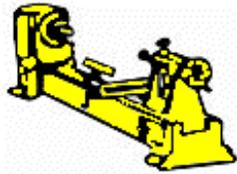


# Splinters

Newsletter of the Christchurch Woodturners' Association

<http://woodturning.org.nz/index.php>



Christchurch  
Woodturners  
Association Inc.

## Heritage Timber Turns up at March Clubnight



This lampstand, right, made by Bruce Irvine, comes with a pedigree. The timber is Canadian Oregon, a much tighter-grained timber than its NZ cousin, and also gives a much better turned finish. More importantly however, this piece was from an old goal post from our much-revered "Lancaster Park".

Rick Bolch won the show table display for best turning over the summer, with one Christmassy decorated piece and one lit up like a Christmas tree.



The club meets for a demonstration on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm at the College of Education, and for a hands-on night at Cobham Intermediate every third Thursday of the month, also at 7pm. All are welcome, and there is a \$2 door charge for the demonstrations.

### Club Nights

February and March  
Photos & Reports,  
Pages 4 & 5, 8 & 9.

Your Guide to New  
DVDs in the Club  
Library, Page 7.

Inside the Shed  
Inside Don Reeves'  
Shed, Page 10 & 11.

## From the President

You will see the name of two new contributors to this newsletter for the report of the March meeting. Thanks very much to Ray Morgan and Rick Bolch for stepping into this role so ably, and to Tom Dodd for a decade's worth of club night reports.

At the recent committee meeting we decided that I need to get the meetings underway more promptly to allow for more time to socialise after the end of the demonstration. With the need to get equipment set up, we may still not meet the advertised start time, 7pm, but please try to be there by then to avoid missing the start of the meeting.

Noel's talk on safety for Woodturners in March has important messages for all of us, so please read the March meeting report carefully and ask Noel if you need further clarification. Especially, note the accident to a member resulting from a Jacobs chuck and drill bit coming out of the tailstock while being withdrawn from the workpiece. I saw a near

miss of a similar accident a decade ago, when a Jacobs chuck flew skywards in front of the operator's face. Fortunately he didn't get to describe the experience of a 7mm drill bit and chuck going sharp end first up his nostril, but it was a near thing. In both these cases, the problem could have been avoided by either stopping the lathe before winding the bit out, or by holding tightly to the Jacobs chuck while retracting the drill bit.

Thinking about these similar incidents a decade apart makes it clear that what we learn from accidents or near misses needs periodic repeating as we have a continual influx of new members. This prompts me to recount lessons from my own worst accident, in the hopes that it may spare you repeating my mistakes and injury. Also about a decade ago, I was using Cole jaws to take the bottom off a large bowl. It was too big for the Cole jaws, so I was using some homemade extensions copied from those made by another club member. I was

happily turning off the spigot when suddenly there seemed to be an explosion in front of me. I stayed on my feet, but it took several seconds for me to realise that the bowl was no longer on the lathe and there was something sticky oozing from my forehead. There followed an ambulance trip to hospital at 11pm. By 2.30 am I was back home sporting ten stitches in my head, having had an x-ray that showed a fractured skull. What was to be learned from this?

1. Working out in the shed late at night with no-one arranged to check on my return was not a good idea. My wife was already asleep in bed when this happened. Fortunately I did not lose consciousness.
2. Don't use extensions on Cole jaws. It's better to get some help from someone who has a vacuum chuck.
3. I was exceeding the manufacturer's maximum

speed for the Cole jaws. This made the impact more serious. Remember that doubling the speed quadruples the energy with which something flies off. And in case you think you will see it coming and duck, you are deluding yourself.

4. I was not wearing my face shield.
5. I did not have the tailstock up for support. I now keep the tailstock supporting any spigot I am removing until the last possible stage, whatever the work-holding method.

Any one of the above factors could have prevented my accident or significantly reduced its seriousness. Hopefully none of you will repeat my mistakes.

Happy and safe turning!

## Hands on at Avice Hill



A good handful of club members demonstrated their skills and sold their wares. A decent number of the public, young and old, came out to watch, and have a turn. It is great to see young people getting some sawdust on them.



## More Reasons to Attend Club Nights

April Demonstrator: Soren Berger

April Showtable: a piece turned between centres.

May Demonstrator: Aoraki tutors: methods of holding the workpiece.

May Showtable: a piece including a natural edge with or without bark.

June: AGM, then Les Brindley with his off-centre chuck. Showtable: a lidded box.

July Demonstrator: a guest turner, to be confirmed. Showtable: something turned off-centre.

## February Club Night: Starting with the Basics

The first Club Night for the year featured demonstrations from Aoraki tutors Rex and Bruce, revising the essentials of spindle turning.

Rex began with a foot-long, one and a half inch square stick of kauri between centres. He roughed it down, half with the usual roughing gouge and the other half with a skew chisel, cutting with the centre of the blade. The difference in finish was noted when he passed it around later, once he had made some coves and grooves.

Next, an eight inch by two inch rattle blank was roughed, already containing five soy beans. As he cut grooves with the skew, Rex reminded viewers that gum will build up on the bevel when using kauri, and need more regular grinding.

The rattle is a quick turning project once the preparation has been done, with a mortise and tenon joint keeping the beans secure inside, and of course having marked the grain at which end the beans are located, and marking



each side for easier grain matching.

Then it was Bruce's turn, and he had a pre-drilled length of liquidambar, 15 inches long and two inches square, destined to become a mug tree. He marked the thickness with calipers and roughed it down using a cup drive in the headstock, using the roughing gouge like a skew.

Once happy with the spigot on the end to fit the pre-made base, Bruce marked 20mm either side of the holes already drilled in the blank. Here he made grooves with the skew, then added some shallow coves with a spindle gouge.

It was then time for the cross pieces, the 'branches' of the mug 'tree'. They were to come out of a half inch by four inch blank, and once roughed, a spigot was shaped to fit the drill holes in the tree. The trickiest part here is getting all six branches identical.

Bruce showed the bevel on his skew and spindle gouge, which are both ground to a 30 degree angle.



## February Club Night, Continued

In keeping with the evening's spindle turning theme, Bruce displayed a range of other items turned between centres: candlesticks and candelabra, paper towel holder, pen, peppermill, letter opener; and there are plenty more.

Graeme Trost passed around a kauri goblet, challenging members to guess its mystery purpose. Some of our savvy blokes knew exactly what it was: a fetoscope, for hearing unborn babies' heartbeats. As aluminium was too cold for mum, and other woods too dense for the wee sound to be heard, just the right kind of timber was required.



Keith Gardiner won the show table with some of his customary micro-ornamental turning [right]. Go fetch a magnifying glass – or you may not see the smaller captive ring inside the tube!

## Evenings With Summer Visitors

In our first clubnight for 2012, Shirley McGregor and her daughter Lara came up from Queenstown, and Marcus Dawkins was down from Havelock.

In March, George Bell had come all the way from Sheffield, in England, to be at our club night. The club there, of which our own Pat was a member for a year back in 2006/7, numbers 85 members and has grown

steadily since Pat was there.

Just by way of comparison, George said that over there, a club subscription costs 20 pounds a year, and each club night comes with a 4 quid entry fee.



## FREE Turning Magazines!

Available at the next few Club Nights, so come along and take a couple home. Maybe with a raffle or show table prize....



# Our Very Own Club Polar Bear

Who's the least sensitive man in the club? If it's *sensitive to the cold* we're talking about, the answer is now clear.

Rex Marshall spent some of



December and January in Canada, where his son lives. They both entered the annual Polar Bear Swim on New Year's Day, at Boundary Bay where the US and Canada share a beach.

Rex reckons it was about five degrees in the water and about the same out of it. So he pretty quickly made it out to the buoy and back, and was awarded a couple of prizes: having traveled the farthest to be there, and being the oldest swimmer on

the day.

On returning home Rex paid the price of having vacated Christchurch over summer – he spent a few days picking up everything that fell down [again] in his workshop.

Below is the iceberg trophy.



*In association with*



## CERTIFICATE IN WOODTURNING

Another Certificate Course will commence in July 2012.

Bruce has several names at present and spaces for more.

Contact the Club Secretary soon to confirm a place.

This is a 54 module Course and takes just over 2 years to complete.

The classes are held at Cobham Intermediate School one Saturday a month for 10 months of the year.

At present the Course is self-funding by Aoraki Polytechnic.

This could change. Talk to Bruce.

## Once Were Videos: Now on DVD

Les Brindley has spent a good amount of time transforming the club's video collection into a more workable set of DVDs.

This list shows what is available from the club library each month. Thanks Les for the effort.

### **Remi Verchot (3 hours)**

Free form spiral boxes, hollow forms, turning.

### **Woodturners' Symposium 2000, Living Springs (2.5 hr)**

**Blue Hall**, with decorative strips included in bowl blank.

**Jim Manley**, shear scraping a nut bowl.

**Des Downes**, Decorative turning using Rose Engine Lathe.

### **Kelton Industries (20 min)**

Woodturning accessories.

### **Richard Raffan (1.5 hours)**

Turning projects, ornamental platter, extremely thin spindle with captive rings, spherical turning, spurtles and spatulas, mallets, endgrain cutting,

trivet, bottle coaster, hollow vessel, end grain beads.

### **Ernie Newman (2hr 50min)**

Novelty items, slim spindle turning.

### **Michael Lee (70 minutes)**

Drying and finishing bowls, tool sharpening, Dremel enhancement.

### **Chris Stott (106 min)**

Natural edges and tools used, reinforcing the bark edge, turning burrs, hollow forms and use of hollowing tools.

### **Del Stubbs (2 hours)**

Bowl turning, design of shape, tool shapes, rubbing the bevel, shear scraping, wet sanding, simple friction chuck, plate for beginners, plus something for the more experienced turner.

### **Mike Darlow (3 hours)**

The Practice of Woodturning (disc 1 of 2): beginners guide to lathe and accessories, basic setting up, turning processes, tool sharpening and use, spindle turning.

### **Mike Darlow (3hrs 40min)**

The Practice of Woodturning (disc 2 of 2): cupchuck turning, collet and scroll chucks, screw chuck, various chucks and other forms of work holding, bowl turning.

### **Guilio Marcolongo (1.5 hr)**

Symposium 2000 lidded box.

### **Gordon Ward (2 hours)**

NAW Symposium 2000. Spiral stemmed goblet, textured bowl.

### **Bonnie Klein (2.5 hours)**

Disc 1 of 2: chattertool embellishing, tops, small makeup mirror wooden surround, different tool materials, grindstone maintenance, design of tools (scrapers, gouges, skew etc).

### **Bonnie Klein (2 hrs 20 min)**

Disc 2 of 2: threaded box turning, making an acorn, collet chuck, spiral turning, greenwood scoop.

Thanks again to Les for making these more accessible to many club members.

## March Club Night: Safety First

The demonstrator for the evening was Noel Graham, who began by emphasising the importance of this topic. He noted the legislative requirements through ACC and OSH here in NZ as well as the UK, Australia and the USA. Rather than a *goal*, ZERO harm is more of a *responsibility* to ourselves, observers, helpers or visitors to our workshops.

Thinking safely is the starting point, and thus Noel began his presentation at quite an obviously hazardous point, where a turner often meets the wood, with a chainsaw.

Using ladders in conjunction with tree felling is dangerous. Tree felling, if not a simple operation, should be left to professional tree surgeons, who have proper equipment, safety gear and appropriate training and licences.

### CHAINSAWS

Chainsaws must be kept maintained and chains sharp. A leather glove fitted to the handgrip adjacent to the chain brake is good practice. The re-fuelling station of the

saw must be 40m away from the worksite. A first aid kit, a form of working communication [cellphone to be carried on the operator] and a fire extinguisher must all be at that refuelling site.

The saw operator must be wearing appropriate safety clothing and equipment: safety helmet (to be no more than two years old and dated) with a drop down mesh visor; ear muffs, safety gloves, a hi-vis vest, the steel capped safety boots and certified protective leggings or overtrousers. Leggings must not be leather; the required gear now is anti-rip fibrous cloggers that will jam the saw.

Noel pointed out that a distance of 4 metres must be maintained between the saw operator and helpers. This is because the larger saws have chains 2.2 metres long on a 1m bar length of 1 metre – if the chain breaks, the total length of chain and bar once the chains flies free is over 3 metres. If any helper must approach, they must do so

slowly, and from in front of the sawyer, wearing their own proper safety equipment. Appointing someone boss to supervise the worksite helps.

### AT THE LATHE ITSELF

Moving on to the lathe, it is important to regularly check it for defects and to ensure all screws, bolts and leads are tight and in good condition.

Check that the timber is securely chucked, and handspin the piece before switching the lathe on. Check your speed is correct.

When drilling from the tailstock keep your hand on the Jacob’s chuck to ensure that it has not become loose in the tailstock. If it has, wind the tailstock in or turn the lathe off and inspect why it has loosened. Using the Jacob’s chuck is a two hand job, at which concentration cannot afford to waver, as the picture below attests. With a bit of one-handed drilling, this nearly broke an arm!

## ...or, How to Remain an Intact Woodturner



It is prudent to wear a full-faced protective mask, rather than just eye protection. This should be kept clean and scratch-free. If it is time to replace the screen do so: it is cheap insurance.

### **DUST – THE ENEMY**

Dust of 10 microns and smaller is dangerous to our health. 1 micron is tissue damaging and a dust mask of the “Dust-b-gone” type is the absolute minimum. The 3M double filter mask is the preferred minimum followed by the more industrial type of positive powered pressure units available from Carbattec and Triton. Some kinds of ventilators take a pad that combats solvent fumes.

When a chuck turns on the lathe, it creates a vortex drawing dust towards them. Place extraction scoops just forward of the chuck to extract the bulk of the dust.

### **SOLVENTS**

Do not wash your hands with solvents such as turps. These can be absorbed into your system through the pores of your skin as well as smelling the vapours. Continual contact with solvents in this way will eventually cause serious illness and possibly death.

### **BEWARE BANDSAW**

This is the leading power tool for amputations. The majority of accidents happen after the saw has been turned off. Ensure all guides are set correctly and the band is correctly tensioned. Do not leave the bandsaw before the band has stopped rotating, remain standing in front of it to stop others getting near the revolving band.

### **GRINDERS**

Hold onto angle grinders with both hands, one on the handle and the other holding the body. Never use one without a guard. Wait for the wheel to stop before placing it on the bench and wear a full-face mask.

When using bench grinders,

make sure there is a large surface support area/plate to support tools when grinding them. An 80 grit-grinding wheel is probably sufficient; they are cooler and do not heat the metal as much as finer grits do. Buy a stone dresser when purchasing your grinder, and use sparingly to remove shiny spots and clogged wheels. Change the wheels when the diameter has shrunk so much that sharpening is difficult and dangerous. The South Auckland club website has good sharpening guidelines. And sharpen your tools to suit your personal turning style. Noel demonstrated sharpening with different guides for various turning tools.

### **ANYTHING ELSE**

Always use an RCD [residual current device] on each power tool. Be wary when buying used tools: check chucks, plugs, cables and that all the safety attachments and have been checked during their lifetime.

# Quarter Shed, Whole Ingenuity

This is the shed of a man who knows how to make things. Don Reeves has been making things, and making things that help to make things, all his life.

He's been in this house ten years, and started in a shed in the backyard. When he came into the garage, everything got too dusty, so the solution was to section off a quarter of the space. It is a bit like a glasshouse, and has just the space he needs for two lathes (he tinkered to make the parts interchangeable between them), drill and two grinders.

Don's working life began with a six year apprenticeship as a tool and die maker in England. After working there for a while he moved to Christchurch with his wife Enid, working at several engineering firms, including 23 years doing injection molding at Talbot Plastics.



One of the more interesting projects while working for Reco Engineering was making a machine to move along vineyard rows, picking the fruit.

Woodturning appealed to this toolmaker who had long been around metal lathes. Don likes the fact that he can do a bit of thinking about a project, make a jig or tool that will help him to make the product more easily and use it over again.

Like many others in the club, Don attended an evening class with Max Melisi at CPIT for a few years to really get his teeth into the turning. Over the three decades of turning, he's also had a layoff for a few years and done other things, and is about to complete the Aoraki course, which has given him heaps of different directions to take with turning.

Don is particularly enjoying open segmented turning at



Clockwise from top: the corner of the shed; 3 bits of Don-made furniture; a skateboard became steady for holding longer segmented workpieces.



## Don Reeves

the moment, taxing the brain with a wee bit of trigonometry, having made a few wee jigs to get it all happening efficiently. Jack Jordan started Don on it, and they're the main thing now.



And making furniture is still a passion. Don made plenty of the furniture in his house, including a rocking chair.

So, here is a skilful craftsman working with patience and nous to produce beautiful things from wood. A joy to behold.



## ONE-OFFs: Pat's Measuring Jig

In turning pendants with an off-centre hole, I need the diameter of the blank to be accurately turned to 50mm diameter. This allows a good fit in the off-centre chuck while the hole is turned from each side. The simple "go - no go" measuring jig shown at left

makes checking of the diameter easy. The diameter should be such that the piece passes the first shoulder in the jig and sits on the second shoulder. The right hand photo shows a finished pendant nestling on the correct step in the jig.

*Pat Jordan*



## All Go at Garden Gala

Club members again demonstrated at this Riccarton House event in February. Pictured are Ray and Rex hard at it.



## CALENDAR

**MAY:** the East Otago club in Palmerston is hosting the South Island Fun Day.

**7 JULY:** NAW's AGM at Rangiora is not just reports and meetings, there are also some great demonstrations.

**14-16 SEPTEMBER:** Timaru Woodturners' Club has a 25<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebration, with Terry Scott and Guilio Marcolongo. Tool sale and raffle, Saturday workshop and Sunday demonstrations. Contact Adrian Slooten [aslooten@orcon.net.nz](mailto:aslooten@orcon.net.nz) for registrations.

**4-7 OCTOBER:** South Auckland Woodturners' Guild is to run a major woodturning

symposium at Wesley College, Paerata. 14 demonstrators, lots happening.

## FOR SALE

A Nova 3000 lathe is available; if interested please see Pat Jordan.

Teknatool outrigger for larger turning, for DVR, 1624 and 3000 lathes. It's never been used and currently retails for \$409; available for \$280 or near offer. Call Ian Conway on 388 4101.

Les Brindley has made an off-centre chuck, which is able to be reset up to 32mm, in 4 or 5mm increments. He will sell these to club members for

\$200 each, or \$225 to non-members.

A milking machine vacuum pump for a vacuum chuck, "as used by Bruce Irvine" [it's actually a size bigger than Bruce's]. Call Graham on 383 5909.

## THANK YOU

Thanks again to Tom Dodd for all the reports for *Splinters* over the years. Thorough, detailed, spot on – now enjoy just watching.

Sincere thanks from Alison Syder, for kind words, visits and phone calls from club members over the difficult time of Brian's passing.

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