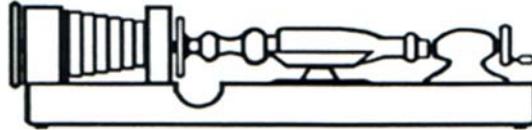


Shavings & Ravings



NEWSLETTER 131

NORTH SHORE WOODTURNERS GUILD

OCTOBER 2007

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End of Term 3 competition



1st Prize Beginners
Trefor Roberts



2nd Prize Beginners
Julie Gannaway



1st Intermediate
Mike Durbin



2nd Intermediate
William Hursthouse



1st Experienced
Dave Edwards



3rd Prize Beginners
Chris Sieberhagen



John Roberts



Leslie Whitty



2nd Experienced
Jack Renwick



Terry Denvers



Bill Blanken



Bert Partridge



Murray Speer



Murray Reid

This year's National Association of Woodworkers (NAW) Symposium was hosted by the Hawkes Bay Woodturning Guild, from the 28th to 30th of September.

Eight rooms at Lindisfarne College were each used to hold 10 demonstration sessions by 15 wood artists over 2½ days— more than 80 sessions if some other demonstrations in the main hall are included. No wonder I didn't manage to make them all !!

The organisers of course did not expect me to either. There were the 9 overseas and 8 local demonstrators., with each of the artists giving about five 1¼ hr sessions. So the 150 attendees could choose to see their own selection of sessions, without missing out through clashes between sessions.

I thought Christchurch two years ago was really great, but the Hawkes Bay organisers really excelled this time round. The school was a terrific venue for a start. That's not just because we could perve over the sight of all the huge exotic trees in their lovely grounds. The demonstration rooms were all a good size and equipped with video cameras (each with an operator) and overhead projectors. The kitchen folk did a great job, with some of us vowing to not eat another 3 course breakfast, or lunch or dinner until we'd got back to our pre-symposium weights. There was even cake for morning and afternoon teas. I was concerned it would have been rude to not at least have a small helping of everything. The accommodation was in bright and breezy dormitory blocks , the only downside being that the younger ones of us not wanting to get up at 5:30am and yak could not sleep in either!!

First up I managed to see Sharon Doughtie who makes highly embellished vessels and boxes , some of the decoration containing Celtic knots. She uses the dremel with shaping burrs to shape her tear drop boxes after turning. Leather dyes darken her dremel patterning. The knots are drawn first then the lines are burned using a pyrographic machine. In cleaning up the inside of her boxes she used a replaceable tip ring tool to do the final cut—with the ring only about 6mm dia.



Sharon's husband Pat Kramer has roots closer to their Hawaiian home. He turns some amazing bowls out of Norfolk pine. He starts with newly cut pieces, or ones treated with a dishwashing liquid/denatured alcohol brew so they don't get discoloured with dark algae. By making the bowls out of end grain the branch knots really add to what he calls his 'flower vessels' . What a great sight the continuous shavings off the gouge billowing in the air. And seen to form huge piles in his workshop at home.

I had previously seen photos of Neil and Liz Scobie's work, so I made sure I checked out how on earth Neil made his squirts and seed pods. Well how come I hadn't figured that out my self earlier? On the Friday night Neil and Liz gave a slide show of their work and setup in Bucca Creek NSW. As well as their own work in wood and textiles, they each have premises to take classes—Neil a huge workshop with a number of lathes and other woodworking equipment, and Liz with a large extension to the house for textile classes - embroidery appliqué and quilting.



The first of the NZ turners I saw was Alby Hall, who's work I had seen at the Ancient Kauri Kingdom up north in Awanui, where he works from. I believe he was a pioneer in using Epoxy resin to inlay decorative elements around bowls and platters. Nowadays his own work is joining and inlaying two or more natural edge vessels to make one hollow form. Simply armed with a huge selection of photos of the various stages of his

work, Alby talked us through the processes and let us marvel at his results. Check out www.ancientkauri.co.nz to see a great photo showcase of them in action up north. As Alby's inlays are not simply ferns and bits of Paua, he uses dyes to colour his inlays. For relatively colourfast white coloured inlays he uses citrus timber, which apparently retains its natural light colour much longer than other timbers



Robbie Graham from Taupo gave excellent demos of how he makes his leaf hollow vessels. Very skilled and not so different from how Terry Scott makes his winged vessels. Both involving using the skew in ways best tried with full safety gear on, and when nobody else is in the room. Both top demonstrators.



Graeme McIntyre of Wellington finished turning a now dried out wet

turned Pohutakawa bowl. He has to turn the wall thickness down to under 2mm—so he can pierce the bowl wall to create a lace pattern. Graeme also uses his compressed air powered 'dentists drill' to create very fine dimples, to mark lines and to sculpt the rim. Very precise work indeed.



I've only ever made one lot of dovetails in my life, for two little drawers, and it took me most of a day. So I decided to see how the experts do them to make a box. Roger Gifkins is not only an expert at dovetails and making delicate wooden boxes, but he makes the jigs so that mere mortals can use a simple router table and make perfect 'through' or 'finger joint' dovetails. With his jig, special cutters and a clearly defined method making superb fitting boxes just got a lot easier. But I'll have to look for another jig to do 'stopped' dovetails for drawers—that is if I ever want to do them again.



And I wouldn't have missed Jimmy Clewes who had come all the way from the UK. He showed us how to make what



he called his Arabic Box, out of Pohutakawa which he had not used before. He also proved to be a great showman in making his 2.7mm dia stemmed goblet. Great stuff Jimmy.



I didn't get to see Liz Scobie paint turnings, nor see how Malcolm Tibbets plans his amazing segmented structures. While I couldn't make it to any of Don Powell's sessions, he gave us all a slide show of his finished work after the Scobies on Friday night. Amazing carving work, so much detail, so much time to do, but still prolific!!

And of course I had to spend a few bob before leaving, so invested in some nice bits of Heart Rimu from the Vivians.



But I haven't room to fill you in on the horsing about Saturday night. Oh well — next time you might take up the magnificent opportunity the NAW provided us all with. And at \$120 per day for all accommodation, meals and demonstrations—those of you who didn't go missed a real bargain. Don't let it slip away next time!! Thanks to all the organizers and all the do-ers—a really great symposium.

Welcome to our new members: Brett Duxfield

August 28th:

Peter Burnett reported that those attending the meeting were treated to a captivating demonstration of segmented turning presented by Bill Blanken., with Items including initial plans to complete projects, available for examination to illustrate the processes.

Bill stressed the need for meticulous planning as the initial step. Plans for the shape and size of the finished items are required to ensure a successful conclusion. From these plans the numbers and shapes of the individual components are determined. To shape pieces Bill has a jig, with two clamping devices for holding the timber securely in position during cutting. This jig was made to slide in the grooves in the top of a bench saw. The chances of cutting the pieces by hand would be virtually nil. Even with the availability of a jig, this task would be painstaking slow. Dependent on the number of items to be created, there could be hundreds of pieces required.



Using a piece of MDF board as base for attachment to a lathe chuck, the construction of a bowl is undertaken layer by layer, using PVA as an adhesive. There is no requirement for clamps, weights or any form of pressure to ensure bonding between the pieces. When the adhesive has cured, the piece is fitted to the lathe for turning. A number of days, even weeks, could pass before completion of larger items. By shaping each layer in turn the internal finish can be achieved with less difficulty than hollowing more standard projects. Whilst shaping the external surfaces is done progressively, finishing can be left until the end.

When asked how long it took to make the vase on display, Bill replied 'I'm retired,' which says it all.

It is evident the patience required is infinite and the skill extraordinary to produce a vase such as the one displayed. The comment that it was like a leggo set where you had to

make all the pieces is a fair summation of segmented turning. Thanks Bill. (and thanks Peter—Ed)

September 4th

After the formalities were over many of the lathes were in action with new chums being encouraged to improve their skills.



September 18th

The last night of the 3rd term saw a great collection of work on display. Some confusion seemed to reign regarding what items were valid for the competition, and the best entry by quite some distance in my opinion was assigned two numbers over the course of the voting and was only placed second.



Saturday 6th October

Trefor, Dave, Ron, Kevin, Colin, Ken and Jack setup and manned a stand down at the Hobby Expo held in the YMCA building on Akoranga Drive. Quite a lot of interest was generated with Kev making pens on a midi lathe, and more so in the afternoon I believe when Jack took the new 1624 for a spin on bowls. Also the big TV showing a turning DVD, PC with photo slide show of turned articles and training activities, display stand of samples of members work. With plenty of handouts given away, it'll be

interesting to see how many new members we get from the day's efforts. For most of us this 'taking turning to the masses' was a new experience, and maybe the for runner to getting out more—as some other clubs do.

Every week: It's good to see new members getting their work up on our website—see <http://www.wood.org.nz/galleries.php> Of course you must bring the work along on a Tuesday, and if you're lucky William will shoot it and put it up. If you don't want to rely on luck, try bribing him. Thanks William for all your work.

Xmas Pinocchio Appeal

Each year the NSWG members make toys for the Salvation Army to give to children who might not otherwise have much cheer at Xmas, or for their birthdays. Some of the articles being built to date are shown below. So please get making. Collection day is 4th December. (and try not to forget the girls !!)



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September 11th

Kevin Hodder filed this report of the evening's activities.

A meeting with a difference right from the start, Trefor Roberts as president was pleasantly surprised when Edwin Duxfield, on behalf of North Shore Rotary, presenting the Guild with a Rolly Munroe Hollowing tool and stand. This will be a much used and much appreciated piece of equipment.

The Show and Tell table displayed a fine assortment of candle holders, a bowl or 3, a spinning top or five an array of fine objects from Mike Lewis and some splendid bowls from Bill Blanken. Barrie Miller then conducted the raffle with his customary flair. The prizes were in the main donated by Bill Blanken and the winners were scattered through the masses as again and again winners were called to receive their prizes but not once did my number 28 get picked. Bill's wife Nel was there as a visitor and was duly acknowledged and welcomed. A banana box of good health wood shavings was sent off to John Hansen wishing him a quick recovery.

We then moved on to the high point of the evening which was Bill Blanken talking about his life, his wife and his wood turning. Who would have thought that World War II, Adolf Hitler and the threat of the Luftwaffe to bomb Rotterdam into a pile of dust would result in Bill's being here with us in NZ? It was that threat which resulted in the capitulation of the Dutch army and the subsequent occupation of Holland. He spoke of his father being in the furniture making business and refusing to work for the Germans. Of what it was like to be 10

years old when the war started and the daily task of surviving the terrors, taking the risks, coping with the horrors, chronic food shortages, people trying to live on tulip bulbs. Setting out each day on his bike to scour the countryside for food for the large family waiting at home. Giving a ride to a Jewish girl to help her get her away from the Nazis.

By the time the war was over Bill was a teenager and wanted to get away from the deprivations of post war Europe and so in 1952 he arrived in New Zealand spending

teaching and demonstrating wood turning. He spoke to us about occasions when things at the lathe went all wrong and how he managed to recover some of the projects and in one instance entering the recovered/ repaired work into a competition and winning first prize. Now, after 17 years in the North Shore Wood Turners Guild during which he has held virtually every position Bill and his lovely Nel are off to Australia to be with their family. I for one am far from sure that Aussie is anywhere good enough to warrant our letting them have Bill and Nel Blanken??



early years as a carpenter for NZ Rail and working, as so many of those early Dutch immigrants did, with enthusiasm for the task at hand. In Bill's own words "When we arrived in New Zealand we put on the cloak of this country and became a New Zealander." After a while Bill went back to Holland and it was on this return to his former home that he met the woman who was to become his companion and his wife. When Bill returned to New Zealand it was with Nel and along with raising a family he was working again in construction. Local and central government projects, bridges, prisons, sub-stations and all the while increasing his technical and management skills.

Bill went back to school in 1990, obtained his School Certificate and also began his interest in wood turning. Soon he was

There followed tributes from Ian Fish, Kevin Hodder, Mike Lewis and Jack Renwick who reminded all that for good reason Bill is a Life Member of the NSWG. Trefor Roberts then presented Nel with a bouquet of flowers and Bill with a framed plaque as a token for all that they had both contributed to the Guild.

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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
Mike Lewis	31 Davies Rd, Wellsford	09 423 8894
Jack Renwick	169 Chivalry Rd, Glenfield	444 6228
René Baxalle	48 Stott Ave, Birkdale	483 3799

Kev's Splinters

Kevin Hodder has been chipping away and finding more about some of our long time members.



What is your name? **Bill Blanken**
 Where do you live? **Gulf View Rd**
 Where were you born? **North Holland - Celsen**
 What decade were you born in? **1930**
 How long have you been wood turning? **17 years**
 How long have you been a member of the NSWG? **17 years**
 Are you or have you been in the committee? **Yes (12 years)**
 If yes to the above, in what role? **4 years as President**
 Who or what has been the greatest influence on your wood turning? **Ian Fish and George Flavell**
 Who/what live at/in your house? **Nel (wife) and 1 grandson**
 What hobbies apart from wood turning? **Soccer fan, coached juniors, packing house for departure to Oz**
 Roughly, how many chisels/gouges do you have? **30 (that's all he tells Nel about. Ed)**
 What time of day do you prefer to do your turning? **At my age I'm at my best in the morning**



What is your favourite wood? **Olive**
 What sort of lathe do you own? **DVR**
 Do you do much sanding? **Not too much**
 Do you have a dust extraction system? **No**
 What have you turned recently? **Natural edged bowls**
 What finish do you prefer? **Antique Wax**
 What was your last sudden, unexpected design opportunity? **Having a donated piece of glued wood fly apart at high speed**
 Last weekend I? **We went to Karapiro and I collected some Tasmanian Blackwood**

The item of which I am most proud: **I attended a lecture about a Chinese philosopher and heard about a 75cm diameter, 30 spoke wheel which represented the philosophy and I went home and made that wheel.**

Right: Bill Blanken (life member) with Trefor Roberts (Vice President) —the last night at Rangitoto College woodworking room, April 3rd 2007. The Guild were about to leave Rangitoto after 22 years, to go to our own premises at Agincourt Reserve, Glenfield.



2007 Programme - Term 3

www.wood.org.nz

This Term's Project— a Lighting device.

Oct 9 th	Gouge Work - Ian Fish	<p>Turning Tools Ltd</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>
Oct 16 th	Toy Cars – Jack Renwick , Wheels - Dave Edwards	
Oct 23 rd	Practical Night – Wheel Making	
Oct 30 th	Bowl Turning - Peter Williams	
Nov 6 th	Chainsaw Maintenance - Andrew Corston	
Nov 13 th	Practical Night – Chain Saw Sharpening – Andrew Corston & Bruce Withers	
Nov 20 th	Demonstration: Bowl Turning Engraving/Decorative Work – John MacKinven	
Nov 27 th	Practical Night – Bowl Turning - 6 lathes / 6 trainers – Bring your tools!	
Dec 4 th	Toys Pinocchio collection – Salvation Army Christmas Appeal	
Dec 11 th	Christmas Drinkies – Final judging Term Project: Bowls and Spinning Top competition	
Dec 18—Jan 22 nd	Closed During this period the Club will be available to members. Please ensure you always have at least two guild members on site. Key available from any committee member and also Ken Curnow.	
Jan 29 th	First Meeting Term 1 2008	

Other Events coming up

For a full listing of events check out <http://www.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm>

October 27	North Shore Guild -Training Day at Guild Hall Inlay work – Mike Lewis (names to Trefor Roberts ASAP Ph 475 9307)
October 26 - 28	Participation 07, South Auckland Woodturners, All welcome, Contact Terry Scott 021 998 493 / 09 297 7051 or see www.sawg.org.nz to register
November 2 - 4	Waitaki Woodturners Guild, Spin Around Waitaki
Sunday November 18	Marlborough Park Glenfield—Pre-Xmas stall
March 7—9	Lake Taupo Woodturning Jamboree



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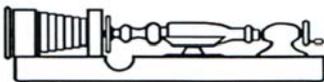
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