

Splinters

August 2025

The newsletter of Christchurch Woodturners Association Inc.



Christchurch Woodturners Association Inc.

In this months Newsletter:

[Wanted](#)

[Club Caps](#)

[Club fund raiser - wood still available](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[The Art of Wood Exhibition 2025](#)

[July Club Meeting Show Table](#)

[Monthly meeting demo writeup - Embellishment](#)

[Club Member Profile - Kyle Burns](#)

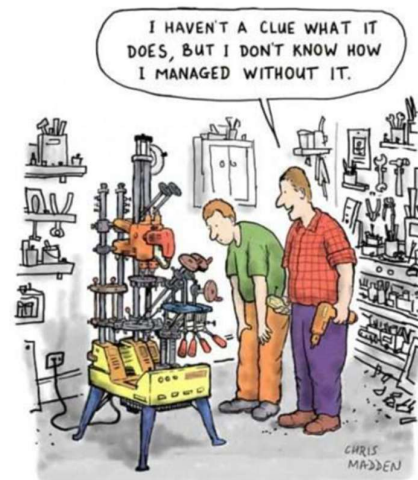
[A few woodturning links you might explore](#)

[Club contacts](#)

[Wig Stand Session Flyer](#) 30 August

[Collaboration Weekend 2026](#)

[From the Nelson Districts Woodturning Club](#)



Wanted

The club has received another request from a blueberry grower, for as much sawdust as we can collect.

If you have excess sawdust can you contact Nigel

Text: 021 186 2768

Email: president.chchwoodturners@gmail.com

Club Caps



Show your support for your club, both financially and to the general public. Purchase one of these caps and wear it when you are woodturning to keep the shavings out of your hair. If you don't have hair, you can wear it outside to keep the sun off. Wear it when you meet other woodturners from other clubs. Be proud to say that you belong to the Christchurch Woodturners Association.

Contact Nigel if you want to purchase (\$15) a cap.

President.chchwoodturning@gmail.com

Thanks Sam for modelling the cap.

For Sale Club Fundraiser - still some timber left

Olive root balls, Cherry Laurel (wet and needs cutting in half) and Oak timber for woodturning.

These are for sale - \$25 of a olive root, or @10 for cherry laurel and oak.

First in first served... contact Nigel E on 021 186 2768.



Upcoming Events Calendar

Christchurch Club Sessions

- Thursdays** Afternoon (1-4pm) or evening (7-9pm) turning at the clubrooms
- Wed 27 Aug** Club night demonstrator: Andrew Biggs - wig stands
- Sat 30 Aug** Workshop session with Andrew Biggs - making wig stands (See flyer at the end of the newsletter)
- Mon 1 Sept** Chch Woodturners Committee meeting at the Clubrooms - all welcome
- Wed 3 Sept** Miniature Turning at the Clubrooms, Auburn Reserve
- 2026** Collaboration Workshop (**30 Jan - 1 Feb**) put this weekend in your diary

Regional Events

- 22-23 Aug** **Camp Run Amok** Southland Woodworkers Guild (Invercargill)
- 20 Sept** **South Island Fun Day** (Ashburton)
- Everyone is invited. If you are interested please let Nigel (our club President) know.
- Each club is to present a display table.
- The main item to be made will a hat stand. Six turners from each club will make two matching hat stands, no measuring devices are allowed!
- 31Oct-2 Nov** **Spin Around Waitaki** (Oamaru)
- A 3 day woodturning event featuring demonstrations by guest demonstrator Paul Barton. Each demonstration is followed by time in the workshop so that those attending can have a go at the projects demonstrated. To see examples of his work, visit Paul's Instagram page: [@paulbarton_woodartist](https://www.instagram.com/paulbarton_woodartist)

Not happening - please note that sadly there is no Waioira Turn Inn planned for 2026, but they are looking at alternative events.



The Art of Wood Exhibition 2025

A National Association of Woodworkers Inc Event

The Art of Wood Exhibition 2025

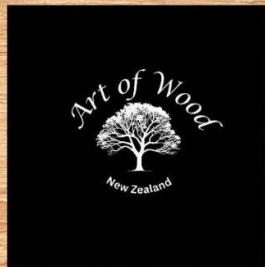
Please visit <https://exhibition.naw.org.nz>

An Event of The National Association of Woodworkers NZ Inc.

"Promoting, fostering and encouraging art and craft in wood"

The National Association of Woodworkers NZ Incorporated brings together both amateur and professional people from all over New Zealand who are skilled in working with wood.

Now open for entries



The Art of Wood Exhibition The Nuts and Bolts

Timetable:

Open for entries: 01 August 2025

Entries Close: 15 September 2025

Winners announced: 01 October 2025

Exhibition open for viewing: 01 October 2025

Exhibition closed: 31 December 2025

CATEGORIES:

Plain Bowls and Platters

Embellished Bowls and Platters

Hollow Forms/Vases

Domestic

Boxes

Furniture

Ornamental

Sculpture

Wall Art

Natural

Plus "Not for Sale" option



2024 Supreme Winner
Neil Clayton



**Total prize
pool
\$9500**

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THE HOME OF WOODWORKING

Major Sponsor

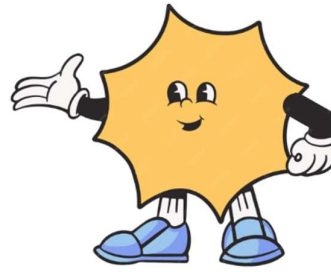
VISIT: [ART-ENTRY.NAW.ORG.NZ](https://art-entry.naw.org.nz)



July Club Meeting - Show table...

Peoples Choice this month...

- 1st** Dave C - large painted bowl
- 2nd** Mike G - elm ball
- 3rd** = Peter C - Salt + Pepper
- Keith McF - twisted doughnut
- Kapila P - convertible container
- Ray M - fruit bowl



Dave C



Mike G



Keith



Ray M



Peter C



Kapila



July Monthly Meeting Demo

Kyle Burns - Embellishment

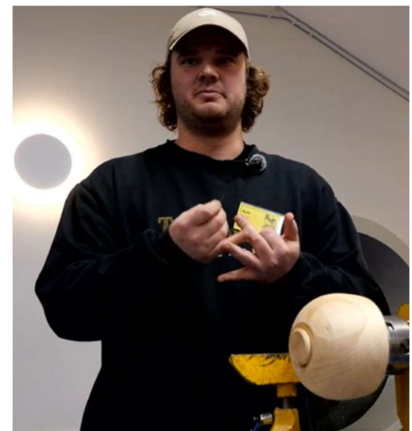
Do you have a turned creation you want to embellish i.e. make (something) more attractive by the addition of decorative details or features? Take a pretty plain piece of wood and turn it into something that is quite unique and take it to that next level.

Experimenting with tools such as a Dremel, burrs and pyrography machine have led to lots of creative experimenting and application.

The NAW weekend in Wellington sparked Kyles enthusiasm for tonight's demo – a box weave pattern using the pyrography machine and a box weave brand coil.

Making the branding bit:

You need pliers, vice grips, 1.5-2mm hex drive drill bit (use as a mandrel) and nichrome wire. As an aside Nichrome is a family of alloys of nickel and chromium commonly used as resistance



wire, heating elements in devices like toasters, electrical kettles and space heaters, in some dental restorations and in a few other applications.

Align the wire along the hex drive part of the drill bit and lock it off with the vice grips at the start of the drill bit.

Then as tightly as you can wrap the wire up and around the drill bit in tight loops that are hard up beside each other. The number of loops you choose to do will depend on what width of basket weave you want to do.

Kyles pattern is 2 vertical and 2 horizontal brands and the idea is to get these square so when you work up and down you get nice grids. So your number of wraps needs to correspond with the pattern the other way i.e. vertical and horizontal are the same length. And with this diameter drill bit Kyle has worked out that the magic number is five.

When finishing, ensure that your wire does not just come straight off the wrap because as your hand gets tired, this piece will also burn a line along your bowl. The wire needs to tuck back in/under so the coil wrap is prominent. This clearance allows you to use the coil in multiple directions and positions as you work through your pattern.

Pull the wire around to the top of the circle and then bend it up rather than bringing it straight off the side, putting a kink in the wire to keep it away from your burning coil area.

Remove the vice grips and bit, then give them a slight squeeze with the plier to tighten up the coil. Then flip the coil and put the back onto the bit and tidy up the other end.

Cut to length – the hand piece is pretty versatile so length is not too important.

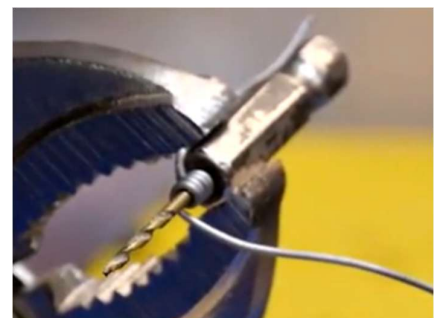
Applying the embellishment:

Choose the fully sanded bowl you want to embellish and secure it in the lathe chuck

Start with burn a line in to give a straight-line guide to work with and this border also enables you to manage any browning that comes from the branding after you have finished

If you want more precision measure how long your coil is (e.g. 6mm) and then you can mark 6mm lines down from your start line, depending on how fussy you are!

When embellishing, have a mask on as there is quite a bit of smoke and its also a good idea to set up a fan so that it is drawing the smoke away from the piece you are working on. If it blows towards the piece, it will also act as a coolant to the coil and you won't get it as hot as you need it (not what you want to happen!).



Have the pyrography machine turned up pretty high so that you don't have to wait for the coil to reheat.

The first line he does goes right round the bowl along the line and creates a border with the vertical branding.

Then starting your next line, the idea is to line up the horizontal with two of the vertical from the first line.

Pattern is two vertical, two horizontal, two vertical etc and hopefully they all match up.

Continue the tedious process right round your bowl and cover the area you want embellished!

Putting a square pattern onto a round shape, or one that has a decreasing diameter, means that at times you have to modify your design to fit the differences. The fact that this is such an intricate pattern means that it is hard to determine a change in the pattern unless you look very closely. It's about creating a textured surface for interest rather than a perfect pattern

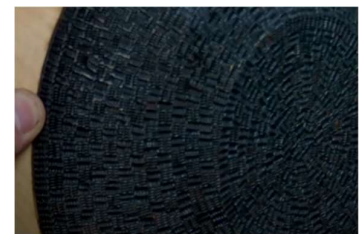
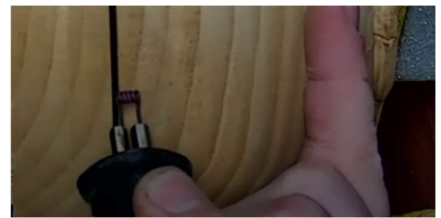
Once you have finished the branding, brush out the pattern to remove excess bits, then you can either leave the finish as it is or apply a finish e.g. Black or white India ink etc.

Patience is essential, but also consider that this time is adding value to a piece you have turned and you might even be permitted to display it on a shelf at home!!

The link to this video is: [Club Demos](#)

Great demo, and as you said it looks hard, but isn't really all about patience!

Many thanks Kyle.



Suggestions Welcome

We are always keen to receive ideas for demonstrations or workshops and requests for specific demonstrators/tutors. Please email one of the Committee members above with your suggestion.



This month's Club Member Profile...

Kyle Burns

I started woodturning in high school. A few of the different projects I did in my woodwork class had elements of turning and at the end of the year when we had finished our projects we would spend time on the lathes making different things. At school the cricket 1st XI plays the staff XI once a year and I made a trophy and had it engraved which goes to the winning team each year. The turning wasn't the flashiest but was a cool project nonetheless. In 2018 I moved to Christchurch and joined the club and a couple years later I did the course. With study and starting work the amount of turning I did came and went a little bit but it was always something I came back to. The last couple years I've managed to find a nice routine, helped with a good setup at home, and have started helping at the club on Thursdays and Saturdays which I've enjoyed.



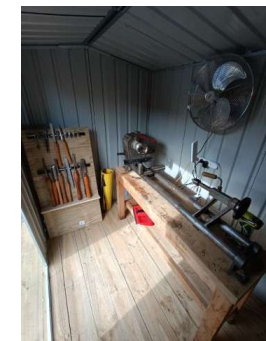
I really enjoyed my woodwork and metal work classes in school and really took to making things (final year project rimu bar stools in photo). At home I always had a piece of furniture on the go and made everything from my bedside tables to my desk. When I moved to Christchurch I went to the Riccarton market and met Noel. I was immediately drawn to his work and was lucky enough that he invited me to come to the club and learn. Woodturning was a great fit for me and I really liked that I could get away from everything, go to the club and make and finish something in an hour or two.



After joining the club I really spent the first few years just practicing and trying to get good with the chisels and get an understanding of how everything works. Living in a flat without a home setup and playing cricket on Saturdays meant I was limited to turning only on Thursdays at the club. It was always a highlight of the week and I would ride my longboard to the afternoon and evening session almost every week. After a few years I managed to buy my first lathe and our flat had a tin shed which was when I really got underway. I wouldn't say I made anything crazy or exciting for a long time, I really just enjoyed the escape of being able to put on my headphones, zone out and do something I enjoyed. During this time I completed the course which I really enjoyed and learnt so much from. The course definitely opened my eyes to all the potential in woodturning and gave me a big push to try different things.



The last couple years I feel like I have really started to progress my woodturning. I have been lucky to come across some nice pieces of wood and have made a few things I'm really proud of. Along with this I found myself falling into a rabbit hole of embellishment, making more pieces with colour and texture. The pieces I have done have been fairly basic so far but I am definitely getting a feel for things and am excited to see where I can take it. I have enjoyed the creative side of embellishing pieces, I had a bit of an itch for art in high school so I like being able to go back to that through trying to include it in some projects.



I have also found myself helping out at the club for about the last year. The club has always been one of the most important aspects of my woodturning journey. Through the club I have met a lot of people and made a lot of friends. I also always find myself being inspired from seeing what people make and all the ideas that float around on a Thursday night. So it's been really cool to have had the opportunity to help out and teach people at the club. I also really enjoyed getting to take a couple embellishment evenings earlier this year and do a demonstration at the last club meeting.



My biggest inspiration to keep woodturning is just seeing how creative people are. I have really had my eyes opened to artistic woodturning and how endless the possibilities are. Seeing all the amazing pieces that people around the world make and how far people push woodturning is really what inspires me to keep learning, practicing and getting better.



Any great tips /pieces of advice for your fellow turners?

The biggest thing I've learnt is to just give everything a try, particularly if you see something online, in a book, on the show table and you like it. It's easy to think it's too complicated or out of your skillset, but often things are much simpler than you think, and you just need to learn how. Most people are very willing to share and help, I've learnt a lot from talking to people, watching videos and reading comment sections.



Come along to our club nights and enjoy the company of like-minded people. There is always:

- *tea and coffee with a biscuit (or two)*
- *a friendly person to chat with*
- *show table pieces to look at and vote on*
- *books to borrow from our library (remember to return them when you are finished), and*
- *a raffle.*

We meet on the fourth Wednesday evening at the Harvard Lounge in Wigram at 7.00pm.

A few links you may be interested in checking out...



[Mike Holton - Woodturning](#)



[Zennor Made Woodt](#)



[Matt's Woodworks](#)

Christchurch Woodturners Association Contact Details

Patron: Soren Berger
Life Member: Noel Graham

Committee

President:	Nigel Elson	021 186 2768	president.chchwoodturners@gmail.com
Vice President:	Dee Morgan	03 359 4386	vp.chchwoodturners@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Bill Parsons	03 351 5647	treasurer.chchwoodturners@gmail.com
Secretary:	Evan Gow	021 033 8065	secretary.chchwoodturners@gmail.com
Membership:	Peter Clemett	03 342 5242	membership.chchwoodturners@gmail.com
Newsletter:	Tina von Pein	027 201 1000	news.chchwoodturners@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Paul Blackburn	022 600 3762	webmaster.chchwoodturners@gmail.com
NAW Course:	Noel Graham	027 240 8112	noelgraham5@gmail.com
Members:	Mike Ginty	022 164 3322	
	Andrew Biggs	021 342 438	
	Abraham Faid	022 038 9919	
	David Fiend	027 545 5787	

Club Information

Club Membership	Details and registration, visit https://www.woodturning.nz/membership/
Woodturning Course	For information, visit https://www.woodturning.nz/courses/
Past Newsletters	Can be downloaded from https://www.woodturning.nz/newsletters/

Regular Meeting Schedule

Club Meetings	4th Wednesday of the month. 7pm at the Harvard Community Lounge
Open Workshop	Thursdays 1-4pm, 7-9pm at the Workshop, Auburn Reserve
Miniature Turning	1st Wednesday of the month. 7pm at the Workshop, Auburn Reserve

Embellishment * 2nd Wednesday of the month. 7pm at the Workshop, Auburn Reserve
***ON HOLD** unless confirmed by separate email

Making a wig stand – Workshop Saturday 30 August



SAVE THE DATE

Collaboration weekend 2026

At the Workshop, 30/Jan-1/Feb 2026



Block out your diary for this special hands-on event

This will be a fun weekend of craft, teamwork, and learning at our workshop in Auburn Reserve. You will collaborate as a member of a small team to design and create an art piece based on your own ideas and inspired by the theme and guidelines that will be shared on the Friday evening.

You don't have to be an experienced turner or even a woodworker to take part. This is an occasion to bring all of your hobby and craft skills together, as a diversity of ideas, perspectives, materials, and techniques will produce the most interesting results.

Email Peter at membership.chchwoodturners@gmail.com to express interest and be put on the mailing list for information updates.

Registration Details will be notified later in the year



From the Nelson Districts Woodturning Club...

A striking image of a recently burned tree, exposing its vascular tissue, the xylem and phloem.

The tree's vascular system carries water and minerals from the roots up to the leaves, and photosynthesized food back down to the rest of the tree.

Interesting fact: Trees have no muscles (or nervous system) so all of this movement is powered by turgor pressure, which is controlled by stomata in the leaves that open and close as needed"

(Source via Reddit)



Our Club is affiliated to the National Association of Woodworkers NZ Inc.(NAW).

The National Certificate of Woodturning course is administered by NAW. Visit <https://naw.org.nz/> for more information

