

# TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 155 June 2007

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

## COMMITTEE

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Michael Bernard 09 425 6782

### Vice President

Dick Veitch 298 5775

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### Treasurer

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Gordon Pembridge, Don Wood,  
Terry Scott, Les Sivewright,  
Bob Yandell.

### Webmaster

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## In this issue:

- 1 **AGM - President's Report**
- 2 **New President:  
- Michael Bernard  
New Committee  
Club auction  
Calendar**
- 3 **Coming Events  
Club Demos.  
New Editor**
- 4 **Club Demos - contd,  
New Life Members  
Special Award**
- 5 **Town & Around  
- Happenings**

**Club Meetings :**  
Wed nights - 7.00 pm  
(Doors open - 5.00 pm)

**Club Rooms:**  
Papatoetoe Community  
Centre, Tavern Lane,  
Papatoetoe,  
South Auckland, NZ

**Contact us:**  
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## SAWG Annual General Meeting - 16 May 2007 President's Report



"A year in the chair as president of the SAWG seemed at the start of the year as a daunting prospect. However, the year has flashed past and now it is already time to hand it over to my successor.

I am really pleased to say that this has been another superb year for the Guild and a most enjoyable one for me which is in large part due to the excellent committee that we have and who have put a huge amount of work into making sure that the Guild continues to function successfully. Of particular note is Cathy Langley, our treasurer, who has kept us on the financial straight and narrow, Dick Veitch who has edited and produced our newsletter for many years and is now ready to hand that task over to Michael Clausen. Many thanks also to Tom Pearson who took on the role of Secretary this year and has performed admirably, as we knew he would. As always Les Sivewright has run the Guild shop in his normal quiet efficient manner. In fact all of the committee have been so efficient that it has left little for me to do. I must also thank those members who are not on the committee but still contribute regularly to the success of the Guild. Rex Haslip for the excellent web site which continues to attract a great deal of interest in the Guild from around the world, Noel O'Connor for maintaining the Library and overseeing its growth in both books and DVDs, and we must not forget John Smart who runs our raffle each week which ensures a regular income for the Guild.

Our Wednesday evenings continue to be interesting and attract an excellent attendance from our membership as well as from visitors from other clubs and from overseas. There have been some really amazing demonstrations this year ranging from how to make lidded bowls from deer horn buttons to Maori carving and on to chainsaw maintenance as well viewing Wayne Jones' super hot chainsaw.

Throughout the year the weekend training courses have progressed with the beginner courses being in very high demand from our members. The other more

advanced courses have also proved a success and have all been extremely well run and have added much to the skills of our members.

In addition to our routine events, this year has also seen the return of the *Participation* weekend which proved to be a great success with some 50 turners making shavings at any one time and which is an event which I would strongly recommend to every member of the Guild either with their own lathe or using one of the Guild's. The only way to get a true appreciation of the event is to take part.

The Christmas sale proved to be huge success this year with sales up from last year and consequently more money for the Guild funds. Indeed, this is our major fundraiser for the year and many thanks are due to Terry Scott for the venue and to all of the members who helped to organise it and to run the shop for the two weeks leading up to Christmas.

This year members have again participated in numerous outside events, including the Franklin arts festival, the Easter Show and the Down Under Turnaround to name but a few. In addition, the Guild has outdone itself this year with the outstanding competition results, not only seeing off the New Zealand competition but taking almost every prize in the UK's Axminster Power Tool Company's competition which was open to all countries; what an outstanding achievement for our members. I probably should not mention names as the list would be too long but I feel I have to mention Gordon Pembridge's achievement; as a relatively new turner he not only took the honours at the Easter Show this year but is now a world recognised woodturner – well done Gordon.

Finally, it is a pleasure to be able to report that the Guild has gone from strength to strength, our clubroom is looking even more elegant than ever with its new XP lathe, the balustrades around the seating area and the wood identification boards on the wall; our membership is up and our financial situation very sound. I feel that I can confidently hand over the Guild in good order to my successor".

- Farouk Khan

## Introducing Michael Bernard - our new President

**Michael Bernard** is 49 years old, a Catholic, divorced and father of two boys and four girls, ranging in ages from 20 to 9. "My children really are the center of my life. I spend every weekend at Snells Beach with my children, and take a great delight in their growth and development. I am self employed and do a range of jobs including real estate sign installation, exterior house washing and I also try to make some money out of my passionate interest in woodturning.

My interest in wood started in my youth but I took my father's advice and became a chef. I worked in the catering field for 25 years in restaurants, hotels and ships. I built a workshop/therapy room of my own about 4 years ago and dusted off the TL1000, and off I went to Carbatech to get advice, and generally perv at all the tools.

I ended up at SAWG thanks to talking with Dave Harnes. Ian Fish kindly tucked me under his wing and my woodturning passion began. I have had some small successes in the woodturning competitions, and have been pushed into demonstrations etc, but the best thing about this lathe club is the friendships that have developed over the last three and a half years.

Other interests I have include fishing, sailing, and messing around in any boat. I have tried vegetable gardening but without much real success.

My plans for my Presidency are to maintain the high standard that our meetings always have, keeping a strong focus on sharing skills and encouraging new and beginner turners. I welcome positive input from all members of SAWG and look forward to sharing the next two years with you all. I have a few ideas up my sleeve that you will get to know about soon... have you ever seen the TV program "Ready Steady Cook????"

- Michael Bernard

## Club auction a success

Mac Duane, Dick Veitch, Terry Scott and Tom Pearson collected and sorted gear from two estates (one who was not a member, the other was Ron King, a Guild Past President and founder of our shop). This was no small task. Even with many of the smaller tools being grouped together in sets of two or three, and miscellaneous bits put into boxes, the result was 114 "lots" on which members and guests could bid over three club nights.

In a "silent auction", each "lot" has a sheet attached on which bids can be recorded. To make a bid, you write your name and your higher bid underneath that of the previous bidder. When the auction closes, the winner for that lot is the final bidder. It's the manual version of *eBay* or *TradeMe*. In this case, there were 48 bidders from the Guild, neighbouring clubs, and visitors. 36 people ended up owning well-cared-for tools, equipment, and supplies, paying prices that ranged from \$5 to several hundred dollars. The average price per lot was \$33, with over 80% of items below \$50 and more than 50% of items \$20 or less.

For many years, it has been the Guild's policy to conduct these auctions for the families of previous members, and for others as well. We take a small commission in the case of non-members, and return 100% of the proceeds to the families of members.

- Cathy Langley

## Club calendar 2007

### Second Term

All the activities listed here are in our clubrooms in the Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe.

On our regular Wednesday evenings, the official meeting starts at 7.00pm. For those wishing to make use of the machinery, do some shopping, check-out our library, or get a little extra advice, the doors open at 5pm.

We have a Table Prize for each term. This is your work on display - lessons learned (half-finished, flawed, or failed), to the best you can do, flowing to the show-and-tell table each meeting night.

**Wed 6 June A Thin Bowl and Piercing.** Gordon Pembroke will provide a little insight into the delicate work he has been doing.

**Mon 4 June Upskills Evening.** Doors open 7:00pm. Every turner can improve their skills, or help others to improve. Or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy the evening.

**Sat 9 June Working Bee.** Doors open 8:30am. There are always cleaning tasks and repairs to be done. Your chance to put a bit back into the club.

**Wed 13 June The Nelson Woodworking Centre.** Bob Yandell tells us about his time there.

**Sat 16 June Ornamental Turners** Start time 1pm. Learn and share in this precision art.

**Wed 20 June A Bird, or maybe something else.** George Flavell will turn something for us.

**Sat 23 & Sun 24 June Training Course:**  
**Bowls with Ian Fish.** (If there's room)

**Wed 27 June Planning for the Christmas Sale.**

A discussion on preparing your work for the Christmas sale, led by Tom Pearson. Bring in your tea lights for judging (Term Project).

**Mon 2 July Upskills Evening.** Doors open 7pm. Every turner can improve their skills, or help others to improve. Or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy the evening.

**Sat 7 July Upskills Morning.** Doors open 8:30am. Every turner can improve their skills, or help others to improve. Or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy the morning.

**Sat 14 July Ornamental Turners.** Start time 1pm. Learn and share in this precision art.

**Wed 4 & 7 July No Meeting,** but doors open @ 5pm for turning & socialising.

**Term Three starts 18 July 2007**

## New Committee

All of last year's committee were available for re-election and were either confirmed by a formal election or subsequently seconded by the new committee. The standing president, Farouk Khan, was unavailable for re-election and his role was assumed by last year's Vice President Michael Barnard. Dick Veitch had relinquished his position as Editor and was elected to the Vice Presidency, and Michael Clausen was elected to the Editor's role. (See box on front page for a full listing).

## Coming events 2007

- 5th Jul till 5th Aug 2007. Guild of Woodworkers, Wellington "Turnings Plus".**  
An annual exhibition of woodcraft.
- 14 Jul 2007 Treeworkx Open Shed Day.**  
Starts 9.00am at their Shed near Matamata.
- 21 Jul 2007. National Association of Woodworkers AGM and Demonstration Day.** Hosted by the South Auckland Woodturners Guild
- 10 to 12 Aug 2007. Taieri Woodworkers Club. "U-Turn Berwick 2007".** A weekend to practice and learn new wood skills in a live-in, relaxed social atmosphere at Berwick Forest Camp.
- 7 to 9 Sept 2007. National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau.** Opening night Thursday 6 September.
- 15 and 16 Sept 2007. Guild of Woodworkers, Wellington. Woodcraft 2007.** Horticultural Hall, Laings Road, Lower Hutt.
- 28 to 30 Sept 2007. Hawke's Bay Woodturners Guild** will be running the **New Zealand Woodskills SYMPOSIUM 2007** at Hastings.
- 28 Sept to 28 Oct. Waikato Guild of Woodworkers Artspost Exhibition.** Victoria Street, Hamilton.
- 9 to 12 Oct 2007 Sydney Collaboration 2007**  
The venue is Chevalier College in Bowral (in the beautiful southern highlands, 140 kms south of Sydney).
- 26 to 28 Oct 2007. "Participation 07"**  
At South Auckland Woodturners Guild Clubrooms.
- 2 to 4 Nov 2007. Waitaki Woodturners Guild, "Spin Around Waitaki"**

*For more details on these and other events, nationwide and overseas, check out the latest update on "What's On" in the NAW website - [www.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm](http://www.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm)*

## New editor at the keyboard

Dick Veitch leaves a formidable legacy as he passes on the role of Editor of our newsletter, an outstanding combination of dedication, knowledge, experience, photographic and technical illustration skills - to name just a few - that will be extremely difficult to emulate.

Fortunately, he has generously offered to continue with his editorial support, so all is not lost. He is now more free to take on other roles of service to our Guild and the wonderful world of woodturning at large - watch this space! Thank you, Dick!

I would like to see this newsletter as something of a team effort. That way, not only is the burden spread a little but there are greater opportunities for others to exercise their talents in a very positive way - reports, technical advice, articles, taking photos at club events and meetings...

I will very much appreciate your comments and input and I look forward to the new communication challenges and opportunities as we all move ahead. Cheers!

*- Mike Clausen, Editor.*

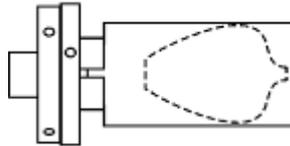


## Club night demonstrations

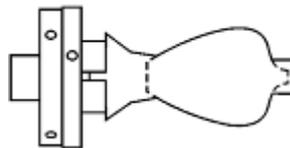
2 May 2007

### Wildflower Pots by Dick Veitch

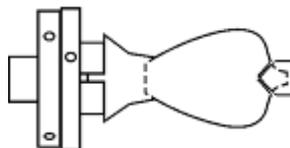
*Wildflower Pot or Weed Pot?* It depends whether you are in England or New Zealand, it seems, but Dick's highly organised and engrossing demonstration of the art of narrow neck hollow form turning left us in no doubt that this was a worthy and exciting challenge. His new Rolly Mini hollowing tool made it look so easy and his detailed instructions and explanations must have given great encouragement to many in the audience. Key points: give thought to line and proportion to achieve a pleasing form, and don't rush your work.



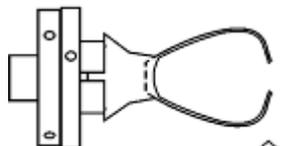
The overall size of the bud vase is your choice. Start with wood about two times longer than its diameter with grain running lengthwise. Mount this in a chuck. Bring up the tailstock if needed.



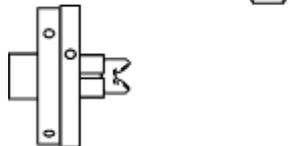
Cut the basic shape except the top. If the foot is to be narrow then it may pay to leave some thickness there too. It is important to visualise and cut the correct curves.



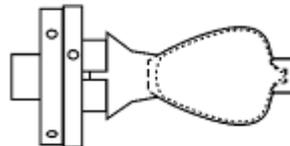
Cut a spigot at the top end for remounting of the top piece. Make a pencil line across the planned parting cut line to facilitate return of the top. Cut out the top. Use an angle approaching 45 degrees to the spindle line.



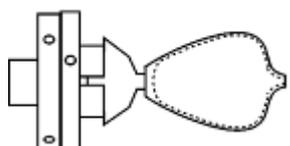
Hollow the inside. Take care to preserve, untouched, the outer 2mm of the parting cut. Keep the work in this chuck and remove the chuck from the lathe.



Mount the parted-off top in a small chuck and hollow the inside. Take care to preserve, untouched, the outer 2mm of the parting cut.



Remount the main part of the vase on the headstock. Glue the plug back into the body of the vessel taking care to align the pencil marks made earlier.



Cut away the spare wood at the top. Cut the hole through to complete the opening to the vase. Cut away the foot ready for parting off. Sand the entire vase. Decorate around the glue line at the top. Finish the outside. Part off and decorate the bottom.

## Club night demonstrations ...

### Club Night 9 May 2007 Pepper Grinder - Andrew Bright

Many and varied are the shapes, sizes and materials used for pepper grinders these days and by the time Andrew finally turned off the lathe, we were all starting to think a bit more laterally about the options open to us. Andrew turns a predominantly traditional shape to meet the demands of his friends (see *illustrn.*) and he used a limited variety of woods for his demonstration, but through his comments and the question and answers that flowed through his



demonstration, his presentation extended far wider than the actual turning involved. Part of the fascination of producing pepper grinders is that they are essentially artistic AND practical. The selected mechanism is a key element in both the finished size and design and it pays to shop around to find the models that meet your criteria. Super-long grinders can be produced with a shop-made extended shaft, for example. The occasional "re-design opportunity" can utilise decorative additions, even paua, as was suggested at a "design opportunity moment" during the demo. Functional design details are usually included with the mechanism packs and they form the platform for an endless scope for creativity. As to the choice of woods, it is preferable to select higher strength/density timber for obvious reasons, but apart from that, mixing and matching can also be done with attractive results. Incorporating resins, inlays of various materials, surface decoration treatments, metal, deer horn buttons, ceramics, whatever. The choice is yours.



Thanks, Andrew, for a great presentation.

*Perhaps we will now start to see a few very creative designs appearing on the 'show & tell' table.*

### Club Night 23 May 2007 Tapa Cloth Embellishment - Dave Harmes

Tapa cloth is made from the bark of the Paper mulberry tree. (Refer to Wikipedia encyclopedia for more details) It is a good natural medium to enhance (or sometimes to disguise imperfections). The surface to which it is to be applied should be finished to a reasonable standard, certainly no prominent 'train tracks', etc. The occasional torn grain, worm hole or crack can be tolerated.

When colouring a surface to be covered, Dave prefers to use poster paints, preferably water based rather than acrylics as the glue does not stick too well. The entire surface should be painted with as uniform a coating as possible. Colouring is not essential. If you require the Tapa cloth purely for texture this can be painted with whatever paint you prefer after it has been glued in place. Dave usually has a bead or rim to form a demarcation line between textured or covered



area and the natural wood. It is usually easier to have only one demarcation line to work to, but it does look better with two.

**Adhesive:** PVA, diluted 50/50 with water - if not diluted it dries too quickly and can leave unsightly lumps and areas.

**Preparation of Tapa cloth:** In its natural state it can be several layers thick, but this can be too heavy for good application. To separate the layers, soak in warm water until the glue holding it all together begins to dissolve. When ready, separate the layers and leave to dry.

**Templates:** Set your compass to inside radius and scribe an arc. Set the compass to the outside radius and from the same centre, scribe another arc. From the centre mark a line approx 36deg from the horizontal to the centre line. Repeat above the centre line. This will give you a template to cover 1/5th of the area to be covered.

**Cutting Tapa:** Lay out the Tapa then spread the template on the Tapa and pencil around it, eventually marking enough pieces to cover the area. Allow 5 - 10 mm overlap at each end where they join. With a sharp chisel feather the edges that overlap.

**Gluing:** Using a small #16 paint brush, cover an area a little larger than the one piece of precut Tapa. Apply glue to the Tapa and place in position. Using a slipping action work the Tapa so the glue penetrates 100%. Ensure the Tapa does not adhere to the areas not to be covered. If Tapa does overlap an edge this can be trimmed after about an hour with a sharp craft knife.

**Decorating:** Any form of colouring can be added after drying - acrylic, water or oil-based paint, marker pens, etc.

Thanks, Dave.

## Two new Life Members appointed



Life Member Committee spokesman Jim McCarthy announced that the committee had approved the appointment of both Terry Scott and Dick Veitch to Life Membership of the Guild in recognition of their outstanding contributions over the past years. Life Member Clarrie Wills presented Terry with a framed certificate while Dick will receive his on his return from overseas.

## Recognition for Mac Duane

Mac was as surprised as everyone else when his extended family trooped into the meeting for a special presentation by Terry Scott. The committee had decided "to single out Mac for his unswerving loyalty, energy and dedication" by presenting him with "a one-off, special award" of an impressive SAWG Golden Chisel - a gold plated Sorby gouge mounted on a highly polished wooden base complete with an engraved plaque - for outstanding services to woodturning in NZ and the SAWG. The presentation was greeted with enthusiastic delight and approval by everyone present. Mac's grin was a mile wide as he held it aloft.



## New clubrooms for North Shore Guild

After a huge effort carrying out basic renovations and re-decorating, the North Shore Woodturners Guild proudly held their first meeting on 24th April in their new clubrooms at Agincourt Reserve, Birkenhead. The old Scout Hall has taken on a new lease of life and now offers the club the opportunity to expand their club activities throughout the week. Meetings are held each Tuesday, 7- 9pm. and Pierre Bonny offers an open invitation to SAWG members to pay them a visit. Check their website for details and a location map: [www.wood.org.nz](http://www.wood.org.nz)

## Expedition to Vivian's Bush

Carole, Dick, Mac, Rex and Terry recently spent a couple of days with the Vivians on their 1500 acre block of native timber about 50 km from Stratford. It turned into quite an adventure involving an overnight stay in an impressive bach deep in the rain forest, accessible by specially modified Suzuki 4-wheel drive vehicles. Ross and Heather work as a team, felling selected native timber, milling the logs, which are then extracted by a heavy-lifter Russian helicopter. In their harvesting plan, they are able to take 74 cubes of milled timber annually, taking only 3-4 Rimu a year. All of this is pre-sold to South Island furniture manufacturers. The balance of the quota could be Tawa, Rewarewa or Rata. They are also permitted to take a certain amount of hand-cut timber, used for blocks cut for woodturners. It is hard, heavy and demanding work in difficult terrain, with all this timber being carted out on the Suzukis - laden to the gunnels. For our intrepid team it was a never-to-be-forgotten experience - all the tracks were narrow, steep and very slushy with large tree roots, pot holes and a river to cross. *Real off-roading territory!*

Ross is an original DIY kiwi bloke. and "a good keen man". Much of his life has been spent hunting and his ambition was to own his own bush block where he could spend time enjoying his outdoor activities. Nothing fazes him and he loves tinkering with his machinery, some of which is well past its best-by date - his two bulldozers are 1942 vintage, suitably cannibalized and modified. He has realised his dream and owns his own piece of New Zealand Paradise

The Vivian's hospitality was greatly appreciated by our team: great meals of venison steaks, copious cuppas, plenty of yarns, a log fire in the bach, a tour of their Stratford property, the chance to hug a giant Rimu estimated to weigh 150 tons and a hands-on introduction to a real NZ native forest - and a good supply of wood to turn when they came home. Paradise!

*(With thanks to Carole Knowles for photos and copy [abridged]. Check out the Guild website for more photos*



## Town & around

## Gordon Pembridge - art gallery preview

Gordon held a preview for his first art gallery exhibition on Thursday evening, 10th May at Morgan Gallery, 9 Morgan Street, Newmarket.

A good crowd attended and all were impressed with the presentation of his work which was in conjunction with a collection of watercolours and drawings by Geoffrey Arnold. Gordon had 17 pieces on display with prices ranging from \$350 - \$1500 and it wasn't long before the red 'sold' stickers appeared. The exhibition is scheduled to run until early June and is well worth a visit. The theme of Gordon's work is his paper thin hollow forms decorated with his trademark delicately incised lacework patterns. The two artists' chosen mediums of wood and canvas counter-pointed each other very well indeed, making an exhibition that is quite unique. Watch this space!



## Utah symposium 2007

Terry Scott will be one of the 22 invited international and American presenters at the 28th annual AAW Utah Symposium during 21/23 June. The presenter's line-up looks like a *who's who* list of the international scene with names like Dale Nish (the Symposium's initiator back in 1979); Kip Christensen (currently at the helm); Colin Simpson; David Hittman; Vaughan Richmond and Richard Raffan; Mark Baker; Allan Batty; Stuart Mortimer and Jason Marlow.

The Utah Symposium is the longest running symposium in the world (the AAW event is the largest) and attendee registrations this year are capped at 460 due to lack of facilities. There will be 100 demonstrations to choose from but already Terry has been getting emails asking for his demo plans! For details of the event, refer to -

[www.utahwoodturning.com](http://www.utahwoodturning.com). (Presenters)

## Take a turn in the park

Make a diary note to visit Cornwall Park on Sunday 15th July to check out the scenery and a woodturning demo by three of our members (10am - 4pm) The Park organises a year-long series of events and attractions and SAWG has been a regular invitee to stage a woodturning demo in the Huia Lodge Information Centre.

This year Terry Meekan, Norm Jenner and Bob Frear will be doing the honours for the Guild and they would no doubt welcome a bit of banter and encouragement.

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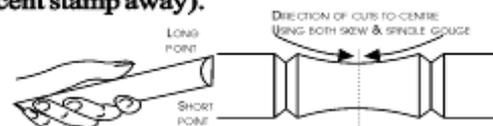
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## A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO WOODTURNING

Original artwork and text by George Flavell

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Just \$20.00 sent to the editor of this newsletter (more if you live further than a 90 cent stamp away).



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