

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 160

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

November 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,
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South Auckland, NZ

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57 Registrations

+ 3 Vendors

= 60 People turning, watching, supporting

Of the 57 turning, 14 were from outside the Auckland / Manukau / Papakura area including 1 from the South Island, and 6 were from Australia. So of a total of 20 'outside' attendees, a third of them travelled a long way to get here. Some stayed with relatives, but eight club members provided beds (or a place for a campervan) for out-of-towners.

The majority of attendees were all set up and turning by 10 am on the Friday. That was *not* expected (last year most attendees treated Friday as a set-up day) but it was great. We hadn't included Friday meals in the registration fee, and hadn't organised anything for lunchtime, but Don Wood got the local supermarket to provide roast chicken, sliced ham, salad, and buns and everyone chipped in to cover the cost. Friday evening we sent out for 15 pizzas as planned.

Many carried on turning after the Friday and Saturday evening meals, some till 9:00 pm and most turners continued right through to 3 pm on the Sunday. With everyone helping everyone else and pitching in, the clubroom and lobby were restored to normal and most people had said goodbye by about 4:30. It was amazing.

We had 12 sponsors who contributed products, donated equipment, provided items for the raffles and Silent Auction, or underwrote our costs. Raffle prizes included new gouges from Turning Tools Ltd, an *Off & On* sanding kit from Treeworkx, timber from Vivian Indigenous Timber, a respirator from Carba-Tec and Triton, a bench sander and belt sander from Tool & Industrial Supplies and finishing products from Organoil and Watty!

Attendees and sponsors were really generous in donating to the Silent Auction (that was Les's idea and it worked brilliantly). Examples: a set of miniature tools, motors, Ian Fish's bowl blanks, pickles, and even a cake.

Maybe 5 people were beginners, and another 5 or 10 were folks who hadn't been turning all that long. They got help, advice and ideas from others.

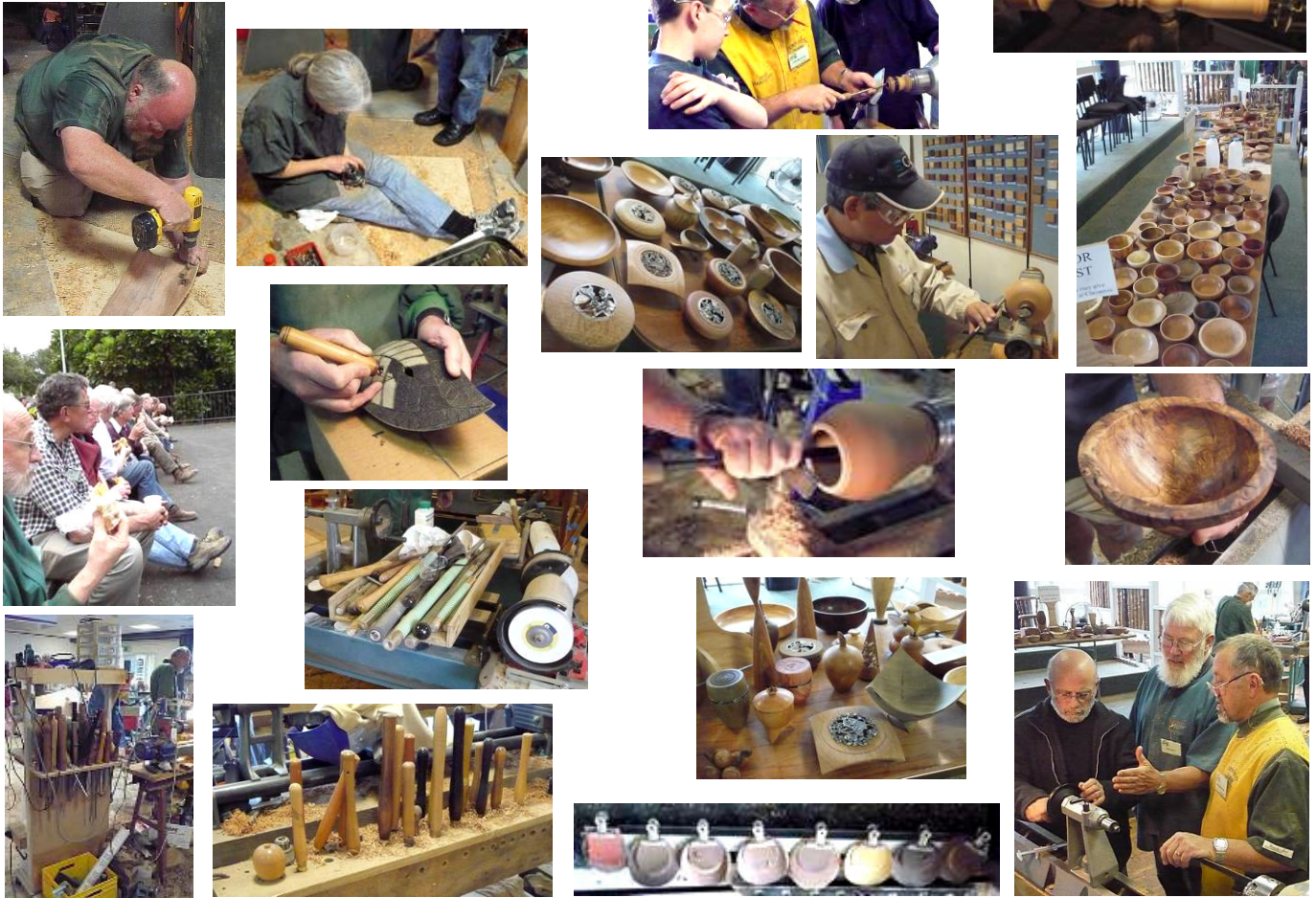
Many people from outside the area have asked us to put their names down for next year.

Les Sivewright and Don Wood were heroes - they'd paid their registration fee and spent the whole time supporting, tidying, selling raffle tickets, shovelling shavings, etc.

- Cathy Langley



Participation 2007 - cont.



Michael Bernard, President

Well it is time to gather my breath after a hectic and productive weekend spent with friends at *Participation*. What a great occasion it was. So many turners and so many different ideas and projects, from wet turning great lumps of swamp kauri to the very finest finish on delicate lidded boxes, and a table full of small bowls for the lollies to go in for the kids hospital Xmas Gifts. It was constant action.

There was also a steady stream of tips and hints, from the skilled to the less skilled, for a better cut or smoother finish, and I watched skill levels advance over the course of the 3-day weekend. We had turners from Aussie and a raft of folks from all parts of NZ and we were kept fuelled by home baking for quick tea breaks and great lunches by ladies from the *Toy Library* and by *Yummy BBQ* on Saturday night.

We asked that everyone stay till 3pm on Sunday to all help with the cleanup and the clubrooms were returned to normal in one and a half hours.

Thanks to the timber and tool sales people that brought their shops to the club. A big thanks to the businesses that gave the vast array of items for the steady stream of raffles that peppered the weekend. Everyone seemed to leave with a new tool or a prized piece of timber under their arm.

A great big thanks to the "Tight Five" who quietly put in an **enormous** amount of work to make the weekend run so smoothly.

And now I am waiting for the date to be set for our next *Participation* so I can make sure my calendar is clear. I can't wait to do it all over again.

PS. I'm off to the workshop now to turn a lidded box.

Bob Yandell

Participation 2007 for some began a lot earlier than Friday. We arrived to find the area in a state of readiness and lathes already in place. We had not even begun putting chisel to wood when the experience and learning began. Every trade set-up with various "toys" offered ideas and tips to solve a problem. The pace of the weekend was great. We were not put under pressure to achieve a result but rather take the opportunity to learn and have fellowship.

The willingness to share knowledge, provide advice and give tips was truly amazing. Terry Scott, Brendan Stemp, Dick Veitch, Les Sivewright, Ian Fish and others all gave me so much help.

I learnt much about using a bowl gouge and a scraper (sorry Ian), techniques of sanding and correcting a mistake (going through the base) - nothing is ever beyond saving.

The weekend had its moments of humour too. President Michael confessed to being "a recovering anorexic". Don and Jim gave advice and encouragement whether wanted or not. Mac decided a half circle was better than a full one and threw the unwanted half away. It hit me, knocking my bowl out of my hands. I enjoyed the opportunity to get my teeth into *Participation* so much that I left one of my front teeth in the lunch.

The generosity of our sponsors was obvious. The quality and quantity of the raffle prizes was such that Don and John had little difficulty selling tickets. A big vote of thanks for the work done by Les and Don in keeping us watered, fed and keeping our work areas clear so we could focus on the challenges of making bowls, lidded boxes and whatever else took our fancy.

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 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.

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

Sat 10 Dec Working Bee - starts 8.30am. Join the team for a final cleanup for 2007.

Wed 12 Dec Final night of the Term - Judging Term Project; wrapping sweets/bowls.

(Please bring a plate for supper)

Term One 2008 starts 6th February.

Editor's Corner

This year's Participation was bigger and better than ever - more lathes in action, more turners, more attendees from far afield (including six from Australia), more for the guild's "bowls for Kidz in hospital" annual Christmas treat, more and better raffles through the generosity of more sponsors to help provide for the guild education programme, even more food consumed to fuel the participants who turned night and day. And, certainly, a great feeling of camaraderie and sense of achievement as the participants wearily straggled home at the end of the three very full days. All of this brought about by the many long hours of planning and sheer dedication of effort by the whole team involved.

These people are the backbone of our guild and the reason for its continuance, its increasing success and nation-wide (and overseas) acclaim. Give them YOUR full support and offer your own willing help when called on, for "it is giving that we receive..."

Coming events

3 to 18 November 2007.

Franklin Woodturners Club - Sale of Woodturning. This will be held in the Villa, Queen Street, Waiuku. Open 10am to 5pm every day

10 and 11 November 2007.

Arts Trail 2007. The Kapiti Coast's premier arts and craft weekend. Waikanae Memorial Hall on Pehi Kupa St from 10:00 to 5:00 each day

3 to 24 December 2007.

South Auckland Woodturners Guild. Annual Sale of Woodturning. Accent Point Shopping Centre, Papakura.

2008

19 and 20 January 2008.

Levin AP&I show.

Including a show and sale of Kapiti Woodworkers Guild's work. This will be held at the showgrounds in Levin.

29 Feb - 2 Mar Waimate Woodcraft EXPO

8th March 2008.

"Six Span turn a Round". South Otago Woodcraft Inc. To be held at the South Otago Woodcraft Inc. Clubrooms, 18 Crown Street, Balclutha.

7 to 9 March 2008.

Lake Taupo Woodturning Jamboree to be held at the Spa Hotel Taupo.

For further info contact, Robbie Graham, Ph: 07 377 0469 or by email robbie@wildwoodgallery.co.nz

20 to 24 March 2008.

Royal Easter Show. In the Art Hall, ASB Showgrounds. Competition entry forms due by 8 February 2008

We will add more detail when the schedule is available.

18 May 2008.

Manawatu Woodworkers Guild. Open Day and Inter-club competition

Arena 5, Waldegrave Street, Palmerston North.

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

Bird's eye view

Dick Veitch recently installed a new ceiling mounted \$600 video camera above our main demonstration lathe to enhance the viewing of the finer points of the demonstrator's skills. The end-on and the top views can be quickly interchanged on the large video screen as required. 'Rubbing the bevel' (and the cleanliness of the demonstrator's finger nails) can now be clearly seen by all. Technology at its best!

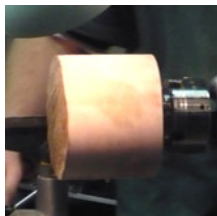


Club night activities

Gordon Pembridge - a basic bowl

After demonstrating how he turns his trade-mark thin-walled bowls, Gordon then showed beginners in the audience how he turns a basic bowl. He explained his choice of tools for the appropriate tasks, the importance "of rubbing the bevel", planning for proportion and symmetry, how to start the first inside cuts and finish off the bottom inside.

He then discussed the various options of how to finish off the base and applied an oil finish to the completed bowl.



Unique 'BBC' presentation

It was a Wednesday night presentation with a difference. **President Michael Bernard** introduced the guest speaker - his father **Glen Bernard**, who enjoys guiding visitors around the Auckland harbour-front Maritime Museum. Glen then introduced us to **Captain James Cook** and gave us many insights into the background, scientific commissions and travels of this remarkable man who literally put New Zealand firmly and accurately on the world map. But for James Cook we wouldn't have Glen, and..... so on! The mind boggles!



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Out and about

Boys and their toys...

Big Kauri stumps

Over 30 of our intrepid members were at Pulman Park, Papakura from Saturday 13th October with uncounted blunt chainsaws nibbling away at the vast stack of swamp kauri. Many happy faces and many trailer-loads of wood. We look forward to seeing the results.



Big Aussie saw

An Aussie battler shows how he does it when he's at home. (Wot, no face guard? At least his ears are protected!)



Getting it home...

No trailer or truck? Check out p.5 for a couple of ideas.

Big mistake!

How not to do it - by an American first-time chainsaw hopeful.

Club night activities

The magic of ... Brendan Stemp

Brendan is a master of the "how did he do that..." special group of craftsmen who do the seemingly impossible. While in NZ from Australia for *Participation 2007* he showed us some of his exceptional creative ingenuity. He starts with a flowing, improbable design concept and then works out a way to bring it to reality, using a highly developed 3-D insight sense embodying a process of shaping the primary element, adding a 'sacrificial' piece, reshaping and finally parting off that piece to reveal the ultimate shape. Depending on the final vision, then follows detailing, refinement and finishing to produce a unique work of art.

Because of time constraints, the demonstration was simplified somewhat in terms of finishing and detailing, but the essence of the process clearly indicated the great potential for further elaboration and development.

Brendan starts with a modified bowl shape using a selected piece of native timber



The bowl shape is then bandsawn to a measured width



Then a 'sacrificial' piece is turned from scrap wood, carefully shaped to provide a closely fitting 'mate' to the original.



The two pieces are then hot-melt glued together ...



... band sawn again ...



... turned and shaped ...



... carefully separated, cleaned up, further reshaped, embellished and finished, until



Below: Not the demo piece but one along similar lines to illustrate some of the many design possibilities.



Getting it home

Where there's a will



With thanks to Phil Collins

TIS

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Out and about

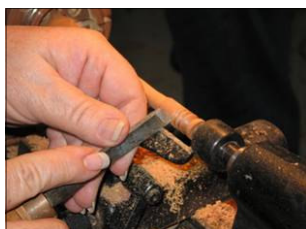
We Went to Berwick by Dick Veitch



If you come from England you might pronounce it "Berrick"; if you live in Southland it might be closer to "Berrrrrick"; all I knew was that it is close to Milton (flood prone), south of Outram, turn left at Berwick School (now closed) and right at Old NZ Forest HQ (now empty). We got there, as did more than 50 others.



Peter Knox loaded his car with a lathe for each of us and south from Rangiora we went. I thought he was driving gently but when we met the first hill (some time after lunch) and he changed down to second, I realised we really had loaded the little car with lathes, tools, wood and sleeping bags.



Truth is that by then we also had a few kilos of pork on board from the Havoc Pork shop in Waimate. Very nice it was too.

Taieri Woodworkers Club are the organisers of "Camp U-turn" held at Berwick Forest Camp in August every second year. Each other year the Southland Woodworkers Guild has a similar event at Taringatura (with the same great cooks).



By sunset on the Friday there were 20 lathes and five scrollsaws whizzing, purring and buzzing in the hall. Everyone was very happy. There was room for more. On Saturday another 25 people came for the day. Now there were more than 50 people turning, cutting, talking, and looking. More happy people. A very nice weekend, thanks to all who were there.



The Running or the Reward?

Way back in 2006 we saw that the Axminster Woodturning Competition was to be done using photos, rather than woodturners taking/couriering their entries to the town of Axminster. So, a CD of South Auckland woodturning photos (and one from our Franklin Woodturning Club neighbour) was put together and posted off. I don't remember the cost, but lets say all up \$10.00.

Surprise, surprise, we won five of the six prizes in the Amateur section. Chuffed, we were. What were the prizes – wait and see. The Frenchman who won third emailed to say his had arrived. I emailed the only address I had – editor of Woodturning – no reply. Terry Scott received his prize – a voucher to purchase Axminster tools. Very nice!

I emailed again. Many weeks passed and then a reply – sorry, I have left that job and just popped back to check the mail. Now it is in the hands of a secretary. "We don't have an address to send the vouchers to." Try the letter I sent to start with and every email I have sent since. "Oh, yes, the voucher is in the mail." By late June the voucher was here. £200.00 to spend at Axminster Tools. Wow, Christmas all over again. But lets get cunning here as shipping may cost a bit. The order is carefully considered and instructions given to add or subtract packets of 150mm sanding disks until the costs of goods and freight match the £200.00 voucher.

Mid-August, no goods. Email again. No reply. Wait a week. Phone them. "One moment please" Musak. "I will put you through to..." Musak. Finally "We lost your order but think it was already on the system. I answered your email." There it was - labelled [SPAM]. Yes that was my order (damned virus checkers). "OK, Sir, it should reach you in six to eight days." Phone call cost \$4.38.

Six days later - "This is DHL. We have your parcel. You need to pay \$103.89 GST and charges before we can release it." Much discussion followed and, finally, a credit card number given. Later that day, about ten months after the CD was posted, the parcel arrived.

Christmas again!

But at what cost? Converted to NZ\$ I get \$389 worth of goods. From my voucher freight of \$185 was paid. From my credit card \$104 was paid. Plus postage and phone of about \$15.

Terry thought he would like the full value of his voucher so said "Put the cartage on my credit card." They kindly put in their "Free" catalogue – nearly a kilogram – which added about \$30.00 to the cartage cost!

Next competition, I am in for the running, not the reward.

- Dick Veitch



Terry's Hot Tips

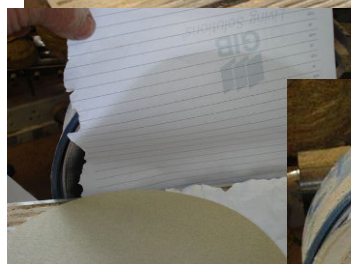
Changing the sandpaper on a Disc Sander

In the past, to change my 6-inch disc sander's Velcro-backed paper after removing the old paper, I have had to remove the table because the Velcro on the new paper grabs on to the disc while I rotate the sander disc by hand before I am able to slip it down inside the unit.

I came up with the idea of placing a sheet of paper in front of the disc, sliding the new sandpaper into place in front of the paper, and then carefully removing the paper.

This would also work if used with self adhesive sandpaper.

The same trick will help with the removal of the old sandpaper (See bottom picture).



D.I.Y Dust Extractor

I am about to make one of these. When I am carving or sanding one of my sculptural pieces, I don't often want my big extractor unit going for long periods of time as it has a 2 hp motor and is very noisy. This unit will work when I am doing pyrography as well.



I just have to find a dryer motor and fan - the one I have seen running is silent.



Dust Collector unit can be mounted wherever required for sanding or carving work.

Participation 2007 Sponsors

We gratefully thank our sponsors for their generosity and support which added so much to the occasion.

Carba-Tec - Club equipment to value of \$600

Turning Tools Ltd (Ian Fish) - \$100 product

McEntee Hire - Pens, keyrings, raffle prizes, safety gear, hats

Organoil - \$200 product

Motor Technologies - Variable speed units, plus \$200 cash

TIS - \$300 raffle prize

Treeworkz - \$100 raffle prize

Vivian Indigenous Timbers - \$100 wood

Watty! (NZ) Ltd - \$150 of product

Woodcut - Promount unit raffle prize

WORKSTORE - \$100 raffle prize

FOR SALE

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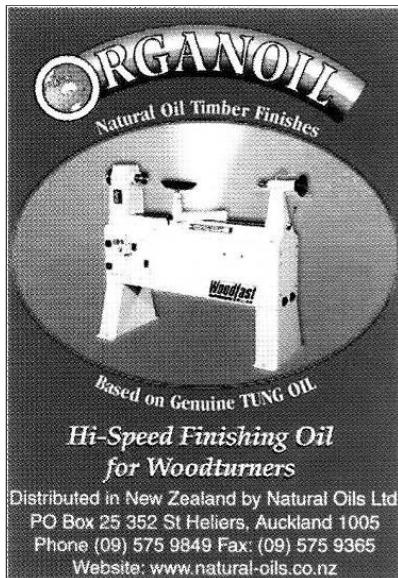
Mini Lathes - FREE Loans

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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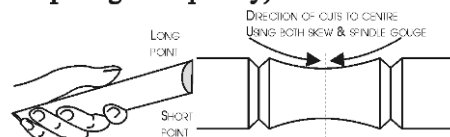
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A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO WOODTURNING

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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