

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 159

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

October 2007

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Les Sivewright, Bob Yandell.

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Club Meetings:

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

Club Rooms:

Papatoetoe Community
Centre, Tavern Lane,
Papatoetoe,
South Auckland, NZ

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Report...

Symposium 2007

This year's bi-annual New Zealand International Woodskills Symposium, organised by the National Association of Woodworkers NZ in association with the Hawke's Bay Woodturners Guild and the Hawke's Bays Woodturning Education Trust was held over 28-30 September. The venue was the Lindisfarne College in Hastings, a gracious period-building in park-like grounds. Over 140 delegates attended a packed programme of demonstrations, exhibits and trade stalls. Residential accommodation was provided at the College, where delegates shared meals with the demonstrators from NZ, Australia, U.K and the USA.



Well attended demonstrations covered a wide variety of topics including different aspects of woodturning, scroll-sawing, carving, intarsia, art decoration, box-making and tool sharpening. The evening entertainments included a special dinner, slide shows and fun competitions.

The "Grandfather of New Zealand Woodturning", Ken Sager, was a VIP guest and was honoured as a Foundation Member of the NZ National Assn of Woodworkers for his contribution to the development of woodturning in this country.

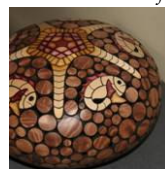
The SAWG was well represented. It was estimated that we comprised more than 10% of the total attendees. Everyone seemed to have had a great time. Some (very abbreviated) comments follow below:

Cathy Langley:

"Highlights for me included Jimmy Clewes' (UK) demo's - he was one of the stars, turning with joy and energy but totally relaxed as well, making his long-stemmed goblets look easy; Albie Hall with his prize winning mosaic piece sparked all kinds of ideas for other projects; Sharon Doughtie (USA) showed amazing control of pyrography with beautiful contrasts between burned surfaces and "ribbons" of natural wood; Liz Scobie (Aust) - those attending her hands-on session said they hadn't had so much fun since kindergarten; Ken Thomas. Terry Scott and Robbie Graham provided great talent and entertainment. One of the best parts was mixing and mingling with so many knowledgeable people who are so ready to share ideas and experience. A must-do event for everyone."



Gordon Pembridge: "Pat Kramer (Hawaii) turning flower vessels from end grain Norfolk Pine, using the wood's knots to form part of the natural edge of his vessels; Graeme McIntyre's excellent demo and chisel techniques with his piercing work; Sharon on how to make your own pyrography pen tips, an infectious laugh and Celtic



Knots - just to confuse us all; Jimmy Clewes with a full house - my camera enabled me to get some close-up shots, with more tips, new ideas and tricks and an ability to identify sandpaper grades with his lips - a fantastic turner and entertainer; Don Powell, a very, very clever and talented woodcarver, carving faces from citrus wood; so many other things to see in a few short days, not to mention the trade hall, wood suppliers and other demo's. A fantastic time."



STOP PRESS

DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL DEMO

"The Magic of Brendon Stemp"

- Wed 24 Oct, 7pm - SAWG Clubrooms

See page 7 for details



Club calendar

Fourth 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, brought to the show-and-tell table each meeting night.

Wed 10 Oct Opening Night - Term Project - Small Thin-edged Bowl - Gordon Pembroke shows how.

Sat 13 Oct 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 and enjoy some happy company (and home baked muffins?).

Wed 17 Oct Talk on the Auckland Maritime Museum - Glen Bernard (Michael's Dad)

Sat 20 Oct Ornamental Turners. Start time 1pm. Learn and share in this precision art. Your chance to help make some Rose-engine lathes.

Wed 24 Oct "Turning Weird & Wonderful" - Creative design - Brendan Stemp, Australia

Wed 31 Oct Preparation & pricing for the Christmas sale - useful tips and advice.

Sat 3 Nov Upskills Day - Doors open at 8:30am. Every turner can improve their skills, or help others to improve - or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy the morning

Wed 7 Nov Hands-on Night - a chance to make your small bowls for the Term Project.

Sat 10 Nov Ornamental Turners. Starting 1pm. Learn and share in this precision art. Your chance to help make some Rose-engine lathes.

Wed 14 Nov DVD & drill sharpening - Mac Duane & Bryden Thorpe

Sat 17 Nov 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 21 Nov Vacuum chucking - Dick Veitch

Wed 28 Nov 3-legged Milking Stool - Michael Bernard

Sat 1 Dec Upskills Day - Doors open at 8:30am.

Wed 5 Dec Mallet making - Mac Duane & Terry Meekan

Wed 12 Dec Final night - Wrap sweets/bowls. Bring a plate for supper

NOVA 3000 for SALE

Also: 2x 50mm Nova chucks

2 tool rests

10 asstd chisels

Sorby hollowing tool

Nova Cole jaws and 2x 900mm sash clamps

Please contact Anton Posthuma,

160 Red Hill Rd, Papakura. Ph 299 9448

Coming events

28 Sep - 28 Oct. Waikato Guild of Woodworkers Artspost Exhibition. Victoria Street, Hamilton.

4 - 7 Oct Waikato Guild of Woodworkers at the Waikato Home Show. Sales and demonstrations of woodturning and carving.

5 - 7 Oct "Wood Fest - the wonders of wood" - Tauranga Woodcrafters annual show at Baycourt Community & Arts Centre, Tauranga. One demonstrator is an expert bowyer & fletcher in long-bow archery.

9 - 12 Oct Sydney Collaboration 2007 The venue is Chevalier College in Bowral (in the beautiful southern highlands, 140 kms south of Sydney).

11 - 14 Oct Manawatu Woodturners Guild annual sale & demos, "The Plaza", Palmerston North. More info from Roy Miers - phone: 06 39 8773

26 - 28 Oct "Participation 07" At South Auckland Woodturners Guild Clubrooms. This is the Guild's big annual event with turners from NZ and overseas making shavings with Guild members over 3 fun-filled days. Book NOW to secure your place. More details inside.

2 - 4 Nov Waitaki Woodturners Guild, "Spin Around Waitaki"

2008

29 Feb - 2 Mar Waimate Woodcraft EXPO

7 - 9 Mar Lake Taupo Woodturning Jamboree, Spa Hotel, Taupo

For more details on these and other events, nationwide and overseas, check out the latest update on "What's On" in the NAW website -

Editor's Corner

It has been an amazing experience putting this issue together this month, for me, at any rate. I have gathered material from far and wide as well as from people close at hand. I've met some outstanding people who haven't hesitated to share their thoughts and talents with me. I've made new friends and had others who went out of their way to help me out with tight deadlines. Inspirational people, people with much talent and humility, patient people who suffered my slowness in grasping important technicalities, and so on.

I am constantly amazed at the closeness of the woodturning fraternity. Just one instance - a man in America, Jon Magill, who unhesitatingly sent me his material on rose-engines, told me he personally knew Ken Sager in New Zealand and passed on his regards in an email exchange. And so on... I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I have enjoyed creating it. Good turning!

Club night activities

Ready...steady...TURN!

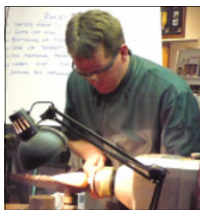
It was "all systems are go" at an innovative demo organised by Michael Bernard on Wed 19 September. Gordon Pembroke and Terry Scott were each given a mystery bag of assorted items all of which they were required to turn to make a finished composition within 90 minutes. The bags contained assorted pieces of wood in different shapes and sizes plus such 'non-standard' items as a kumara, a mouse-trap, a walnut and a piano key. Each turner was allowed to call on the assistance of an "expert" - once only, and Michael Bernard took the role of MC. After some brief thought, Terry took his theme cue from the mousetrap in his bag and proceeded to turn a very stylish mouse. Gordon, noticing this, decided to develop a complementary range of items so that the contest became a collaborative project. Dick Veitch was seconded as Gordon's assistant and took on the task of turning the kumara into a festive table decoration. The piano key became a miniature goblet, Gordon produced a very realistic gnawed carrot, a walnut became a green cabbage, silver cutlery and a mini-teapot

appeared, a bowl held a fried egg and a large cube turned into a block of green cheese - a mouse feast.

A great show of talent, ingenuity and creativity.

Well done, guys!

- Ed.



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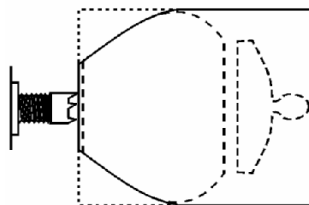
Cross-grain Lidded Box

by Michael Bernard

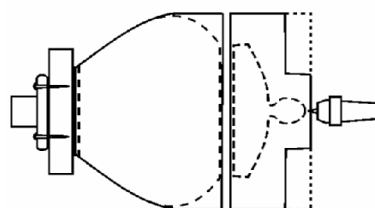
- Wed 12 Sept



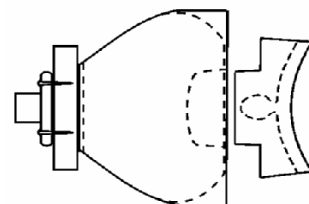
This project does not use a chuck, but may be modified to do so.



Mount the block with the grain running at right angles to the lathe centre line. Shape the lower part of the box.



Re-mount the wood by gluing it to a waste block on a face plate. Prepare the waste block by cutting a shallow hollow to ensure good centering of the wood. Bring up the tailstock.

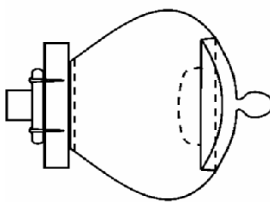


Cut away part of the outer side of the block so that the lid can be re-mounted in a jam fit.

Part off the top part that is to be the lid.

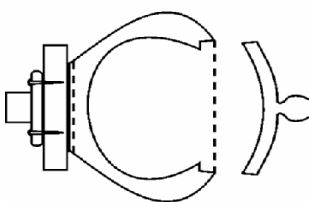
Cut a dovetail into the bottom part of the box. Turn the lid around and jam fit it into this dovetail. Cut the curve of the inside of the lid and the outer edges of the lid.

Totally finish these surfaces. Remove the lid.



Cut a wide shallow dovetail into the bottom part of the box so that the lid will jam fit. Fit the lid in and first cut the outer portions of the lid and the rim of the bottom of the box. The tailstock can be used here.

Tape the outer edges of the rim to the bottom of the box. Cut the handle on the lid.



Hollow the box. Sand and finish all surfaces.

After the outside surfaces are finished, ease the fit of the lid.

Remove the box from the waste block and clean its bottom.

Graphics - Dick Veitch

Out and about

It was a mini kiwi invasion of a quiet corner of Aus – not recognised by the media, police or politicians. But the airlines do know about it because Colin, once again, lost part of his baggage.

Colin Mitchell, Peter Knox, and Euan Vartha of North Canterbury, flew over on the Thursday. Terry Scott and I went over on the Friday morning, whizzed through the passport check and waited by the baggage carousel. There, going round and round, was a plastic tube tool box.

"Look," said Terry "there must be another woodturner on the plane." Turned out to be Colin's tool box from the day before, eventually delivered to Phillip Island (2½ hours from the airport) by two courier people the next day. We will never know how long it had been going around on that carousel!

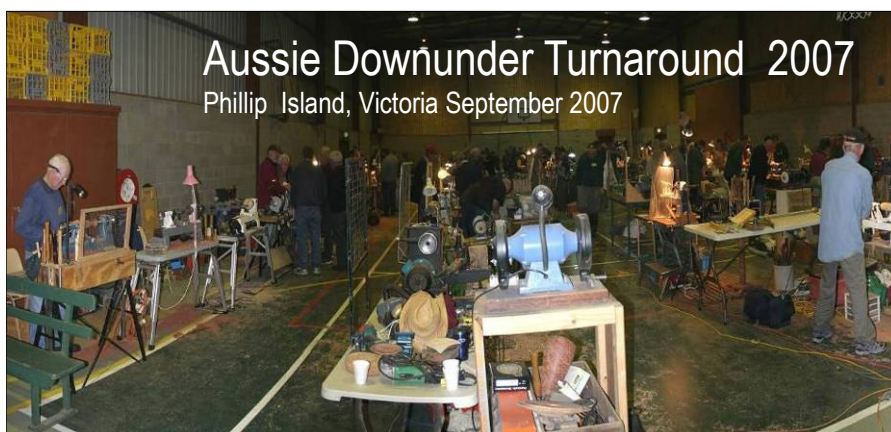
We had the pleasure of being met at the airport by Brendan Stemp with a carload of woodturners, a trailer-load of lathes, and just room for us. Then off to my mate's woodheap to load up, borrow his car, and head south.

The instruction was "We can't start setup until 3:00pm" but when we arrived at 3:05 there were already at least 20 lathes in action, and more coming in the door. I guess the final count was close to 50 lathes and 100 people. It was a great that Bruce and Guilio had each brought extra lathes for our use.

Infinite variety - production pieces; budding masterpieces; a precise recipe to make one 'just like'; trying the new tool; a different wood; real beginner; showing off; "show me how it is done"; and so the weekend went. Sleep time - minimal.

Terry and I then had the enjoyment of a day in Guilio Marcolongo's workshop. Lots more shavings, lots more learning, more wood added to the take-home bag.

- Dick Veitch



Gordon Pembridge at...



Gordon Pembridge has had some success with his wood turning this year.

It all started with wet turning 200 bowls as a beginner, Gordon reckons this is the best way to get you started with practice, practice and more practice and then it becomes second nature to turn a finishing cut.

Having gained a few prizes at local competitions Gordon decided to go for his first exhibition. This came about when Terry suggested to a gallery in town that Gordon would be the one to take Terry's place at an exhibition. The success at this exhibition and the interest that it generated took Gordon very much by surprise. Having sold out of all the artistic piercing work Gordon thought he should give some larger Galleries a try. First of all there was a gallery in Paris that came to nothing after very encouraging comments at the Easter show 2007 from a friend of the gallery in Paris. Never mind, not to be put down Gordon thought he'd try *del Mano* in LA via email, not really thinking they would be interested.

As it turned out they were very interested indeed, which was a huge relief to his long suffering wife !!!!

Having participated in his first exhibition *Pacific Connections September 2007* at *del Mano* and sold out **before** the exhibition even started, Gordon has created a demand for his work that he is struggling to keep up with. If you told Gordon that he would be selling a bowl for "that amount" three years ago he would have thought you were joking.

"I hope I can be as inspirational to others as others have been to me," said Gordon.

- Ed.



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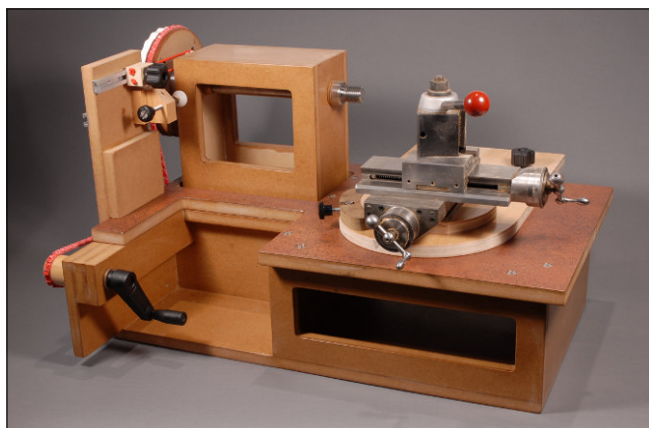
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P.O. Box 64440
Botany Town Centre
Botany Downs
South Auckland
Auckland

Out and about

Ornamental Turning Group's Project

- build a rose-engine Lathe! - John Whitmore



Four members of the Ornamental Group met at the Guild Clubrooms on the third Saturday of August. Out of this came an ambitious plan to build a number of basic rose engines for ornamental group members. If there are surplus engines and interest outside the group, any spares could be made available to the general membership to experiment with machined decoration of turned work in their own homes - much like the small loan lathes that are already available. Instead of just building one at a time, the idea is a co-operative effort to mass produce the components of 6 units. We have access to recycled materials and to a metal turning lathe (complete with driver) for the fiddly bits. As much as possible will be standardised but elements can be custom made to suit the characteristics of individual wood lathe models (particularly their spindle threads). There has already been considerable innovation among the group in designing and making various experimental ornamental fittings - so that experience will be invaluable in translating theory to practice. Terry French from Thames joined us at the September meeting to demonstrate a simple device that he had made which enables oval shapes to be machined and decorated.

A costing has yet to be done but all indications are that the likely cost of materials will be modest. The design will be based upon an article in the "American Woodturner" magazine (see illustn) - so at least someone has already proven viability. These units will not be as posh as the Rose Engine covered by a cloth in the corner of the clubrooms near the shop (and will be hand driven rather than motorised), but further refinements will doubtless evolve. At the time of writing, Mac Duane has kindly made up pre-cut kits of board and sourced materials, Merv Dix has done a fantastic job machining the metal fittings and a working bee is to be arranged to ensure that all assemblers interpret the assembly instructions the same way! For the uninitiated, ornamental work utilises a means of cutting (eg a router) that is brought into contact with a turned piece in a controlled way to produce a pleasing pattern. The patterns are often

Tealights at Thames

Cathy Langley sheds new light on an old classic



Thames club members turned out in force at their last meeting to welcome Cathy on her first away-from-home demonstration, making her own brand of tealights from wine bottles with turned rims and bases. There was an attentive audience and numerous deep discussions on alternative methods of clean-cutting bottles (involving hot wires, oil dipping, setting alight paraffin-steeped string, various cutting implements, jigs, shaking heavy nails inside bottles, and so on), easy removal of wine labels from bottles and many anecdotes of past failures and successes in all of the above attempts. Everyone, however, did agree that the most enjoyable part of the job was the emptying of the bottles in the first place, and there was some dismay when Cathy held up her empty bottle and said that although she had intended to share it with the audience before the



demonstration began, it had somehow been mysteriously emptied before she arrived and she couldn't quite remember how!!!! No matter. Everybody enjoyed the demonstration, even if it took twice as long as usual.

So much was the reputation of our guild enhanced by the demo that even the "gofer", aka known as Mike Clausen, was invited to judge the monthly President's Challenge competition - 'a turned penguin with at least two moving parts'. This he managed to do without causing a riot and the evening ended with a cuppa and a lot more talk.

An enjoyable occasion all round.

- Ed.

geometric, repetitive and overlapping. The main control method is for the router to follow a shaped pattern or rosette (hence the name 'rose' engine). The result can be as simple or complex as desired. Illustrations of ornamental work are to be found in many of our Guild library books and magazines and many are stunning.

If anyone has a burning desire to be part of this project, please speak to Mac Duane or Len Bacon.

(Illustration kindly supplied by Jon Magill, author of the 'American Woodturner' article, who has expressed keen interest and support for this project. - Ed.)

A pilgrimage to -

'The Grandfather of New Zealand Woodturning'

Ken Sager - QSM

"a living legend"

Ken Sager is a living legend in the relatively short history of woodturning in New Zealand. Now in his early 90s he still shows the burning enthusiasm that led him to found the original National Association of Woodturners Inc back in the mid-80s and thereby draw together the few widespread small groups of hobby woodturners throughout New Zealand – mainly in West Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch and Invercargill. He bought his first small lathe in 1946 from a *NZ Herald* advertisement while living in Auckland after his return from overseas and then moved to set up his car body-work business in Putaruru the following year. He has lived there ever since in the home he built himself. He remembers the lathe came with two tools, one shaped from a heavy-duty file, and his first turning was an egg cup.

At that time there was no place for hobby woodturners in the various existing commercial woodworking associations and Ken saw that he and other woodturners were trying to teach themselves the basics of this absorbing craft, often with very mixed results. Clearly there was a need to bring people together to share their skills and experiences. So in 1986 he was largely instrumental in establishing the NAW, with the prime objectives "to promote and encourage the art and craft of woodturning in all possible ways".

Over the years he has won a number of exhibition awards and has demonstrated his skills in Australia, USA, England and throughout New Zealand, and has been guest artist at many festivals. In June 2001 he was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for his services to woodturning in New Zealand and the framed certificate hangs in pride of place on his workshop notice board.

Years ago the Taupo Totara Timber Company gave Ken the use of a house for his workshop on a land that now has the Timber Museum. This house is almost a memorial in itself. Each room has a purpose: bench saw in one; buzzer in another; gallery; finishing; main lathe; platter lathe; wood in all rooms. His much loved lathe is the Teknatool TL 1000, used with a face-plate and glue blocks. The platter lathe will turn seriously large diameters of wood, but I think it needs the tool skills of a master. The gallery is overflowing with a great, awe-inspiring, variety of size, shape, timber and techniques of woodturning. Most of Ken's works are one-off pieces made purely for the joy of creating an artistic piece and they would stand serious scrutiny today in both quality of design and techniques.

I deemed it a rare privilege to spend several hours with Ken in the company of fellow club-members Mac Duane and Dick Veitch. Although his health has been somewhat frail lately he was bright and in good spirits as he showed us around and recalled many happy memories of his time spent in woodturning.

His enthusiasm is still infectious!

- Michael Clausen & Dick Veitch



Special SAWG Demonstration - "The Magic of Brendon Stemp"

Wednesday 24 October at 7:00pm
SAWG Clubrooms

Brendan Stemp is an award winning woodturner from Australia. He has developed a multi axis turning technique that helps him create some very unusual and creative forms. He is a full time woodturner and furniture maker and will be demonstrating his turning techniques at our clubrooms.

This will be one of the few times Brendan has demonstrated this technique, so don't miss out on this special opportunity.



Carbatec visit - Wed 5 September

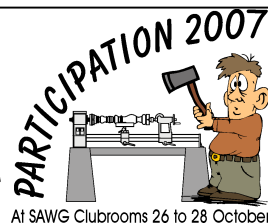


The Clubrooms were traded for the Carbatec showrooms in Harris Rd for the evening. After a very brief formal session the members trooped downstairs to explore the goodies for sale, and there was plenty to see. It wasn't long before small clusters gathered to discuss some new innovation or other and the sales counter staff seemed quite happy to "swipe the plastic" or steer people in the right directions. Tea and biscuits restored flagging energies and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to spend a bit of time wandering and wishing.

Thanks to Grant, Dave Harmes and the Carbatec team for an enjoyable evening and the chance to catch up with the latest.

- Ed.

**ONLY A FEW
SPACES LEFT...
BOOK TODAY!**



PARTICIPATION 2007

It's on again!

**Woodturning for Everyone
Sharing, Watching, Learning,
Teaching, Enjoying**

**Friday 26th October (setup from 9:00am),
Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th October**

At our club rooms Tavern Lane Papatoetoe.
(Limited to the first 60 paying participants)

The theme for the weekend is making a lidded box.
Each Participant will be given a piece of timber to
make a bowl for *Kidz First* at Christmas.

**Bring a lathe for your own use and to share
with others**

And with that bring chucks, extension lead and a light

Don't have a lathe? You can book a club lathe free of charge but if you are able to bring your lathe it is preferable as you may have to share if all the club lathes are in use. First in first served.

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

Bottomless tea & coffee (cake if someone gives it).
Saturday and Sunday lunch provided.
Saturday evening Dinner Barbecue.

**All this for just \$55.00. Juniors \$15.00 (Under 16).
Dinner extras welcome \$25.00 each.**

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Ross will be bringing a truckload of wood but you can also order your preferred selection.
Contact Ross and he will cut to order your Rimu and Maire and deliver at Participation.

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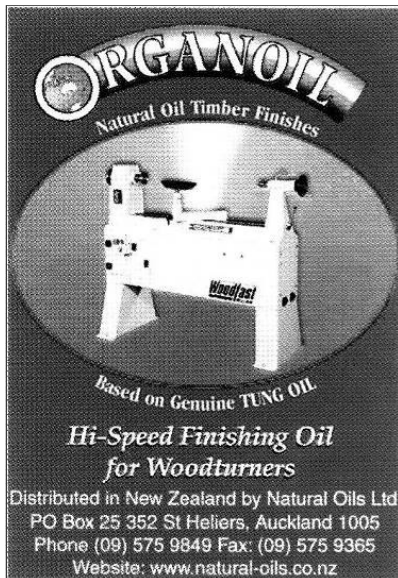
Mini Lathes - FREE Loans

The Club has a few 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. Blanks for turning are available for purchase at the club shop.

Enquiries to Mac Duane, Tom Pearson or a Committee member.



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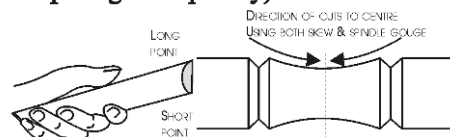
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A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO WOODTURNING

Original artwork and text by George Flavell

Now in its fourth edition with 52 pages of clear line drawings and text specifically aimed at the learner turner. Safety, wood gathering, tools, spindle work, bowls, hollow forms, and more.

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



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