughed-our piece in a plastic bag in a deep-freeze for 48 hours. Then remove it from the freezer and from the plastic bag. Allow it to thaw for 24 in a cool and shady place. Weigh it and record the weight. Place the piece, without any wrapping, in a refrigerator. Weigh it every two to seven days and continue to record the weights. When the weight loss ceases, the wood is dry. This may take three to ten weeks and the wood may lose 20% to 50% of its starting weight.

Microwaving

Or the roughed out piece may be microwaved. Weigh it first. Set the microwave on defrost. For the first "cook" set the timer to half a minute for every 100 grams of wood. At the end of cooking the wood will be warm but should never be too hot to hold firmly in the palms of your hands. Now allow the wood to cool completely. For subsequent "cooks" set the timer to more or less depending on the warmth of the wood at the end of the initial cook. Timbers likely to crack will need to be kept at lower temperatures. Let the piece cool completely between cooks. As the water content of the wood diminishes the piece may again get too hot so reduce the cooking time. Weigh the piece at intervals and when it ceases to lose weight set it aside for a week to settle before completing the turning. In all 20 to 50 cooks in the microwave may be needed and the wood may lose 20% to 50% of its starting weight.

Boiling

The roughed out piece may be boiled to accelerate drying. Boil the rough-turned piece for ³/₄ to 1 hour. Take it out of the hot and plunge it into cold water to kill potential mould action. Put it aside to dry using one of the methods described above.

Returning to the Lathe

After drying most wood will have warped and distorted. The initial re-mount on the lathe will therefore be merely to re-cut the spigots, dovetails or faces you want for proper mounting and turning. The initial remount therefore needs to be carefully done and the turning may be slow. Once the mounting points are re-cut then the work can be properly mounted on the lathe and the work can be turned as a normal piece.

Club Night 15 September 2004. Craft Market Items

Terry Scott turns the little things that people like to buy.

A key to Terry's talk was to turn the items quickly so that they can be sold for a low price and that makes them doubly attractive for people to buy.

You can also quickly add to the purchase desire by ensuring that a turned item tells the buyer just what it can be used for - put a flower in a bud vase; put lollies in a bowl.

To prove that this is possible he quickly turned a bud vase from a bit of fence batten. A couple of burned-on lines will quickly add value to that.



Then he made a pot pourri. No need for fancy hollowing as it is to be filled with shaving or dried petals. A texturing tool quickly added to the looks of that.

Project for the Third Term

The project was a clock. Demonstrated by Mac Duane at the start of the term. Hands-on part way through the term. 20 clocks on the table for the last night of term. Mac called in John MacKinven (who, despite his skills and experience, has never turned a clock) to judge the outcome of this term project.

Congratulations to Terry Evans for his fine crescent clock.





Table Prize Term Three

The Table Prize is awarded on the last night of each term to the person who has had items on the table for the greatest number of nights in each term. We like to see your work – good, bad or indifferent, and encourage you to bring work for comment and helpful critique.

Congratulations to Bruce Hannah, winner this term.

And the tea light. A metal insert is highly desirable for all candles. Lines in the top with a skew tip quickly added to the looks.



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Welcome

We welcome new members Bruce Ballard, Tim Chan, Jim Coomber, Bill Harvey, Alan Jones, Ron Macfarlane, Bryan Peryer, and Eric Williams.

Total Guild membership is now 140.



TURNZ Entries

At least nine members of SAWG are submitting entries to the TURNZ National Woodturning Exhibition 2004 at Putaruru. This will be a good showing for the Guild and we look forward to seeing who gets the prizes. The judge of this exhibition, Terry Martin from Australia, will be showing us his work on Wednesday 13 October. It will be interesting to see his work and then to see what pieces of our work he judges the best.

The official opening, and the first chance to see the winners, is at 7:00pm on 16 October. The exhibition is then open to the public until 25 October.

Training Plans

The Guild Committee has approved a proposal to hold six two day woodturner training sessions next year – two for novices, two intermediate and two for experienced turners.

These will be open to all comers on a first-in first-served basis. Just as soon as the plans for each course are confirmed SAWG members will get their opportunity to book in.

If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?



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South Auckland Woodturners Ornamental Turning Group

from Rex Haslip

Over the last 7 years or so, several NAW members from the Auckland area have been fortunate enough to gain a place in the annual NAW sponsored Ornamental Turning Scholarship held in conjunction with the Ashburton Woodturners Guild, at the Lynn Historic Trust in Ashburton. In addition, several members of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild, have expressed an interest in the techniques involved when pieces featuring Ornamental Work have been displayed on the weekly show and tell table.

With the South Auckland Woodturners Guild now procuring their own permanent facilities, the time is right to look at starting an Ornamental Turning Group in the Auckland area, based at our Club Rooms in Papatoetoe. This group will be run under the sanction of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

It is proposed that an initial meeting will be held at the club rooms on Saturday 16 October 2004 at 1.00 pm. These are located in the Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe, and all members of Woodturning Clubs and Guilds are welcome. A small raffle will be held each meeting to cover the costs of club room facilities.

At this initial meeting, we envisage gauging the level of interest going forward as well as defining the format that you as participants want the shape of the group to take. What do you want out of this group, what frequency do you want to meet, what do you want to happen at meetings? The group is for ornamental turners, and needs to provide what you are looking for to get off the ground and become a reality.

On the equipment front, three members of the SAWG have purchased a Rose Engine which is resident at the guild. While it is appreciated that not everyone can afford or will have access to this type of equipment, it is envisaged that not only will the group be able to utilise this rose engine, but work toward making attachments, jigs, and accessories for your existing wood lathes that will allow you to perform a wide range of ornamental turning operations at home with minimal cost.

Please one and all, let other ornamental turners know this is on, and if you are coming and you have any examples of your's or other's ornamental work, please bring these along for a display table.

Upskills Cheaper

All members welcome.

Upskills days on the first Saturday of each month are planned to have any club member present who wishes to improve some woodturning skill. The plan also extends to having tutors there to help. To make these plans work there is a list on the noticeboard for people to put their names down and thus ensure that no more than 11 improvers (the number of lathes we have) arrive on the day.

There is now no fee for this attendance but we do ask each improver to purchase a \$5.00 raffle ticket.

Through mistakes we make, we will gain good judgement.

Coming Events

- Tauranga Woodcrafter's Club Festival, Baycourt Festival Hall, 8 to 10 October 2004
- Bus trip to Terry Martin full day demo at Putaruru. 16 October 2004
- TURNZ 2004. The National Woodturning Exhibition, Putaruru, 16 to 25 October 2004
- Spinaround Waitaki, 29 to 31 October 2004
- Christmas Sale, Papakura, 13 to 24 December 2004

Neil Scobie full day demo at SAWG. 26 February 2005

Entries close for Royal Easter Show, 26 February 2005

Collaborationz. At Whangarei, 4 to 12 March 2005

John Lister full day demo at SAWG. 19 March 2005

- Royal Easter Show, 23 to 28 March 2005
- Timber and Working With Wood Show, Auckland, 8 to 10 April 2005
- Woodcut Open Day, 2 July 2005
- NAW Woodskills Symposium hosted by Christchurch Woodturners at Kaiapoi, 16 to 18 September 2005

Our Home Has a Name

The new board went up last Working Bee. The declares our part of the building to be the "Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre".

Thanks to Mac for pursuing this matter with the Council and arranging all the things that finally got the sign in place. It is good to have a tidy sign and a name that reflects both the current use and past history of the location.



Monday Meetings

All members welcome.

For all those people who enjoyed their Monday afternoon meetings at Ellerslie Woodturners, and others who have been unable to attend our Wednesday night meetings, there is now a meeting every Monday afternoon. This starts at 12:30 and runs through until about 3:30.

The meeting format is generally relaxed with plenty of hands-on time and tea and coffee available (coin in the box please) throughout.

From time-to-time there will be a demonstration by a local turner. Or some of the people attending are well worth watching most days.

There is no attendance fee, but we do like people to pay for raffle tickets – yes, there will be a raffle every week.

There are 11 lathes for you to use, the library and shop will be open. Experienced club members will be there to help. This is a time for you to enjoy some turning, sharing and talking.



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In 11 October 2004 this store becomes Mitre 10 MEGA in Takanini. A clearance sale with 30% discount on all goods starts at their present store on Wed 6 October.

Introduction to Woodturning Workshop – The Ian Fish Experience.

By Terry Gordon

Ten learner turners attended a workshop run by Ian fish at the SAWG clubrooms. The programme for the day included: the lathe, tools, safety, sharpening, chucking and mounting wooden blanks, roughing out, an introduction to the bowl gouge, making a bowl/plater, problem solving, finishing and design.

Ian began the workshop by outlining how he had been introduced into the art of woodturning many years ago. He then reviewed the history of the motorised lathe and the present technology associated with the computerised DVR lathe. Tools came next. The key point that Ian stressed was that tools should be bought for specific purposes, not just for the sake of having a nice looking tool. This workshop was going to concentrate on bowl turning. His recommendations, based on years of experience, are that gouges when handled properly provide better finishes than scrapers on all bowl and platter work.

Sharpening your tools and the correct use of the grinder was demonstrated with flair and precision. Sharpening correctly is one of the key ingredients in ensuring your woodturning remains a pleasure rather than a nightmare. As he eloquently pointed out, the pleasure to woodturning was based on three simple rules:

- 1. Have sharp tools
- 2. Have the right angle on the bevel of the gouge
- 3. Have a continuous bevelled edge.

Miss out on any one of these three essential features and the nightmare will become a reality.

How do you hold the wood onto the lathe? Ian demonstrated the use of the faceplate when roughing out the blank. He used 8 gauge by 25 mm Tech screws made by Ramset. The screws should be placed on the largest faceplate available using the holes that are the furthest apart as possible. The Woodworm screw chuck was demonstrated. In this case Ian emphasized that the wooden blank must make full contact with the jaws at the chuck, so that the jaws can act as a face plate. Other methods of attachment were reviewed such as using glue blocks.

Ian spent some time explaining the importance of being able to read the grain direction in the wooden blank. 'Where is the grain?' Grain direction when bowl turning needs to be going across the blank. Watch out for cracks.

Safety features were reviewed next: safe lighting, controlling the amount of dust being breathed into the lungs, eye protection, no lose clothing, and correct footwear.

Turning the outside of the bowl was next. This consisted at the beginning with the correct height and angle adjustment of the tool rest, selecting the best speed, slow speed for out-of-balanced wood. The use of the heavy 16mm roughing gouge for removing a lot of wood very quickly. The key point to remember here was: "**Rub the bevel at all times with persistence**." Ian demonstrated the correct arm and wrist movement along with foot placement, when turning the outside of the bowl. He used as teaching aids, large wooden model gouges, painted on each side to show the position of the bevel and the motion of the gouge as it was moved through each cutting phase. Ian uses a draw-cut first, and explained how you need to cut downhill because of the cross grain alignment. As you near the back of the blank then you change over to a push cut. Remember slow tool, fast wood. Ian recommends a $30^{\circ}-35^{\circ}$ bevel angle on a 12 mm gouge for the outside of the bowl and $50^{\circ} - 55^{\circ}$ bevel angle gouge of 10mm being used on the outside and inside of the bowl. This 10mm gouge is the gouge that is used for finishing off both the outside and inside of the bowl.

The spigot that must be prepared on the face of the blank was clearly explained in terms of dimensions and shape.

The bowl is hollowed using the 55° bevel 10mm gouge for both roughing out and finishing. The lathe speed now o about 1000 rpm since the blank was no longer out of balance. The sequence of cuts used to rough out and then finish the inside of the bowl was demonstrated with the same precision to detail using the large coloured, wooden teaching aids. Each sweep of the gouge was described in detail as it moved across the wood, shavings spiralling out of the bowl with regularity.

Once the desired shape and depth had been agreed upon, a final finishing cut was made and sanding and finishing were explained. The sanding advice included such things as: rotating the sand paper counter clockwise to the rotating bowl, avoid heat cracks by having sharp sandpaper that is not held down too long onto the work. When power sanding you do not need to use a lot of pressure.

Vacuum chucking was explained when you need to finish the bottom of the bowl, always remember to turn the vacuum **on first and off last**, otherwise you will have a flying discus. Remember too, to alter the suction of the vacuum used depending on the amount of hollowed out volume and the strength of the bowl or platter.

Finally it was finishing. A review of using sanding sealer, wire wool, and finishing wax was discussed.

Ian is very comprehensive in his knowledge and planning with his presentation. His communication skills are excellent, he is indeed a most effective speaker, totally understandable in his delivery. He is an excellent demonstrator who assumes that you don't know, and therefore explains each movement as a series of stages. I came away with the impression that Ian provided me with so much valuable information and experience that it was just like reading a woodturning text book, but in this case much better. You lived through each movement of the gouge, you saw how the arms, wrist, and body became as one with the tool. You were taught to think like the piece of wood in terms of grain direction. You learnt that safety was your first consideration at all times. You then had to go away and spend time on the lathe and practice. Overall a very thorough and informative day was had by all those attending. Thank you Ian on behalf of all those that attended, you were great.!! For those who did not attend, don't miss the next opportunity that Ian provides in his next session.

Pen Making by Bryan Peryer

At Participation 2004, Carbatec generously donated 50 pen sets as prizes for the numerous raffle draws held on the day. Not surprisingly this generated considerable interest in pen making and was followed up by a pen making demonstration by Doug Tanner.

Turned pens can be a great gift which I have found to be well received by most recipients and it is a good idea to have a few on hand to give out on appropriate occasions. After a little practice pen making can be a relatively straight forward and rewarding experience. Kits are available for several types but we will deal here with the most popular type which costs about \$4.00 per pen. This one is more straight forward than some in that all the brass diameters are the same, making it easier to turn the wood to a matching diameter.

Individual techniques may vary but I will describe the system I use.

You will need a ¹/₄" diameter steel mandrel. These can be purchased or you can make your own. It can be made long enough to accommodate both halves of the pen at once or shorter so that you have to do each half separately. I use a shorter one made from 110mm length rod.



This rod is threaded to take a nut for tightening up the mounted blanks and has a depression turned out of the threaded end to take the lathe tailstock. Turning this depression out accurately can be difficult but I used a small metalworking lathe for the task. Also required are two brass bushes as illustrated with an outside diameter of 8.4 mm or fractionally less. These bushes keep the blank away from the nut and chuck and act as a guide for the final diameter of the blank ends. This is the diameter of the brass components, but do confirm that this is the actual diameter of your particular kit – they can vary.

Below is an illustration of the parts included in a kit.

Now follow these steps;

1. Choose your wood, preferably avoiding those which split easily, and cut blanks about 55mm long by 15 mm square carefully marking pairs of blanks for matching the grain later.

2. Mount the blanks in your chuck (chucks with the replaceable jaws removed will get a good grip on a square blank).

3. Fit a drill in the tailstock for drilling out the blank to take the brass sleeve. Kit instructions call for a 7mm drill but if you use this size the fit is a little loose and you will need to use PVA or quick setting super glue for a permanent fit. You can use a $\frac{17}{64}$ "(6.75mm) drill but this may be too tight and liable to split the wood or cause damage to the brass sleeve when fitting. Fractional drills are available from engineering suppliers (6.8 and 6.9mm for example) and one of these may suit you better giving a good tight fit without the need for an adhesive. (Chevpac in Auckland stock these drills). Check out what suits your kit and wood type best.

4. After drilling, check the start of the holes for accuracy and cleanness of cut. Often the start of the holes is not as accurate as the exit point of the drill. Note: It is important that your lathe is accurately aligned otherwise the drill will ream out a hole larger than the diameter of the drill size especially at the entry point. If you can't align the lathe accurately you can drill a smaller hole on the lathe and then ream the hole out to the correct size by hand feeding the blank onto a twist drill of the selected size (wear gloves).

5. Place the brass rod in the cleanest cut end of the hole or sand some off the end to get a clean hole, then and using a wood vice carefully press the tube into the wooden blank. Making the original blank 55 mm long, give some scope for

> end sanding at this stage as the brass tube is 52 mm long. If necessary, I use a specially made drift to drive the tube a short way into the blank so that when the end is sanded the edge of the hole is cleaner.

6. After pressing the brass tube fully home you need to bandsaw off the surplus wood and/or sand the end down squarely to match the length of the tube precisely. I use a face plate sander for this with a square guide and keep sanding until the bright metal of the tube just shows up. Alternatively a pen mill or reamer is available from Carbatec for \$35 which will neatly trim the wood down to the brass.

7. Mount the blank with fitted brass tube on the mandrel and turn to the desired shape taking care to get the ends of the blank to the same diameter as the brass fittings. I use a small skew chisel which gives a nice smooth finish requiring little sanding.

8. Sand and finish to your preference. If the grain is open, a wet sand with Danish oil might be a good idea to fill the pores with a mixture of sanding dust an oil. I use either Danish oil or thinned nitrocellulose lacquer as the first coat(s) and finish with Records carnauba emulsion and a high speed buff. I have not had problems with softening or tackiness

continued page 8



of the finish from body oils, as reported by some pen makers, possibly because the wax I use is straight carnauba and not a blended wax.

9. Be careful when sanding that you don't sand the brass spacers as well as you may get black dust from the brass spoiling the work.

10. Assembly is straightforward using the wood vice to press in the nib first on one blank and the finial (cap) and clip first on the other end. Finally press in the twist

mechanism to the correct depth (down to the annular ring on this kit), fit the centre ring and the infil and assemble.

Refills for this type of pen are readily availably from stationary shops. The kits from Carbatec are gold plated with an epoxy coating so they should maintain their appearance for a good while. Carbatec also have mandrels and spacers. Also available are marble-like plastic blanks to use instead of wood.

Now go to it.



If undelivered, please return to: The Editor, 48 Manse Road, Papakura, 1703.







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