

TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 178

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners Guild

July 2009

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Club Meetings:

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

Club Rooms:

Papatoetoe Community
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Show and Tell Extravaganza

(or is it a "deluge"?)

This term, the number of pieces displayed, discussed, critiqued and presented on the weekly "Show and Tell" table were the most I have ever seen. It is great to see not only quantity but quality on the table each week and this may in some measure be attributed to the adoption and success of the Aoraki training programme by the Guild.

Since inception some 18 months or so ago, many members have participated either as students or as tutors/ assistants and the fruits of this involvement and commitment are apparent, raising the standard and variety of work but also seeing more members actively involved.

Ross Johnson has done an outstanding job organising photos and the challenge has been for me to select a few representative photos of the work being presented at our club nights by members.

Next edition, SAWG Aoraki Course Coordinator Cathy Langley will be discussing the Aoraki program but in the meantime, on this page are just some of the pieces that have come through the "table" over the past 10 weeks or so.



Mat Moa



Ross Johnson



Terry Scott



David Jones



Keith Hastings



"Bahat" Wood

Terry Scott



Colin Wise



Carol Knowles



Bernie Hawkins



Don Wood



Bryden Thorpe

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 3 2009

July

Sat 11 July	Working Bee 8:30–10:30
Wed 22 July	Term Project: "Off Centre Turning" presented by Bruce Woods
Wed 22 July	SAWG Special General Meeting to consider and if passed adopt amendment to Guild Constitution
Wed 29 July	Winged Bowl presented by Terry Scott
August	
Wed 5 Aug	Pepper Mill (to be confirmed)
Wed 12 Aug	Wood selection, cutting and pointers on turning across end grain

Coming events

Put these dates in your diary:

July

Until 26 July	"Matariki at Matakahe" hosted by The Kauri Museum (details next column)
8	Guild of Wellington Woodworkers exhibition (finishes 2 August)
11	Treeworkx Open Day , Matamata
17-19	Manawatu Round-up , Ashhurst
22	SAWG Special General Meeting
25	NAW AGM - Hastings

August

7-9	Taieri (Dunedin) Woodworkers Club "U-Turn" Berwick
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September

5-13	Franklin Arts Festival , Pukekohe
11-13	National Woodskills Festival , Kawerau
19-20	Woodcraft 2009 Sale and Exhibition , Guild of Woodworkers Wellington Wellington
25-27	SAWG "Participation 2009" , South Auckland Woodturners Guild Clubrooms, Papatoetoe
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

What is it?

As well as a turner, Ross Johnson is a keen photographer who took this snap.

Any ideas on what it might be? (answer on page 3)



Managing your Addiction...

Going on Holiday, not sure how you will survive without a lathe near at hand?

Then do as Carole and Bob Knowles did on their recent trip to the Waikato-



Note the auxiliary power point especially installed! (- so what about when it rains guys? -Ed)

Someone, anyone, rid me of this troublesome turner!*

Yep, once again out there front and centre. This time, it was the American Association of Woodturners who graced their website with a piece by our very own blushing violet Terry Scott. Selected by AAW forum moderators, Terry's piece "Manta Ray with Leather" appeared as their website "Photo of the the Day" on the 1 July 2009. (Incidentally, this piece won 2nd in the Taranaki Wood Skills competition).



Congratulations Terry

(A good website worth visiting and currently with photos and links to videos of the recent Symposium Dick Veitch reports on in this issue- go to www.woodturner.org)

* Attributed by history to Henry II speaking of Thomas Beckett (with some editorial license!)

The South Auckland Woodturners Guild
is a member of the
National Association of
Woodworkers NZ Inc
and the
American Association of
Woodturners



Term Prizewinners

President Dick Veitch presented end of term awards at the meeting on Wednesday, 1 July with awards as follows:

Lidded Box- Term Prize for the best lidded box went to Bryden "Wheels" Thorpe

Most Entries- Shared between Colin Wise and Ross "Snap" Johnson

Life Members Award- Commenting that "its the best array I have ever seen", Dick awarded Keith Hastings a gift certificate for his segmented bowl.

Congratulations all

Trading Post

Members wanting to buy, sell or exchange "woody stuff" are welcome to contact me to advertise free of charge in the newsletter.

What was it?

Linesmen in purpose built "carriages" being dropped in by helicopter to replace the insulators between the tandem lines on the High Voltage wires running over Manukau (in the vicinity of Redoubt/ Hill Roads). Suspended on a wire strop in the carriage beneath the helicopter, the linesman would be taken to a section of line between two pylons. They would then would pull the carriage along between the pylons, replacing the insulators as they went. The time taken to connect (or remove) the carriage to/ from the line was less than a minute!

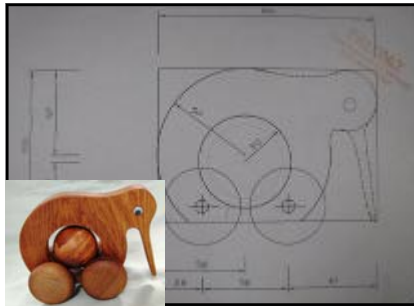


New Member

Welcome to Steve Plester who joined the Guild this month.

"Approved" Turning Plans

Being the conscientious turner that he is, Bruce "Bahat" Wood (who in his spare time drafts for a house removals company) did a scale CAD drawing of his piece "Kiwi" last month. As it happened, unintentionally a copy of this drawing was included in a Project Information Memorandum ("PIM") application that Bruce submitted to Auckland City for approval. You guessed it, in due course the PIM application, including Bruce's kiwi drawing, came back fully approved (although stamped "Not for Construction"). Now all he needs is a Building Consent!



Never happen with Manukau City Council eh Bruce?

Premises Update

The property team (Mac Duane, Don Wood and Terry Scott) continue their lease negotiation dialogue with Manukau City Council with a view to securing a long term lease for our Papatoetoe premises.

The latest word is that under the Auckland "One-City" proposal, council are unwilling to commit to a long-lived lease arrangement and that a 3 year lease will be agreed. While not as long as we might like, it does give us security for the next 3 years and, thanks to the efforts of the team and many members who have worked on this for many months, we can enjoy a world class turning facility which many visitors will see for the first time at Participation.

Further, Council have reimbursed the agreed costs for relocation and Treasurer Dave Jones has added these to our funds.

On behalf of the membership, I would extend to Mac, Don and Terry our appreciation and gratitude for their hard work leading this un-wanted, but ultimately very beneficial, initiative.

Special General Meeting

At our meeting later this month on the 22nd, a resolution will be put to the meeting that the constitution of the Guild be amended as follows:

"If on dissolution of the Guild there is, after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any monies or properties of any description owned by the Guild, the same shall be disposed of for a charitable purpose or purposes, at the discretion of the members present at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose."

The purpose of this amendment is to bring the Guild in line with the Charities Commission recommendation and to ensure that tax treatment of the Guild is favourable. Details of the motion are in the May Newsletter.

Participation 2009

Start getting your lathe ready for shifting to Tavern lane, Papatoetoe for this years Participation. One of the highlights of our year, this will be another excellent event with additional floor space organised. Numbers are limited so you do need to register. Inside this issue is an registration form and if you need help (trailer, manpower to shift your lathe) let Terry Scott know.

Supporting our Sponsors

Whether it be providing prizes, advertising in this newsletter or discounts to our members, sponsors are an integral element of what makes SAWG special. This came in the other day (unprompted) from Alan Day who describes himself as "a keen beginner".

Alan says: "Jim Downs is one of our Sponsors and donates seasoned timber for our raffles. I needed spindle blanks for the Aoraki course, and there was none at SAWG so a quick trip down the Great South Road to Ramarama where Jim has a couple of sheds filled to the roof with all sorts of dry, well-seasoned timbers, all dated and named. I chose Beech for the Gouge handles. Jim asked "what would you like for the cross grain work?", and with his guidance I picked Plum 2002, Tasman Blackwood 1990, Walnut 1989, and Cherry 1989. We had a bit of a yarn about turning, tools, dust extraction, and when the prices were added up, it was very reasonable. I shall return and thank you. Jim"

Introduction to Woodturning - Aoraki Course

As the title suggests, this course is the first in the series of Aoraki courses and is our introduction to woodturning. On Sat Jun 26th the 8 students, our tutor Terry Meekan and his two helpers (Mac Duane and Phread Thurston) arrived for a prompt start at 9.00. We began with a course run through, showing that over the next two days all students would complete a honey dipper, a goblet, a bowl and a lidded box – a huge task for a complete beginner!!! Terry began with his piece of wood demonstrating the steps with ease, we returned to our lathe after each stage to copy what we had just been taught. Not so easy when you're trying it with your own piece of wood and chisels but with assistance and lots of encouragement we all completed the tasks.



The honey dipper was the 1st project of the course. It was turned using a spindle gouge, a skew chisel & a parting tool, teaching us the skills of rubbing the bevel and how to part the wood. By lunchtime this project was complete and Tutors and students chatted happily for the half hour break. Once lunch was over it was back to work and making our goblet. The task of hollowing the inside began. A short while later with a bit more confidence and sand paper the outside was complete. I left at the end of day one with a great sense of achievement and a cool (albeit basic) goblet as my trophy. Day two began again with Terry & 8 eager students. This time Bob Yandell and Bernie Hawkins were there to help. The most exciting of all the projects for me was the bowl. When Terry described the bowl shape, as Ogee, I heard it as "Oh Gee" and the 1st thing that came to mind was "Oh God" how am I going to achieve this? A variety of chisels and hollowing tools were used to turn our bowls while learning the skills of cutting both up and down the hill. My first scary task of the day was using the band saw (under supervision) to cut my piece of wood. By noon after a few flying bowls and a bit of creative work we had all finished. My bowl was complete with a nice fancy rim – this of course was not designed but the result of a slight mistake and the joy of a minor design modification as I went. When lunch was called us students were slow to leave our bowls, the addiction of the turning taking over.

The afternoon began with our tiny piece of wood and big hopes of completing the lidded box. This would be the most complex project of the course. Rounding off the wood and cutting a spigot on both ends was the easy bit to complete. Next came the cutting and turning of the little lid. The shape I achieved for my lid was more luck than skill but a lid it was. Mounting the end of the lidded box again it was hollowed to the correct depth (although I think mine was a bit off), designed and sanded on the outside; with a few creative mistakes the box was complete.

On day one before I started the course I have to admit I was not able to turn, I was nervous of the tools, the machines and not able to rub the bevel correctly. By the beginning of day two I was going to the lathe with more confidence and needing less assistance. As a fellow student said on completion of the course "he was no longer afraid of the tools, he just respected them and hoped all went as planned" It was exactly how I felt. I would like to offer a huge thanks to Terry and his helpers for all their assistance. I know it was really appreciated by us all.

Mia Fitzgerald

"Quite often before I make or are asked to make a gift I like to research the reason and mystery behind a myth or where the original idea came from"

The Wood Turners Love Goblet

In the past it has been known for the young apprentice wood turner, when trying to woo his latest love, to turn a love goblet as a gift of his undying love for her - or so it would seem at first.

The Love Goblet is a wooden turned goblet, which on the stem has one, two or three captive rings signifying the engagement, wedding and eternity rings. It was believed that the love would last as long as the goblet remained intact, with no splits in the rings or body of the goblet. The apprentice would make the goblet in such a manner as would indicate his overall intentions for the future of his current relationship. If he felt the relationship only had short-term prospects, he might have shown this in the number of rings around the stem. Alternatively he might have chosen wood which was of low quality and more than likely green (still wet), with wild grain. This would result in the goblet being unstable, having a tendency to split while drying out at his unsuspecting loves home.

If he felt the relationship had good prospects and he had intentions for its future, he would very carefully choose a well-seasoned (dried) piece of the best wood in the

workshop with straight grain. He would then spend many hours carefully turning the blank of wood into a prized possession for his love. She would be able to cherish it for the rest of her life because, as long as the goblet remains in good condition, it is believed, so too does the relationship.



I have come to the conclusion that many of these Goblets must have been supplied with a hammer if the statistics of current day relationships are anything to go by!

Terry Scott

Colorado Woods

Dick Veitch

Philadelphia to Denver. Wait a while. Denver to Durango. Drive a while. Pagosa Springs – one supermarket, two hardware stores, quite a few arty shops, police, court-house, and more. Drive another half hour and there is the top of the house peeping out of the woods.

Into the ground floor garage via the auto-opening door. Close the door to keep the chipmunks out. The bag of well-travelled pohutukawa stays at this level. Other bags to the elevator and up to level three (2nd floor in kiwi lingo). Here is my bedroom. The floor is exactly 8000 feet above sea level. The grand view is out over the woods and many miles to the south. Down to level 2 (no bags so use the stairs) for a cuppa. Have to hunt for real tea. While the tea brews I spot the electronic weather station. Temperature 71° F – quick calculation - 22° C. Humidity 26%. Later it would drop closer to 20% then rocket to nearly 40% when it rained. Good drying conditions for everything except wood and my body. Drink lots of water.

Back to level 1. The “shop” – short for workshop. Stubby lathe, good bandsaw, and more. All that a woodturner likes to see. What is the first project? Nancy asks if I have any bright ideas about keeping the chipmunks out of the bird feeders. Jeff says they probably can't climb some copper pipe he has. I can make bowls and drill their bottoms to fit the pipe. Maybe we should angle them out a bit from the deck handrail to keep the bird droppings off the deck. So the plan was formed and new bird feeders made. They worked – happy birds, hungry chipmunks and cleaner deck!

This showed that a little fix of the Stubby was needed. The head and tail were not perfectly aligned. Many emails later and a bit of a rebuild of the stand (not made by Stubby) got the alignment perfect.

Next. What about a stand for the wind harp to replace the lump of pine and old plywood? Maybe.

The house down the road needs something for the top of the posts supporting their deck. We go and measure, talk, and drink. Eight lumps of wood are needed. Jeff pulls out osage orange. While I turn he stays outside as this wood really gets up his nose. The plan involves wooden hats up to 330mm dia to fit over the post tops, secured by liquid nails, a bolt down the middle, and a cabochon over the bolt head. The installation, more talk and drinks is successful – but what will next winter's snow do?

Now for some fresh aspen to try a few tubes and gather wood for bowl making. We check out a bit of San Juan National Forest, spot a recent windfall, get a permit and away we go. It does not take long to fill the truck despite the woolly nature of the fresh cut wood being a bit hard on the chainsaw. First tube blew out due to internal damage from a less-than-perfect Forstner bit. Second tube with extra sharpening of the bit was ok but plain and straight. My enthusiasm for aspen tubes died.

Nancy asked whether I could make something interesting to cover those wires that went from the bottom of the flat screen TV to the DVD player in the cupboard below. I had to think about that one.

Amongst all this was Relay for Life. A fund raiser for cancer. Jeff and I completed a tulip poplar bowl with his metallic decorative band. I made an osage orange bowl with three feet. Then some wooden jewellery pendants. Everyone wanted those. I made more and now Jeff is trained to continue. Three large gambel oak weed pots completed my gift to the cause.

Marven called by with some bits for Jeff and also pushed two huge lumps of oak off his truck with a “These scraps may be useful” offer. They were ends of the huge beams in his recently completed house. I just saw a wind harp stand hiding inside. The smaller bit, about 200 square and 600mm long was soon on the lathe and then holding up the harp. Then the wind blew too hard. The second chunk of oak was sliced and joined. At 500mm square it just fitted on the Stubby for shaping and a fitting for the first bit. The new wind harp stand should never blow over.

I still wanted to do tubes but aspen was off the menu and the various pine species did not enthuse me. The other local wood is Rocky Mountain juniper. I had turned it dry but what was it like wet? Ask Marven. Within the hour he had dug out an entire tree and we were on our way home with several chunks. It did turn well. Within three days I had twelve dry tubes to sand and wax.

The gambel oak weed pots gave me the idea that I could do a pot and cut it to cover the TV wires. That worked and two real pots completed the scene.

More aspen was needed to keep Jeff turning through the winter. Away to the woods we went and loaded the truck. When we returned there was an almost equal quantity of new juniper on the step – Marven had called in!

There is so much more to see and do but now I must pack for the AAW Symposium at Albuquerque.



Bird Feeders



Post Top



Wind Harp On Stand



Juniper Tubes



Weed Pots hide the Wires!

Yet more from our Itinerant Correspondent!

AAW Symposium at Albuquerque

Dick Veitch

A nice venue, 1300 people milling about, a scattering of coffee stalls, a large hall of vendors, another large hall with more than 1000 "Instant Gallery" and auction items, a "Youth Room" with 25 lathes, 14 demonstration rooms each with a lathe, and 57 Demonstrators and Panelists. Where do I start?

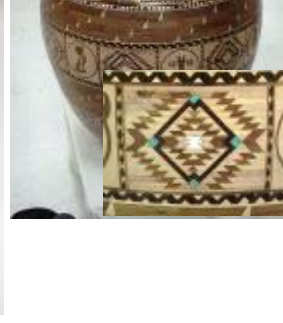
All the demonstrators were good at their work, good to listen to, and good to watch. Each demo room was equipped with a sound system, video camera, projector, and a big screen. The subjects demonstrated varied from the simple and basic through many art forms to complex embellishments and colours. The problem was to decide which demonstrations to miss.

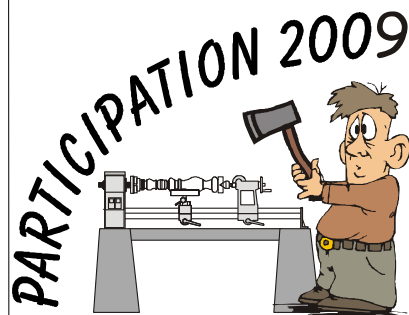
Displaying work in the instant gallery seems to be the pinnacle of the year for many woodturners. There was work on show from the demonstrators and recognised woodturning artists alongside the simplest woodturning from relative beginners and the complex works of artists trying to discover a new path. Every bit well assembled and well finished. This is not the work of the average club member – but of those keen enough to travel and push their woodturning skills a little.

The symposium also runs a special area for Youth Turning. Five companies gave 25 complete mini lathes, chucks and tool sets that were used by the 57 youths to turn wood under the guidance of a team of volunteer tutors. The lathes were then raffled off to those young participants.

Fund raising for the Educational Opportunity Grant programmes of the AAW is a notable part of the symposium. Members, and others, donate completed woodturning for a silent auction from which the top 40 or so go into a live auction at the conference banquet. Top prices this year were down on previous years but the number of items donated was more so the total raised may have exceeded US\$100,000.

Next year this symposium will be in Hartford, Connecticut, from 18 to 20 June. If you are planning a USA visit then it is well worth the effort to include this woodturning eye-opener.





At SAWG Clubrooms 25 - 27 September

PARTICIPATION 2009

It's on again 25 to 27 September

Woodturning for Everyone

Sharing, Watching, Learning, Teaching, Enjoying

When: Friday 25th September from 9:00am til late, Saturday 26th 7:30am til late and Sunday 27th 7:30am to 3:00pm

Where: At our club rooms Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe.

(Limited to the first 60 paying participants)

The theme for the weekend is making a hollow form or vase.

There will be a prize for the most original hollow form or vase.

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 and coffee (cake if someone gives it). Friday night \$6.00 per head for pizza – pay on the night.

Saturday and Sunday lunch provided. Saturday evening Dinner Barbecue.

Trade sponsors for the weekend:

Turning Tools Ltd., (Ian Fish) Ph 418 1312 Teknatool, Woodcut, and Fishy's own supplies.

Woodcut Tools. Makers of chisels, bowl savers, hollowing tools, sharpening jigs, and more.

Treeworkx (Graham Oliver) treeworkx@xtra.co.nz Off n ons, Astra dot Sandpaper and a lot more.

Check out their website http://www.treeworkx.co.nz/treeworkx_online_catalogue_print.htm

Ross & Heather Vivian, P.O. Box 7, Stratford, Taranaki. Ph. 06 765 5219. E: h.rvivian@xtra.co.nz

Ross will be bringing a truckload of wood or you can also order your preferred selection.

Tool & Industrial Supplies, 44A Neilpark Dr, East Tamaki. Ph 272 9191. www.tistools.co.nz

Carba-Tec, 110 Harris Road, East Tamaki. Ph 274 9454. www.carbatec.co.nz

Motor Technologies, Variable speed units for your lathe. Brent. Ph 0508 315 063 09 917 4570

Jim Downs Timber, Ancient Kauri cut to order 15 Coulston Rd, RD 2, Pukekohe. Ph. 09 238 6197

Complete and return this part of the page with your payment

“Participation Registration, Terry Scott, 320 Hunua Road, Papakura”

Please make cheques payable to South Auckland Woodturners Guild. Ph 021 998 493 / 09 297 7051

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment: Full weekend just \$65.00. Non-participating partners \$30.00. Juniors (Under 16) \$25.00

Dinner extras welcome \$30.00 ea. Saturday only including dinner \$45.00, without \$35. Sunday \$25

Total \$\$ Paid _____ by: Cheque Visa/Mastercard (add 5% please) Cash

I am able to bring my lathe/s Yes _____ No _____ Lathe type/size _____

I wish to use a club lathe Yes _____ No _____ but understand that I may have to share as overseas guests will have preference.

I require a billet for the weekend Yes _____ No _____ I can billet _____ people.

Club Night Action

3 June

Term Project– Lidded Boxes



Members at the 3 June meeting work on their lidded boxes.

10 June

“Grinding Tools” demonstration

An enjoyable, entertaining and thought provoking presentation was given by Messrs. Mac Duane, John Whitmore, Terry Scott and Gordon Pembridge.

We were shown the different aspects and advantages (or otherwise) of three different methods of wood turning tool sharpening. The machines shown were a Disc Sharpener marketed by Carba-Tec @ \$258-00 (Mac & John); the standard 6” bench grinder using a Woodcut Tru-Grind tool sharpening system (Terry); and a Sorby (UK) belt finisher (Gordon).

Disc Grinder: The disc grinder produced an even grind (no concave or “hollow grind” bevel) with a true face and dependant on the jig used was adaptable to all types of chisels. The methods shown were still ‘work-in-progress’ but showed different approaches to achieve the end result.



Mac showed the use of wooden blocks with holes at angles to suit the size of tool and drilled to suit the angle of grind required. These were positioned in guide rails.

John had a more elaborate method of jiggging using aluminium sections purpose built to suit specific types of chisels.

Both showed the range of tools that could be sharpened. John in particular demonstrated



sharpening some 15 approx. chisels of all shapes and sizes.

Dependant on the positioning of the tool on the face plate, the speed of the disc can be controlled and for those of Scottish ancestry, the complete width of the disc face can be utilised. The grit used on the face plate was 120 and the adhesive was ‘shearers’ glue (Ados F2 from my memory in the shearing shed- Ed). I noticed that some members were thinking of farmers that they might know who had a shearers sharpening machine lying idle.

John claims that from a blunt tool to the disc grinder and back to the lathe with a sharp tool can be done in 11 seconds. Takes some of us that long to think where the grinder is.

Great development and ingenuity plus personal time has gone into developing these attachments for grinding turning tools. Thanks Mac and John.

Tru-Grind Sharpening System:

Terry showed the standard and generally accepted 6” bench grinder coupled with a Woodcut Tru-Grind Tool Sharpening System.



This does give “a hollow grind” to the tool face and there are at least two schools of thought and argument to this factor. (An 8” stone does reduce the degree of hollow grind.)

Initially what we were shown was the importance of having a “true” grinding wheel and the correct set up of the Tru-Grind attachment.

Grinding wheel.

- Make sure that the grinder is securely mounted on a sturdy and robust bench or stand with no movement or vibrations.
- True up the face of the grinding wheel using a diamond dressing stone. Address the wheel lightly and without pressure. Place a piece of timber between the machine guard and the diamond dresser to absorb vibrations.

The importance of *correct angles* on the turning tools was also stressed.

To obtain these correct angles the use of jigs and gauges were demonstrated, discussed and explained. These can

(Continued on page 9)

Club Night Action (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

be made from timber or metal and will provide consistency and enable ease of setting up.

Recommended Angles:

22 degree for skew and spindle gouge chisel.

55 degree for scraper and bottom bowl turning.

35 degree for bowl gouge and parting tool.

Swept back wings can be achieved by setting the Tru-Grind leg angle to approximately 3 ½. Experiment to find the angle you require.

Terry demonstrated the way to prevent overheating of the tool tip and also how to start at the wing and work towards the nose to prevent "U" ing at the nose. Do not overheat the tool. Quenching in water to cool is not generally recommended.



Finishing Belt:

Gordon demonstrated his UK Sorby manufactured machine and highlighted some of the problems of bringing his machine into the country.

Cost of this Sorby machine was approx UK£300.00

The table and angle of the belt are both multi adjustable and with the use of jigs provided by the manufacturer produced a consistent angle and grind. Belt direction was downwards and assisted in holding the tool at the belt face. The full width of the belt was available for use.



What a selection and how great to see the advantages and use of each machine. Discussions and thoughts on relative merits of each will no doubt continue, but we have a choice. The club is proceeding with investigating the purchase of a disc grinder and we already have 6" bench grinders and Tru-Grind tool sharpening systems for members use.

Members will have no excuse not to have good tools with sharp edges that will enable the bevel to be rubbed. Don't be afraid to try and sharpen your tools. The club has many experts who will gladly and ably assist you to achieve a sharp tool.

"Rub the bevel"

Ross Johnson

Turning a Totara Post with Don Wood

At the Show-and-Tell time Don showed a candle stick turned from a totara post. He developed this procedure in his demonstration.

The first item was a warning – totara posts attract sundry foreign objects, mainly staples and nails; although pieces of wire can also be still attached to your selected piece.

These objects fall into three categories: (a) those that you can remove, (b) those that you can't, or would rather not, remove and (c) those that you fail to know about until you nick your gouge on them. Some of these objects do add to the attraction of the work so try and include them into your design.

Start by selecting the centre points at both ends. Totara posts are often highly irregular in shape especially if they have been produced by cleaving the log so make allowance for this when choosing the centre points while also remembering the minimum diameters you want at each end. Mount the post between a spur drive at the headstock and a live centre at the tailstock. Have the proposed base of the article at the headstock end. There are many items that you can create from your post – dried flower pot, cut flower vase (by inseting a glass or plastic tube or jar) stem for a rustic table, candlestick etc. Don chose to make a candlestick.

With such irregular pieces of wood ALWAYS check the swing after setting the tool rest and adjust if necessary. The general consensus was that a full face shield is desirable for this sort of work. Start, with comparatively low revs, to form a chucking tenon at the base end. Revs can be increased once a round has been formed. Size the tenon to suit a 130mm gripper chuck. (From the floor it was suggested that if you do not possess one of these, a large faceplate attached with plenty of long screws is a suitable alternative. (You would have to dress the end of your post flat and square if adopting this idea.)



Mount the blank in the chuck and start reducing the top of the piece with the largest roughing gouge you possess. A discussion took place about the presentation of the gouge. Don uses a reverse presentation i.e. the flute points away from the direction of the cut. It did seem that with such an irregular piece of timber this reduced the likelihood of a dig-in. If possible work from high ground to low ground to effect the cleanest cut. Don knew of a staple that he had not removed so he had to allow for this in his design evolved. A suggestion from the floor was to put a bit of masking tape over the staple. It does not need to be large to show up as the work revolves.

Check your work frequently for staples etc of which you were not previously aware. Once you have reduced

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17 June

Club Night Action (cont'd)

(Continued from page 9)

your post suited to your design on the main body, you can turn your attention to the detail at the head. Don wanted to be able to recess the candle so had to allow a suitable collar at the top for this. The collar can be cylindrical, flared, beaded or whatever fits in with your overall design. As the piece came more and more into balance Don was able to increase the speed of the lathe. Don changed to a smaller gouge for this part of the work.

Once the shaping was completed the live centre was removed from the tail stock and replaced with a Jacob's chuck with a 40mm dia. saw-tooth bit. This was used to drill out the recess to hold the candle. As it might be a heavy candle make sure that the recess is deep enough to give stability.

At this point Don ended his demonstration as he would take the piece home to carry out sanding and finishing. He undertook to bring the finished work to the next meeting. His completed candlestick had been given an oil finish.

Thanks Don, for giving us plenty to think about as well as some very useful guidance.

Jim Black

24 June

Inventions, Jigs and Clever Tricks (and a little bit of this and that)

Several club members took the floor at our meeting with varied presentations ranging from straight forward bright ideas to complex matters well beyond the technological expertise of the evening's Turning Talk recorder.

Vice President Bob got the lathe turning (ball rolling) as it were. As well as using a bean bag for a cushion while working on a piece - pyrography for example - he also uses a bean bag as support when he has a "tricky" piece of wood to shape at the bandsaw. A novel use for a bean bag but not without controversy on the night. Bob also demonstrated his homemade file- a strip of sandpaper stuck to a flexible length of wood by double-sided tape- which is very handy sanding areas around the bottoms of three-legged bowls for example.

Mac Duane brought along several items of interest. Firstly there was his mini table which he set up on the tool slide to make a very useful platform. One use for the platform was as a bench to sand items against a homemade sanding disk attached to the lathe spindle. This proves very handy for keeping square while cleaning up end grain. Mac brought along his compound vice which he uses on the mini table



with his router but he lost me there. His hand made tail stock hand wheel extension certainly speeds up the drilling process (a great idea as most hand wheels on the lathes I've seen have minimal leverage)

We saw Mac's homemade chatter tool. Several members contributed at this point regarding sources of spring steel and Mac offered to help folk who were thinking of making one of these for themselves. Mac then showed us several different diameters of PVC pipe cut to around one cm in length with a slot cut out of the side so that each one looked like a kind of spring. The PVC prevents chuck marks when placed over a finished spigot when this is being used as a foot.

We also saw Mac's lathe steady constructed from skate board wheels and a construction he attaches to his lathe which makes it easier for him to sight a finial, for example, when he is turning a number of identical items. Mac also showed us his collection of face plate rings made from "washers" he had collected over the years. The rings fitted chucks 50-100 mm and as many of us know are very handy to have when we need to put a work in progress aside for some reason or other and still be able to use the chuck. Heaps of ideas from Mac and I'd guess he'll have another fistful next time round.



Bryden Thorpe also brought along his mini table and sanding disks and then created a lot of interest with his homemade poker work machine built basically from a seldom used battery charger and some attachments. The mechanics of it all was too much for me but it was definitely very effective burning wood and was very cheap to construct. Folk interested in making one of these should talk with Bryden and Warric Day first. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing and I think you really do need to know what you are doing here. Bryden also brought along and demonstrated the workings of his off centre chuck which was designed by David Harmes. One of our club members suggested there may be a need to make some modifications to the chuck to ensure that it could be used safely.



Bob Frear has a thing about vacuum chucks (which many of us share) and he showed us the jig he had made to give him peace of mind while he is cleaning up bottoms. I was then really impressed with Bob's jig he uses to cut rounds on the bandsaw. Using a bandsaw often entails an element of risk and we saw a very



(Continued on page 11)

Club Night Action (cont'd)

(Continued from page 10)

practical jig which would enable rounds to be cut safely and accurately. A must for the club, I suggest. We also saw an explanation of Bob's chisel grinding jig which generated questions from the group.

Terry Bennett rounded off a very informative evening with a gadget he uses as a template to measure spigots and dovetails. On a short length of wood Terry has marked out the maximum and minimum measurements of both the spigot and the dovetail for each of his chucks thus enabling a quick reference point for the scribe.

As it is possible to only briefly outline here what was shared, I know our contributors will be very happy to share in more detail anything that interests members over a cup of tea on Club nights.



One of our best evenings and some great ideas to go home with. Many thanks to all involved.

Lindsay Amies

1 July

The Bearded One Returns!

Having done his bit to save the Delaware Bay (New Jersey, USA) Red Knot bird population, Dick Veitch (once he had sorted out the air filters) took charge of our weekly meeting assuming the chair ably held during his absence by Bob Yandell.

Dick didn't attempt to tell jokes but he did lead an entertaining and enjoyable evening including end of term awards and a presentation on his trip to the USA.

Fascinatingly, the Red Knot bird migrates from Chile to the Canadian Arctic every year with a stopover in Delaware Bay. Here, they pause and dine on horseshoe crab eggs and it is at this time that birds are captured and tagged by the team Dick has been working with for the past 12 years.

While there, Dick made contact with a local Woodturning chapter and spent an evening in a members "shop" (yank-speak for shed).

After going to Colorado to catch up with friends, Dick concluded his presentation with a report on the recent American Association of Woodturners 2009 Symposium held from 26-28 June in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Of particular interest were his learnings and observations from this major event on the international woodturning calendar.

Signs of the hit the American economy is taking that Dick mentioned were the reduced attendees at the symposium as well as the reduced prices gained for pieces that were auctioned. Dick commented that surface decoration is becoming really important in creating market appeal as well as the high proportion of works designed purely for their aesthetic qualities rather than any functional purpose. He also mentioned that piercing is an emerging trend, perhaps popularised by the acclaim Binh Pho has been getting for his work.

Dick sensed that a number of works displayed might have been more experimental in nature with turners trying new approaches to gauge market reaction (the subtext being that they had marginal intrinsic merit!).

More details on his trip are in Dick's reports on pages 5 and 6.



Editors Footnote:

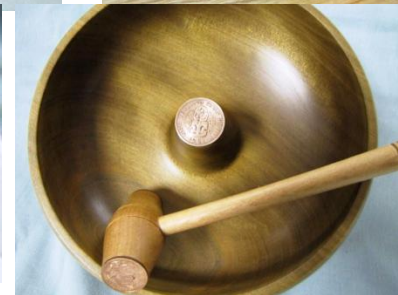
Some may have heard rumours circulating amongst the woodturning fraternity that the current interweb thinga-ma-jig Air New Zealand viral video "Nothing to Hide" safety videos featuring nude body painted air crew staff include cameos of Dick Veitch. I am assured that these rumours are unfounded despite assertions in a number of emails contrary to this.

I do find it curious that no denials that he helped with the air-brush have thus far been forthcoming, and that he did say that he had great connections during his trip. (Brings new meaning to the term "embellishment").

(Go to www.nothingtohide.co.nz to view)

The Extravaganza (Continued)

A selection from what must be over 200 photos taken over the past term from the Show and Tell table.



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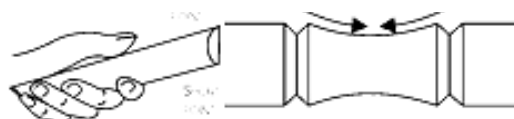
- Enquiries to Mac Duane, Tom Pearson
or a Committee member.

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