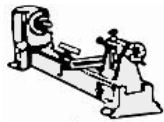


Splinters

Newsletter of the Christchurch Woodturners' Association

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



Christchurch
Woodturners
Association Inc.

Day and Night with Guilio



November's big day of demonstrations began in the mid-morning, and continued in the afternoon and late into the night. Guilio Marcolongo put lots of time and energy into showing us exquisitely-detailed turning. Despite going until nearly 10:30, most members remained, one commenting later that it was fascinating and "could have gone longer."

Various projects were made at Bruce's shed in the two day sessions, each 2 hours long. In the evening, Guilio began by showing us a spindle-shaped piece of wood which, to save time, he had made



beforehand. This was about 300mm long and uniformly 5mm diameter, with a 5x6 bulge about 6mm from each end. This would be used later in the

demonstration.

He spigoted a cylinder of yew about 150x60, and chucked it to turn the free end smooth. A half-V cut was made about 20mm in from the free end to form a cone-shaped piece to be the base of the box's stand.

Using a detail gouge, two "bobbin-ends" were formed at the ends of the remainder, then, again using the detail gouge, an egg shape was formed between the bobbin-ends. Then, with a skew chisel, he refined the egg-shape, and with a fine parting tool he began a cut in the middle. After final shaping of

Continued on **2**

Club Nights

Reports and pictures from the October and November clubnights.

Pages 4 & 5

"You Don't See That Much These Days..."

Rare trades.

Pages 6 & 7

A Temporary Shed

Have a nosy inside Bill Keast's shed before it moves.

Page 9

the egg, he finished the parting cut, leaving a half-egg (which will be the lower half of the finished article) on the lathe.

Next, with a skew then a home-made shear scraper, he hollowed this half-egg. With a parting tool he cut a recess 6mm deep to receive the spigot which will be formed on the upper half-egg, and sanded inside and out with #240 and #320, then #380 by rotary.

The last operation on this (lower) half-egg was to wax and polish it. For this, he smeared on Triple-E wax with his fingers, rubbed it in with a soft cloth, then applied Glow liquid finish on a cloth, and rubbed it with a cloth with the lathe running, to effect a high gloss.

He now reversed the half-egg in the lathe, holding it in the chuck by the spigot at its top, parted off the dovetail piece at the other end, and turned the end down to egg-shape, finally marking the centre point to start a drill hole. After sanding and polishing as before, Giulio drilled a hole about 5mm wide and 6mm deep at the centre.

Next, he mounted the bobbin-end of the other (upper) half-egg in the chuck, smoothed off the cut face of the half-egg, dressed the outside, and measured and marked on it the inside diameter of the bottom half-egg. From this marked diameter he hollowed it, then

made a spigot to fit into the socket on the lower half then sanded and polished it.

He now made a jam chuck to hold the (upper) half-egg, and used the tailstock to hold it in place while he turned the outer end down to an egg-shape, then marked the centre-point to start a drill hole. The half-egg was sanded as before, and a 5x6 hole was drilled in the end.



Now he took the offcut from the top half-egg, (about 70x20) and reduced it to a very blunt cone about 50x15 mm high. As previously, he sanded, polished, marked and drilled another 5x6 hole.

Finally, a finial was turned from an 18x150 piece. It ended up 15x70, tapering to a point from a bead near the headstock. One last sand and polish, then, beyond the bead, a 5 mm spigot was made to fit into the top of the top egg.

Finally, the five parts were glued together, with superglue on the spigots and activator sprayed into the holes. Giulio said that in the US, such a box would fetch \$1000.

Giulio now embarked on a second demonstration. He took a fresh 80x220 piece of yew, roughed it down, and formed a spigot. He clamped this in the lathe chuck and parted off a 25mm piece. He mounted this piece in the chuck, hollowed out about 70x10, and sanded the inside. On the outside he made a bead, leading into a V-groove, then he waxed and polished the hollow. This piece was to be the lid of a box.

From the remainder, he made the 60mm body of the box. First he made a spigot to fit the lid recess, and fitted the lid in place, holding it with the tailstock so he could shape the outside of the lid to an approximate hemisphere with a 10mm knob on top.

He continued this shaping on to the remainder of the cylinder to form a roughly spherical box, and refined the shape of the lid. Next he formed an “inversely-conical” base for the box, and sanded the base. Then he parted off the knob on the lid, and finished shaping the lid, then sanded all over with #180 and #240 papers, and finished with #320 on the rotary.

He now taped the lid on to the box, removed the tailstock, and turned a recess into the lid's top for an insert disc of paua. He confined the insert in place by running a texturing tool around the recess. Then he applied Triple-E wax, Glow polish all over, and parted it off.

The next step was to make a jam chuck to take the spigot on top of the box base. He fitted the box to this and taped them together, then parted the base off the original cylinder. The bottom of the base was turned flat, then hollowed to about 4mm deep, leaving about 5mm wall thickness. The base piece was now sanded and waxed.

Now, using the lathe's dividing head, he penciled six marks around the hollowed base edge, and took it off the lathe.

Guilio now produced a piece of wood dowelling about 25mm thick, turned at one end to a #2 Morse taper. Between centres, he wrapped a long, 25mm wide strip of sandpaper diagonally around the dowel to form a cylindrical grinder, and taped the ends in place.

Then, with the lathe running, he carefully ground six hollows around the base between the pencil marks, to form a scalloped edge. The final job was to wax and polish the base edge, the Triple-E polish removing the pencil marks.

Tom Dodd

From the President

Welcome everyone to the last newsletter for the year. I hope you are all able to come to the December meeting/Christmas function. Please remember to bring with you a toy you have made to be judged for the Jim Dunford Trophy and then to be donated to a charity. This has been a traumatic year for Christchurch and for us all as individuals. Hopefully our efforts will help brighten this Christmas for some children.

Despite the difficult times this year, I think that we as a club have achieved much. We managed to keep our meeting program almost intact, albeit in temporary rooms. The Cobham sessions continue to be useful for those who attend – please do feel free to come seeking advice on problems or feedback on your efforts. You may also phone in advance if so that we can be well prepared to help you.

Our club committee had an infusion of keen new blood this year, and you are seeing the results of this in a new style newsletter and revitalised website. Keep up the good work, Danny and Peter!

They say that it never rains but it pours – this was true with 2011's high-profile demonstrators. Firstly, Guilio Marcolongo from Phillip Island, Victoria, demonstrated

at three sessions on Thursday 3 November. Then only a week later we had Graeme Priddle present in the afternoon and again at night at Rangiora as part of a NAW-sponsored tour. These were wonderful opportunities to see two talented and creative turners happily sharing many of their techniques and design ideas. The legacy of these visits for me will include Guilio's use of the skew for finishing other work besides spindles, and the texturing tool he showed that produces such lovely results. From Graeme's sessions I will particularly remember him sharing his development of design ideas and his inventive ways with producing hot-wire tips for burning textured patterns into his work. It was also a great pleasure to share his company while shuttling him to and from the demonstrations.

The short notice of Graeme's itinerary showed the value of having email addresses for as many members as possible. Please let Bruce know your email address if he does not have the latest.

May you all have a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to your keen involvement in the club again next year.

Pat Jordan

October Club Night – Laminating Lowdown

October's demonstrations were both about making items from laminated wood. Bruce Irvine began by describing how he had made a big urn, using a large number of rings of about 20mm thick wood, each ring glued up from segments, and the rings then



glued together face to face in stages, several layers at a time, with the inside turned smooth before the next stage was added. The exterior would then have been turned and finished.

He showed two such urns, one big one and one smaller, both made 15 or more years ago, so he couldn't remember all the minute details of how they were made.

He had used the thicknesser to ensure that all twelve segments forming each ring were exactly the same thickness. The rings were made up of alternating segments, either of rimu and pine, or pine and mahogany, and were cut sequentially and numbered in the same sequence, then alternated in the ring assembly, so as to get the ring thickness as uniform as possible.

He glued the segments together using Selleys Aquadhere applied to one face with a spray of water on the mating face, clamping each ring of twelve segments



with a ring clamp for not less than four hours, with a 24 hour curing period. The ring thickness varied between rings, and the joints in the rings were staggered.

Turning was done with the base fixed to the lathe faceplate, and it proceeded in stages to allow the inside to be turned smooth, from the bottom up.

Noel Graham continued, by producing a cube of about 120 mm side, made up of rods about 120 mm long and 15 square, of alternately ash and mahogany, glued edge-to-

Show Table for the Months Ahead

December 1: toys for the Jim Dunford Trophy, to be given to charity.

February 2: animal, vegetable or mineral.

Demonstrators for the Months Ahead

December 1: Soren Berger.

February 2: to be arranged.

Next Cobham evening: February 16.

edge into slabs. Alternate slabs were oriented with the rods at right angles to each other.

Noel explained that all pieces of wood were put through a thicknesser to ensure all surfaces would fit together properly. He emphasised the necessity for using a first-class glue – polyurethane – and that it is essential to wear rubber gloves when working with it, as it is very difficult to wash off the fingers.

He took the cube, and with a coping saw he removed from one corner a pyramid about 10 mm high. He inserted the opposite corner of the cube into the empty headstock of the lathe, and pressed the live tailstock centre firmly into the middle of the truncated corner.

Now he turned off the corners and edges of the cube to form a conical surface at the headstock end, down to a 50 mm spigot. He asked us



to note that in this operation he was always turning end grain.

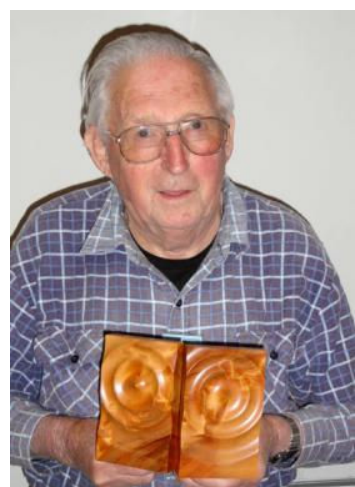
Next he cut off the corner that had been in the lathe spindle, remounted the piece with the spigot gripped in the chuck, and turned the conical surface down to an approximate hemisphere. Then, with the tailstock engaged, he hollowed the other end roughly, removed the tailstock, and finished hollowing to an approximately hemispherical shape inside.

The form he had by now created is known as a winged bowl, and the process he had been using is called bias turning. It may be done starting from either a cube or a rectangular block.

Noel described how he would go about sanding the winged bowl: he would use power sanding on the base, and on the outside and inside of the bowl up to the openings, with the lathe running. But the lugs had to be hand-sanded with the lathe stopped.

October's showpiece was an item turned eccentrically. The winner was Mike Wing, top right, with a small eccentric bowl carrying a turned umbrella. Second place went to Ian Conway, middle right, who made a wooden snake.

In November, the focus was on finishing, and Bruce Irvine, right, won with a pair of crown kauri bookends.



Tom Dodd

Rare Trades

You Won't See the Like of These Any More



No doubt you will have seen the Blokes and Sheds books around – you may have been given one on some Father's Day. Mark Thomson wrote the original back in 1995. The following is a rationale for another of his books, Rare Trades.

Whilst working on Blokes & Sheds I came across a number of shed dwellers who were old tradesmen – sometimes brilliantly (and oh so casually) skilled at their old trade.

What is more disturbing was the fact that some of those old fellows felt that they had never adequately passed their skills on to anyone. Technology may have made their particular skill

redundant or there is simply no longer a demand for what they do. These are often trades with an ancient legacy, some with special knowledge, habits, language and tools stretching back to medieval times and beyond. And they were on the verge of disappearing totally. They aren't happy about it either. Something doesn't add up in all of this – and I believe that it relates to the role of our hands, that important sense of feeling useful and capable, and many other microscopic changes to how we live and work that give many people a profound sense of unease.

Rare Trades concentrates on the old skills and trades to find out what they know and can pass on to future generations. The task is urgent. A number of prime subjects have passed on while I've been pondering the vast scale of this project.□ The dexterity and sureness, the years of learnt skill that went into some of the tasks they undertook is now a rare thing. It is now becoming very rare for anybody to use highly developed hand/eye skills at work – flapping away at a computer may be where people work but it does not provide a lot of satisfaction to many people.

We rarely use our hands to make things. The hand, so long an essential part of our development, is now being consigned to a secondary role. Human hands, capable of making objects of great utility and beauty, are now used to dial phones or press computer keys in the name of work. Work is, for most people, no longer a source of identity: it's now a generic process – a task you just do between 9 and 5.

We feel our loss keenly. On

Rare Trades

weekends, hardware stores fill with people fulfilling a deep urge to do something practical and useful. They take home pieces of wood, materials and tools, then wreck them in an attempt to recover some sense of accomplishment.

Rapid technological change has not obliterated the old trades completely. There are still those around who are part of an unbroken heritage of knowledge and skill, although perhaps not for much longer.

Some are the remnant of an old trade for which demand has virtually vanished. Some insist on doing things in an old way just because they don't like dealing with technology or have no faith in it. Some are trades that did vanish almost completely and have now been recreated as a result of demand. Some are not trades in the strict sense of being a tradesman but more an attitude towards work and finding practical solutions.

Some have turned into crafts, which strips away their original functional nature, turning them into "art" (unfortunately).

Along the way, many issues are emerging. Our roots in being an innovative culture; the trend towards being a



more indoor, inward looking nation; the fact that young people have little grasp of the power of the lever, the pulley or the wedge. Knowledge that made us great survivors may not be being passed on. This project is not an exercise in sentimentality – the “good old days” were often hard, sometimes brutal, badly paid work. Most of the old tradesmen I have spoken to like the fact that their power tools and computers can eliminate a lot of boring work and give them time to put their feet up. As one old fellow told me: “Mark, this is all rubbish: do you think anyone gives a stuff about what trade disappeared as a result of the invention of penicillin?”

Some of the people in *Rare Trades; making things by hand in the digital age* include:

patternmakers and coopers, shingle cutters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, sleepercutters, horologists, bookbinders, stonemasons, shipwrights, sailmakers, leather-plaiters, watchmakers, wheelwrights and coachbuilders, dry stonewall builders, and the list goes on and on.

I wanted the people whose trade is never quite acknowledged as an “art” yet still has an integral beauty to it that comes from the fact that a highly skilled human made these things with nothing but his or her hands, eyes, brain and some tools.

Mark Thomson's books can be found among his shed-like maze of fascinating stuff, the Institute of Backyard Studies on the web at www.ibys.org.

Danny Brooks

Turn an Elephant?

BOOK REVIEW: Turn an Elephant and Twelve Other Projects to Hone Your Turning Skills, by Brian Oram, [published by Author House, Bloomington, 2011, 172 pages].

Turn an Elephant is a new book that has been gifted to our club library by the enterprising English amateur turner, Brian Oram. He has put together some intriguing and rewarding turning projects, from the complex to the quite straightforward. There are ample CAD drawings and photographs, as well as very detailed instructions.

The projects are different! Quite a few of our members will get a skill challenge and enjoy doing things in a fairly unique way. The way to use this entertaining publication is to first of all get hold of it, keep it until the next

meeting, then return it so someone else can borrow it. But in between, you should make at least one of the projects.

The elephant is a real skill-stretcher, and being full of working, moving parts, it would be a challenge, then a treasure. The inside-out laminated egg timers are an easy read and look sharp. The heron will make a great gift for that special person. For those turners with both greater and less experience, there are also decorated bowls, a range of Victorian spinning tops, some very achievable penguins and a cool, complicated pineapple box.

Turn an Elephant will be available from the library at the December meeting. Get in QUICK.

Reviewed by Rex Marshall

Summer Planner

Christmas Function: 7:30pm on December 1, at Methodist Church, Brake St, Upper Riccarton. Bring your partner, a plate, and a toy you have made to give away.

The first club meeting for 2012 is at 7pm on February 2 at the College of Education, and the show table's summer turning challenge is an animal, vegetable or mineral.

The first hands-on night at Cobham is February 16.

One-Offs



Murray Askin has a heavy-duty roughing gouge made from a gudgeon pin. About 15 years ago, an engineering friend was looking for uses for the scrap metal he had lying around, and wondered what he could do with a gudgeon pin. The result is this chunky chisel.

Murray says the big gouge is perfect for stripping bark off timber, as it never jumps around, as well as general turning when a bit of weight is required. As the detail below shows, it's a bit of a rough job, but effective.



If you've got a one-off that's not a top national secret, tell Danny Brooks about it, so imitation can flatter your invention.

Bill's Shed (for a Limited Time Only)

Bill Keast works in a corner of his double garage, sharing space with vehicles and keeping one door open for the sake of a disoriented dog.

It's obviously a corner that works, as Bill has been producing some pretty nifty items. But he's used to bigger spaces – a lifetime on the land, first farming dairy cows, then sheep, deer, and even chickens has left its mark. That life was mainly in Southland, and the hospitality testifies.

The southern link is why Bill recognised one Rex Marshall when he thought he'd take a night-school woodwork class at Papanui High – they went



to school together back in Invercargill. Early on in the class, Rex said, 'Get on the lathe, Bill', and he did, to stay.

That was an interesting move, because Bill had previously

been offered a lathe, and had said 'no thanks'. He's always done a bit of woodwork, but turning never grabbed. But when he did get into it, a friend set him up with a long bed lathe, all the tools and plenty of extra gear for a good

price. Bill has moved on to enjoying the Aoraki course, finding that it opens up so much more to turn. 'Never ending options; a million things to make and ways to make them.' It sounds like Bill had become a bit used to making bowls, and as the photo attests, mastered the art.

As he diversifies, he is enjoying the challenges, mostly, and providing the neighbour with a bit of turned firewood, too.

It's part of the appeal for Bill. 'There's plenty of wood around, and you've got to try things. If you get it wrong, no worries, burn it and have another go.' There's certainly plenty of wood around, picked up here and there, and stacked neatly around the garage.

Plenty of Bill's creations are given away, to bring pleasure to family and friends. The house is for sale, and Bill and Gail have their eye on a place in Motueka. There will probably be a shed at the new place, rather than just a corner of the garage.

Need to Know: Handy Club Information

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

1 DECEMBER: Christmas evening is at the Methodist Church at Brake St, starting at 7:30pm. Come with your wives or husbands, partners, etc, and a plate. Bring your toy for the Jim Dunford Trophy, and it will be given to charity. Also bring your best piece for the year for the Showtable.

16-20 JANUARY: at the Adventist Church Camp at Cheney's, 1 or 2 turners are needed to help 10-12 year olds turn simple projects. The same project is made by a new set of children daily between 9:30am and 12. See Danny Brooks if you can help, even just for one morning. Any cheap or donated wood I'll gratefully accept, and pick up too.

12 FEBRUARY: Avice Hill (on Memorial Avenue) hosts a fun day. From 11am-3pm we will be giving hands-on turning demonstrations at our stand. Members please be involved, see Rex or Bruce.

16 FEBRUARY: the **Garden Gala** is held at **Riccarton House**, the club will have lathes there between 11am-2pm and they are there to be used – come and join in.

MAY 2012: the East Otago club in Palmerston is hosting the South Island Fun Day.

7 JULY 2012 NAW's AGM at Rangiora is not just reports and meetings, there are also some great demonstrations.

FOR SALE

Nova 3000 lathe, if interested please see Pat Jordan.

FOR SALE

A homemade lathe, 4 speed belt drive, on a timber stand. 370 watt 1420 RPM elect motor. Also a chuck and a faceplate, 8 carbon steel gouges, plus assorted dry wood blocks. For further details contact David Fagan in Rakaia on [03] 3027 407.

GUILIO'S SANDPAPER

Guilio's colour-coded, cloth-backed sandpaper can be ordered over the internet at www.boxmakerbrassware.com.au, or write to P.O. Box 136, Dungog, NSW 2420. No more looking for numbers on the back of the sandpaper.

BRITA SAFETY MOVED

For those of you who like this shop, it's no longer behind the Hornby Mitre 10, it's now on 591 Halswell Junction Rd.

2011/12 Committee Contact Details

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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.

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.