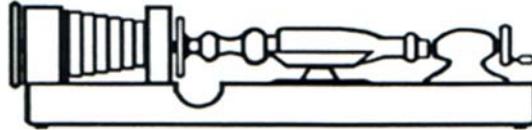


Shavings & Ravings



NEWSLETTER 122

NORTH SHORE WOODTURNERS GUILD

JUNE 2005

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Do you know what <http://www.wood.org.nz> has to do with our Guild?

Those of you not very familiar with computers, email and the worldwide web of the internet may not know.

But our very own Webmaster William knows all about this 'URL' which is simply the address for our Website on the World Wide Web. It can be accessed by anyone anywhere in the universe connected to the Internet—they just have to type in www.wood.org.nz and voila they will be able to see photos of pieces from our show and tell table, read the latest and earlier issues of Shavings & Ravings, and see other interesting stories, photos and links that William has kindly arranged there. And that he adds to regularly after meetings. So if you have not seen it yet get someone you know who goes 'online' to show you. And don't forget to tell friends & family about it—especially those overseas. All the more reason to bring items to show and have photographed at meetings. And if your items do not appear on the website, then try bribing William. Liquor and \$s will probably work, but just saying thanks to him for doing a really great job may be enough.

How do you say www.wood.org.nz ?

Dub dub dub dot wood dot org dot nz

Welcome to our new members:

Barrie Miller, Bruce Schaw,
and Chris Irons

President's Turn

It has been another busy and entertaining term, with a wide range of topics.

It was unfortunate that John Mackinven was too ill to demonstrate a few weeks ago, but he was with us on the 28th June, when he challenged us with his versions of rims etc. He replaced Rolly Munro who has had to postpone his demonstration until later in the year.

Sorby Tools once again tested our Bank Balances, I can't remember seeing Jack in the buying queue? What a wonderful array of tools and accessories, fine, if you can afford them, but no doubt very daunting to beginners. I say to them, you do not need all that was on display. A couple of bowl gouges, a skew, and a parting tool will be adequate for all your needs, until you want to explore more complex woodturning projects. [Ian, note, no reference to scrapers]

Thanks also to Ken Port of Woodcut Tools. Ken gave us an interesting insight to the birth and growth of Woodcut Tools. His dedication to the sharpening of tools should be a guide and motivation to all Woodtumers.

My thanks to all our other demonstrators from term 2.

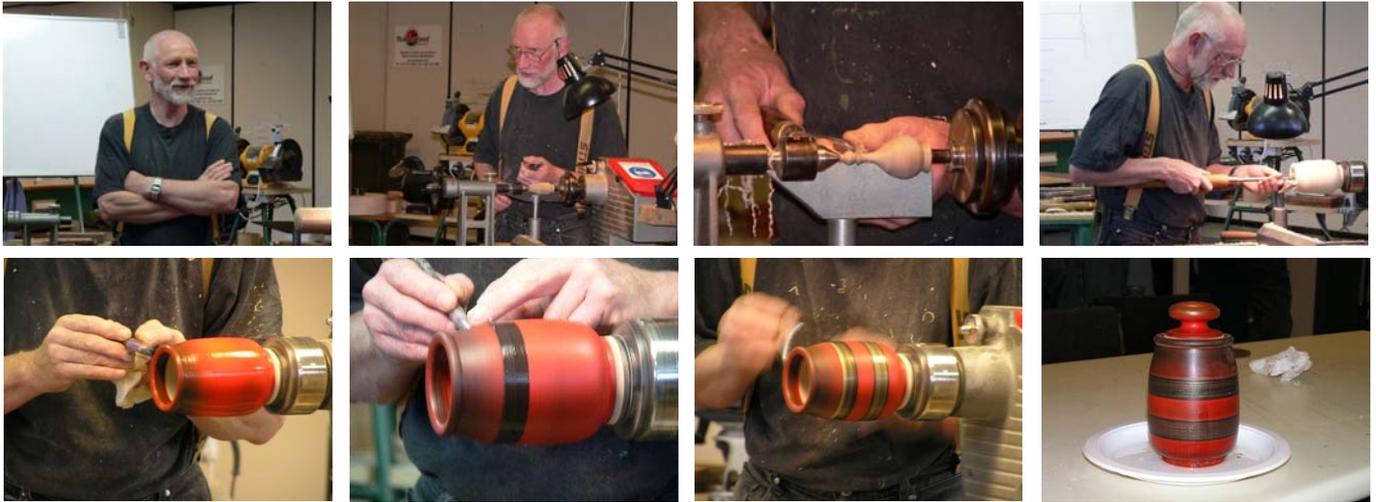
There has been considerable negative reaction to the NAW's proposed alterations to the constitution. Our members have been encouraged to return their proxy voting papers indicating their feelings. Failure to return the form would allow the President of NAW to vote his own way at the AGM. Your committee has sent a letter to the NAW expressing our dissatisfaction with the proposed changes. I believe that other Guilds have indicated similar thoughts. We will keep you informed.

The committee have submitted an "Expression of Interest" to the North Shore City Council re the possible renting of the Mairangi Bay Ladies Bowling Club premises, which become vacant shortly. It may mean shared premises if we are successful. Once again we will keep members fully informed. Having our own premises would allow this Guild to grow, and to host National and International demonstrators.

Highlights for next term, starting 26 July are, Shane Hewitt, Bob Norris, Dick Veitch, and our own Kerry Snell with a 'Q&A' evening. The project for next term is VASES.

Finally, my special thanks to the committee, and to all the members for the ongoing support that I receive. See you at the Club, I hope that all your days turn out well.

Mike Lewis



Saturday 14th May 2005 at South Auckland Woodturners Guild rooms.

Woody McMarten gave a great demonstration to about 30 of us, working at it from first thing, 'til late, with no extra charge for the wit and wisdom he scattered in amongst the shavings throughout the day.

While the \$15 per head would not help out the motoring desires of your dentist Woody, I hope this helped in some small way towards a vision for the future. The problem with not being able to see where you're going is that you'll never know when you're there.

Much of Woody's work these days uses poplar, which is turned, then quite highly coloured and decorated, giving articles he's finding to be increasingly popular compared to the more traditional grain figured work. I certainly thought the examples he made were funky, I liked them, and I'll have a go at doing some of the decorating soon. But I also found a number of basic things interesting about this work:

- The use of end grain waste blocks, hot melt glued on to a finished/signed base.

- The end grain allowing ready transmission (capillary action?) of turps to un-glue the waste piece when completed.
- Use of the simple Latalex/Woodcut ring hollowing tool, with a marked shaft to show the position of ring centre, and the required depth of cut
- Sandpaper stacked in grit sequence for use, returned to inverse grit sequence as used, and held in place with a clothes peg waiting for further use. Woody says that to date he has not noticed any significant difference in performance resulting from differences in the colour of the pegs he uses.
- Squares of paper used for power sanding mostly, with outer area used on inside of bowl, inside area used up on outside of bowl.
- Power sanding right up to 600grit
- The very cunning 'tool' for sanding inside the restricted size of the honey pot, for the sides, and the bottom. That was worth \$15 to know about for hollow forms.
- His use of the skew to give a great finish to the honey pot he made. As he says, another good thing about the skew is that it quickly lets you know when you're using it wrong.
- Being ambidextrous if needed to modify the outside of a bowl after it is re-chucked to do the inside.

Thanks again for a great day Woody. And thanks also to the South Auckland Guild for organizing, and I suspect making up the shortfall to costs, for this magnificent day.

And thanks to Colin and Andy for the Photos.



Optimists Corner.

"...one thing about the skew is that it quickly lets you know when you're using it wrong..."

"...this is safest to do at very low speed..."



April 12th

The 'End of Term' meeting brought many works out for the evening, quite a number seen for the first time. Judging and prizes were restricted to beginners and intermediate turners for the first time. Some discussion took place about the length of time a beginner could remain so, I believe without a consensus being reached.

Prizes were awarded to:

Beginners—Pepi Waite 1st,
Ian McNeill 2nd,
Pepi 3rd.

Intermediates—
Ron Thomas 1st,
William Hursthouse 2nd,
Peter Williams 3rd.



Also around this time Michael Posthuma received his prize from the 'Working with Wood' section of the Autumn Home Show.

The photo shows Michael holding the Clarinet he made, and receiving the first prize of the Triton Super Jaws.

May 3rd

Rene Baxalle showed us how to make a small lidded box—this term's project.

Rene began with a piece of 100x100 , 125 long that had a 45mm+ spigot turned at one end, which was mounted into the chuck and further supported with the tailstock.

The block was rounded, and another spigot turned at the tailstock end.

The headstock end was to be the lid - so the cut position between the lid and base was determined, then both the lid and base were roughly shaped. Then the top and base were parted, and the inside of the lid completed.

The base was then chucked, hollowed, and a spigot formed to take the lid. Once the inside of the base was finished, and with it still in the chuck, the lid was fitted to it, the tailstock brought up, and final shaping of the outside completed. Once the tailstock is to be removed, masking tape can be used to secure the lid sufficiently to complete the top.

After finishing the outside, and removing the lid, the base needs to be parted from it spigot. The bottom of the base may be cleaned using a jam chuck, or carefully expanding the chuck jaws inside the base.



One of Rene's classy lidded pieces seen at this term's show and tell—a lidded platter.



This man was recently seen attacking a piece of Puriri log. When approached he stated that it had made vicious moves at his chainsaw, and he was only retaliating.

May 17th

Andrew Corston gave us a very informative talk on chainsaw maintenance this evening.

He was armed with plenty of samples of things to demonstrate points - like seized pistons from a) not putting enough oil in the petrol, and b) from allowing dirt build up in the head fins to stop air circulating, and hence cooling. Also an array of different types of sprockets, air filters, chains were used to show the variants available, and the pros and cons.

I had hoped to turn Andrew's very full notes into a full blown reference article for members, but I'm afraid that will have to wait for another edition.

Andrew also covered Chainsaw safety—including safety gear to wear, not working on your own, ensuring secure footing, and starting the saw on the ground.

Thanks for your talk Andrew, It was great and you motivated me to properly clean my saw, fit a new air-cleaner, and sharpen it properly. William has just traded some hard earned silver on a shiny Stihl, which he dirtied last weekend near Matakana. I've also heard rumors of others having similar out-of-body experiences.

And thanks too to Makita, importers of Dolmar chainsaws, for the really nice PicnicPak and DrinkFlask they gave as prizes for our raffle. I was jealous of David's win, but I shouldn't complain as the flask is great too.

June 7th Bias Turning

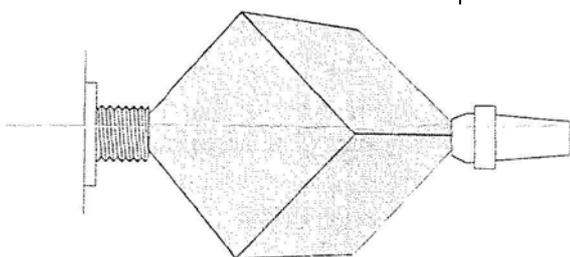
Mike Lewis showed us how to turn on the Bias, and provided me with this description. Thanks to Dick Veitch for the drawings.

Usually in woodturning the wood is either spindle turned, i.e. with the grain running parallel with the lathe bed, or face plate turned, i.e. cross grain, when the grain lies across the lathe bed. Bias turned items have their grain lying at approximately

45° to the lathe bed. This angle does affect the cutting of the wood, but as long as the chisels are sharp, and good chisel work is observed, there are no problems. Care should be exercised, especially in the final cuts, when “torn grain” can happen. particularly with less dense woods such as kauri.

Pre-shaping the bowl blank, and the way that it is mounted in the lathe, can result in some interesting shapes. Some shapes, however, can be quite frightening whilst being turned — not a project for the beginner. By pre-shaping the blank, definite planned “bowls” can be achieved, with no subsequent sawing or shaping required.

The easiest shape is the three cornered bowl which is achieved when the blank is first sawn and planed to an exact cube. The more exact that the cube is. and the more accurately it is mounted into the lathe, the more uniform wall thickness and points will be achieved. Mounting a cube in the bias position onto the lathe is very easy. Remove any chuck or faceplate so that the spindle is exposed. Any point of the cube is inserted into the Morse tapered hollow spindle. A cup centre of a live tail stock centre holds the opposite point of the cube. If you do not have a cup type centre, then a wooden receiver can be made that will fit over the more normal



fixed live centre. Before tightening up the tailstock too far, bring up the tool rest to check the alignment of the three

points of the cube, these are the points nearest to the tailstock end. Packing slivers or card into the cup centre can make slight adjustments to the alignment.

Tighten up the tailstock firmly and lock the quill. There will be sufficient friction to rotate the wood, so that the initial cuts can be made to form a chuck spigot at the headstock end. Should the wood slip, then re-tighten the tailstock further. Form a spigot as in the drawings; measurements will depend upon the details of your own lathe. For the Nova scroll chuck, a gripping point measurement of 43 mm for hardwood, or up to 45 mm for less dense wood will provide a perfect grip without leaving jaw marks, though usually I cut off the spigot when the turning is all complete.

Run the lathe at approximately 1500 rpm, remember that the wood is already balanced, so this speed is quite safe, At

Bi'as 1. mental tendency or inclination , esp irrational preference or prejudice. 2. a diagonal line or cut across the weave of a fabric.....
6. obliquely, diagonally.....

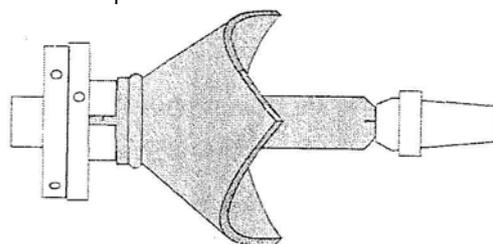
this speed you will be able to see the ghosting of the two sets of cube points. The set of points nearest the tailstock will be left to form the three points of the finished bowl. Cut from the headstock set of points down to the spindle. Remember that initially you will be running a “floating” bevel. Near the points you will have a floating bevel all the time. Once a spigot has been formed, part off the un-required point at the headstock end, and install your chuck onto the lathe. Mount the wood between chuck and tailstock; once again check the points with the tool rest to ensure correct alignment.

Final trimming can now be done of the outside. Sanding is also recommended, especially in the point area, as when the

bowl is hollowed out there will some movement to these points.

Now start hollowing out the inside. Usually I leave the tailstock in place until I have reduced the projecting points down to their finished thickness. I have found that by painting the rim with a black acrylic paint, apart from enhancing the final product, this does make seeing the wall thickness a bit easier.

Hollow out as for a normal bowl, leaving the base a little bit thicker than the walls to provide a bit more stability



when your masterpiece is on display. Sand through all the grades. the points have to be done by hand, whilst power sanding can be done below the gap areas. Finish off with your favourite

polish.

Alternative shapes are:

Cylinder, with variations in the ratio between width and height. this will give a two-point bowl of varying shapes depending on the ratio. Obviously there are no points to fit into the drive spindle, two parallel flats need to be cut at opposite sides so that a standard drive spur and tail centre can be used. A word of caution. With the cylinder version, the blank will start out well balanced, but as stock is removed, the blank will become progressively unbalanced. A change of speed is recommended.

Rectangular, not really recommended, but worth a try if you have a few spare fingers no longer required. Mount as you would a cube.

May 24th

Clive Brookes demonstrated some of the newer woodturning tools and accessories made by Robert Sorby of



Sheffield, in between batting back the banter, which he was good at, no doubt honed during his visit to our cousins across the ditch on his way here.

I had seen Clive's demo last year at SAWG, but still gained from his visit—for example in using the texturing tool with the work at quite high speed, whereas the spiralling cutters require much slower speeds. The Stebcentre, Spindlemaster and Chatter tool were others he showed, along with some scrapers. Ian Fish is the man to contact



about Sorby gear. Ask him for a demo of the new Shear Scapers, Clive reckons they're fantastic.

June 14th

After getting the OK from above, Ken Port gave us an interesting insight to his involvement with woodturning, and the birth and growth of Woodcut Tools.

In talking about current Woodcut tools, Ken concentrated on the necessity of having, and the ways and means of achieving, sharp tools. The Tru-Grind sharpening system is Woodcut's solution to sharpening all types of turning tools, and even other tools that can be accommodated by the tool holder. The adjustable base of the system can be fitted on the bench besides most bench grinders.

I made use of the Tru-Grind Ian Fish had for us to try on the night. Once the simple rules of mounting and adjusting are known and followed, it must be very hard to not get sharp tools,



even for those unused to sharpening their own gouges and other tools. I was impressed, as apparently are many other woodturners throughout the world, where Ken sends much of his production output. Thanks Ken for taking the time to show us all this. Ian Fish supplies all Woodcut tools to members at a special rate.

June 28th

Once again John Mackinven gave us a great talk on, and demonstration of some techniques for rims. He thinks of rims as the frame for the centre of the bowl, and they

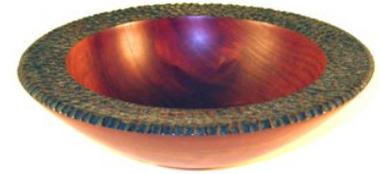


must do that framing well, as we often first look down on bowls, and the rim is then the first part seen.

John mostly uses wide rims, and he showed examples of the many ways he finishes these including:

- Dremel Textured and ebonised
- Gold leaf gilded rim
- Wire brushed and painted/ebonised
- Silver inlays
- Tapa cloth inlay
- Plain rim with textured/ebonised bowl

The wire brushing, using cheap rotary wire bushes from the local hardware, is a very effective way of enhancing the rim surface.



The brushing is done with the work rotating in the lathe, and may involve ebonising/staining the rim part way through the wire brushing to get another effect. The only relatively fixed method is to complete the rim decoration before final finishing of the inside and outside of the bowl.

Stop Press

Michael Posthuma has been winning more prizes. On Queen's birthday weekend The Taranaki Rotary Club had a woodwork competition with 10 categories. Michael entered the two Tawa stools shown and won second prize for category nine (woodturning for 18 years and under). He thinks it was better run than the Autumn home-show competition because "I got my prize in a week rather than in two months even though there were about three times as many prizes for them to give out." And who wants to wait for \$100 ? Congratulations Michael.



Timber Sources

This is the start of a series of short articles researched and presented by Andy Brockes. Their purpose is to review sources of good quality timber that may be purchased and present a brief report on each.

North Shore Natives

As our newsletter carries an advertisement for Kauri Mill in Glenfield, I thought it appropriate to start there. Kauri Mill has been renamed **Rimu North Shore & Kauri Mill**, and has moved from unit 7 to unit 11, though still at 95 Ellis Road.

They have Kauri in large dimensions and this is mostly swamp kauri or salvage logs. It is sold by the length only, and they have a great range of lengths, with plenty of short pieces in chunky sections such as 150mm x 150mm and 150mm x 100mm. Other sizes seen were both 200 and 300 by 50mm thick, though I did not see any short lengths.

All this Kauri is priced on a basis of \$2000 per cubic metre, making 300x50 for example around \$45 per lineal metre.

Rimu also features in large dimensions, with slabs from 300 to 400mm wide, 100mm thick, and several metres in length. This is also priced around \$2000 per cubic mtr, with slabs working out up to \$120 per lineal metre. They also have some 150x150 and 250x250, at \$54 and \$100 /LM respectively

If visiting here you will be greeted by friendly staff, and enthusiastic, but friendly cocker spaniels.

Exotics from Henderson

In contrast to what was described in the first article, 'Plyman' at 70 the Concourse, Henderson has a range of woodturners' blanks of mainly Australian Timbers.

The timbers vary from light in colour, to very dark and heavily figured, with some of the timbers being very dense and consequently heavy.

All blanks have been waxed or treated in some way, a majority are in round form. A few are in square form, and a few timbers in random sizes, in particular Red Cedar, e.g. 500mm x 300mm x 110mm for \$43.95

Their timber is priced by weight, and consequently the less dense timbers seem to be a better deal with the most dense seeming rather pricey.

Largish round blanks like New Guinea Rosewood are relatively dear (e.g. 280x120 at \$57) and Victorian Ash (e.g. 280x100 at \$69)

In smaller sizes 180x65 Red Cedar is \$12.85, with 100x 70 Hickory Ash being \$8.20, and 100x70 Maple Silkwood \$5.90

They also have a large box of offcuts at more modest prices. This place is well worth a visit for quality woodturning blanks.

Call for Articles

If you have a story or yarn to tell, that might interest members of the guild please let me have it. Fax it, email it, or give it to the Editor on a Tuesday. pbonny@flintfox.com, Ph Hm 4780163, Bus 477 0888. Thanks to those who have provided articles to date, some will appear in later issues.

Do You Know This Charmer?

Sent: Wednesday, 8 June 2005 7:53 p.m.

Sender Name: Daphne Ellis

I wish to extend my sincere thanks for your assistance in encouraging one of your members to come along and give us a wonderful presentation at the Forrest Hill Rest Home.

Jack Renwick and his lovely wife came along yesterday and gave us a extremely informative and interesting presentation on his background and his involvement in woodturning.

The residents very much enjoyed seeing and touching some of his lovely creations as well and hearing what he had to tell them.

Please pass on my thanks to Jack and his wife for their time and interaction with the residents, it was very much appreciated by me and the residents.

Best wishes Daphne Ellis -
Activities Co-ordinator
for Forrest Hill Rest
Home

Thanks for showing the flag Jack.

KAURI MILL

See Glen Tarrant at Kauri Mill
for your dry NZ Kauri
woodturning blocks and slabs.



Unit 11
95 Ellice Road
Glenfield
Ph: 441 6343

Members Available to Assist New Members

Bill Blanken	37 Gulf View Rd, Rothesay Bay	478 8591
Colin Crann	17 Rambler Cres, Beachhaven	483 6012
David Edwards	782 East Coast Rd, Browns Bay	478 5338
Frank Smith	64 Pacific Pde, Army Bay	09 424 8905
Mike Lewis	1A Mizpah Rd, Torbay	476 6045
Jack Renwick	169 Chivalry Rd, Glenfield	444 6228
René Baxalle	48 Stott Ave, Birkdale	483 3799

Kev's Turn

Turned Out Nice (or Terrible On Nerves)

You know how it is, or remember how it was. One day, there you are suddenly married with a mortgage and children. You're not too sure how it happened. You were perhaps distracted by life rushing by. Children are those small beings that make a mess, a noise and want feeding and caring for at sometimes the most inappropriate moments. They sort of worm their way into your affections and soon you can plead insanity because you've fallen madly in love with them. This is similar in a perverse sort of a way to the mortgage which is a big thing that makes no noise but demands attention and sort of worms it's way into your subconscious and can keep you awake at night.

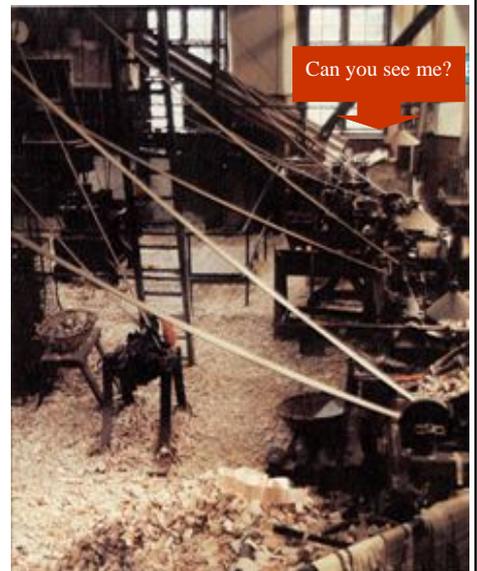
It was over forty years ago and it was one of those small beings (children) that got me started on all this woodturning stuff. "Daddy, domkey has sore leg." The 'donkey' in question was a small pull along toy

mounted on a board which had wheels in each corner. Four of them formerly, now three. I do realise that the person who invented the wheel probably had the most basic of tools and still managed to get it all together and I figured, as assured by my wife, that I could probably pull off a similar stunt without buying any more tools (sound familiar does it?) than those few hand tools and a single, metal cased, Black & Decker drill which I already had. Seemed fair enough to me. Out to the woodshed, found a branch of nearly appropriate diameter and cut a slice off with my hand saw. Used the old chisels to knock most of the bark off, drilled a hole in the centre (more or less) and affixed it to 'domkey'. Who immediately took a lean away from the new wheel, wobbled alarmingly when pulled along, drew cries of consternation from small owner and a raised eyebrow from wife.

Off with the wheel. Into the shed. **Inspiration struck when** I hammered a 4 inch nail through the hole, clamped the drill in the vice, and tightened the drill up on the nail.

Squeezed the trigger and that wheel commenced to whirr at a rate of knots. Filled with trepidation I took up a chisel, 1 of the set of 3 which thus far I had spent more time sharpening than using and I reckon that just passing through the air was sufficient to take the edge of them. Using my left hand as a brace, my eyes squinted, my face a grimace I approached the whirring blur of wood. What happened next was fantastic. Little bits of wood and dust started to come off the blur. Hey, this was good. So this is wood turning. I could make wheels and for a few seconds I felt as Neanderthal Man must have felt with his first wheel. I became aware of a small change in the sound of the process and before I could have another thought the drill became dislodged from the vice and fell to the floor, bending the nail with the wheel on it and then commencing to thrash about the floor placing my feet and toes at considerable risk of amputation. But it was too late. I was hooked and thus began my foray into the woodturning world. KH

I know some of you old guys, like Frank and Ian, reckon you've enjoyed turning for years. But I bet you didn't have to put up with the misery I had to when I was small. This is my great grandfather's bobbin making factory where I worked 'til I was 6, before I was old enough to go down pit, which I couldn't wait to do. Pay & conditions were better down pit too. PB



This Term's Project— a vase, natural or plain edged

July 26	Demonstrator to be advised - Term project making a vase, natural or plain edged.	<p>IAN R. F. FISH CRAFTSMAN WOODTURNER</p> <p>Teknatool Lathes & Accessories Woodcut Tools</p> <p>18c Roseberry Avenue Birkenhead Auckland, N.Z Ph. (09) 418 1312 Email. ipfish@xtra.co.nz</p>
August 2	Practical - Beginners, and others, coaching for the term project.	
August 9	Shane Hewitt - Shane has not yet indicated what he intends to demonstrate to us, but he is very experienced professional turner.	
August 16	Bob Norris - Bob hails from West Auckland Guild, has won many prizes for his work, and will demonstrate Barley Twist turnings, in various forms.	
August 23	Dick Veitch - Back again, this time he will show us how he makes his prize winning tall vases, this will help with the term project.	
August 30	Pending – To be advised by E-mail or at meetings.	
September 6	Pending – To be advised by E-mail or at meetings.	
September 13	Kerry Snell - Q & A- the popular ask and hear evening. Kerry will advise us soon re the subject matter.	
September 20	End of Term - Judging and the awarding of prizes to novice and intermediate winners of the term project	
Term 4 Starts October 12	Dave Harmes will demonstrate segmented turnings. The term Project will be 'segmented turning', which has a wide scope.	

Other Events coming up

July 16	Woodturning Shop Demo Day—Paraparaumu.
July 23	NAW AGM, Wellington
August 5 to 7	SAWG Participation, Papatoetoe
September 9 to 11	National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau.
September 16 to 18	NAW Woodskills Symposium. Hosted By Christchurch Woodturners At Kaiapoi.
October 6 to 9	Tauranga Woodcrafter's Club Baycourt Festival.
March 31 - April 2 2006	Auckland Timber & Working with Wood Show
April 12 to 18 2006	Auckland Easter Show



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