



Christchurch Woodturners Association Inc.

Splinters

Newsletter of the Christchurch Woodturners' Association Inc.

www.woodturning.org.nz



Back to Back at Dunback



Photo: Celia Irvine

For the second year the South Island Interclub Competition was hosted by the East Otago Woodturners in Dunback, inland from Palmerston. Club members from East Otago,

Otago, Waitaki, Timaru, and Christchurch clubs put their best work on display and entered teams in the turning competition.

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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.

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

Showtable to be Rejuvenated, Page 9.

A Shed to Intrigue, Pages 14 & 15.

Interclub Fun Day [continued from page 1]

Once again, our team travelled down on Friday, staying overnight at various venues before converging on the hall bright and early on Saturday morning. Julie Clemett and Celia Irvine again took charge of the competition table setup. This year we had a surplus of pieces to choose from, and much discussion followed to ensure the selection represented adequate variety of style, form, and size – all in line with the rules which required each piece to be 50% turned content. We spread the rest of the items around the hall. Interestingly, and perhaps a little unusually, we displayed no bowls.



Meanwhile, the turning team of Noel Graham, Bruce Irvine, Rex Marshall, John Scott, Ray Hall, and Peter Clemett set up the lathe, chose our turning order, and discussed design and tactics.

The competition this year was to turn 3 balls and 3 skittles – the items in each set as nearly identical to each other as possible.

Guest judge for the turning competition and best in show was John Lightfoot, South Island Club liaison officer on the NAW committee. Helping out judging the best club table were representatives from each attending club. Celia ably undertook that role for us.

Turning got under way at 10am, and out of the blocks for our team was Bruce, who





set the standard with the first ball. Each turner had 20 minutes to complete their piece, but Bruce's practised eye became apparent when he only needed five. This of course gave us ample time to observe other teams in action, and it was a great opportunity to see how varied the approaches were to completing this task. Noel then, just as rapidly, turned his 70mm cube into a sphere, taking a little extra care to replicate all the features on Bruce's pattern. Rex's ball completed our set.

Then, a respite from turning and time for a chinwag with fellow woodturners and old friends. Lunchtime arrived, and with it a welcome cup of soup and filled roll to

supplement the endless cups of tea and tempting baked goods provided throughout the day by the local ladies.

Competition resumed once lunch had settled. Peter turned the first skittle to set the pattern, to be followed in turn by those from John and Ray. Both neatly matched the height, shape, and burned line embellishment of the original. The skittles and balls went to the judging table and it was cleanup time.

Whilst we waited for the final judging and compilation of scores, we were treated to an entertaining talk by a local woodcrafter who described his endeavours to "get rich quick" by making and selling wooden toy vehicles. He had certainly explored many

options in his pursuit of the right formula, and some of the samples he showed us were fascinating. Alas, the riches have proven elusive, but clearly he's a man happy in his hobby.

Awards were given out for best overall club table, winning club in the turning competition, and best individual piece on show. Judge John enthused about the number of pieces on display that were of a high standard, echoing what many had said throughout the day.

This year's awards went to: Christchurch Club for Best table; Christchurch Club for best performance in the turning contest; Mike Wing (Christchurch Club) for his fruit stand and fruit - the best piece in show.

So, having taken out the trifecta again, all that remained was the raffle draw, and then time to pack up, say our goodbyes, and reflect upon another successful and fun event. Many thanks to the East Otago Club for hosting the event, and taking care of us for the day.

Story by Peter Clemett; photos by Bruce & Celia Irvine.

Terry Brunell's Hands-on Day

About 16 turners attended a special bonus day at Cobham Intermediate with Terry Brunell, while he was in town for the May club night. They watched him turn a couple of bowls in driftwood, then were let loose and encouraged to make something different. As expected, Terry had plenty of time and tips for beginners and veterans alike, so a good amount of creativity was spent and a lot of fun was had.

Rick Bolch



Photos by Bruce Irvine & Pat Jordan





Clockwise from top left: Terry enthusing; Joe Hayes and others getting into it; Ray Hall sanding his very-Terry driftwood bowl; lunch time; Michele touching up; and Katie Smith with her work.



Rex's Work on the Podium Again



Last year he won; this year it's a third place for a Rex Marshall piece at the Auckland Easter Show. It's the latest in a line of successful lidded boxes in purple heart: this one having four holly inserts, inlaid with pewter & white styrene, then marbled and re-finished.

Rex is too modest to let us think he gains a placing every time he enters these shows. Apparently several of the pieces that he sends away return home alone in the package. But the encouraging word from Rex is 'enter!' "More of us should be putting work in these shows."

Winter Club Night Schedule

June 6: Peter Clemett turning Oamaru stone on the lathe. Showtable: face-plate turning.

July 4: AGM first of all, then Mainland Paints; Showtable: nothing specified, see page 9.

April Club Night: Three Teams Go

It was with a strange mix of anticipation, some hesitation, and in the end, relaxation that the April club night imitated an Interclub Fun Day friendly competition.

Noel set the scene with some suggestions for strategy, to make it easy or complicated for the teammates who have to replicate what you've made. Then having displayed the project, a candle with base and snuffer, he called Rex and Bruce to join him for the first leg of making it.

With a little commentary and banter, three turners working in their own space became intriguing viewing. Bruce finished first, with almost half the time to spare, although it should be noted that he had made the model.

With three vacant lathes, a slight discomfort was felt as a call went out for volunteers, or members were called out by name. Bruce Osborn, Les Brindley and John Scott took up the chisels to turn the candlesticks between centres. These fellows all finished within a minute or two of the allotted ten minutes.



At It, Fun Day Style



Clockwise from left: Bruce help[cheat]ing; a showtable full of wet-turned odds and ends; Mike Foster, whose 2nd placed piece was started in 1989; Derek Upton's winning 'whoops' bowl.



Who would finish the job by making the snuffers? Even after seeing six turners at work, nobody was leaping out of their seats. That hesitant pause ended as newcomers Liz and Michele stepped forward, and Celia joined in to make it a ladies' round. Assisted by a tutor,

they stretched their time but completed the job. Celia noted that she was being punished for suggesting a more complicated design.

All night it was interesting to see different turners at work on the same job at the same time, and to notice the differences in style, posture and facial expressions. Along with a good turnout and several new faces, this contributed to the pleasant buzz that grew throughout the evening.

A healthy showtable of items turned wet included some kinks and quirks. Mike Foster's second place bowl had been started by Brian Jones in 1989, and awaited completion until last year. Derek Upton's winning pug "whoops" kamahi bowl had

warped to an oblong shape.

And so concluded a different sort of club night: a fun way to see turning happen, and a good taster for the upcoming Fun Day.

Rick Bolch, Danny Brooks



Ten Questions for Mike Wing

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

I've just finished a 300mm apricot bowl for an 80th birthday present, and I'm about to make some *more* earring stands. Every female relative wants one now.

Favourite wood/s?

Yew, laburnum and lacewood [London plane].

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

Having been into scouting since 1947, I joined the scout fellowship when I retired. I needed another hobby, and I had enjoyed playing with wood all my life. An ex-millwright friend and I visited a show, bought a lathe and we just got started and kept an eye on each other.

Have you had any training?

A couple of short courses in the UK, but the Aoraki course was far superior. Clubs in the UK have a vast pool of demonstrators to draw on,



with such a large turning community there.

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

Seven or so fob watch stands which I gave away as gifts, modeled on a Keith Rowley design; and my graduation piece, fruit and a fruit stand.

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

The latter.

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

I usually have a diagram. Most of my ideas come from magazines and articles, or club demonstrations.

What does your wife think of your turning?

My wife thinks I do some lovely work, with a lovely finish. Mavis does plenty of knitting and crafty stuff too, so she's a certified critiquing officer.

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

I enjoy gardening and I'm a member of Probus. I also do a bit of volunteer driving for the Cancer Society.

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

It's been completely different to my working life as an electrician. It's been very pleasantly challenging. And occasionally, when I forget that I finished the last piece at high speed and start up the lathe with a crunch, a bit less pleasant. But still fun.

Watch This Space: Showtable Crankup

The committee has been concerned for some time now by the poor number of entries in the show table competition at many club meetings. After reviewing possibilities, including what is done at some other clubs, we have decided to introduce a new competition where a trophy (more details in the next newsletter) is awarded for the person who gains the most points over the course of the year. This will apply for July to December this year and then February to December in future years.

The Jim Dunford Trophy competition will continue as a separate event with rules as in the past and the subject defined usually in the September newsletter.

The aim is to encourage members to turn more than perhaps they do at present and to display their work so that we can all enjoy seeing a range of current work by the members. Points are awarded for entering, as well as being voted in the top three that month, to encourage participation. As a further carrot, double points are offered to encourage entries at the AGM and December meetings. You can enter

more than one piece at a meeting, but will score only one entry point for that month.

A feature of the new format is that members will have the opportunity to speak for up to a minute about one of their entries. They may wish to comment on the wood used, the inspiration for the piece or source of the design, or highlight some special technique or jig that was needed. This will not be compulsory, but could add significant value to both speaker and listeners.

We will no longer specify a topic for the monthly show table competition: any piece completed within the last 3 months can be entered as long as it has some connection with woodturning. Also there will no longer be a monthly prize for the show table competition.

There will be a chance to ask questions and have the tie-break system explained at the June meeting.

This should result in more turning and learning at our usual club nights.

Pat Jordan

Monthly Showtable Rules

There will be a trophy awarded annually in December to the person accumulating the most points for the monthly competitions over the course of the calendar year.

Each entry shall be an item completed in the last three months, except for the December meeting when it shall be an item completed in the current calendar year. No piece may be entered at more than one meeting except that it may be entered again at the December meeting.

Points will be awarded as follows each month:

1 point for entering one or more pieces that month;

Plus 3 points for first, 2 points for second and 1 point for third.

Judging shall be by the votes of those present at the meeting.

Double points are awarded for the AGM night and the December meeting.

Turning the Whirlwind: Terry Brunell

It was fast-paced and you had to pay attention. Ideas and stories were flying thick and fast, thicker than the woodchips, which actually eased up quite early in the evening. You may even have taken a half-finished sample home, but you would have gone home with your head full of new ideas for projects.

Terry is a Nelson artisan, a casual craftsman who brought along a heavy bag for show and tell. He likes things that are unorthodox, and he doesn't mind things that are not quite right: not for him turning out one flawless bowl after another.



As he specialises in turning driftwood, Terry put a couple of odd shaped hunks in the chuck and turned them into interesting bowls. Terry was turning a propeller-

shaped piece of a silver beach burr. For bigger pieces, he likes a long handle on the chisel that he can tuck under his arm for extra weight and leverage.



Terry does not use the standard bowl gouges and tools for turning driftwood. He has made up specialized tools, which easily move over the uneven surface of driftwood. They are small fingernail-shaped [pointed] cutters, which are softly touched against the wood and moved slowly across until you have a surface conducive to moving at a faster rate.

and the May Club Night



This tool was used on the centreline as if you would a parting tool just pushed straight in and move side to side but don't be aggressive. He also had a tool with a disc cutter, which was used to refine the cut once he had the finished profile.

Once he'd made them, he bounded off into the second aspect of the presentation, the show and tell session. Here is where his philosophy shone through. What he'd written on the board beforehand came to life in the objects he held up and passed around.

The main ideas were that we enjoy turning, and find things

to do that challenge and test the usual. Rather than throw out an odd or broken piece, Terry prefers to ponder how it can be used for something else. Keep thinking rather than throwing stuff away. His methods are rarely out of the textbook, as he believes there are many ways to do something the right way: find the way that works for you.



If it doesn't work, that shows you should have listened to an expert.

Experts that inspire Terry include Stephen Hogbin, Gary Stevens, Bihn Pho, Marc Ricourt and many others. He likes to watch youtube clips, find pictures in books or magazines, and then get busy trying to make his own version.

Plenty of carving features in his methodology, as a way of creating pieces that will make people wonder how they were made. He showed a large yew platter that had been carved so that the rim undulated, and a burned and carved platter, pictured above left.

Rex's natty-marbled pin, below left, won the show table, albeit with hardly any fierce competition.

Ray Morgan, Danny Brooks



Ray Edwards: a Full Life

Surely you all know Ray Edwards? White hair, front row? You've heard him chat with demonstrators and tell them sincerely, how much he appreciates them! He's a sentimental bloke then, but there may be a few details you don't know that have shaped his life.

The son of a miner and war medic, Ray grew up in Gwyn Ebwy, Wales. Upon getting an apprenticeship, he was called up to the army and the Royal Engineers, where he served in Kenya during the Mau Rebellion.

Having left the army and moved to New Zealand, Ray took a job with the Ministry

of Works. He spent four months on the ice, in charge of building Scott Base. It had been prefabricated here, then assembled in Antarctica, and it was Ray's job to ensure that every piece that was needed was in the kit, as there was no local hardware if a few bolts had been left behind.

When the job was done, he returned to Wellington, debriefed the bosses, crossed Cook Strait took a train all the way to Invercargill to be reunited with his young wife. She wouldn't kiss him - that polar stint was long enough to grow a chest length beard, so he sat outside on the step

while she hacked away with some scissors, until she was ready to welcome him home.

At the other end of the mercury, Ray spent three years in the Cook Islands putting up the government buildings. Also on his to-do list in that decade was New Zealand House in London.

Ray's later years were organizing logistics for the Air Force. He's happy with the things he's seen and done, and the people he has met. Now in his 80s, he lives surrounded by reminders of his years here and there, and making do with memories. Talk to him some time.

We're Celebrating our Craft in July

The Christchurch Community Arts Council is holding a 'Celebrating the Arts' event on the weekend of July 25-27, at the Hornby Working Men's Club. The aim is to promote and showcase craft clubs to the community, who may be finding it difficult to access information about craft activities in our city at the moment. We have been offered the opportunity to run a manned display with some demonstrations and a chance for the public to try turning, as happens at the Avice Hill craft fair.

There would be no charge to us as participants, although it sounds like there is an entry fee for the public. While we are still in the early stages of deciding our approach, the club committee likes the idea and welcomes your willing involvement.

President's Page

Our worthy editor has pointed out that this will be my last 'President's Column', as by the time the next newsletter is prepared you will have a new president. That's probably a good thing as after about a dozen columns I seem to be running out of ideas for what to write about. The club's constitution very sensibly includes a clause preventing any president from serving more than two consecutive years in the job. Requiring a fresh face in this role, or at least a rotation of the old faces, is a good way to ensure the regular introduction of fresh ideas.

Accompanying this newsletter should be a form for those who wish to nominate someone as an office-bearer or to join the committee. We have several committee members who have served the club for ten years or more and their contributions have been invaluable. However we need at least one or two new committee members each year to make up for those

who wish to step down and to give us a healthy level of turnover. A spell on the committee is also a great way to find out how the club works and will enable you to take on an office later.

Bruce Irvine has continued to be a tower of strength as secretary and has made my job much easier. Thanks Bruce. I would like to thank those on the committee and in the club at large who have offered encouragement and support over the last two years. It has been trying at times on a personal level – the 'interesting times' of the Chinese proverb. Of course most in Christchurch have had much to endure and I salute you all for the way you have coped and maintained a cheerful outlook.

I helped a work group recently recover some alder logs that will be a fine store for courses over the coming months. By collecting leaves I was able to confirm that they were Italian alders (*Alnus cordata*), and the other trees across the road were

common or black alders (*Alnus glutinosa*). The books by Professor J T Salmon are useful for identifying most of the trees you will find in N.Z. I then looked on www.wikipedia.org and was delighted with the array of information there on the *Alnus* genus in general and many of the individual species. For instance, I read that alders are ideal where they are regularly cycled through wet and dry environments. No surprise then to find that much of the Venice waterfront is built upon alder logs. The detail to be found on Wikipedia is phenomenal. There must be many other websites of interest to woodturners. How about emailing Danny your favourite wood-related website(s) and some brief notes on why you find them interesting or helpful.

Happy turning and please give the next president the same support as you have given me.

Pat Jordan

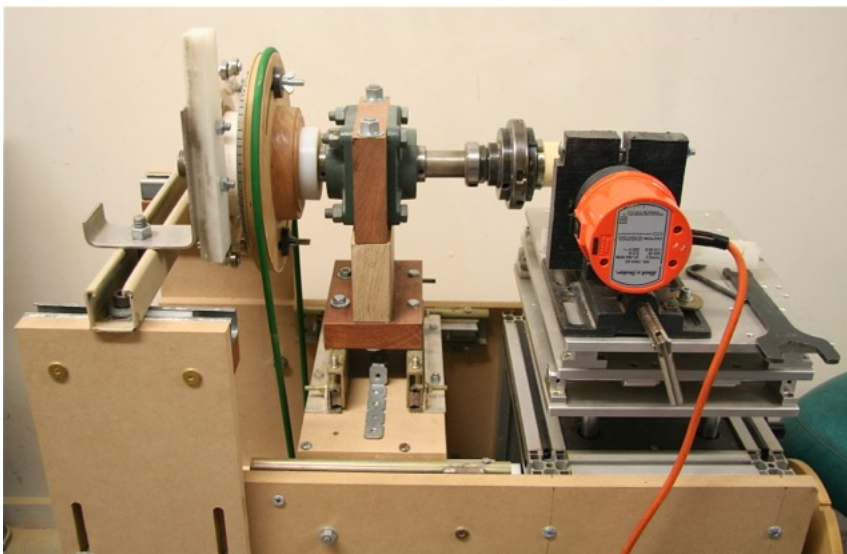
Keith McFadden: At Home in the Shed

Keith McFadden was born by the Main North Road in Belfast, and now lives two kilometres away in Redwood. His turning, however, has come a long way.

Growing up with the market gardens of the northern fringe around him, he did some landscaping but mostly market gardening himself for a decade or two. He's now at Winstone Wallboards, and has been for nearly 25 years. As suburbs have sprawled out to envelop the land Keith used to work, his shed no longer stands alone in a paddock, it's tucked away off an internal access garage.



He's always been a bit of a



woodworker, or liked to tinker a bit at least. The arty element of woodturning appealed when he bought a lathe instead of a colour telly about 30 years ago, although turning was still fairly rough and sporadic for a while after that. What boosted Keith from this limited turning to his current mastery of small, ornate turning was a discovery made in Waitaki.



Keith's still not sure how he came to be at a Spinaround down at Otematata, but despite having owned a lathe and done a bit of turning, that was the first time he recalls seeing the new style of chuck and all that they enabled turners to do. The freeform work he saw there really appealed, and he decided to concentrate on small stuff.

Interestingly, it's Otematata that you'd have to visit to find another item like the one Keith's built in his shed. It's an ornamental lathe, a rose engine machine, and down south Ken Newton has made one, too. This is what enables Keith to create such delicately decorated

lidded boxes.

The making and remaking of the rose engine machine has brought Keith as much joy as the turning he does on it! It's the Mark IV edition, he's rejigged it several times to make it more adjustable, The last tweak was to add heavy steel drawer slides, which he cut in half and used to slide the engine two ways. He doubts there'll be a fifth – this one does everything he can envisage.

Keith's just about to graduate from the Aoraki course, which as most students find, has broadened his range of turning ideas considerably. It's started him on a bit of a pen phase, and so of course he's doing that

differently too. The latest is pens from corian, an acrylic benchtop material he cuts up and turns to look like marble.

While lidded boxes are his forte, Keith is willing to try turning all sorts of things, and has found inside out turning to be a lot of fun.

This modest, can-do turner is a fund of interesting work, and keen to share it with the rest of us. Next time you see an ornate lidded box on the show table, check the base.

Clockwise from below: the turning nook, with before and after shelves; the homemade rose engine; Keith and lathes; shelves of his specialty.



Workshop Afternoons

It may be that there are some members who want to use a well-equipped workshop and have some company and assistance as they do so. The Aldred Men's Shed in St Albans is available for just such people, and for turning tutelage Rex Marshall is happy to spend Tuesday afternoons there if there is enough interest, starting Tuesday June 11 at 1pm. The Aldred Men's Shed is located at the corner of Nancy Ave and Knowles St in St Albans; a gold coin is required for entry.

For the Calendar

MAY 31 - JUNE 2: the Hari Hari Jamboree will be on this Queen's Birthday Weekend. Late entries will be accepted, but you had better be quick.

JULY 4: the club AGM will be held at the July Clubnight. Nominations for the next club committee and officers, before the AGM on July 4. Please use the enclosed form to nominate an officer or a committee member. Notices of motion for AGM discussion cannot be raised at the meeting if they have not been advised in advance.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24: Graduation evening for

the sixth Aoraki Course at the Cashmere Club. All are welcome: RSVP to Celia or Bruce Irvine.

For Sale

Scheppach thicknesser and planer on a mobile base. New, done less than 5 hours' work. Heavy duty cast iron tables. Surplus due to relocating. Call Ian Conway, 388 4101.

Noel has an estate sale with a DVR lathe, grinder with a Woodford jig and a Carbatec jig, and a selection of chisels and other tools. Proceeds will help the widow to have cataract surgery.

2012/13 Committee Contact Details

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