

Splinters

Newsletter of the Christchurch Woodturners' Association
<http://woodturning.org.nz/index.php>



Lots of Prizes on Christmas Night



Clockwise from lower left: Peter Clemett with the Jim Dunford Trophy for his racing cars; Pat Jordan's symbol of a fractured year, which tied with Bruce Findlay and his covered wagon lampshade, for 2011's best overall work.

Christmas Variety Evening: Lots of Fun

Club members and their wives or partners met together for a wrapup of the year at the Brake St Church Hall.

An enjoyable evening program was organised and it was nice to sit around tables and mingle over quizzes prepared by Celia Irvine and Mike Wing. Murray Askin played some carols on his accordion for all to sing along and enjoy.

Some marvelous turning was displayed on two tables. The "usual" showtable, had toys, which the wives and partners were to judge for the Jim Dunford Trophy, and the Best of the Year table had some sterling pieces, large and small. Peter Clemett's racing cars were judged the best of the toys, but there were some terrific entries, lots of hours of fun in store for local children in need of some joy.

Bruce Findlay and Pat



Jordan were awarded equal best piece for the year, as shown on the cover page.

The Christmas spirit was tested by a remarkable run of raffle luck, as club committee members seemed to have a run of prizes.

And club patron Soren Berger demonstrated a nifty little container, a simple lidded box. His point was that it's not necessarily the spectacular nature of the

turning, but sometimes wood from a significant place or event can make a piece stand out. With a lot of people being moved on by the earthquakes, wood from the old house or garden could add this extra appeal.

Soren put an 8" by 5" magnolia blank between centres and roughed it down. He finds a half inch roughing gouge ideal for shaping small stuff. Once it



Christmas Evening Demonstration



was true, and had a spigot at each end, he parted it off, and found the spigot to only just fit the chuck.

Once he'd shaped the base, Soren drilled the hollow with a hand held bit, which he'd measured with his finger-ruler. This was a theme of the demonstration – rough enough is good around the house; if it's less finished, it will be more used; a few rumples and ridges make a piece more homely.

Once it was hollowed out, intentionally not stunningly thin, the container was parted off. Soren suggests

that parting tools are best used with a wiggle. He undercut the base and then began to fit the lid to the container. He was quite



happy with a sloppyish fit for two reasons: firstly, the wood still being wet would change shape slightly, and second, while other turners are impressed at a perfect, tight fit, the multitasking user will be less impressed, and would prefer a lid that comes off with one hand's light tug. A main emphasis of Soren's talk was function rather than form.

Hollowing out the inside of the lid and shaping the top were the last jobs. Soren had planned the demonstration so meticulously that he had the lid fly out of the chuck, as he wanted us to note that chucks do not have to be super tight, and work better just tight enough.

Soren hollowed the top of the lid, to ensure that he was not leaving much thickness of wet timber to warp. And once he was happy with the indented knob for a handle, presented a simple, handy little container that may not win any prizes for finish or perfection, but would be well used around the house.

Danny Brooks

February 2 demonstration: Back to Basics 1: spindle turning with the Aoraki tutors.

February 16: first hands-on evening for the year at Cobham Intermediate.

March 3 demonstration: Back to Basics 2: tool sharpening and workshop safety with Noel.

One-Offs

Derek Upton makes captive ring making tools, using old screw drivers [or bargain box new ones]. Old mortising chisels will also suffice. Here are his instructions:

You need an oxy acetylene plant, or a friend's. Once you have that on hand, put about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of your screwdriver in the vice, heat the shaft red hot and bend it 90 degrees. Get it into some cold water right away, and do a few more while you're at it, for the trouble of setting up the gas gear.

The next trick is grinding the tip to a square, tapered point. The point will guide, and the square edges will cut and clear the ring.

One way is to part a slot beside each ring, wide enough to insert the point. Depending on how they're ground, you can use the tool to separate the ring from either side, or both. Sand

and finish before fully



ng the ring.

From the President

Welcome back everyone to the start of another year. I sincerely hope that you all experience a better year in 2012 than you faced in 2011. I personally have no cause to remember last year with any fondness, with some difficult circumstances arising quite apart from what the earthquakes brought. And yet, when I look back, there was much to remember positively: two great weekends away at Harihari and Oamaru, the on-going friendship and camaraderie of fellow woodturners, the pleasures of taking part in the Aoraki woodturning course, the demonstrations by Guilio Marcolongo and Graeme Priddle. And that's just the woodturning pluses. Add in a test cricket win over Australia, the love of family and friends, the strength and support of my wonderful wife and the fun of taking our 15-month old granddaughter to the local playground and generally watching her grow up, and I can relate to a quote from Terry Pratchett's latest diskworld novel: "Count your blessings – until you run out of numbers".

Already as I write (on January 10), your committee

has had its first meeting for the year. In mapping out the demonstrations programme for the year, we have tried a different approach. We have drawn up a list of topics for meetings and will next try to find demonstrators to match the topics. You will see as the year progresses how this approach turns out. Any feedback on the programme or ideas for topics is always welcome.

Thanks to Peter Clemett for sorting out the technology so that we can feed from the camera straight into the projection system in our meeting room. That seemed to work very well at the November meeting and will save quite a bit of effort in manhandling the heavy screen into meetings. We will keep the old screen however for use should we again need to meet elsewhere.

Best wishes to all for a happy and successful year in 2012. May your time in the workshop be a source of great relaxation and satisfaction.

Pat Jordan

A Treasure Shed of Miniatures



Keith Gardiner's ordinary looking Bishopdale shed is full of surprises. As he starts opening a few drawers and cupboards, you find some pretty special things: tiny goblets, thimbles, wee doll's house crockery with intricate detail or tiny captive rings.

Keith has one normal-sized lathe and one smaller lathe, below, that he made himself from spare metal lying about

on his brother's farm. Spindle turning is his thing, and miniature turning even more so is his specialty, honed in early years of farm tinkering and a career as a watchmaker.

In the 1980s, Keith's wife won a Win-a-Wish radio contest. She wanted a spinning wheel, and wanted Keith to learn to make it. So a free Polytech course with Max Melisi began the journey, and although he's 87 now, there are still a few things in production.

Keith enjoys the miniature stuff, liking the fact that he can crank out tiny goblets, bowls and other minutiae in minutes. Obviously, there is a more time-consuming side to it – each rear wheel of the traction engine, top left, took eight hours. As with the mini-lathe, below right, all the parts spin and work.

So if you ever need unique gifts, like a toothpick [with a captive ring] for a hamster, or designer jewelry for your grandchildren's Lego man, Keith is the man to call.



Brian Syder

19 February 1942 – 26 November 2011

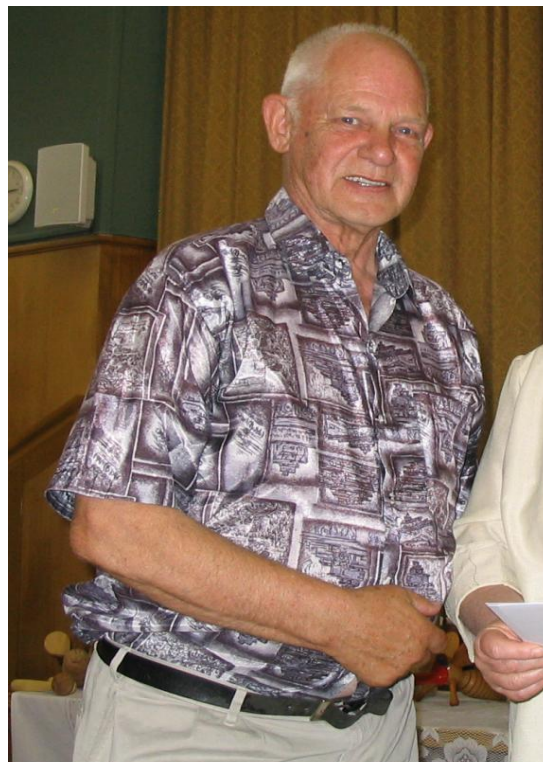
It is with deep fondness that we remember Brian as a bright and “always talking” committee member and fellow woodturner. For many new club members, Brian will have been the first regular they got to know, a man who instantly made them feel welcome.

Brian served many years on the committee of the Christchurch Woodturners.

Brian had many other attributes outside of woodwork. He was a musician playing the organ and piano.

He was also a prominent member in the Orchid Society and competition judge.

Vale.



Bruce Irvine

2012 CALENDAR

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

TWO Nova 3000 lathes are available; if interested please see Pat Jordan.

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.

Teknatool outrigger for larger turnings, for DVR, 1624 and 3000 lathes. Never been used, currently retails for \$409, available for \$280 or near offer. Call Ian Conway on 388 4101.

Conversation with a Woodturner's Wife

“Really enjoyed the evening of the Christmas clubnight. But I was confused as I tried to put faces to these half familiar names.

Now to start with, I knew the bloke from the market stall. But I thought that was this Bruce I keep hearing about. And the guy we helped clean up at the end, you say that's Rex? I thought he looked like a Pat. Now the one you say is Pat, he whose twisted turning won the trophy for the year, he looked more like a Noel to me.

And I noticed there was a lady on the team running the quiz? Is she attached to the bloke you say is Bruce but who looked like a Rex to me? No?

I'm all confused – we'll have to sort it out next Christmas.”

2011/12 Committee Contact Details

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