

Splinters

Newsletter of the Christchurch Woodturners' Association



Dick Veitch

South Auckland doyen
demonstrated and
entertained at the July
Club Night.



South Auckland club stalwart Dick Veitch, in Canterbury to visit his sister, gave an excellent demonstration on the July 7 clubnight. Dick turned up a tumble-doll, a seemingly simple project that has its tricky aspects.

A full hall was amused to see the scant millimetres Dick had allowed in his drilling job. While he'd been saying to be careful not to go through, he'd gone down to the

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Club Nights

Reports and photos from the June AGM and July clubnight.

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Stories in the Wood

Reflections on the amazing journey of the wood we use from forest to lathe.

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Inside the Shed

Take a peek inside Chris Vermey's shed, and see what he has been making.

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Dick Veitch

Continued from page 1
skin of his teeth.

Pat Jordan picked up the following pointers that were sprinkled through a very engaging evening of turning and talk. Dick uses a thin pad of leather behind his sandpaper when hand sanding, for a smoother result, and it's also easier on the fingers.

His roughing gouge is sharpened at an acute 35 degrees, rather than the usual 45 degrees. By inclining the cutting edge at an angle, it gives a cut like that of a skew chisel.

Dick's un-handled tools are transported in a roll like those used by wood carvers. To save weight when traveling, he uses a key-less drill chuck set into a wooden handle. The tool that's in use is put into the chuck, so all tools are un-handled. The best drill chucks are those where only half the chuck turns to tighten it.

There is a **project sheet** on page 7 to guide you to make your own tumble doll. Remember it's the show-table project for September, too.

From the President

This is the first newsletter since our AGM. As your new president for the next year, I would like to welcome several new faces to the committee.

Bill Parsons is now confirmed as our new treasurer. Danny Brooks joined the committee at our last meeting, as editor of the club newsletter. The active word here is editing. He has some fresh ideas, but would also welcome copy from other members. Peter Clemett has joined the committee. Mike Wing has also joined the committee. Mike emigrated to NZ a couple of years ago, but also has plenty of experience in a UK club. These folk will all bring fresh ideas and experience to the job of helping run a thriving club for your benefit.

Ray Morgan has served two years as president, the maximum continuous period that the constitution allows. Mike Foster has resigned as treasurer because of the amount of time that his job requires him to be abroad. Both Ray and Mike remain as members of the committee. Thanks to you both for your efforts in steering the club in recent years. It is in good heart

years. It is in good heart, thanks in no small part to your leadership and efforts.

While writing this I am preparing to travel to the annual weekend event at Harihari. The wintry weather is a concern, but hopefully things will clear enough to let us travel on Friday. I also remember that last year we enjoyed the company of Paul Dunlop at the Harihari weekend. Sadly, Paul was a victim of the February earthquake. He was a man of many considerable talents and a pleasure to be with – we are all the poorer for his passing.

In the meantime, I intend to include a questionnaire with the next newsletter. I want to hear your thoughts and ideas regarding the club's organisation and activities, and how we can better cater for the needs of all members. Think about it for a couple of months.

I hope that you can all keep warm and safe from further destruction, and that your workshop is not too cold to permit regular therapeutic sessions at your lathes.

Pat Jordan

June and July Club Nights and What's Coming up

The June Clubnight began with the Annual General Meeting. The full contact list of new committee members is on the back page.

In **Show and Tell**, Pat Jordan passed round a piece of black maire for members to examine and feel (heavy). The wood contained the large circular tunnels made by the larvae of the puriri moth which also favours black maire.

June's **Showtable** was to be a Weed Pot. There were a good number of entries, and the best one was judged to



be a three-axis-turned item made by Mike Wing. The runner-up was made by Bruce Irvine.

Sharing the prize for July's spherical theme were Rick Bolch's tripod elm clock and Bruce Irvine's radially cut and laminated spheres.



UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

In August, the showtable theme is a candleholder. Make sure it is safe. However if it's a tealight, it must have some form of insert to insulate the candle from the wood. Relying on the tin holder around the candle is unsafe. Glass inserts are available via Bill Owen, 49 Severn St, Oamaru; phone him on 03 434 6261.

We are back at the College of Education for the next Club Night on August 4. Noel will be demonstrating off-centre turning.

On September 1 a representative from Mainland Paints will be showing finishing techniques.

Norm and/or Bruce will be showing laminating tricks on the October 6 Clubnight, and then on November 3, the Aoraki tutors will be talking and showing chucks.



Show Table for the Months Ahead

August: candle holder.
September: tumble doll.
October: something turned off-centre.

Demonstrators for the Months Ahead

August: Noel, off-centre turning.
September: Mainland Paints, finishing.
October: Norm/Bruce, laminating.



Passing It On

Lads from Brooklands Learn to Turn

Boys and girls from Christchurch's northern outskirts are enjoying learning to turn and work with wood. They come along to a shed at Pascoe Park, Cheneys, where they get on the tools and learn some skills every second Tuesday night.

Cody, Jack and Lachie are the most regular boys, aged 10 to 12. They have made pens, paper towel holders, spinning tops, chopping boards and a range of simple items. They have enjoyed taking home the things that they have made, and seeing them being well used.

Club members Mel Trevena and Danny Brooks run the evening programs, which feature stone carving as an added activity. The workshop is part of the campground owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and has been fitted out with 8 Morgan lathes and 7 scroll saws, some of

which were donated by Mel, Danny and another clubmember, Murray Askin. Murray has also completely fitted out the shed with storage cupboards from a clinic at which he works as a handyman. Some quality wood has been donated as well.

The boys enjoy the turning and are becoming more proficient and making more complex things. For those worried about "kids these days", 2 out of 3 are fabulously patient sanders.

Club members are welcome to come along and help point the boys in the right direction. Thanks to Keith McFadden, John Ryan, Bruce and Rex who have been out on occasion to lend a hand on busier, pre-earthquake times. Call Danny on 329 2126 - it's on the second and fourth Tuesdays in August - you don't need to be an expert. And bring your grandchildren! ⁴

Stories the Wood Can Tell

Woodturning is a relatively new joy and pleasure in my life. An older, earlier interest was tramping and getting out to enjoy the bush. Growing up east of Melbourne there were plenty of walking tracks that had begun life as timber tramways.

Coming to New Zealand, I was delighted to walk the tracks made by kauri loggers and foresters. As a high school history teacher, I try to engage students, especially boys, in the marvel of how men moved mighty tonnages of timber with jacks, dams and sweat.

A woodworking friend passed away recently, in his late 80s. His father had worked a horse-drawn mill along the South Island's West Coast. George was full of stories and pride in the craft and skill of such men.

Pondering this background, I'm excited to pick up a piece of timber, especially from a native tree. It's interesting to consider how and when it was cut down, and where it's been and what it's done since then.

It's wonderful to combine interests. The love of the forests and their history adds richness to the use of the timber, turned or otherwise. Thinking about the skills and working life of those communities of men gives the wood with which we work a heritage.

I found an interesting insight into the thoughts of these men who turned forests into planks reading Ted Ashby's *Blackie: a Story of the Old-Time Bushmen* [AH Reed: Auckland, 1978]. Ashby writes of a Tasmanian bushman, Andrew Black, who on first coming to the kauri forest, felt he



should talk in whispers among the mighty trees.

"For weeks we walked past a big kauri on the flat above the cookhouse, 33' around at the base, 50' to the first limb. Though I never mentioned it to the others, I used to say to myself, 'I hope something happens, someone intervenes to save that one.'"

"The team of four axemen built staging, cut scarves by morning tea time; sawing, with wedges keeping the tree from settling and jamming the saw. With a tailrope around each handle, all four men pushed and pulled the saw, then used the maul to fell the giant."

"The tree gave a gigantic shiver, from its base to the topmost branch. There were a couple more noisy cracks, and slowly, very slowly, the tree started on its mighty fall. By the time it was nearing a 45 degree angle, it was moving very fast, displacing the air like a swishing straw broom.... Once felled, the bushman stood on the stump, gazing into the gully, just thinking. Until the boss broke the reverie: "What the hell's the matter, Tassie? Grab yer axe, ringbark round where I've marked for the first sawcut."

"Compared to a human corpse, which is pitiful and undignified, that kauri looked superlative, beaten but unbowed. Man could kill but not degrade it. Going to his next job, this hardened bushman told Ashby, the author, "I hope I don't get the job to fell the big ones."

It's interesting to reflect on the respect generated by wood, from those men in the bush back then, right down to those of us working with it and appreciating its beauty still.

June Club Night: Soren Berger Demonstration

Tonight's demonstrator was our patron, Soren Berger. He began by talking about dust. He pointed out that dust from sanding comes only from dry wood — wet wood when sanded doesn't generate air-borne dust. Nowadays he rarely turns dry wood. He told us about the work he is currently doing — making lampshades out of pine, 600 mm diameter and 1 mm finished thickness. Fortunately his neighbours want heaps of shavings for animal bedding.

Søren produced a small wooden vase which he had made that morning, the first like this for several years, and he proceeded to make another, to show us how. He began with a piece of yew about 160 mm long x 60 diameter, with the bark still on. He set this up between centres on the lathe, with the tail centre about 10 mm offset from centre, in such a direction as to make the most effective use of the shape of the wood blank. Then, using a bowl gouge ground with a square end, he turned off the bark up to about 5 mm from the tail-stock end. Also he turned a spigot about 55 mm diameter at the headstock end, for gripping in the chuck, then removed it from the lathe.

Then, with the spigot gripped in the chuck, he studied the grain to decide on the best shaping for the vase and shaped the outside of the top end. He put the tail centre in, to control vibrations while he turned the waist portion, leaving a flared (top) end, and finished the shaping with a smaller gouge. With the waisted part finished, he cut down part way at the base end, and removed the tail centre.

For shaping inside the flare at the top end, he used a small gouge ground to a fingernail-shaped edge. He began the hollowing with this, then used a 10mm twist drill mounted in a handle, and drilled down the centreline, hand-holding the drill, until he reached a predetermined depth marked with a piece of string tied round the shank of the drill. He widened the internal hollow slightly, using the twist drill, then used a 10 mm gouge to shape the inside of the flare. Next, he used his patent hollowing tool to shape the throat and into the hollow below. He finished the top of the throat and into the hollow below. He finished the top of the throat using a bowl gouge (noting that this action was cutting into the end grain), and continued hollowing right down to the bottom of the cavity. Next, he widened the throat to its final size, and continued this throat diameter to the bottom of the interior cavity.

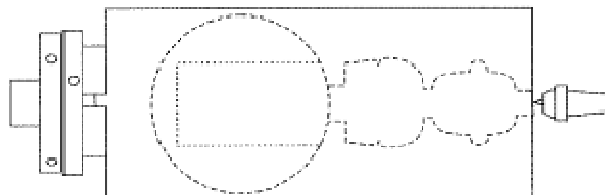
From time to time he used a short (300 mm) length of about 10 mm plastic tubing to mouth-blow the shavings out from inside the opening (with the lathe stopped). He used his hollowing tool to widen the cavity inside, and a "lance" to finally shape the throat inside and out, and he made the final finishing cuts using the hollowing tool, with the lathe running very slowly.

Finally, he cut down to the final diameter and shaping at the base, before sanding (again with the lathe running slowly) using #180 and #400 papers. For the rim, he used two small pieces of sandpaper together, outside and inside, to reduce the stress on the small piece of wood connecting the vase base to the lathe. He hand-cut the vase away from the lathe spigot, and finished the base by hand.

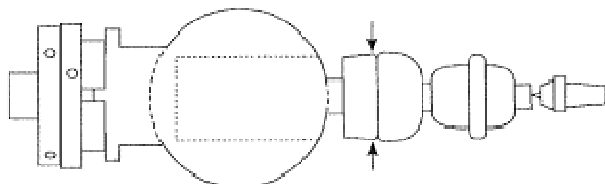


Stand-Up Tumble Doll

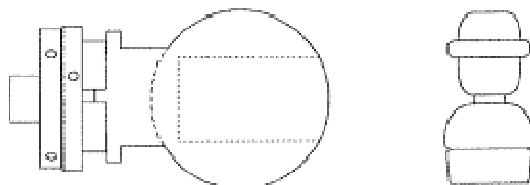
Interpreted from the book *Woodturning Traditional Folk Toys* by Alan and Gill Bridgewater
 Start with a block about 180 x 80 x 80mm with the grain along the long axis. A light wood is recommended as this will make balancing the doll easier. As the entire surface is to be painted the look of the wood is not important. Plan now for the size of hole you will drill in the sphere and thus the diameter of the wood that will fit that hole.



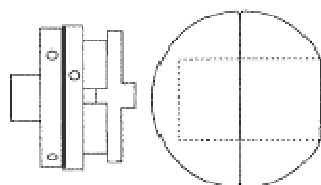
This may be turned between centres or held in a chuck. A chuck makes it easier to drill the hole later. To start with bring up the tailstock for security.



Turn the head, shoulders and spherical body to shape. Note that just below the shoulders, as shown by the arrow, the wood needs to be just a little larger than the hole that will be drilled into the sphere.

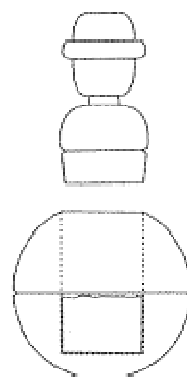


Remove the tailstock support. Sand and finish the head and shoulders. Part this off from the spherical portion

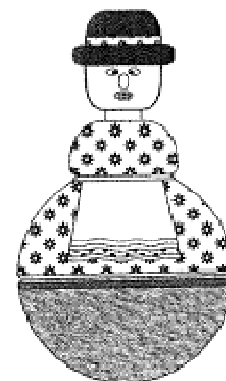


Measure carefully then drill the planned hole as deep as you dare. Make the opening of this hole fit the upper part of the doll. You may cut a "waistline" around the sphere. Turn the remainder of this part to a perfect sphere and part it off as you do so.

Fill the hole to about 25mm depth with lead weights. Temporarily fit the upper part and gently test that the doll returns to an upright position. When you are happy with the quantity of weight, secure it in place with resin or glue.



Glue the upper part securely into the sphere. Paint the doll in the colours and patterns of your choice.



This project sheet was printed from www.sawg.org.nz



Weekend of Woodturning, Fellowship, Learning and Sharing

GUEST TURNER is Giulio Marcolongo from Australia

To Do List:

1. Make a note in your diary.
2. Register as soon as possible; forms will be sent out at the end of July.
3. Book your accommodation if required. Special rates at Avenue Motel [0800 283 683] and Armada Motor Inn [0800 626 278] if you mention WWG Spin Around.

Also not to be missed:

Bill Owen: *Woodturning Supplies Ltd* for all you need for your turning and more.

Tim Skinner: Capital Books for all those woodturning books and all other craft books. If Tim doesn't have the book you want, he will source it for you.

For the partners: Margaret Jamison will again be hosting some activities for you.

**Raffles, good food, good company, good fun. Contact Ken Newton:
03 438 7741 or email knnewton@xtra.co.nz**

Meet Chris Vermey, and his Shed

Club member Chris Vermey [Fur-may, he's Dutch] technically has a garage rather than a shed, but when it comes to productivity and ingenuity, it's definitely a shed.

Chris, who was a builder before teaching high school for nearly three decades, lives in Avondale with his wife Corrie. He has made all the wooden furniture in their house, much of it eye-catching in design and craftsmanship.

Chris comes by all this industriousness honestly. His father was a wheelwright, and his tools are hung in pride of place in the living room, along with a miniature wagon Chris has made.

So while there's always been woodwork, turning has come to the fore since retirement 18 years ago. Chris had never turned until he ah



so other teachers would bring him to the workshop to give him an outlet for his energy. For all the grief he caused the teachers, he was a wonderful young turner, and the beautiful items he made prodded Chris to *make* a lathe and get started.

Chris loves the practicality of turning. He likes to work "fast and rough", but there's plenty of polished, delicate objects that he's made. He also likes the fact that so much can be given away. "All of my friends have a bowl or something of mine. It's so easy and fun to give these things to people."

Chris has filled his years with

odd jobs – 17 houses built in the spare time he had as a teacher – but the jobs are smaller now. That's part of the appeal of turning: it's just him tinkering away in the shed, making unique things.

He likes to design and there are plenty of original gadgets lying around – the adjustable toddler's chair, the jig [below] for using a router on the lathe.

Chris Vermey is just one of the many such club members who are happy to share their amazing experiences, talents and skills. As a less practical bloke, I'm inspired by the likes of him.



Need to Know: Handy Club Information

AORAKI COURSE

Bruce and Rex need 6 more people to sign up for the course to make it viable.

WAITAKI SPIN-A-ROUND NEEDS OUR BEST WORK

If you have made a piece that is really quite splendid, however much or little of it is turned, see **Pat Jordan** who might want to take it to represent the club at the Spin-a-Round Waitaki. Even if you're not going, your item can go with the club. A piece that springs to mind is a clock made in the form of a giant's wrist-watch a few months ago.

LATHE FOR SALE

There is a Dixon lathe for sale for \$200, see Rex or Bruce. It has an early swivel head and comes with a selection of tools.

ELM BURRS AVAILABLE

Noel still has a stack of elm burrs available. They have beautiful birdseye grain in them, and for \$30 you can take some away.

Jim is after a 4 spur driving centre with a number 2 morse taper. He can't find one in any of the local suppliers, and is happy to pay anyone if they have a spare one they are happy to sell. Call Jim on 358 2283 if you can help him out.

LATHE PART WANTED

Jim Coleman is after a 4-spur driving centre with a number 2 morse taper. He can't find one in any of the local suppliers, and is happy to pay anyone if they have a spare one they are happy to sell. Call Jim on 358 2283 if you can help him out.

NUMBERS GAME

Something to scratch your head over in the shed. The question is: What is the percentage of club members who are retired? Feedback and the answer at the next Clubnight.

2011/12 Committee Contact Details

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

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

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.

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

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

Mike Foster: 795 East Maddisons Rd, Rolleston; 347 2494.

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.

Bryan Snyder: 27 Brockham St, Casebrook; 359 954.

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