



Christchurch
Woodturners
Association Inc.

Splinters



Gold First Time at Flower Show



The club meets for demonstrations on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm at the College of Education, and for a free hands-on night at Cobham Intermediate every third Thursday of the month, also at 7pm. All are welcome; a \$3 door charge covers costs for the demonstration evenings.

Flower Show Triumph,
Pages 2 – 5.

Clubnight Reports &
Photos, 6 – 7, 10 – 11.

Inside a New Member or
Two's Shed, 14 & 15.

Mostly Dead Plants Take EIFS Gold

It was with great satisfaction that President Pat Jordan received the gold award on behalf of the club for the Hort Galore category.

Despite a fraction of negative press directed at the show and its variety, there was certainly an overwhelmingly glowing response for the club exhibit from the hordes of people who slowly passed by, lingering over the display.

The judges, too, indicated they were quite satisfied with the quality and arrangement of the plant features. Apparently they revisited the



exhibit for a second judging session, only to vindicating rather than changing their result.

So, unqualified success can be realistically claimed. The *After the Tea Party: Alice in Woodland* theme gave so many turned items the chance to star. And where else could so many people have been exposed to the club and its high quality turning?



Above: no-one rushing past; a steady stream of viewers enjoying the exhibit on Friday afternoon.

Left: five of the setup crew look satisfied with the exhibit ready to go: Celia, Rick, Peter, Pat and Mike.

Fly on the Wall at the Flower Show

“Wow!”

“Look at the teapot, up in the air... how do they get it to stay up there like that?”

“Look at that, it’s all out of wood.”

“Wow, a lot of work must have gone into that!”

“Look, there’s even a couple of mice down on the floor.”



This is the soundtrack to a three-hour stint manning the exhibit at the CCC Hort-Galore Marquee in the Flower Show. Lots of people want to touch the ‘bricks’ and the floor ‘tiles’, or take them home.

Many people recall that their grandfather or father or uncle used to do woodturning. Very few people hurry past; most linger, noticing more the longer they gaze. A twenty-something bloke in a singlet, not the average punter at this event, wanders up and says, “That’s cool... that’s real cool.”

The real joy is watching the smiles spread across faces as

people notice details, or click that it’s the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party and then find more familiar aspects of that well-loved children’s story.

At least a couple of old-timers ask if this is the guild or another group; turns out they used to belong to the guild and know a few of the old names. There’s a bit of a brotherhood among turners, and it’s evoked by the exhibit; a British turner and an Otago club member both make themselves known.

“Did you make any of these things?” Ah, here comes the tempting question: hmmm –

which of the stunning pieces to claim as my own? Honesty prevails: “Er, no, none of these are mine.”

A fellow in his thirties looks quite interested, and his wife is nudging him along. He tells me he’s got a lathe and is setting up a workshop, and yes, he might be interested in joining the club and learning some more. His wife looks pleased. He takes a flyer and we chuckle about being able to make some of the trickier stuff in the display by the time we’ve retired, for the 2040 Flower Show.

Three hours pass easily.

Reflecting on the Flower Show

It has only been a few weeks since the end of the Ellerslie International Flower Show and, for me, the memory of the long hours which went in to bringing our exhibit together is fading fast. I suppose a deliberate attempt to put it out of my mind for the past week, stay out of the workshop, and instead focus on normal work routines and household activities has had something to do with that - and it has been a welcome break indeed.

However, even though the Show itself is over, the job of our organising sub-committee is not yet complete. We will shortly be meeting to review and formally conclude the event side of the project. This will include closing off the finances and recording lessons learned for the next time the Club undertakes such an activity. To this end, the committee would be grateful to receive some constructive feedback on any aspect of the project from club members. If there's something you think could be improved in the way the



activity was run or communicated then please let us know. If this is the sort of thing you'd like to participate in again, or perhaps even help with organising, then we'd love to hear that too.

Bearing in mind that one of the key aims of participating at Ellerslie was to promote the Club to the general public and attract new membership, we intend to capitalise further on our show presence and the fantastic result we achieved. Your newsletter editor Danny, and club president Pat, are preparing articles about our show experience for external publication: Danny, to our 'local' NAW's

Creative Wood magazine, and Pat to the UK-published *Woodturning* magazine. Between these publications we should receive excellent exposure within the wider woodturning community. However, we'd like to spread the word outside of this community also, and we're particularly interested in hearing from any members who have contacts with other publications you think might be interested in our story - just have a quiet word with Danny or Pat.

When I reflect upon the show and everything that went into it, there are many extremely



positive things that come to mind – many more than I have space to express here. However, amongst my observations there are a few standouts that I feel need to be expressed:

The Horticultural judges were challenged by the nature of our exhibit due to the very limited range of live plant material present. They consulted more widely amongst their peers, even re-judging our exhibit before arriving at their verdict. That they took an enlightened view of the association between wood (nominally “dead” plants) and horticultural material was fantastic, and even more

so that they were able to find sufficient merit in our exhibit to warrant a gold award.

Wood, presented well, has a universal appeal. Members of the public, initially attracted to our stand by the novelty of the exhibit, were subsequently captivated by the variety and beauty of the wood on display. It was rare that there wasn't a crowd around our exhibit, or that the comments weren't overwhelmingly positive about what we had on show. The “simple” floor rounds and wall tiles attracted as much comment for their appearance and texture as the individual crafted pieces.

As a final note, I would very

much like to record my thanks to everyone who has contributed in some way to the running of this project, putting together a fantastic exhibit, and representing the club at the Show. I don't intend to try and identify everyone here, but as part of the club records we will be seeking to compile a list of all of these contributors. Nevertheless, I do want to specifically acknowledge two groups of people, without whom this project would not have succeeded. Firstly, the Flower Show sub-committee which I had the privilege to chair: its members Celia Irvine, Pat Jordan, Mike Foster, Mike Wing, Rick Bolch, Rex Marshall, and Joe Hayes put in a great deal of work behind the scenes, not only in the organisation, but directly contributing to the construction and makeup of the exhibit. Secondly, and arguably more significantly, the support and understanding given by our families and friends, particularly when long hours in the workshop took time away from them. They too can lay part-claim to our golden moment.

Peter Clemett

February Club Night: Pat & Noel

It has been customary to begin the year with a general safety demonstration. 2013 however, started with an evening dedicated to the safe and smart operation of the bandsaw.

Noel suggested that, after the lathe, a bandsaw is probably a wood-turner's first big purchase, and most regularly used machine. However of all machinery, it has the highest amputation rate. Probable causes can be working when tired, having a mess around the tabletop or around the machine itself, using a blunt blade or poor lighting.

Parts of the bandsaw were pointed out, particularly the roller clearances and adjustments and the height adjustment and clearances (a maximum of about 7mm is recommended between the work and the top of the blade). The circular disc recessed into the table around the blade is an important safety feature and should be maintained correctly.

Bandsaw specifications are usually given as the motor's horsepower, the maximum



thickness that can be cut and the throat distance, usually about the diameter of the top wheel. Blade sizes vary, but can be either the cheaper carbon steel or the very durable bimetal. For most turners' needs, 3 or 4 teeth per inch (tpi) should be satisfactory, although there are a few turners out there who swear by a blade with 1 or 2 tpi. GP Saws in Auckland provide good, fast service, as does the local Cass Saw Doctors in St Asaph St.

Give the Bandsaw Basics

Apart from general machine maintenance, some special attention should be paid to the blade tension, tilt and tracking, and the blade rollers' clearances. As managing blades can be a handful, Noel and Bruce gave a demonstration of various techniques for safe, neat blade folding.

Safety is paramount, first setting the height adjustment and clearance, using push sticks or sleds as required and using a dust extraction system. Make it a habit never to reach across the blade; use a push stick or a featherboard or sled to guide work to keep your precious fingers well away from the blade. Most importantly,



always wait until the blade stops moving before doing anything else, as the majority of amputations occur when the machine is winding down after being turned off.

Noel demonstrated safe ways to hold and cut round and half round sections of wood:



screw or nail a flat plank to each side of the round log to act as runners; and for a half round blank, cut out a disc of scrap wood and screw it on to the uneven side, so that the flat surface is on the table of the saw, and you can easily see and cut to the disc.

For those wanting more, Pat showed an indexing system he used to cut his radiating



'petal shutters' on his graduation piece, and Mike Wing can show you how to make lifelike bananas using a tilted table. More can be learned from Rick Peters' *Bandsaw Fundamentals* [\$15 at amazon.com] and *The New Complete Guide to the Bandsaw* by Mark Duginske, available from Carbatec.

The best of the summer turning was spread out on the showtable, although many of us must have been too busy to do much turning or we are all rather coy about bringing in our products. A segmented urn by Peter White [lower left, this page] won the show table, with Robin Blowers' mahogany sidetable [page 6] coming in second.

Rick Bolch, Danny Brooks

President's Piece

It's a bit of a worry thinking that we have already had the highlight of the year by March. Yet it will take something absolutely amazing to top the club's entry in the Ellerslie International Flower Show as the highlight for the club in 2013.

All who took part in this undertaking should be justifiably proud of what was collectively achieved. There were so many who contributed in different ways, including: having the initial inspiration to enter a wood-based garden in the EIFS; developing and refining the concept; making pieces available, turning or carving new pieces to meet specific needs; co-ordinating the efforts of others; constructing the walls and floor, designing and installing the lighting; controlling the budget and rostering people to attend the stand, plus so many more roles. It was fascinating to see how the concept evolved over time as new ideas turned up.

I am wary of starting to name names because there are bound to be people I leave out. Thanks to all who contributed in various ways. However I really do need to acknowledge the role played by Peter Clemett who chaired the organizing sub-committee and put in an enormous amount of time and effort; without Peter's leadership we would probably have floundered. The result was an exhibit that surpassed all of our expectations and we are still basking in the unexpected result of a gold award. Whether we meet our initial aim of attracting new members will only become clear as the year progresses. We have certainly raised the awareness of the Christchurch Woodturner's Association among the public of Christchurch. It was most enjoyable spending a few hours on the stand and listening to the enthusiastic comments of the viewers. The words most commonly heard were "amazing" and "fantastic". The items most

commonly admired included the perpetual teapot (well done Rick Bolch), the floor and walls (Mike Foster and others) and Alice's hat (Jack Jordan).

The committee are concerned about the low participation in the monthly show table competition. We are looking for fresh ideas for this: for example, should we have some trophies awarded annually, either for one-off events or for points accumulated through the year? Please let us know your thoughts. You can email me (pjordan@paradise.net.nz) or bend the ear of a committee member at a clubnight.

The first outside event of the year is the fun day at Dunback on May 18. This will be an enjoyable experience and is highly recommended. However the location means that an overnight stay will be needed, so forward planning will be required. Think about it now and we will discuss at the

Continued next page

All Go at Avice Hill Craft Fair



A sparkling summer Sunday was spent at Avice Hill Craft Fair, turning away under the trees and chatting to the public as they strolled by. Most folk stopped to say, “My father/grandfather used to do this...” and spend a moment reminiscing. Several items were sold, some children had a taste of turning, and all the people on both sides of the lathe went away satisfied. The editor even had a public private lesson from Bruce.

The President Continues...

April meeting what we can do to share travel and accommodation. We will also need to assemble a piece from each of ten different members for the club table competition. Start thinking now which piece of yours would be best to include. Ideally we could do with 12 or more pieces so that when we put them together we can use the ten that provide the best balance.

Only two weeks later comes the Harihari jubilee on the Queen’s Birthday weekend. Again the time to start making plans for this is now.

Happy turning!

Pat Jordan

Photos Bruce Irvine, Les Brindley



The City Council runs an annual craft fair at Avice Hill every summer, advertised as part of the Summer Times program. We are always keen to have club members come along, do some turning and enjoy the day.

March Club Night: Turning Wet, to be

March's club night rode the crest of the Flower Show success, with Pat representing us at a function to receive the gold award. Some satisfied show and tell time saw the members filled on the making of the display, as well as some lesser-known details of the judging.

Everyone enjoyed a run through of the photos of the exhibit being put together, and all expressed their appreciation for the effort invested by the subcommittee and those who helped to put it all together.

Bruce Irvine demonstrated,



and beginning at 7:40, a late night looked likely. He was demonstrating wet turning, and as different boy scouts tweaked lighting – see Noel

with the torch below – for a while it looked like dark turning as well.

Bruce screwed in a lovely 10" Tasmanian blackwood blank, with striking contrast in the grain, recently taken off the tree. He used the 9mm screw as an alternative to a faceplate or even putting the blank between centres.

Using a gouge, one of just three tools he was to use all night, Bruce smoothed the bottom, then marked a ring of 85mm diameter on it. He parted a rebate around that line, then busied himself



Done and Not Dusted



finishing the outside shape.

At this point, Noel reminded turners to let the wet stuff move. “Expect it to change shape.” It will move, and blackwood is among the most active: “it will still move after 20 years in your shed,” Noel warned.

Bruce used a skew to shape the correct spigot angle for dovetail jaws, and that completed the exterior of the bowl. It was passed around and replaced by one he’d prepared earlier, to sort the inside out.

“Wet turning is a great way to learn how your tools

work,” advised Noel. He cited Soren telling him that if he didn’t sand and if he turned enough of them, he would figure it out. And sure enough, the penny dropped, after lots and lots of dustless bowls. “You really gain an understanding of what the point of your tool is doing here.”

Bruce, having scooped out the inside of the blank, said it would now be weighed and put in a refrigerator. Each month it would be weighed and when it was ready, tidied up for the last time.

Bowl walls should be left

about an inch thick, 25mm. They will warp but give you enough thickness to trim off and leave nicely finished.

And so out came another pre-turned sycamore bowl, fully dried from way back. Bruce put a ring on the base of the inside, to grip with long-nosed jaws while he finished the outside. Once happy with the base spigot and sides, he turned it around and used that spigot to clean the inside and remove all traces of his chuck bite.

So, the bulk of the work is done without producing the old enemy of us all, dust.

A disappointingly empty showtable made Rex the unchallenged winner. His box in the form of a book, left, was a smart piece of bandsawing, with a turned spine. It would have been nice to have had to vote, so we all need to make an effort to contribute to the show table.

And, despite the ominous start, we were all sorted before the usual time, so there was no rush for the cuppa and catchup.

Rick Bolch, Danny Brooks

South Westland Woodturners Harihari Jamboree 2013

**Queen's Birthday Weekend
Friday May 31, Saturday June 1, Sunday June 2**

Dear Woodturners,

The South Westland Woodturners invite you, your friends and partners to attend the annual jamboree in Harihari this year over Queen's Birthday weekend. It will be a hands-on learning experience for those beginning or those well advanced.

There is plenty to do in the area for turners ' partners who wish to come. There are walks available or you can bring your favourite craft project to work on.

Registration : if attending please return your registration form with a cheque made out to **"South Westland Woodturners"** to reach the address below no later than **May 20, 2013**.

This is necessary in order to finalise catering numbers.

Accommodation is at Harihari Motor Inn 0800 833 026 or Flax Tree Motels 03 753 3116.

**South Westland W & W Guild
PO Box 29372
Fendalton
Christchurch 8540**

Autumn & Winter Club Night Schedule

April 4: fun day style program, a friendly challenge between different teams of turners, to get in the mood before Dunback Interclub on May 18. Showtable: something first turned wet.

May 2: Terry Brunell, an innovative, dynamic demonstrator from Nelson, who led out at Harihari last year. Showtable: something involving spindle turning.

June 6: AGM first of all, then Peter Clemett turning Oamaru stone on the lathe. Showtable: something involving face-plate turning.

Ten Questions for Denis Phillips

What have you just finished turning, and what is your next or current project?

My last was a macrocarpa salt cellar with a scoop. My wife had recently broken a ceramic one, a gift from her best friend. The next project is a big one. I moved out to Darfield last September and my new workshop is the large, unlined, powerless end of a barn. It'll get there.

Favourite wood/s? Banksia.

How long have you been turning, and what got you started?

When I left school I worked in a machine shop and was taught to use a lathe and other metal working gear. Once I joined the army I never returned to it. When I retired in 1992, and when I heard of a wood lathe for sale, all the old memories came back.

Have you had any training?

Yes, after I bought that lathe I went to the Polytechnic. My first effort of that course is a clock that started out as shallow rimu bowl and finished as a clock; we still have it.



What's something you've turned with which you are very pleased, or most proud?

My Aoraki project was a satisfying task: although it was a simple design, I had to make a drawing and every part had to be measured to fit the plan. I was able to recycle the piece as gifts for friends. One banksia plate became a raffle prize, and the winner now treasures it.

Do you often have several projects on the go at once, or do you generally finish what you start before you start another project?

I prefer to finish a project before starting a new venture but occasionally something comes along, like a new handle for friend's trowel.

That gets priority.

How do you plan what you turn? That is, with detailed diagrams, or letting it flow and evolve?

When I have an idea I sketch it on the workshop notepad or a scrap of paper but often a simple shape like a plate or a tea light holder just comes naturally. The wood's grain, nature, texture and colour all influence the final shape.

What does your wife think of your turning?

She and my daughter are proud of my turning and enjoy giving items to friends.

What else do you like to do with your time as well as turning?

When I'm not converting a piece of wood to chips and dust I potter about in the garden and help look after 40 Shetland ponies. It leads to a full and rewarding way of life.

Has your working life lent itself to turning, or was it a nice point of difference?

I did not start turning until I retired but now it is an important facet of my life.

Keith and Lee Whiteley: Learning to

Keith and Lee Whiteley are two of the club's newest members, although they both go way back with wood.

Keith made a lathe in junior high school, but that was more for engineering practice than to use it for turning wood. He's still mechanical engineering along, as the garage full of handmade projects and a metal lathe attests.

Lee has always liked wood, loved the variety of grains and figure and the feel of it. She once set an alarm off in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London because she wanted to feel the smooth surface of a table from the thirteenth century. But that's a story for another time.

About 20 years ago Lee was taking her son to a night class at Hornby High, and decided to make something herself. That turned out to be an arty small table with three curved legs, but in the decades that followed she got busy with other things. Other things like studying chemistry at Canterbury, raising and



homeschooling four children, studying horticulture and soil science at Lincoln. The latter must have been useful because the garden looks terrific.

Just lately, however, Lee got back into the woodwork, and had made a few more furniture items when a friend talked about woodturning as

another option. It had never occurred to Lee, but before long she'd looked up the club, called a fellow named Bruce, and signed up for the Aoraki course. And while she was in the process of signing up, Keith said, "Hey, that's something I could do a bit of too if there's space in the course."

Turn Together



So, both are now turners in training, sharing a club lathe in their very tidy garage. It hasn't taken over their lives: Keith says, "Much as I enjoy turning, it's not about to become my only hobby."

The competition is evident looking around the shed: as well as the metal lathe, a radio controlled boat sits in a dry dock and a go cart waits for the next generation of Whiteleys to enjoy it.



But both Keith and Lee are wowed by the variety turning presents. There are projects Lee foresees herself making well down the line, but she also enjoys the anticipation. Even at this early stage of the craft, there are beautiful things she is already able to make: the bowls pictured and a bag of toys packed away. "This is fine, but the end goal is fruit," she declares. "I have always wanted to make some wooden fruit. But after the Flower Show, I need to make a hat."

Lee and Keith marvel at the patience the tutors show in their Saturday classes. "I'm still getting the hang of rubbing the bevel", laughs Lee, "so Bruce will suddenly appear at my shoulder with a grin, having heard it from across the room."

Something that will help is a wee adjustment that Keith made. The lathe sits on a rack projecting from the bench, so left-handed Lee has the best angle to use it.

It's a fitting symbol of how this couple is on the turning, learning journey together.

For Sale

Les Brindley will sharpen chainsaw teeth at 20 cents per tooth.

Peter White has a Triton router table without a switch: 359 6915.

Wanted

Brendon Morrison [338 4088] would love a $\frac{3}{4}$ or 1 horsepower motor for a hobby sawbench.

Lois Damen saw the Flower Show and is very keen to get hold of small or large rounds of timber, any type of timber, such as adorned the exhibit's floor. Call her on 332 3290 if you can help.

For the Calendar

MAY 3: with Terry Brunell still in town after the club night, we would like to run a day of demonstration and instruction from him at Cobham. There will be a small charge.

MAY 18: Inter-club Fun Day at Dunback, [via Palmerston] hosted by the East Otago club. As well as teams, we need to fill a table with the TEN best items the club produced this past year. Please do not be shy with your best work of the year.

MAY 31 - JUNE 2: the Hari Hari Jamboree will be on this Queen's Birthday weekend.

Oops

The last edition of Splinters misinformed you about 2012's best piece of work, awarded at the Christmas breakup. It was actually Mike Wing who won, with his fruit and stand, while Don Reeves' segmented urn took second place.

Rest In Peace

Douglas 'Blue' Hall passed away in Ashburton Hospital on Tuesday February 26 as the result of a brain tumor. Many club members will recall his demonstrations at North Canterbury and Hari Hari. Vale.

2012/13 Committee Contact Details

Patron: Soren Berger, 25 Rodney St, New Brighton; 388 1004.

President: Pat Jordan, 39 McBeath Ave, Hoon Hay; 942 4279.

Vice President: Peter Clemett: 36a Fenhall St, Russley; 342 5242.

Treasurer: Bill Parsons, 76 Fendalton Rd, Fendalton; 351 5647.

Secretary: Bruce Irvine, 401 Withells Rd, Avonhead; 358 8482.

Newsletter: Danny Brooks, 950 Lower Styx Rd, Brooklands; 329 2126.

Rick Bolch: 28 Waiau St, Hoon Hay; 980 5156

Les Brindley: 51 Charles Upham Dv, Hillmorton; 338 2216.

Noel Graham: 63 Oakley Cres, Hornby; 349 8976.

Celia Irvine: 401 Withells Rd, Avonhead; 358 8482.

Rex Marshall: 396 Greers Rd, Bishopdale; 352 9297.

Ray Morgan: 154b Brookside Rd, Rolleston; 366 9795.

Mike Wing: 7 Donovan Pl, Halswell; 741 1475.