

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

20th
Anniversary
Year

Issue No 166

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

June 2008

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SAWG COMMITTEE

President

Dick Veitch 298 5775

Vice President

Bob Yandell 537 3815

Past President

Michael Bernard 09 425 6782

Secretary

Tom Pearson 575 4994

Treasurer

Cathy Langley 630 2091

Editor

Mike Clausen 525 3586

Members:

Mac Duane, Terry Meekan,
Gordon Pembridge,
Terry Scott, Les Sivewright,
John Whitmore, Don Wood

Webmaster

Rex Haslip 267 3548

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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Guild's Annual General Meeting

Michael Bernard steps down from SAWG Presidency

"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... I regret that due to a change in my career I am unable to serve a further year ... I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge given to me when I was elected President."



Cathy Langley, Treasurer; Michael Bernard, President; Tom Pearson, Secretary

As only one nomination had been received for each Executive position, the following were declared appointed:

President: Dick Veitch; Vice-President: Bob Yandell;
Secretary: Tom Pearson; Treasurer: Cathy Langley;
Immediate Past-President: Michael Bernard;
Editor: Mike Clausen.

Committee Members elected by ballot were:

Mac Duane, Terry Meekan, Terry Scott, Les Sivewright.

Approval was given to the Committee to co-opt the unsuccessful candidates as necessary (Gordon Pembridge, John Whitmore, Don Wood). This was later done by the new Committee.

Franklin Club gets a new lathe...



Ian Fish, Rex Haslip and Dick Veitch looking very pleased with themselves and the new Nova DVR XP lathe in the Franklin Woodturners Club's new premises.

The members of the Franklin Woodturners Club were holding their first AGM in their almost completed new premises at Waiuku when they were stunned by the presentation of a new Nova DVR XP lathe, by courtesy of Ian Fish, Dick Veitch and South Auckland Woodturners Guild. President George Cross, with several club members, attended the SAWG AGM to express their club's appreciation of their surprise gift which arrived in time to boost their energies after a long stretch of fundraising and construction work. The new clubrooms are expected to officially open next September.



A hatful of money
- see page 5.

Club calendar

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Coming events

Second Term 2008

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, get a little extra advice, or just socialise, 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.

- Wed 4 June** Hands On - Platters & plates
Sat 7 June Upskills Morning. Doors open 8:30am. Improve your skills, help others improve, or just come along, turn some wood, enjoy coffee and chat.
Wed 11 June Router on lathe work - Veining & fluting - Dick Smith
Sat 14 June Working Bee. Doors open 8:30am Your chance to put back into the club
Wed 18 June Coffee Table - Bob Yandell
Sat 21 June Ornamental Turners. Starting 1pm Learn this fascinating craft and help make a rose engine.
Wed 25 June "The Kermadec Islands" - Dick Veitch
Sat/Sun 28/29 June Neil & Liz Scobie workshops
Wed 2 July Walking Sticks - Phil Youens
END OF TERM - Project judging

Wed nights 9, 16 July - No formal meetings - but clubrooms are open from 5pm for those wanting to use the equipment, turn some wood or enjoy coffee and a chat.

- Wed 23 July** Term Project: Balusters - Farouk Khan*
Wed 30 July Plate with Inlay - Bryden Thorpe*
(* to be confirmed)



**Neil and Liz
Scobie**

Two 1- Day Sessions

Sat & Sun 28-29 June
SAWG Clubrooms

- Saturday - full day Demos - \$20.00
- Sunday* - full day - 2x workshops
(1/2 day Neil, 1/2 day Liz - \$105.00 approx)



***Sunday nearly sold
out.**

Check now for
any vacancies



2008

12 July - Treeworkx Field-day
Gates open at 8:30am. More details coming soon.

Sat 19 July, - NAW Annual General Meeting, 1pm
At the University of Canterbury, College of Education, Dovedale Ave, Christchurch

26 to 28 September - Participation 2008

This annual event will again be held at the South Auckland Woodturners Guild Clubrooms. Reserve this date. Further details to follow

10 to 12 October - Tauranga Woodcrafters Club Annual Show

Greerton Community Hall, 1263 Cameron Road, Greerton, Tauranga. Woodcraft made by club members will be for sale. Active displays from six guest exhibitors including Shane Hewitt and Robbie Graham.

1 Oct to 2 Nov - Spin Around Waitaki - Waitaki Woodturners Guild

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



**The South Auckland
Woodturners Guild**
is a member of the



National Association of Woodworkers NZ Inc
and the
American Association of Woodturners

Editor's Corner

Another AGM, and this time Dick Veitch takes over the role of President from Michael Bernard, who had earlier announced that he would be unable to continue as President. The Committee remains much the same as before, but with a new face, John Whitmore, being later co-opted along with previous committee members Gordon Pembroke and Don Wood. Bob Yandell has assumed his new role of Vice president so there is a strong team to take the Guild forward. Of special interest to all members and the Committee was the presence of official guests, Manukau City Council Deputy Mayor Gary Troup and Council Officer Maureen Sheldon, both of whom have been very supportive of the Guild in it's Council-owned property. Both spoke highly of the Guild and assured the members that it was the Council's wish that our present location would be preserved in the foreseeable future. All very good news!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008

A year in the chair as President of the SAWG seemed, at the start of the year, to be 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; Michael Clausen, who has edited and produced a superb Newsletter after taking on that task from Dick Veitch. Many thanks also to our Secretary, Tom Pearson, who has provided me with agendas week by week. As always, Les Sivewright has provided a well-stocked shop to serve club members. 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 provided by our own members as well as visiting demonstrators from other Clubs and Australia.

Throughout the year the weekend training courses have progressed with the Beginners Courses being in very high demand from our members. The Woodturning Qualification course now being offered in conjunction with Aoraki Polytechnic is seen as an important means of providing Guild members and others with skills and generally increasing the awareness of woodturning as a hobby, possibly even a career path.

In addition to our routine events, this year has also seen another of our "Participation" weekends 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 Papakura Christmas sale provided yet another record in sales 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 three 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 outstanding competition results at the Easter Show and other woodturning competitions.

Finally, it is a pleasure to be able to report that the Guild continues to grow, both in numbers and quality of work as each member's skills increase. 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.

I regret that due to a change in my career I am unable to serve a further year and to give our club the attention that it deserves. I believe the Guild will be well served by our new President, Dick Veitch.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge given to me when I was elected President and thank all the membership of SAWG for their help, support and ribbing.

- Michael Bernard



Terry Meekan Honoured at AGM

Past President and Life Member Mac Duane read the citation for Terry Meekan, whose outstanding contributions to the life of the Guild over 17 years, including two years as President and 16 years on the Committee, were deserving of Life Membership. Life Member Clarrie Wills (*right*) presented Terry with his Life Membership certificate to applause from those present.

Club activities

Robbie Graham's 3-sided vase

This striking vase was Part 2 of Robbie's demonstration, Part 1 of which was featured in the May 2008 issue of *TurningTalk*. The illustration is that of an earlier piece as the decorating is a somewhat involved and lengthy process, entailing texturing of the entire outside surface and then the application of many coats of stain and highlighting to give a colourful sheen finish.

The rough shape of the vase is drawn on one side of the block of wood. The ends and sides have been carefully squared off. It is also now convenient to mark each end with its relative maximum diameter.

After turning the desired shape and leaving an extra-thick base, a datum line is drawn between the existing centres at top and bottom, using Robbie's "hi-tech multi-purpose datum-line scriber" (see p.7 for illustrations of his array of other custom-built "hi-tech equipment" for this project). The centre-line is aligned across both ends with the sides. Another circle is scribed around the centres on the ends, each diameter reflecting the diameter of its end. There is no hard and fast rule here, instead experience will help to determine the eventual desired "plane" of each face.

Each new outer circle is divided into three equal sectors and those points are accurately drilled to locate the centres of the spur drive. These new centres can now be used to scribe three lines along the side of the vase to show the boundaries of each plane. (Note Robbie's "universal-jointed" spur, the head of which swivels to better offer a good grip).

The vase is now returned to the lathe with the swivel spur drive securing the base. Note the head and tail centres are both positioned on their "matching" pre-drilled positions. After checking that all is secure and clear of the eccentric rotation of the vase, start with a slow to moderate speed, depending on your tool skills, and commence with a sharp bowl gouge. Watch

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the shadow shape and check frequently on progress with the lathe stopped. As each face is turned,

repeating the first alignment step, again check frequently to see that it is meeting the adjacent edge of the next, in a straight line, as shown at right. The three end centres can be seen aligned with their respective faces, around the main centre. Remove the swivel spur drive and replace with a normal fixed spur drive. Set up the vase with the base at the tail-stock end and turn a spigot to suit your largest scroll chuck. Reverse the vase into the chuck, bringing up the tail-stock centre to ensure alignment of the original centre-line, and remove the tail-stock to enable the deep hollowing process. Use a bowl gouge and your favourite deep hollowing tool (see Robbie's home made version on p.7). Leave the top end opening a little thicker than usual.

Robbie uses an assortment of micro-files to shape the opening to reflect the line of each side plane, giving a rounded triangular shape to the opening.

Now, the fun part! Here you can exercise your artistic design talents. You can now assess the shape you have formed so far and decide what further decoration/s you would like - if you haven't already prepared a detailed sketch of your finished product.

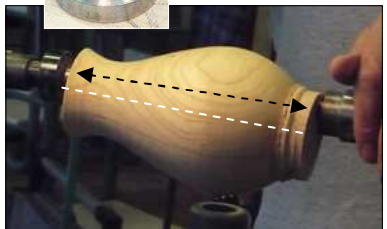
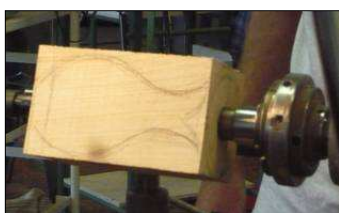
Carving, texturing, piercing, colouring, burning, pyrography, engraving, whatever, can be used, singly or in combination. Try them all, and experiment. Like all creative art - there are No Rules!

In his demo, Robbie elected to show a variety of possible techniques, just as an illustration of what can be done. He has developed a series of cardboard templates which he can apply when repeat patterns or shapes are wanted. These are traced on with a soft black pencil.

As always, it is important to produce a good, smooth surface before applying any decoration, as any flaws will inevitably show up in the finished product and usually cannot be easily removed.



Left- The demonstration piece showing various partial decorative treatments as indications of what can be done. Leave the work-piece in the chuck during the decoration process and then part off and finish the base to a professional standard. Robbie says "Give it a try. Don't be afraid of a few failures!"



Bits and Pieces

Dick Veitch *is on a mission ...*

Not sure what he's up to
but he's sure making a
lot of shavings



Ahah! - a wide-rimmed bowl.
Must be going to do some
fancy decoration on it.
Pyrography, perhaps?



Funny looking bowl after all
that talk about symmetry and
flowing curves...



That's not a
bowl -
it's a flat
topped *bowler*!
And look at all
that money in
it after he
passed it
around.



He's onto something here!

Where are my tools?

(Later, all was revealed. Dick is organising a collection to help meet the cost of a new DVR lathe for the Franklin Club in their new clubrooms. The hat was passed around at our May meetings and supplemented by a dip into the Guild piggy bank.

Nice work, Dick, for taking the initiative and first making a significant personal contribution.) - Ed.

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Another Dick Veitch special -

Recycling is still a Big Thing these days and brings out some creativity in certain people when they put their minds to it.

Take a standard farm fence wooden batten, some glue, string, paper, nails, paint, and curtain hooks, and add a solid amount of time and effort.

Dick then produced the incredible result below. The train is 3.1 metres long and has 25 wagons and an engine. "Freight" includes "coal, logs, rolls of steel, and sawdust". Practically nothing of the fence batten was wasted. Even Dick's dog, Bella, was co-opted as the Guard!

(Wot! No #8 wire?) - Ed.



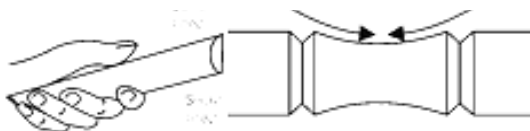
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Creating a "Burl Tree"

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by Terry Scott



Fig 1. Setting up to turn the first burl - an extra pair of hands would help



Fig 2. Showing counterweight and sled mounted on backing plate



Fig 3. First turned bowl, yet to be sanded

I think the burl branch is red beech, but I am not sure. The plan was simple - make each of the eight burrs into a small bowl and leave them still attached to the tree. The operation was not so simple.

The work is mounted onto what I call the slide and this is moved around on the MDF flywheel which is attached to a 150mm face plate. I levelled and secured the wood into the position I required with the aid of wedges and hot melt glue. The straps are an extra precaution. The whole device is then balanced with strategically placed lumps of lead securely attached.

For each of the eight bowls the log was re-attached and re-balanced. On occasions I had difficulty getting the chisel down between two burls and changes of shape were needed. When I came to do the burl on the bottom end I didn't have enough swing and had to cut 100mm off the other end.

The ninth bowl on the very top was turned last between centres. Some carving was then needed to blend the cuts between bowls and restore shape to the slimmed down branch. Airbrushing highlighted the texture on the tree.

The burl which serves as the base was scribed around the base of the burl tree. As this piece stands 600mm high it needed something to give it stability.

Please note that attempting a piece like this can be rather daunting unless you understand how to balance the work. My lathe weighs 650kg and is bolted to the floor. This helps, but if any vibration is felt, you haven't spent enough time getting it balanced.

Oh, by the way, on the Monday I had to go and buy some more trailer tie-downs as they were a bit short after this exercise. I am proud to say this piece now sits alongside 250 others in a private collection in Hong.



The burl which serves as the base was scribed around the burl tree. As this piece stands 600mm it needed something to give the work stability.

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



Terry's Hot Tips

Leaving Mother Nature on Display

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Setting-up to run through the thicknesser - the burl is braced with hot-melt glued wedges then side rails and glued to a "sled" of waste timber. This is then screwed to a backing plate which is attached to the lathe, aligning each bowl in turn with the tailstock. Counterweights are added and adjusted for each bowl placement.

On a lot of the burls I turn I like to retain the natural texture that Mother Nature has left behind. To prepare the top flat surface for turning, I first run the pieces through my thicknesser. As some of the pieces are too short to go through the thicknesser safely, I hot-melt glue the burl to some waste timber to make a "sled" which helps support the wood being planed. I also glue a level pair of side rails to add extra support and provide a planing guide. This enables me to set up the burl as level as I can and saves a lot of extra facing-off on the lathe, in both time and precious wood.

Once level, the work can then be mounted on an Mdf backing plate, sled and all, to turn each bowl. The "sled" is positioned on the back plate to centre each bowl in turn with the tailstock. Add counterweights to the sled or back plate to balance the work, adjusting for each bowl. Make sure all is secure and turns freely.

The finished burl can just find its own sitting position, or three legs can be turned out of acrylic or other material.



A boat all set up on its "sled" and backing plate. The first two bowl shapes have been turned and sanded and the third has been started. Note some of the counterweights on the right.



A trio of canoes that were fashioned using these methods. The topsides were hand textured and blackened afterwards.

Well, I knew I had everything - somewhere!

I was recently getting in some practice with my mini-Rolly. The shear scraper was in a need of a sharpen as I was turning some very hard Goldfield burl. OK, hold the scraper between my fingers. Ouch! That gets hot. A pair of pliers - bang! The scraper ended up being pulled out of the pliers and ending up inside the guard of the grinder. The light came on - maybe because my fingers were still burning. I knew I had a *thingy* to hold the bits in. Now where is it? OK, I remember - I had used the stem sharpener to stir some paint a while ago, and also as a stiffener for a hollow-tool shaft. Eureka! Now I've got everything - a paint stirrer with a tool sharpener holder on the end. Nice one, Woodcut!



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Robbie Graham's Gadgets

Robbie gave us a great demo last month (see May issue and p.4 of this issue). As a professional turner, he is fully aware of the value of his time spent at his lathe (home made) and the many other activities involved in creating his artistic pieces. As do all good businessmen, he keeps a close eye on all the elements of his operation to improve his net profit. The "number 8 wire" philosophy, that Kiwi icon, was evident during his demos, too. Wherever possible he makes/ designs his own tools, often using the simplest materials at hand - and they all work extremely well on their allotted tasks. A few such items are depicted here: the pencil-on-a-stand at the top; he made his own deep-hollowing tool to suit his work; his sanding disk on a shaped length of branch fits deep into his narrow necked 3-faced vase and his 12mm bowl gouge has a custom-made long handle to brace on his hip for maximum control. All deceptively simple - but effective.



Aoraki Certificate Course

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Course update - Stage Two

MEMO:- SAWG MEMBERS who are enrolled in the Aoraki Certificate in Woodturning Programme -

This note is to tell you the likely dates of courses in **Stage 2** of the Aoraki Certificate in Woodturning programme.

Each of the seven compulsory Stage 2 modules is a one-day course. We plan to offer each of the seven modules twice (see schedule below), so that if one date doesn't suit, you can plan to attend on the other date. In the material originally distributed, the compulsory modules in Stage 2 had titles like "Faceplate Turning" or "Tools." We have rearranged the topics covered in each course to balance them more effectively. As a result, the original names are no longer accurate, so we have numbered the modules. All of the "learning outcomes" required for Stage 2 will be covered, but not necessarily grouped in the original way.

Note that Stage 2 modules do not have to be completed in numerical order; but all Stage 2 modules must be completed before moving on to Stage 3.

If you must miss a module, we'll try to offer some catch-up opportunities next year. We're not sure how we'll do that, so we're hoping that the following dates work for you:

Stage 2 Module	Date
1	Saturday 24 May
2	Sunday 25 May
2	Saturday 21 June
3	Sunday 22 June
3	Saturday 26 July
4	Sunday 27 July
4	Saturday 23 August
5	Sunday 24 August
5	Saturday 30 August
6	Sunday 31 August
6	Saturday 25 October
7	Sunday 26 October
7	Saturday 22 November
1	Sunday 23 November

Please note:

These dates are tentative, depending on availability of tutors. At this point we have identified dates only for the compulsory modules. When we find dates and tutors for Stage 2 elective courses, we'll let you know.

We don't need you to nominate your preferred dates at this point. However, if you do know what your plans are, then you may want to reserve places on your preferred dates. In particular, let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend on either or both of the dates in May.

Stage 2 modules are open to all SAWG members who have completed the Introductory course.

The fee for each module is \$20.

Cathy Langley
Treasurer, SAWG
Ph: 09-630-2091
c.langley@xtra.co.nz

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Bits and Pieces

Terry Scott evaluates the Hunter Tool System

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At Christmas, I sent Mike Stafford, who specialises in making exquisite boxes, a Soren Berger Hollowing Tool to try out. Check out the Teknatool projects page to see some of his work: <http://www.teknatool.com/projects/MikeBOX/Boxfrommike.htm>. Unknown to me, Mike had been working with Mike Hunter to develop his carbide tipped Hunter Tools. Back came an email to ask if I'd like to give those tools a workout. Who am I, a major toolaholic, to say no!

A set arrived in the mail, each tool in a nice tube with red ends. First impression: 10 points. What Mike Hunter has done is to develop the original cup-tool from Teknatool to a new level by making the cutter with carbide. A lot of you (I was going to say older) experienced turners with a few years behind you will remember that cup-tool and still probably use one on end-grain turning, things like egg cups and goblets. Newer turners can still purchase one from the Woodcut range of tools.



Mike Hunter reckons they can be dropped on the floor or cut through the toughest material you want to throw at it, but if you let the tips touch each other they will chip. Another 10 points - even I was impressed by this statement.

Mike said they do work extremely well for rough hollowing, but can be slow. I have since corrected Mike on this, my first thing I turned was a mallee burl. Roughing out was no problem, rubbing the bevel on the cutter allows you to move wood in a hurry. My method of doing this is to have the tool rest above centre and have the handle tilted 10 degrees. Mike also states that the nipple is hard to get rid of. Not so. Bring the cutter on the right of centre, push, lift and slide at the same time. With a bit of practice no hole needs to be pre-drilled. But it is still a handy thing to do as one can drill to the finished depth saving those embarrassing moments of going through the bottom.

It is important and essential that the speed be turned up. If all is secure, I often run at 3000rpm or more. Yes, another 10 points - this is my kind of turning. A word of warning: don't do this unless you have a lathe and a chuck that is up to the task. The same stresses are applied as in bowl saving.

After I turned four large burls there was still no need to

rotate the cutter as I cut my thumb when I rubbed it on the cutting edge to see if his recommendation was correct. Even I couldn't bring myself to drop the tool on the concrete floor. (But I guess in time it will test itself.)

The real benefit is no grinding of the tool, no lapping of the tool. Each new insert comes sharpened and ready to use. Tool life is 25 - 30 times, even 100 times your expectations of high quality HSS. New tool bits, torque screws, and torque wrenches are reasonable and readily available. They have strong metal shanks which minimise vibration and chatter.

The full range of the Hunter Tools can be seen at <http://www.hunterwoodturningtool.com/>. The cutters are in three sizes: 3/16, 3/8, and 1/2 inch. The 3/16 are supplied with short shafts specially designed to replace the tips in captured hollowing systems such as the Jamieson or Trent Bosch Systems. The 3/8 and 1/2 inch can have straight or two shapes of swan-neck shafts. Then there is a 3/4 inch shank which holds the 1/2 inch cutter. The swan neck options have the cutter set at an angle to the line of the shaft and this makes them excellent for shear cutting.

OK, my conclusion: I think these tools should only be used by someone with some experience with a cup tool. Many of the capped cutter systems, and there are many, are a bit more user friendly but I have found wet kauri to clog most of them (yes, I do have one of each).

For those of you that don't know me, I have a bit of a reputation for 'If Terry can't break it, no one can!' The Hunter tools put up with everything I threw at them. I

even tried them on some brass and alloy. Replacement tips are only \$20 so why even attempt to sharpen them?

A problem I found was when I went to undo the grub screw it was clogged up, unlike some tools where the screw does up from underneath. I confronted Mike on this (obviously he has come across a smart alec like me before, his reply was "Oh, just melt some wax into the head before turning"). I have taken this tip and used it on a number of tools and it works a treat. If you are heavy handed like me and the wax melts, put some hot melt glue in the hole - it has a higher melting point.

If you use or have used a cup tool, then the swan neck tool is a must as the angle is preset and you don't have to worry about a dig in. They cut just as well drawing the tool out as with a push cut. These are also great for getting under that undercut rim. I found the tool worked well on both cross grain and end grain.

No doubt you will be asking: "Do I need one of these?"

Of course you do. Look at it like this - it's only another bowl you have to sell.

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