

# TurningTalk

Turning Tomorrow's Treasures

Issue No 188

Newsletter of the South Auckland Woodturners

June 2010

## Obituary: Clarrie Wills QSM

*Clarence Vivian (Clarrie) Wills died on 12 May 2010; as it happened, the morning of our AGM. Clarrie was a founding member of SAWG and Guild Treasurer from 1989– 2000.*

Clarrie was awarded his QSM in the Queens Birthday and Golden Jubilee Honours list in 2002 for his community service being nominated by Habitat for Humanity.

Life member and friend Peter Knox (former secretary, now living in Rangiora) shared his thoughts and memories of Clarrie:

Peter says: "I came to be involved with Clarrie, the Guild's Treasurer, when I became the Guild's Secretary in 1994. From then on we became closely associated with all the matters concerning the Guild's activities leading up to the South Pacific Symposium hosted by the Guild in 1999. It was a huge job to organise not the least of which was the financial management of the event that Clarrie had to navigate his way through to a successful outcome. Beyond that event Clarrie continued as the steward of the Guild's finances as well as being on hand to help out when other activities were organised for Guild meetings and exhibitions. Clarrie's involvement with 'Habitat for Humanity' soon occupied a great deal of his time and he gave up his Treasurer's job in 2000. As one who earned his Life Membership early in the Guild's history we need to recognise his contribution and the integrity he brought to the Guild as it moved forward. I'm sure Clarrie would have felt a good deal of satisfaction when looking back over his years of active involvement in the Guild"

SAWG Life Member Jim McCarthy recalls Clarrie was "sometimes a bit informal but always accurate".

Clarrie was evidently renowned for his gruff fog-horn like voice, best exemplified by being nicknamed "The Sergeant Major" at the SAWG Eastern Beach Live-in event (the predecessor to Participation). This gruffness evidently was also noted tongue in cheek at Habitat for Humanity where he received an award for "Most Improved Telephone Manner".

By trade, Clarrie was a builder and building inspector before



**Clarrie Wills speaks at the Guilds 10th Anniversary Birthday Celebration in 1998**

becoming involved in Maori Housing and then Housing New Zealand towards the end of his working career.

However, SAWG was not the only beneficiary of Clarrie's generosity, community involvement and goodwill. Warren Jack from Habitat for Humanity recalls Clarrie gave a "lifetime of community service" through his involvement with rugby, swimming, school boards and church, being "always available and generous and a great guy".

As his involvement with SAWG wound down, Clarrie took on other challenges including the establishment, with Ken Stevenson, of the Habitat for Humanity Manukau branch becoming a full time volunteer and founding Director.

Here he was instrumental in the construction of 76 homes (to date) for needy families. This included the then World

Record "speedbuild" time for a house being constructed from scratch of 3 hours, 44 minutes and 59 seconds set in 1999. The high regard in which Clarrie was held by Habitat has seen the naming of a street in their most recent development "Clarrie Wills Way" off Wymondley Road in Otara.

While but one of his legacies, Clarrie's contribution in the early days to the establishment and development of SAWG has resulted in the thriving Guild we all enjoy today and for which we are indebted, not only to Clarrie but to the many over the years, not least, our life members.



**Clarrie Wills proudly stands beneath the signpost and in front of the first new home to be built for Habitat for Humanity in "Clarrie Wills Way", Otara a month prior to his death**

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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

Mark Savill 267 9965

### Treasurer

David Jones 299 5110

### Editor

Chris White 268 0969

### Members:

Mac Duane 299 6286

Cathy Langley 630 2091

Terry Meekan 263 8240

Terry Scott 297 7051

Les Sivewright 534 7943

Bruce Wood 626 3840

Don Wood 292 4205

### 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

### Contact us:

Website: [www.sawg.org.nz](http://www.sawg.org.nz)

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### Contributors this month:

Mac Duane  
Warren Jack (Habitat for Humanity)  
Ross Johnson (Photos)  
Carole Knowles  
Peter Knox  
Terry Scott  
Robert Smith  
Ross Vivian



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



## Coming Up...

All the activities listed here are in our clubrooms in the Papatoetoe Stadium Community Centre, Tavern Lane, Papatoetoe (see [www.sawg.org.nz](http://www.sawg.org.nz) for directions). On our regular Wednesday evening meetings, the official meeting starts at 7.00pm and is followed by a "Show-&-Tell" session where members can show and discuss their work.

For those wishing to make use of the machinery, do some shopping, check out our library, get some advice, or just socialise, the doors open at 5pm.

We have a Table Prize for each term. This is members work on display - lessons learned (half-finished, flawed, or failed) to the best you can do that has been brought to the "Show-&-Tell" table during the term.

## SAWG TERM 2 & 3 2010

21 July	<b>Term Project Mushroom lidded Box</b> presented by Lindsay Amies
28 July	<b>From Wood Raffle to Treasure</b> presented by Bob Yandell
4 August	<b>Members Gadgets and Tips</b> (bring along your G's & T's to share)
11 August	<b>Born to Bead</b> Lisa Jane Harvey shows how to make beads of distinction
14 August	<b>Working Bee</b>
18 August	<b>Hands On term Project</b>
25 August	<b>Miniatures</b> with Colin Wise
1 September	<b>TBA</b> with John Whitmore
8 September	<b>Marbling</b> with Terry Meekan
15 September	<b>Love that Skew</b> with Phread Thurston
22 September	<b>Judging of Term Project and Life Members Award</b>

## Coming Events

14-18 July	<b>2010 Australian Woodturning Symposium</b> , Brisbane
21 Aug	<b>Scroll Saw Workshop</b> , Manawatu Woodworkers Guild
20-22 Aug	<b>Edenvue Experience</b> , Southland Woodworkers Guild
24-26 Sept	<b>SAWG Participation Camp</b> Adair, Hunua Ranges
29-31 Oct	<b>Spin Around Waitaki</b> , Oamaru (Guest turner Guilio Marcolongo)

Regularly Updated Calendars of Events can always be viewed at  
[www.sawg.org.nz](http://www.sawg.org.nz) and [www.naw.org.nz](http://www.naw.org.nz) (including entry forms)

## Macs Maxim of the Month

"Dream it, draw it, make it"

-Mac Duane





## Shavings

### Participation

**Terry Scott** is selling tickets to our "Participation 2010" and would encourage members and visitors planning to attend the event to pull finger and book now!

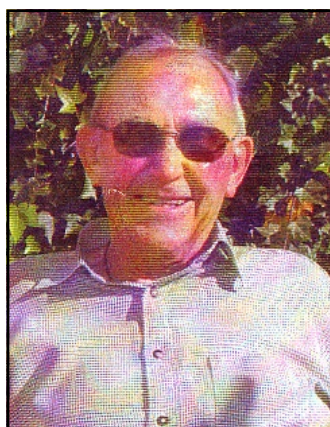


Reminder that the fee for a long weekend of Turning with old and new mates, including accommodation and food, is only \$130. If you can only attend for a day, the fee is \$65. Exceptional value I am sure you will agree. Those needing assistance relocating lathes to Camp Adair should liaise with Terry and **Mac Duane**. Mac has arranged for sponsor **Mainfreight** to assist with moving lathes from the club premises.

**Do it Now!** (application form in this issue)

### SAWG 2010 AGM

This years AGM was marred by the passing of Life Member **Clarrie Wills (inset)** who had died earlier in the day. Vice President Bob Yandell led the members in the observation of a minutes silence before proceeding to the formal business of the night. A reflection of the calibre of the existing committee and their individual commitment to the welfare of the Guild, as well as the confidence of the members saw the re-appointment of the current committee augmented by co-opted members.



#### Office Holders:

President: Dick Veitch  
Vice President: Bob Yandell  
Secretary: Mark Savill  
Treasurer: David Jones  
Past President: Michael Bernard  
Webmaster: Rex Haslip  
Editor: Chris White

#### Elected and Co-opted:

Mac Duane  
Cathy Langley  
Terry Meekan  
Terry Scott  
Les Sivewright  
Bruce Wood  
Don Wood

Seeing the ructions currently going on at AAW, isn't it great to have a committee and Guild united in furthering our passion!

The Guild is financially in very good heart and the contribution of the Aoraki programme was acknowledged as a contributor not only financially but also lifting the overall skill level of members.

#### Resolutions Passed:

- Subs for the next year will increase from the current \$45 pa to \$50 pa.
- Appointment of auditor (Craig Miller)

### Appointment of Life Members

During the course of the AGM, long standing members Les Sivewright and Cathy Langley were appointed as Life Members of the Guild. Their citations recorded their contributions: In the case of Les; as committee member and as shop keeper. Accepting his award, Les replied he would "treasure it for many years to come".

In the case of Cathy, her instrumentality in the success of many guild activities as well as her contribution in the past at committee level (Member, past Treasurer, Training Coordinator). In accepting her award, Cathy said how it was "such a pleasure to be part of this group".



Les and Cathy join the ranks of their fellow "Lifers"- (L-R) **Jim McCarthy, Mac Duane, Cathy Langley, Terry Meekan, Terry Scott, Les Sivewright**.

Absent "Lifers": Peter Knox, Doug Tanner and Dick Veitch.

Congratulations and well deserved Les and Cathy.

### New Sponsor

Welcome to well known Australian turning supplier **Carroll's Woodturning Supplies** who join us this month as another SAWG sponsor. I know that members will benefit from considering Carroll's when they get some discretionary turning dollars.



### New Books and DVD's

**Graeme Mackay** has been acquiring some new titles- both books and DVD's. If you are anything like me, more time is spent vicariously turning thru books than in front of the lathe so have a look at the library- once Graeme has finished reading and watching them!

Graeme is still looking for some DVD's- if you have any you have finished with, please return so others can enjoy.

(Continued on page 4)

## Shavings (Continued)

### Short of Time?

Then don't follow this link: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/51381651@N05/show/>

Here you will find 1200 photos in a photo montage compiled by Jeffrey Schnell from the AAW Symposium. A taste of the presentation:



### Man Up!

Think you turn under tough conditions? Getting a bit cold in the shed lately? Terry Scott received an email from Thailand recently in which his friend says:

*"...fighting rages on. Wood is still safe...the building is now under armed guard! The war zone is getting worse...but we are trying to work and not think about it."*

Now get out there and be grateful that cold is the worst we endure.

### Brisbane Working With Wood Show

Not content with sharing his many talents with us, Terry Scott attended the Brisbane WWW show and has some pics taken during his time demonstrating on the CWS stand. Unusually, he didn't have any tales of underhanded bowling but no doubt he will be referred to as an "Australasian" turner in future (in the ANZAC spirit of Phar lap, Pavlova, Split Enz and most recently the All Whites)



### Dowel Source

**Bryden Thorpe** has a source of very reasonably priced dowels (sold in bundles) and wishes to enable members looking for dowels to be able to get in touch with the supplier. He suggests contacting **Wayne** on 021525482 and adds that the best time to contact Wayne is between 3 and 6 pm.



**Clarrie Wills (third from left) cuts the SAWG 10th Anniversary Cake 26 August 1998 with (L-R) Ron King (President), Derek Johnson (Secretary '88-93), and Bob Main**

*(Continued from page 7)*

each grade as often particles are left behind which will continue to scratch our work.

There are 4 enemies of sanding

- Dust
- Heat
- Torn grain
- Soft wood.

Be aware of safety when sanding. Always sand on the trailing edge. If you are making your own sanding mandrills use Ados F2 as an adhesive.

Rex then spoke of finishes. There are three main types- Oils (both drying and non drying), waxes (Hard and soft) and coatings. He advised us to steer clear of Soya bean, Peanut and linseed oils. Also be aware that silicone based products can be poisonous and that you cannot put anything over them.

Waxes tend to collect dust and show marks. If we use a variety of products, what we put on last is the finish. Lacquers give a hard finish but can be difficult to apply evenly. Friction polishes are good for small pieces but not so good for large. If Danish oil is used it needs to be wiped off after being applied.

More details of the various finishes and the types of sandpaper are available on the Guild's website.

So it's back to careful tool work and thorough *gentle* sanding and then carefully choosing your finish according to its desired purpose.

Thank you Rex for sharing your experience and wisdom. I see that I still need more experience in choosing the right finish for the different woods and products.

**Report by Robert Smith**

## Mini Lathes- FREE Loans

The Club has 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. Turning blanks and a variety of finishing materials are available for purchase at the club shop

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





# Toys for the Boys– the new use for an electric Toothbrush

By Ross Vivian

Heather and I went to Turnfest in Australia a few weeks ago, “A great Event” but not the point of this particular story. At one of the demo’s I heard a guy mention an electric toothbrush as being an excellent sanding machine but did not think much more about it at the time.

That is, until Jim Lowe from Kapiti and NAW liaison person for Aoraki Polytechnic, who is currently running a Aoraki course at our place, arrived with a new sanding thing- yes an old toothbrush with bristles cut off and a rubber pad plus Velcro stuck on in place of the bristles.

My mental computer suddenly remembered the conversation from Australia so I found the battery toothbrush Heather had bought for me several years ago. Luckily, as I didn’t like it as a toothbrush, I hadn’t thrown it out and holy smoke the battery still worked.

So it was off with the bristles and on with the rubber pad and Velcro– add some sand paper on it and worked like a dream.

This model toothbrush had two heads: one a round head oscillates while the other head goes backwards and forwards, really great for those hard to get at small places.

Rounded up some old hand toothbrushes and made more hand sanding pads like the one Jim had brought through with him. Next morning the course members were doing carving on a platter and they all tried using the toothbrushes at some stage finding them great: expect to see a lot of toothbrushes here this week at the next session of the course!

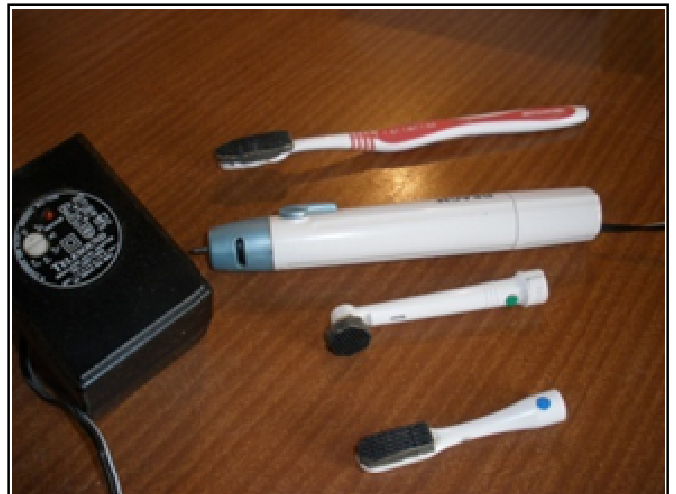
I decided that the 1.5 volts wasn’t powerful enough so bought a transformer that can alter the volts puts in 3 volts, now I have a super charged one, what a ripper it just hums.

Rang Terry Scott the tool man, he hadn’t heard of an electric toothbrush sander so I’ve at last got something he hasn’t. He was heading up town to buy one, thought it might be a bit difficult to claim on his business expenses.

Mental computer just clicked into gear again- also mentioned at Turnfest an electric bread knife sander, haven’t tried this yet.

It’s on the next thing to do list along with many other things.

*Thanks Ross for the tip!*



Wednesday 5 May

## Potpourri Demonstration by Bob Yandell

Bob started his demonstration by showing us several Potpourri, he had made with a difference. One was in the shape of a sunflower with the appropriate colour another was like an acorn made in two different woods. Both of these were innovative ideas that encourage us to think outside the square and be a little adventurous when making these pots.

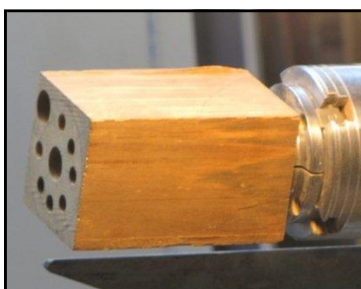
Next Bob had another way of making the Potpourri with no \$\$ changing hands, he showed us how to make the inserts with timber. These can be made from an off cut in the same or different wood from the base.

To make the insert: with a square block of wood about 70 x 70 mm measure and determine where the holes on top are to go these can be drilled on the drill press or with a hand drill, making the centre one slightly larger than the rest.

Secure this block on the lathe turning this into a cylinder and facing off the top making this slightly convex, this size of this will have been determined by the original written plan ( if you have one) when the last cut is completed sand and finish with your design, this could be using pyrography, texturing tool, or perhaps colour. Finally part off.

The Bowl: This is the same procedure as any bowl, Place your blank on the lathe turn a 50mm spigot on the tail-stock end and shape the bowl as per your design, sand and finish, turn now fitting the spigot into the jaws on your chuck. Turn to shape and make a small step for the top to sit in. Checking with the top to ensure the fit is firm. Continue now and take out the centre wood, Bob uses a cup tool for this part.

With the top on make several fine careful cuts across the top to the edge of the bowl so as the top and bowl are flush. Sand and finish. Turn again fitting the recess into the chuck jaws and turn off the bottom.



### Bobs tips:

- Make your first cut your last.
- Have a plan.
- Do not use a screw chuck on end grain wood, unsafe.
- Use the texturing tool on the area outside the spigot as this is difficult to finish and also adds value.
- Let your imagination flow with your design.

Fill with lavender, rose petals, seed pods etc and perfumed oil.

Thank you Bob

### Report from Carole Knowles

#### Sidebar: Potpourri

*Carole has done some internet research on Potpourri and shares what she has found out:*

Did you know that the potpourri was once a necessity? I will tell you a little gleaned from the web!!

Castles were the source of the need for potpourri. They were designed with small windows in order to prevent objects like arrows and stones from entering making them dark and damp and in a short time would smell very bad. Castle dwellers started using heavily scented herbs to hide the horrible smell, if not the rooms would be undesirable to live in. The oils in the herbs would eventually evaporate and the herbs themselves would begin to rot, frequent cleaning was needed.

Typically, castles would have a room at the bottom that was used for creating potpourri. Large containers were used to mix herbs and spices with several cups of brandy and other alcoholic liquids. The mixture would give off a wonderful scent. Containers would age like fine wine before the creator would judge it ready for use.

Rooms and locations were selected to have the potpourri deposited, with occasional refreshing it was not unusual for some mixtures to last for many years or even over a decade. To refresh all that was needed to be done was to add some alcohol to aid the evaporation of the aroma to the air. The containers were usually capped at night to elongate the scent.

Over to you Bob!



## Club Night Action (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

**Wednesday 12 May**

**Jane Allnatt**

**A**fter the formalities of the AGM, we were treated to the wood artistry of renowned local wood sculptor Jane Allnatt.

Coming from a background in pottery, Jane works in a number of media including wood, bronze, stone and resin.

She exemplifies the merits of planning a piece in advance of actually making it. She said that she "may do hundreds" of drawings before settling on a design that she is comfortable with. After she has the idea, she draws it and then uses plasticine to model it in 3D. This helps her not only visualise the overall piece but equally so she can come up with an execution of the reverse side of the piece as well. (A member of the audience suggested to Jane including the plasticine model to the purchaser to add value to the piece which Jane would otherwise destroy and re-use for her next piece)

Commenting on the vagaries of judges and the market, Jane said that "stylised form is in at the moment". Not tending to do stylised work, she finds her work is not particularly in favour presently. However, this did not stop her being a place-getter in the woodcraft section of the Royal Easter Show this year to join the many awards that she already holds from previous years and competitions.

Jokingly, she says she expects her work to be better appreciated in years to come- "perhaps 100". Certainly, members who were privileged to see her work and hear her were very impressed.

Amusingly, Jane recognises woodturners as one element of her competition for art dollars and accordingly steers well away from anything that could be construed as being



turned, particularly given the disparity in the time taken to turn a piece as opposed to carve!

Taking a seat on the floor, Jane then demonstrated her carving techniques and tools comprising wooden and rubber mallets and chisels to the members who were then free to peruse her finished pieces.

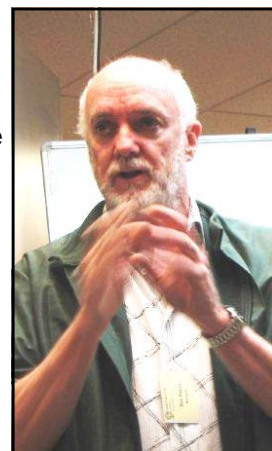
An excellent demonstration and presentation Jane and much appreciated- we hope to see you along again on an evening that does not include putting to bed an AGM!

To see Janes gallery, go to [www.janeallnatt.co.nz](http://www.janeallnatt.co.nz)

**Wednesday 19 May**

**Finishing Options with Rex Haslip**

While Rex's demonstration was on "Finishing", Rex continually emphasized the need to concentrate on the basics. As in other areas of life advanced knowledge is of little use if we do not have the basics right. We need to see that our tool work is well done, that we have sanded carefully and that we have not missed areas such as bottoms that need tidying up. Other areas needing care are not to over sand in the inside bottom of bowls and small cracks in the end-grain due to overheating. If scratches remain in work go back to courser grades of sandpaper.



Before starting a piece we need to ask seven questions-

- What am I making?
- What am I going to use it for and how this affects timber and finish chosen?
- What shape?
- What timber do I need for serviceability and strength?
- What tools do I need?
- What finish will I use?
- What will I charge for it?

The purpose of finishing is to make a piece serviceable and also to bring out the beauty of the wood.

Good tool use is essential for a good finish. Use your ears to tell you that your tool is cutting smoothly. The biggest enemy of a good finish is heat- particularly in Kauri.

We need to be aware that artificial light does not always show up blemishes that are obvious in natural light.

Rex reminded us that there are a great variety of and variation in the quality of sand papers. There are three major components to sand paper - the grit, the backing material and the bonding agent. He advised us to steer clear of engineers paper and to wipe the piece being sanded after

(Continued on page 4)



At YMCA Camp Adair 24-26 September

# PARTICIPATION 2010

*It's on again 24 to 26 September*

**Woodturning for Everyone**

**Sharing, Watching, Learning, Teaching, Enjoying**

**When:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September from 7:30am til late, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 7:30am til late  
and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30am to 3:00pm

**Where:** At YMCA Camp Adair, Hunua (Limited to the first 90 paying participants)  
Live-in. Full accommodation and meals

The theme for the weekend is a decorative item for the corporate desk (max 300 high)

There will be a prize for the most original decorative item for the corporate desk

Each participant will be given a piece of timber to make a bowl for Kidz First at Christmas

**Bring a lathe and stay for the whole weekend**

Don't have a lathe? You can book a club lathe free of charge. Conditions apply.

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

Bottomless tea and coffee (cake if someone gives it). Friday lunch BYO.

All other meals are part of the deal.

**Sponsors for the weekend:**

**Mainfreight. Turning Tools Ltd (Ian Fish). Woodcut Tools. Treeworkx**

**Ross & Heather Vivian, Carba-Tec, Wattyl, Steel Tools Ltd,**

**Motor Technologies, Jim Downs Timber**

Complete and return this part of the page with your payment

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment:** Full or part weekend just \$130.00. All accommodation and all meals.  
Details with your receipt.

One day only (meals but no accommodation) \$65.00. Fri \_\_\_\_\_ Sat \_\_\_\_\_ Sun \_\_\_\_\_

A friend for dinner Saturday evening \$25.00

Total \$\$ Paid \_\_\_\_\_ by: Cheque Visa/Mastercard (add 5% please) Cash  
Please make cheques payable to South Auckland Woodturners Guild.

Or pay by Direct Credit to South Auckland Woodturners Guild - Account No 11 5373 0561428 02  
please put your name in the "particulars to be shown on the statement" section.

**All bookings and all money must reach Terry Scott before 9 September**

Phone 021 998 493 / 09 297 7051

I would like to book a club lathe \_\_\_\_\_ Distribution priorities are: Overseas visitors, distant NZ, locals.

I require a billet before or after: Thurs \_\_\_\_\_ Sun \_\_\_\_\_ I can billet \_\_\_\_\_ people.



## TIMBER

### WOODTURNING BLANKS, SLABS & PLANKS

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SUNDRY - Shellacs, Shellac Reducer, Citrus Thinners  
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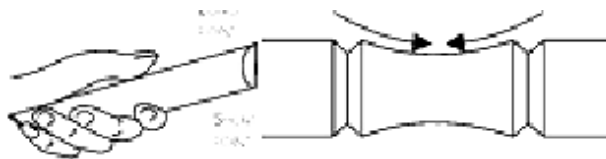
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