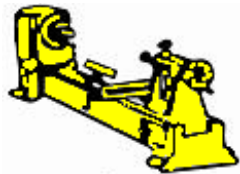


Splinters

Newsletter of the Christchurch Woodturners' Association

www.woodturning.org.nz



Christchurch
Woodturners
Association Inc.

Fun Day Winners



Recently, a team from our club headed south to do battle once again for interclub honours. This year's South Island Fun Day was hosted by the East Otago Woodturners at the Dunback Hall, just west of Palmerston. John Scott, Noel Graham, Bruce Irvine, Rex Marshall, James Smith, and Peter Clemett made the journey, loaded with showpieces from various club members and a

Continued next page

The club meets for a demonstration on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm at the College of Education, and for a hands-on night at Cobham Intermediate every third Thursday of the month, also at 7pm. All are welcome, and there is a \$2 door charge for the demonstrations.

April and May Photos
& Reports, 4 – 5, 8 – 9.

Ten Questions for
Denis Monti, Page 6.

Inside a Nomad's
Shed, Page 10 & 11.

Interclub Fun Day: Success at Palmerston



determination to build on last year's success.

The East Otago Club is relatively young (*check with Noel how young*), but it has an enthusiastic membership and an asset in their well set up workshop and clubrooms. They turned an old Sunday School hall into a permanent home for 15 lathes, plus bandsaws and assorted tools. They run the Aoraki course programme to upskill their members and thrive under leadership of Barney Barton.

Our team stayed Friday night at various venues in Oamaru and Moeraki, and set up early on Saturday morning. Four other teams from the lower South Island were present this year: Timaru, the Waitaki

Woodturners Guild, Otago, and hosts East Otago. During the day, a number of visitors also dropped in to take in the sights and sounds and add to the atmosphere.

Tables for each club were already in place on the stage, so we got started on dressing ours up. Our club had never won the table competition before and having determined that this year was going to be ours, Celia Irvine had drafted in Peter and his wife Julie to inject some fresh ideas and assist. Although we'd planned a Pacific theme, not actually having seen the pieces together beforehand, meant we had to improvise. After an hour or so of hard work, the table was looking very smart, and it was

fingers crossed that it would appeal to the judges.

After a spot of morning tea, generously catered by local ladies, it was into the main business of the competition. Up for grabs was the Totally Totara Tina Turner Trophy for the team who, during the course of the day, could produce the best two identical wig stands. The East Otago club intends to later finish the pieces and donate them to the Cancer Society.

At the sound of the hooter, all teams started on the first of the tops, and the shavings were soon flying. Bruce took first stand and produced a simple, nicely formed top for Noel to copy in the next round. Each round was only 15 minutes long, but with the planning we'd done in advance, and focusing on simple forms, it



was possible to complete each piece within the allocated time. The bases came next, and in successive slots James and Rex completed a smart pair.

Lunchtime was suitably leisurely, with plenty of time to enjoy the good food and company. It also gave those who hadn't had a chance to look over the show tables and select their own "best piece" – just to make sure the judges would get it right.

With lunch over, it was back into the turning, and the final run to the finish. John took care to form the spigots on his stem and ensure they were a good fit into the top and base before producing a nice, flowing form. All Peter had to do was copy that and we were done. The assembled wig stands were then put on to a table for judging whilst we relaxed and cleaned up.

A short while later, Barney

announced the results to a hall silent with anticipation. The Tina Turner Trophy was first, and our team once again emerged victorious. Peter accepted the trophy and a cheque for \$150 on behalf of the club. The NAW provides interclub prizemoney for the hosting club to disburse as they see fit.

The next award up was for best club table, and to our great pleasure, the judges had decided this year that our table was worthy, and for her help Julie Clemett was persuaded to accept the trophy and another \$150 cheque. The judges commended the combination of variety of pieces, design and form, quality, finish, and overall "wow" factor.

The final awards were for the top pieces, and here Rex emerged victorious. His inlaid, purpleheart and holly, lidded, teardrop box is an

outstanding item, and very deservedly the "best in show".

There followed a brief, but interesting talk by Ron Gregory, a Palmerston local. The raffle was drawn and it was time to pack up and reflect on another enjoyable event. Victory this year aside, the real worth of such events is definitely in the participation by clubs and their membership, and the sharing of ideas and fellowship. If you have never had the pleasure of the experience and taking part, I urge you to give serious thought to doing so. Let's see if we can get at least two teams back to Dunback next year.

Peter Clemett



Club Night Schedule

June: AGM, then Les Brindley demonstrating with his off-centre chuck. Showtable: a lidded box.

July demonstrator: a guest turner, to be confirmed. Showtable: something turned off-centre.

August demonstrator: Peter Clemett. Showtable: a bowl no larger than 200mm diameter.

Don't forget to borrow DVDs or books from the library, and collect some of the free magazines.

April Club Night: Turning Burrs

Noel Graham showed a range of burrs, pointing out the things to observe when buying one. Redwood can have borer and like Rimu, it is not normally very spectacular; generally small is better. Silver Beech burrs usually have a bird's eye pattern and Red Beech and Totara are also usually good. Macrocarpa can have borer, so tapping the outside to hear if it is hollow is a good idea, as with any burr really.

Noel stressed that you should have a plan and do a sketch before beginning to turn your burr. Noel did a quick sketch on the white board and mounted a small Beech burr onto a screw chuck.

He then turned a 50mm spigot on the end and shaped the outside diameter as per the sketch. The piece was then held by the spigot in a chuck and the inside was quickly hollowed out. Only the main body of the burr should be power-sanded with the outer, wavy edges done by hand to ensure a crisp edge.

A piece of Southland, or Curly, Beech, about 200mm



diameter, was mounted on the screw chuck and a 50mm spigot was turned before Noel shaped the outside diameter. The ripple grain effect causes rough patches in the turning and a sharp chisel and fine cutting is required.

Next up was a 500 year old piece of Totara, above, taken from the lake at the Pegasus subdivision. The blank was

about 150mm diameter and about 120mm long, very dark grey, with half of it full of small worm holes.

Again Noel mounted it on a screw chuck and turned a 50mm spigot on the end before shaping the outside to a conical shape. Then he reversed with the spigot held in a chuck and the inside hollowed out to



April Club Night, Continued

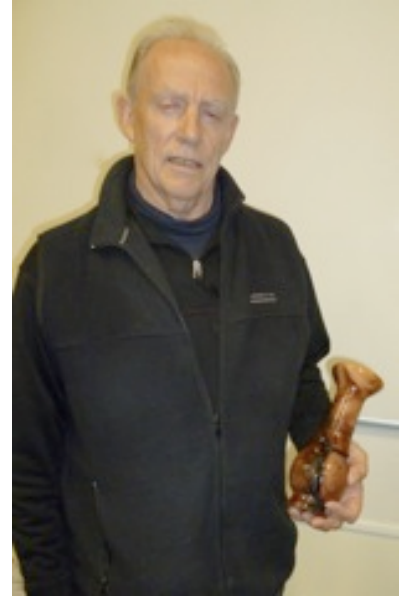


Noel working on the Pegasus swamp totara.

about 10mm wall thickness using a 12mm gouge chisel. Noel said that he uses the same chisel for most burrs regardless of the size. The holes make a decorative feature on the finished article.

Noel finished by emphasising that you should have a go at turning burrs or anything else you can get hold of, even Oamaru stone!

Rick Bolch



Robin Blowers with his winning bud vase.

Certificate in WOODTURNING GRADUATION 2012

You are invited to be present at this occasion. This is an open invitation.

The evening is to be held at the Cashmere Club, Colombo Street from 6.30pm on Thursday, 30th August 2012 beginning with dinner at \$30 per head.

There will be a display of the graduates' "Graduation Piece" and an after dinner speaker and presentation of certificates.

RSVP: advising number attending by Friday 21 August 2012.

Phone : 03 358 8482 | Email: bruce.irvine@xtra.co.nz

Ten Questions for Denis Monti

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

Nothing, really, it sounds funny, but this is a bit of a blank time – I've just gotten back into hobby stuff, having been making nothing but pens for three years.

Favourite wood? Yew.

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

About 20 years, on and off. I seem to dabble in a craft until I shake it to bits, get reasonably handy at it, then move on. But I can't see myself ever tiring of turning and making pens.

Have you had any training?

No, I'm mostly self-taught, working it out as I go.

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

I've probably made close to 4000 pens, some of them pretty interesting – turning steel rebar, pine cones with liquefaction embedded, fishing rods and flies, resin, rifle cartridges, etc. and seeing how it can work. Faux cigar pens from burrs are the latest



challenge.

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

It kind of goes in phases, cranking out a certain kind of pen, and then moving on to the next design.

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

They're not too over-planned actually, although obviously I do make prototypes. There's a lot of trial and error, but there is a bit of healthy evolving.

What does your wife think of your turning?

She loves it. She likes that I could manage my time and work from the shed, and she reckons the novelty pens are great. She is my best critic; if it passes her critique, it's ready for the market. She's not so keen on the mess, though.

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

I'm quite into computers, in the arty side of things, fiddling around with photoshop. I've done a bit of leadlighting and oil painting.

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

Yeah, it's been nice to do something totally different. I'm a pilot, and it was great to be able to put real work aside and get on with a hobby full time for a few years. I'm back full time in aviation again now, though, as the Arts Centre Market, where I was selling them, is now out of action. And now that I'm back to hobby turning, I can use my spare time to experiment with new ideas – such as making pens with as few metal parts as possible.

From the President

Last weekend the South Island Inter-club Fun Day was held in Palmerston. Unfortunately I was not there as it clashed with a rare visit from our daughter from Brisbane, so I missed the experience of our club scooping the pool of prizes. Congratulations to the team of six who won the turning competition on the day. Also bravo to Rex Marshall who won the prize for the best individual piece displayed.

Especially pleasing was our win in the club table competition where our display of ten pieces by ten different members was judged the best club table. Thanks to all those who played a part in this, either by arranging our table or by providing a piece for display. It really does help to have a few extra pieces available so that the best range and balance of pieces can be selected on the day. By making one of my turnings available, I could be part of our club's effort, even though I couldn't physically attend the day. Please

resolve to lend one of your best pieces so that we can defend the trophy next year.

The June meeting is AGM time again, followed by a demonstration. If you want to get more deeply involved with the club, then perhaps it is time for you to stand for the committee. It is healthy for us to have one or two new committee members each year to give a steady influx of fresh ideas, wisdom and enthusiasm. Talk to Bruce or myself if you want to find out more about what is involved.

It was great to see a record number of entries on the show table for the May meeting. To have 25 entries was so encouraging after the rather embarrassingly small number we have had on some months lately. We try to have the competition topic related to a recent demonstration if that is practical for most people to do, otherwise some item that most or all will have made in the past. The topics for June and July were already announced in the

previous newsletter, so you have had plenty of notice. In case you have forgotten, it's a lidded box for June. Of course you are free to select one you have made previously and enter it. However I would encourage you to make a new one for the competition if you have time, as that provides the opportunity to do better than any previous effort.

Time for me to stop rambling now and go and select a nice piece of wood for a new lidded box. See you at the AGM.

Pat Jordan

Credits

All are welcome to add to Splinters, ideas, photos or ads or copy. Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition: Rick Bolch, Peter Clemett, Keith Gardiner, Bruce Irvine, Pat Jordan, Denis Monti, Ray Morgan, and James Smith.

Email anything to Danny:
d.brooks@cas.school.nz

May Club Night: Holding on to Your Work

May's demonstration was a show and tell session on holding devices presented by Noel, Rex and Bruce.

Noel began by explaining the benefits and uses of a variety of chucks he had displayed. They ranged from the 25mm pin jaw chuck through to a 100mm scroll chuck. He put emphasis on the holding power of the long nose spigot jaws, which are designed for clamping only. The 100mm jaws are ideal for use with the screw as a screw chuck and the jumbo jaws ideal for clamping large spigots. They keep larger pieces of work further away from the headstock allowing room to work.

Soft jaws are used to protect the work from the hard metal faces where no marks for a superior finish are paramount. Often these need to, or can be, shaped for a particular use or gripping style. On step jaws, Noel's clear message: "Don't waste your money!"

Noel mentioned other types of jaws, the pendant jaw; Cole jaws, which must not



exceed 500rpm; faceplate rings and the Rotomount for carving or embellishing.

A warning was given to members buying used to be aware that a run of older black jaws did not come with a manufactured taper on the inner lip and often readily came loose (or off) in use.

Rex focused on self-made chucks. He described and passed around many examples to demonstrate how to make various jam chucks, drill chuck, hot glue chuck, paper joint chuck. A paper joint chuck is where a piece of paper is placed between two glued surfaces and broken apart upon completion of the turning and the surface cleaned up.

He then showed the members how an offcentre glue chuck was made. The piece to be turned was glued with a paper joint to a waste block which had the off centre screw hole[s] which in turn was fitted to a screw chuck. A recommendation for turning larger items on a screw chuck was to make a perspex backing plate to support the turning. This is screwed on to the chuck first and the workpiece screwed up to it. A large variety of tailstocks, step centres and drive centres were circulated and their uses explained.

Bruce demonstrated how to re-turn a bowl that had been turned green/wet and had

May Club Night, Continued

distorted. The bowl used had a distinct oval shape and it was necessary to re-turn the base spigot to round to finish the bowl. Bruce first placed the bowl by its spigot on to the scroll chuck in the normal way and turned a recess into the internal base. He then removed the bowl, changed the chuck to a “long nosed pin jaw” re-fixed the bowl to these jaws on the inner recess and proceeded to re-cut the outer spigot back to round. Once he had done this he changed the chucks back so he had the scroll chuck to fit the outer base spigot too and complete the turning. Bruce then showed how an original pin chuck worked. A 25mm diameter pin was machined with a 3mm “keyway” where a 3mm diameter pin was laid. A 25mm diameter hole is drilled into the item [ball] to be turned to a predetermined depth. This is then slipped over the pin chuck and the 3mm pin is laying on the keyway. Once it has been pushed up tightly the item [ball] is then twisted to rotate the 3mm pin and it rolls across the flat surface and

tightens on the outer surface of the 25mm pin, tightening the ball on to the pin chuck. To release just turn the ball back in the opposite direction.

Noel led a detailed discussion on various aspects of vacuum chucks, emphasising that the larger the diameter being turned the greater the force exerted on to the item. This is due to the surface area being subjected to the atmospheric pressure once the opposite side of the item is under vacuum. You must ensure a good seal of all components making up the vacuum chuck, as any air leakage reduces the holding power and performance. When fitting items to the vacuum chuck use the tailstock to centre up then turn on the vacuum. To cut off the spigot and tidy the base of these items work your gouges parallel to the bed, towards the headstock, and once completed, the final cut can be taken across the base softly, quietly and gently to perfect your item.

Ray Morgan



May Showtable: a Good One to Win

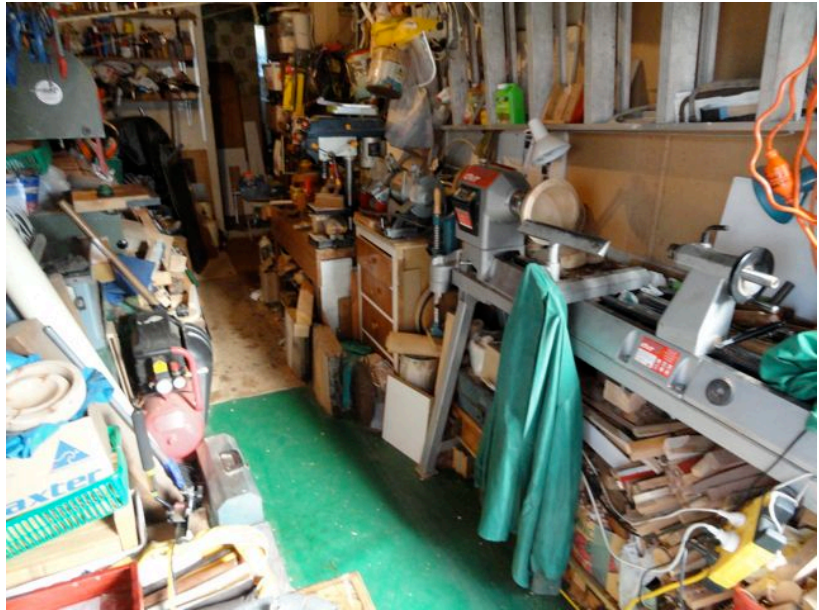
A laden showtable of natural edged turnings beamed all evening, the best number of entries for many months, if not ever. Perhaps we need a regular stir up from Celia to get us motivated. Chris Albers' unidentified wood burr, above, won the night, and in second place was Mike Wing's hazel burr, below, his first ever.



James Smith's Shed: Ready to Move at any Time

Real estate agents like to talk about “indoor-outdoor flow”. Well James Smith, with his St Martins flat, has achieved excellent shed flow. There is an abundance of matter, evidence of plenty of work getting done, and plenty more wood about to be used. And tools. And the list goes on.

James has always enjoyed seeing tools get rejuvenated, rather than retired. A section of the slender shed space is crammed with a veritable SPCA of tools rescued from the market or the dump, once in the prime of their life.



That's how he began to turn: waking up tired old push-mowers, he figured the easiest and cheapest way to get the bits he wanted was to

turn them. Upon buying an old Myford ML8, the kind of lathe he remembered using at school, a fishing friend put him on the club, he went off to Harihari and got hooked.

The ex-banker has been at it for nearly a decade, and has packed a lot in. Rather than specialising his skills too much, James enjoys a bit of everything: basic and fancy, pyrography, embellishment, toys, all sorts. Doing the Aoraki course a few years ago really broadened his span of ideas and skills.

But his main thing is the traveling: there are so many



Inside James Smith's Shed

good weekend events on around the island, and with a campervan, being retired and liking a bit of fishing, James finds it pretty tough to stay in one spot. Weekends in Southland, Otago, the West Coast and occasionally the North Island ensure that James has a network of turners and craftsmen all around the country whenever he wants to know just how to crack some new task.

The networking side of these swapmeets is gold for James. He especially savours the Otago and Southland events, as they never seem to feature demonstrators. James is not perturbed by this, but relishes it. "Everyone there becomes a demonstrator, and you learn so much from each other – it's brilliant!"

Other reasons to travel include fishing and just getting away from town and the usual, and it's great to be able to take the lathe and tools. There is a portable kit stashed ready to travel, and things obviously go both ways – there's wood from all around the country tucked in

various corners of the place.

Lots of James' work bears distinctive character: he doesn't like making ordinary stuff. He figures if the wood doesn't stand out, the design should.

And what tells him when it's time to move? In the camper-van, this tide clock, right.



One-offs: Keith's Thread Cutter

When Keith Gardiner wants to cut a thread for a lidded container, or a nutcracker or somesuch, he pulls out his trusty homemade thread cutting machine.

He's not sure when he made it or whether he'd seen something similar, but it's a

sewing machine motor with some bits and pieces from round about. It works better on cross grain than end grain, and you have to do the lid first, or you'll run out of space.

Definitely a bit of you-beaut technology that does the job.



Calendar

JUNE 2-4: Harihari is on again this Queens Birthday weekend. Nelson's Terry Brunell is the demonstrator; he likes a different sort of turning, such as driftwood. He will be bringing a trailer load of wood and setting you at it, with the emphasis on guided hands-on turning. Those of you who have not been before and wish to go, see Celia for a registration form. This is always a marvelous weekend.

JULY 7: NAW's AGM is at Rangiora from 9am to 4pm and is open to all, free of charge, whether you are an NAW member or not.

There are reports, meetings and demonstrations by Soren Berger and Ken Newton. A soup lunch will be available for \$5.

AUGUST 30: Graduation night for the Aoraki course, at the Cashmere Club; more details on page 5.

SEPTEMBER 14-16: Timaru Woodturners' Club has a 25th jubilee celebration, with Terry Scott and Guilio Marcolongo. Tool sale and raffle, a Saturday workshop and Sunday demonstrations. Contact Adrian Slooten aslooten@orcon.net.nz for registrations.

OCTOBER 4-7: South Auckland Woodturners' Guild is

to run a major woodturning symposium held at Wesley College, Paerata. There are 14 demonstrators and lots more happening.

Website Update

There is a new Projects Page, aiming to feature projects from club members and links to the best of other projects pages on the web. Please contribute your projects, (especially projects of your own devising). Peter Clemett can assist with the writeup and presentation if necessary. Your projects will make the page come alive.

Bill Owen's catalogue is now available on the club's website, see the cover.

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.

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

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