

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 177

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

June 2009

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SAWG COMMITTEE

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Les Sivewright, Don Wood,

Webmaster

Rex Haslip 267 3548

Club Meetings:

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

Club Rooms:

Papatoetoe Community
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Kiwis in Aussie

Turnfest 2009

by Carole Knowles

Turnfest this year was held over three days at the Raddison Hotel on the Gold Coast. Approximately 250 plus attended including about 18 from NZ. The venue was excellent with first class accommodation and dining. The demonstration rooms were very well equipped. Each room fitted with two monitors with an operator. Demonstrators were fitted with microphones so all attendees could hear 100%. The hotel staff were fantastic. And the food! well I am sure most attending would have gained a kilo or two. I am certainly one of those.

All of the demonstrators were kept very busy. Each demonstrator conducting two sessions each day and in some cases a night session. Each session lasted 1 1/2 hrs these not finishing till well after the allotted time, we could not get enough of it. Brilliant!!! In between each session was a coffee/tea break or lunch.

Brian McEvoy (Canada) showed us deep hollowing and surface enhancement. His piercing and embellishing work was of an extremely high standard. Brendan Stemp (Australia) displayed his Multi Axis turning completing each piece in a session quite a task as his work is quite unique. Cindy Drozda (USA) was very well prepared. Cindy is probably one of the best demonstrators we have seen. I have seen her work on the web but to see her in person was something else. Her finials are "Perfect."

Our own Robbie Graham as usual did a wonderful job turning out several pieces of his work and explaining each step as he went.



Brian McEvoy



Cindy Drozda

(Continued on page 3)



Turnfest 2009 Demonstrators

Club calendar

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.

TERM 2 2009

- Wed 03 Jun** Hands-on - Term project (Lidded boxes)
Wed 10 Jun Sharpening- Gordon Pembridge, John Whitmore, Terry Scott
Sat 13 Jun Working Bee - 8.30am - 10.30am
Ornamental Turning - from 11am
Wed 17 Jun "From an old Totara Fence Post"
Mac Duane
Wed 24 Jun Inventions Night
Wed 1 Jul Final night of Term: judging, awards.
Slide show: Easter Show and AAW Symposium, Albuquerque NM, USA
Sat 13 Jul Working Bee 8:30 - 1:30am

TERM 3 2009

- Wed 22 July** SAWG Special General Meeting to consider amendment to Guild Constitution

Project for the term: Off Centre Turning (To be confirmed)

Coming events

Put these dates in your diary:

June

- 19th** Final date for submission of entries for Franklin Arts

July

- 11th** Treeworkx Open Day
8th Guild of Wellington Woodworkers exhibition (finishes 2 August)
17-19th Manawatu Round-up, Ashhurst
22nd SAWG Special General Meeting
25th NAW AGM - Hastings

August

- 7-9th** Taieri (Dunedin) Woodworkers Club U- Turn

September

- 5-13th** Franklin Arts Festival, Pukekohe
11-13 Sept National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau
25-27 Sep SAWG Participation 2009
30 Oct-1 Nov 'Spin Around' Waitaki Wood-workers' Clubrooms, Oamaru Racecourse

More details on these and other events, check out the latest update on www.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm

News from the NAW

Mark von Dadelszen has provided an update on the delays processing NAW membership applications and renewals.

He says that they are currently processing the last of the backlog and expects that these will all be completed by the time you read this.

He thanks everyone for their patience in the interim and, with this issue behind the NAW, it is timely to remind everyone that membership of the NAW is a worthwhile investment- members are encouraged to consider joining.

Tip of the Month

We all know that often the best ideas are the simplest- this idea comes from John Williams of Ontario, Canada. John says:

"I often process my own wood logs on my bandsaw. After the log has been cut in half I lay the flat edge on the band saw table and cut it up into planks. In order to cut straight lines, I have found that masking tape stretched over the bark makes the easiest line to follow."



New Members

A big welcome to Alex Bell, Mike Bennett, Andrew Bright, Alan Day, Mia Fitzgerald, Norm Gebbie, Keith Hastings, Kim Heppner, Ross Johnson, Lloyd McClelland, Robert Simpson, Wendy Tsai, John Wheat, John Wicken, Colin Wise and Bruce Wiseman who have succumbed to the wood addiction and joined our ranks over the past year.

May your wood turning journey be rewarding and see you at the lathe!



Terry Scott gives Mia some advice



Wendy Tsai tries her hand on the lathe

AGM 2009

This year's Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, 13 May 2009. Vice President Bob Yandell was in the chair with our own President Dick Veitch away advising another President, Barack Obama, with his unique brand of sage advice from a land far away.

One nomination for each executive position had been received so Dick Veitch (President), Bob Yandell (Vice President), Mark Savill (Secretary), David Jones (Treasurer), Michael Bernard (Past President) and Chris White (Editor) were confirmed in their respective positions.

Elected by ballot to the committee were Mac Duane, Cathy Langley, Terry Scott and Les Sivewright.

Separately, Terry Meekan and Don Wood have subsequently been co-opted to continue their contribution to the ongoing success of the Guild and have joined the committee.

Reports presented at the AGM detailed a Guild in good heart despite a drain on human and financial resources incurred with the distraction of our move to new premises which are now complete. (See page 4 for Dick's President's Report, included in full).

A vote of thanks was extended to those who have assisted in the process of relocation.

Pictured are your new committee from left to right:

Rear: David Jones, Bob Yandall, Chris White, Cathy Langley,

Front: Don Wood, Mark Savill, Les Sivewright, Mac Duane, Terry Scott,

Insets: Terry Meekan, Dick Veitch



(Continued from page 1)

He was well received by our Australian friends. Robbie had his Fan Club in attendance all wearing the club T shirt, much to the surprise of the other attendees.

Of course no Australian Woodturning event would be without Liz & Neil Scobie both always on top of their game. Neil is a very accomplished turner and demonstrator; he gave us all something to aspire to. Ken Wraight is a very pleasant quiet unassuming creative man. He produces a large array of delicate work, and was able to complete from start to finish some very complex pieces, too many to mention here. Glenn Murray did hands on surface enhancement. I did not have the time see him but understand it was very good.

Others were Lois Green, Robert McKee, and Terry Martin, all of which were great. Then there was Bonnie Klein (USA), she did her boxes in both timber and Acrylics. Bonnie used her new thread making machine which is attached to her lathe. She also showed us how to work in Bone. Bonnie sources bone mostly from her local butcher.

There was an instant gallery with work from both professional and amateur turners.

To finish the event off was the "Raffle". Demonstrators gift most of the work they make during the event. Some also bring with them some signature pieces to add to the extensive raffle. Monies raised went to the Bushfire Fund.

Next year Turnfest will once again be held at the Radisson. 2012 will be the 10th anniversary of Turnfest. An informant told us that they are planning a very big occasion and we have been sworn to secrecy but we are saving already.

David Drescher and his team once again did a wonderful job, it was well worth the trip across the ditch. I believe there were at least 20 Kiwis at Turnfest 2009; it seems the numbers are increasing yearly.



Ken Wraight

AGM 2009– Continued

President's Report

The past year has been a bit like the making of a wavy natural edged bowl – a few ups and downs, with some bits flying off, but the end result is excellent.

Our clubrooms continue to be a huge benefit for members. The unexpected disruption of our move to this new room was depressing and disruptive but has resulted in a worthwhile rethink of our use of space and thus a benefit to the club.

During 2008 we had an average of two gatherings of people in the clubrooms every week of the year. On the meeting evenings when there was a demonstrator or organised hands-on we averaged 52 people. In 2009 there is even more use of the rooms, all for woodturning activities.

Club membership has grown just a little, but club member activities have increased enormously as our training programme and use of the clubrooms increases the opportunities for learning and sharing. The most visible outcome of this was in the Christmas sale with 38 members offering 2853 items for sale. The creation and gifting of 152 items to Kidz First is further recognition of member participation.

There were also a few more people involved in the exhibitions – National Woodskills at Kawerau; Franklin Arts; Royal Easter Show; and others. Our training courses should see that number increase in future years. We continue to have club members put very competitive work on the Show and Tell table but then not take it further as an entry to an exhibition. I look forward to a few new ideas on how to change that.

Our “Upskills” days have passed into oblivion but we now consistently see six to eight lathes in use before the start of Wednesday evening meetings. This is just what the club lathes are for. Aoraki Training now occupies four days each month with two courses running simultaneously.

Our clubrooms hosted some wonderful events during the year: Liz and Neil Scobie filled two wonderful days; Participation drew people from all over the country; Turning Tools Open Day was almost as big as we can take; and Graeme Priddle gave us a heap of new ideas.

Our Wednesday evening programme went from baby rattles to balusters and bandsaws; fruit, nuts, and the trees they grow on; toys, tops, pens, and pots. And a duck. Surely enough to satisfy the breadth of interest of our members.

Then we went out to play or look: Cornwall Park, St Mary's School, Taupo Jamboree, Treeworkx Open Day, Spin Around Waitaki, and our Christmas Party at the Downs Estate.

No year can pass without serious thanks to the club members, and their partners, for their help with running the club. I can't name them all for we have no record of many of the kind contributions, so I will not name any. They all know that we are very thankful and particular thanks this year must go to all who helped with rebuilding the clubrooms.

Special thanks must also go to our newsletter editors. The newsletter is a face of the club seen by many, world wide. It goes to all our members and is emailed to at least 300 other people and organisations. Then there are many copies downloaded from the website. For a significant portion of our membership this is their only contact with the club. It is the newsletter that attracts some of our visitors and new members. This year has seen a boost in the “volunteer” writing for the newsletter and I look forward to further input from members.

Our website is also a significant face for the club. Our webmaster has done some magic to get it to pop up to the top of the “Woodturner” list. There are lots of numbers generated by the website software. The one that says a lot to me is that on average 88 people visited the site each day and they chose to look at the galleries, projects, and newsletters. I encourage more members to put their work into the website galleries.

For the coming year I wish you all many hours of happy woodturning.

Dick Veitch,
President.



SAWG Prizewinners

Awards

Taranaki Woodcraft Festival 2009

Members who enjoyed success at the recent Taranaki Woodcraft Festival competition were:

Carving Sculpture

First: Terry Scott "Puriri Leaves"

Woodturning traditional

Second: Terry Scott "Waves 2"

Woodturning Open Artistic

Second: Terry Scott "Mantaray Leather"

Third: Terry Scott "Puriri Leaves 2"

Toys & Models

Second: Ross Grant "Bi plane"

Pinus Radiata or Macrocarpa

First: Heather Vivian "Mac Box"

Third: Ross Vivian "Lost Island"

College Age Open Woodcraft

First: Luke Crowsen "Fern Bowl"

Second: Luke Crowsen "Lid & Box"

Congratulations to Heather, Luke, Ross and Ross, and Terry



Lid and Box



Fern Bowl



Puriri Leaves 2



Puriri Leaves

New Toys!

As members of SAWG, we are fortunate to enjoy and have the use of an extensive range of relatively expensive machines and equipment that will be beyond the "shed" budget of many of us. These have been acquired over the years and this month, two new pieces of equipment have joined the Guild "stable".

Firstly, a new 16cfm compressor which will address the need for a high volume compressor capable of keeping up with high air-demand tools such as die drills. Mac Duane, using his well honed negotiation skills, got a good deal on this along with the associated hoses and accessories.



The second piece of plant acquired is a new dust collector which is now permanently attached to the big bandsaw. This will further enhance our club-room environment and reduce excessive saw dust.



Remember if you are unsure how to use any of our equipment, ask someone who does and Be Safe!

Footnote: David Jones, our Guild Treasurer, has increased our replacement insurance cover to ensure adequate protection is in place for all the Guild assets.

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

My first edition of your newsletter is finished and I now know how much work goes into every edition. I trust you enjoy reading this as much as I have enjoyed putting it together and learning new skills.

Any input, comment and contributions whether it be from members or our many national and international readers are welcome

Big "ups" to Mike Clausen for taking the time out to hand over and I trust he can enjoy more of his many other pursuits with the time freed up from not putting this together each month.

Thanks to everyone for their contributions and encouragement and until next month, Happy Turning

Chris

P.s: if you are as sick of reading Terry Scott's name in here as I am typing it, go win multitudes of awards, take some sponsored junkets (and report on them), spend some time training the newbies and otherwise hassle me every second time I check my email and your name can be in here as much as his!!!

"I'm just a shy, retiring, unheard-of woodturner from New Zealand who no-one has ever heard of"

Terry Scott

yeah right.



A trip over the ditch

By Terry Scott

On the 15th .16th and 17th of May I had the opportunity to attend the Brisbane Working With Wood Show demonstrating for Wood Cut (<http://www.shop.woodcut-tools.com/>) and Carroll's Woodturning Supplies .(<http://www.cws.au.com/>).

I arrived Thursday afternoon just in time to help set up the display stands. Jim (Carroll) travels around many of the shows in Australia so has come up with a system of foldable display cabinets that fold up and sit into steel frames for trucking all over Australia. He must have had a Kiwi's input somewhere as this is all number 8 wire stuff. That means in an hour you can be packed or unpacked.

The show itself (I did have a break to look around) had every conceivable tool, machine and bit of wood that you may ever need and then some (maybe a few you don't need as well). {sounds just like your sort of place Terry- Ed}

Friday morning saw me on a Vicmarc lathe making shavings at 8.30am even before the show opened at 10am as many of the Participants got to look around beforehand. The sheep jokes started early as well.

Many had the excuse to buy a few items saying the crowds would be too big to purchase anything during the day. Friday is traditionally the day the tool collectors appear to grab a bargain . You wouldn't have known there was a recession on. The Aussies came by the bus load from as far away as Darwin; you'd think they didn't have any wood up there as it went out the door from blanks to table tops. Many large items of machinery were put on a pallet jack and delivered to the back door of a bus while many had brought a trailer.

Every half hour or so an announcement was made "Terry Scott will be demonstrating the bowl saver" or "...the hollowing tool" or "...- at times, it felt a bit like I was in a circus.

It was interesting when it was time to demonstrate the bowl saver as I had never used one before (not this brand). Still it wasn't too hard to fool the Aussie's into believing I knew what I was doing.

These events are a lot of fun as you meet a lot of old friends and make many new ones. Because you are "on the stage" so to speak, it gives you a license to give out cheek.

I did get it back big time when I was turning a large bit of Mango which had a 4 inch nail inside.

In the stall along from where I was working was another stall selling Solomon Ebony or Queen Ebony. So when a policeman asked if I could turn him a baton as he had broken his on someone's head on the Friday night, I said "sure". You had to be there but this guy had hands like dinner plates so I kept getting him to grab the handle and turned it to fit.

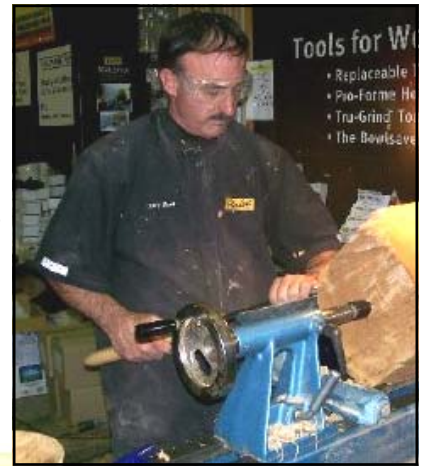
Next thing you know I had half the Brisbane police force enquiring and wanting one. What they particularly liked was the texture I put on the end with a texturing tool. When I said "When you hit someone, it will leave a pattern" they thought that was great!

Coming home, as usual my bags were bulging but this time with Ebony (the seller of the wood wanted a baton as well and paid for it with wood). 29 kg in my suitcase and some very heavy hand luggage that Peter (Hewitt) said "No way" was I to put in his overhead locker (about 15 kg). Yes you can only take 7kg, but luckily it wasn't weighed on check in and I pretended I was the Million dollar man!

Did I have a good time? Sure did, especially when I turned around to find the tools I had brought with me to demonstrate had been sold while I wasn't looking as many items had sold out.

Will I go again? You bet. I am off to the Sydney show next month; hopefully the ebony man will be there as well.

When the Visa bill comes I don't think I'll be allowed to take my wife's card with me again as, yes, I was tempted!



An "underarm bowl" from the Aussies—
a 4 inch Nail!



A new "woody" friend— Ben Guha

Identified

Who was that mystery Craftsman? In last months edition of "Turning Talk", we featured some exceptional pieces. Along with many other inspiring pieces, on page 4 was a piece by Brendan Stemp and 5 additional pieces but for which we were unable to provide credit. Being the small world it is, I have had correspondence from a number of turners from around the world who have identified the unknown turner as **Robin Costelle**, a hobby turner from Kentucky, USA. More of his work will feature in an upcoming profile piece to appear in Creative Wood.

See more of Robins work at: <http://louisvilleareawoodturners.com/gallerycosteller.php>

Thanks Robin for some inspiring segmented works.



Aoraki Course Report

By "A keen beginner" Alan Day

Saturday, 2 May, Tutor: Mac Duane

The objective for the day was to learn chucking methods for turning two bowls and a goblet. To start we used a scroll chuck with a screw chuck inside to turn the bottoms of the two bowls, one with an internal dovetail mount, the second with an external spigot mount.

During the day, at several breaks from turning, Mac explained what we had to do, the way to do it, and variations which are possible to achieve the same end, combined with a demonstration on the lathe, (but when he does it, it always seems so easy!)

Several students completed turning their bowls internally as well, the less gifted were able to take them home to complete.

As well as the lathe work, there were opportunities to use the band saw under guidance, and we were shown how to use the grinder to sharpen a bowl gouge. Working with machinery is inherently dangerous and safety for self and others was impressed upon us. Mac and Cathy Langley were there to advise and encourage our efforts, which they did as needed. A big thank you to them, for their sharing of skills and knowledge.

Note from the Editor– Aoraki Course Coordinator Cathy Langley is delighted with how the "Show and Tell" table at each meeting benefits from the numbers now progressing through the Aoraki Course. "The quality of the work and volume of pieces displayed each week confirms the value members receive from the course and their increased confidence in their turning ability" says Cathy.

Cathy is currently preparing the next course which will be rolled out over the next year. Details will be provided nearer the time.

In Print

Terry Scott's piece *Aged Wings* recently featured on the cover of American Magazine "Woodturning Design".

Inside included a feature on Terry and some of his work.

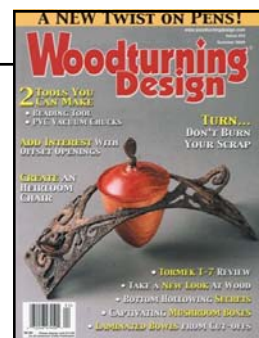
From the editorial:

"The Showcase this issue features the work of Terry Scott of New Zealand. The New Zealand turners are in the forefront when it comes to developing new and unique items and styles of turning. I'm impressed by the innovative techniques I see coming from that area as I surf the Internet, and Terry is certainly one of the leaders of that movement."

"I have a big head but have to admit to being chuffed at having this article published"

Terry admits to having a big head but he is "chuffed" at appearing in this publication and having his work showcased– congratulations Terry and thanks for giving Kiwi turners a high profile internationally. We are equally "chuffed"!

(On the web, see www.woodturningdesign.com)



Nanny Racer!

Carole Knowles has skills other than turning– these photos were taken of Carole recently racing with her son at Mere Mere Dirt Track Club.



Whoops!

The article on the Taupo Jamboree in last months issue included a photo of Robbie Graham and Frank Smith. Unfortunately, the photo was captioned "Robbie Graham and Ken Sager"- apologies to all.

"Mile High Club" takes on new meaning!

Peter Williams "Rings in Bowls"

By Bernie Hawkins

Usually our demonstrators key role is to show club members a skill, method or procedure by which we can become better wood turners and finishers and North Shore turner Peter Williams did this with a twist.



He introduced his session with an entertaining account of his experience managing "Delhi Belly" in-flight on a trip from Jakarta. Suffice to say that he recommends counting the number of shoes in the stall when nature calls—more than 2 is not a good sign!

Having loosened up the members laughing gear, bringing many to tears and incurring some sore sides, Peter then proceeded to explain how he gets his angled insert rings into his bowl blanks to create some visually striking turned pieces.

Taking a suitable round blank, Peter divides the edge divide into 3 not necessarily even sections. Making a jig with the same angle as the cut he wants to make and using hot melt glue



to fix the blank to the jig, he runs the blank through a bandsaw to create an angled cut through the blank. The faces of both pieces are sanded and the insert (previously prepared to even thickness and sanded) is placed

between them with the pieces oriented to keep both ends parallel.

Because PVA glue creates a very "slick" surface on the angled pieces, Peter uses sacrificial dowels to hold the piece together while the glue goes off. He drills 2 dowel holes off-centre



(being mindful of his finished bowl shape, not wanting a remnant of dowel to be a "design feature" of the finished work) on what will be the top of the bowl long enough to extend through the insert piece and into the bottom piece.

Glue is applied to the faces and insert piece and the blank, including insert, re-assembled with the dowels to hold while the glue sets.

Once the glue has gone off, this proc-



ess is then repeated to insert further rings.

Peter explained the challenge was to get the additional inserts to intersect with the existing insert while retaining the original insert as a continuous line through the blank— not easy as Peter explained.

Each successive insert "displaces" the existing insert and compensation must be made for this.

The use of contrasting inserts makes

for a very interesting piece once the finished blank is turned and Peter had brought along some good examples of these.

A well prepared and delivered demonstration— thanks Peter

Photos: Ross Johnson

Liming

Rex Haslip

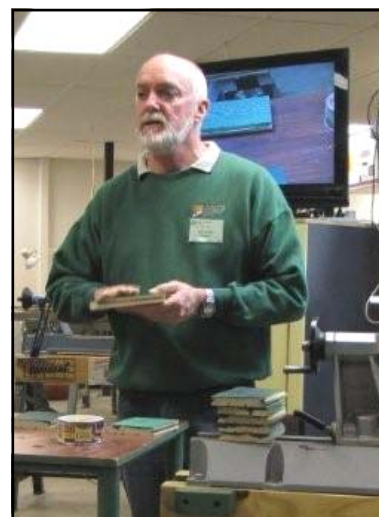
Having been mistakenly credited with creating a piece that he brought along one evening, (Jim Manley, inset) Rex found himself "volunteered" to demonstrate the art of Liming.



Rex capably shared with the meeting his findings into various liming techniques.

"you don't finish up with a blemish, you finish up with a birthmark"

On surface preparation; as he put it "you don't finish up with a blemish, you finish up with a birthmark". He emphasised that any surface imperfection will show through so good open grain wood and finish are required— any lazy sanding or cracks will show up. Opening up the grain further can be achieved with sandblasting or wire-brushing— the principle of liming being to load the grain to inlay a contrasting colour.



A Little (Christmas) Cracker

By Darryl Pointon



Bob started by showing different samples he had made to form ideas on crackers. Bob had made a story stick showing the sequential steps, rather than committing to paper, which tends to get lost. Start by turning blank to 50mm diameter. Sand blank using a long flat jig to ensure that blank is as close to 50mm as possible over the entire length. Mark out wood and place between centers.

Put marks on the cylinder at center, then 40mm from center, one way and 80mm from center the other way. Then more at 60mm and 120mm. Turn spigot at both ends and part off each end to length using narrow parting tool. Fit 1st piece to 4 jaw chuck and face off end. Use skew to locate centre. Bore out end using two sizes of Forstner bits ending with 32mm to a depth of 40mm. (Mark the drill bit with tape to gauge depth). Slow lathe for drilling.

Place 2nd piece in lathe and face off end and mark center as previous. Drill to 38mm using 2 different sizes of forstner bit to drill depth of 40mm also.

Put the first piece back on lathe remounted in chuck. Mark a rebate 5mm from end. Set callipers to 38mm then turn spigot to fit 2nd piece, checking often to get tight fit. Push fit the second piece on to the 1st piece, aligning grain. Bring up tail stock and turn with skew to take out any imperfections in diameter. Cut 'V's on each end for the cracker on the marks previously made. Emboss for 13mm around the center join to hide chuck marks. Make bung to fill hole so that you don't crush the cracker when remounting.

Remount each piece with the centre of the cracker in a 4 jaw chuck and drill out the end of the cracker with a 32mm forstner bit. Repeat for other end. Sand and finish as desired with cracker pushed together.



Editors note: Bob drew his inspiration for this project from an article in the Winter 2008 issue of "Woodturning" magazine. An entertaining demo from Bob, not least because of the exchanges between the demonstrator and the "scribe", Darryl!

Graeme MacKay on Wood Carving

By Warwick Day

Graeme MacKay

provided the club with a good insight into the basic principles of wood carving for decorating turned objects.

Fundamental to being a good carver is selecting the right tools. The mallet plays an important role in carving. So that the wood carver does not tire and wood can be gently removed, it must not be too heavy, must be balanced and shaped like a drink bottle rather than



a hammer and should be made of hard wood with long fibres which are able to withstand the continued bruising.

Next is chisel selection. While there are a number of cheap chisels on the market these tend to be made of soft steel which quickly loses its edge or the shaft bends. The handles on the cheaper chisel are also uncomfortable to use for an extended time. Pfeil carving chisels are ideal in Graeme's eye; they are strong and maintain a good edge for a long time and are very comfortable to use. There is a wide range of different shapes and sizes available today and it can be confusing for the beginner to select a basic set. Graeme suggests that a basic set should include a deep U chisel, half round, flat and fish tail. These four chisels will provide the beginner with the set of tools to start decorating their bowls.



(Continued on page 10)

In the Workshop

Scraper for Hollowing Boxes

Dave Harmes tries his hand at Metal Work

Having seen Terry Scott demonstrate a scraper manufactured by Soren Berger, Dave Harmes thought he would have a crack at manufacturing his own. Dave says that this tool will be ideal for this terms project: "Lidded Boxes".

The tool is designed specifically to be inserted into a pre-drilled tool clearance hole to the required box depth and then used to scrape the sides and bottom of the box to a fine finish. Very little sanding is subsequently required. Dave fabricated this tool using only tools found in most woodturners workshops; he does not have any "metalworking" tools as such.



Dave used a 3/8" High Speed Steel tool blank 80mm long for his tool tip. He milled a 20mm long flat slot at a 45 degree angle using his 100mm angle grinder. The depth of this slot is to the midpoint of the diameter of the tip. This ensures that the slot extends the full width of the diameter of the tip. He then marginally eased the end of the tool tip with a 3-4 degree chamfer to increase the acuteness of the cutting edge and to clear the bottom of the box.

To make a tip holder, Dave used a length of 3/8" steel (an old lawn mower axle!) and drilled a hole in the end sufficiently deep to accept the tool tip. Once the slot had been milled, he mounted the tip in his (woodturning) lathe and holding his angle grinder against the tip, reduced the diameter of the tip sufficiently to insert into a hole drilled into a mild steel lawn mower axle of the same diameter. The tip was then glued into the holder using loktite. Turning a handle from a piece of Tawa, he mounted the holder and tool tip and finished off the tool with a nice brass ferrule. Overall tool size is 460mm including handle size of 240mm.

"Absolutely Brilliant!"

Does it work? I will let Dave answer that (you have got to put on a Surrey, England accent to fully appreciate this): "Absolutely Brilliant!"

Great work Dave.

Footnote: Dave is currently finishing his own version of a Rolly Munro hollowing tool and a report on this will appear in a future edition of "Turning Talk".

(Continued from page 9)

Carbatec have beginner sets available and also have a big range of individual ones. Like wood turning tools, the chisels should be kept sharp and polished with leather and polishing paste.

Selecting the right wood is essential for the beginner. The wood should be soft and have a reasonably consistent density across the growing rings. Cedar and macrocarpa are good timbers to start with, as is green wood. Kauri is difficult because of the resin which damages the chisels and Totara tends to break out.

There are a wide number of patterns available for the wood carver. Flowers are relatively easy to start carving with. Books on carving or the net provide good reference sources.

Trace the selected pattern onto tracing paper. Divide the wood into quadrants and trace or free hand draw the pattern onto the wood using a soft pencil. Check that the pencil is not marking the work as some cheap pencils have hard particles embedded in the graphite and these can damage the wood surface.

When preparing the wood, machining the round with a series of steps make it easier for the carver to start and stop the carving action.

Using the 'u' chisel carve a channel around the pencil marks. Then use the half round or fish tail chisel to carve scallops or to provide the desired relief and to remove the unwanted material.



The back ground can consist of scallops carved with the fish tail chisel and the 'u' chisel can be used for carving the straight lines. Graeme recommends that the beginner should mark out the straight lines initially.

To ensure the best results, wood should be firmly held in a chuck at about table height. The chisels should be held firmly with one hand over the top to guide it and the other pushing it. Always cut away from sections of the pattern which are not to be carved and away from yourself. The chisels are sharp and can inflict a frightful cut on flesh. Blunt chisels are even more dangerous.

Graeme also suggested reading what he described as an excellent article on "Carving a Tudor Rose" which appeared in the April/May 2009 edition of "The Shed" magazine.

For those who want to know more about carving, Graeme recommends beginners attend the SAWG wood carving course.

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

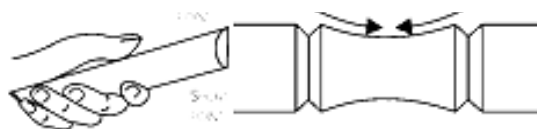


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