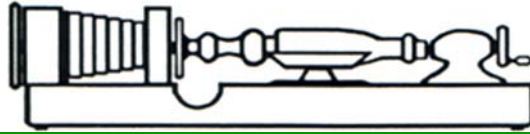


# Shavings & Ravings



NEWSLETTER 138

**NORTH SHORE WOODTURNERS GUILD**

July 2009

For programme and contact details please see [Page 9](#)

## End of Term 2 2009 'Something for the table'

### - Winners & a few others



1st Prize Beginners - Barrie Millar



1st Intermediate  
Vincent Lardeux



1st Experienced - Trefor Roberts



Mike Durbin



Brett Duxfield



1st Overall - Doug Cresswell



Andrew Corston



Lee Riding



Ken Curnow



David Browne



Michael Harrison



Ian Outshoorn



Ron Thomas



**Murray Speer**—passed away 7th June 2009

It was a Saturday, I thought that it was just like most Saturdays and as I had been doing every couple of days for the last while I phoned Murray to see how he was faring. Sure I knew he was in the hospital. Sure I knew he was far from the best. Sure I knew in the same way that he did that things could not go on like this and that at some stage his body would give a big sigh and decide that it was all just too hard. Still each of us sort of struggles on with life and remains determined to make the most of it, to give it a good try. I figured that Murray was doing all of that plus some more. My phone call was answered by Murray's son. Told me his dad was no longer capable of coming to or speaking on the phone and it was not looking at all good.

I made a few calls and soon, Ian Fish, Trefor Roberts, Pierre Bonny and I were on our way to see Murray. He looked as most people look in that dire situation. Never opened his eyes but certainly knew we were there, smiled at the old jokes and reminiscences. Stories of wood gathering, chainsaw malfunction, risky situations, wonderful burls, the many, many toys he had made, happy times we had shared, him

on the roof of the Guildhall trying to work out a solution, the time his wife, Lorraine agreed that we could drop off a puriri log at their place – it was massive. Murray, when he saw it was

not at all taken aback. He agreed that the rest of the tree with all the top branches could be delivered to his address. Along with the members of the Guild and Dad's Army they steadily whittled that lump of wood into manageable bits. Quite a mission, quite a man. Murray was a practical man, a builder of bridges and houses, a miner of sapphires and opals, a wood turner and if you spent any time in his workshop you could not help but gather the impression that here was a man who solved problems. A man who worked with his hands. A man who you knew that given enough No. 8 fencing wire and enough time could solve nearly any problem.

Then it was time for us to go. Trefor produced a little bag of kauri wood shavings which he left on the bed and for a moment their smell seemed to overwhelm that of the hospital. We all patted his hand and said our goodbyes. He smiled – he knew. Murray passed away a few hours later. He will be sorely missed by his family, by all those who asked his advice and by the many, many he helped.

It was too soon. He deserved a longer stay and more No.8 wire.





The upstairs library project at the guild hall has been progressing well since we received all the necessary council approvals to make a means of access to the 2nd story room that is safe for all our members to use. Originally a Murray Speer - William Hursthouse vision, new member David Dernie has given generously of his time and building expertise to lead the actual building work. Now close to lining time, we're looking for expertise and help for gib board fixing and stopping, and after that painting. Please let Trefor, or Pierre know if you can help, or have a friend who you might convince to help us complete the job.



## Stop Press

The mystery regarding lack of report on Jack Renwick's February drinking vessel demonstration has been solved. The send button has been fixed, and while the report is now a little dated and hence not included in this issue, a reflection from the Hodder-Thomas creative team composed during their Taupo sojourn sums up Jack's event.

Ode to the Renwick named Jack  
( to the tune of Danny Boy)  
with apologies to Robbie Burns

O Jackie boy the wood-the wood was turning  
Your sharp skew slashed from side to side  
The chips they flew from lathe to floor descending  
And you stood there with eyes so full of pride.  
You turned around with all your skill a' showing  
The goblet formed before our very eyes  
The stem so straight and the bowl all so swelling  
A work of art to take out any prize  
and you were there with 40 grit a'flashing  
The dust so fine a sneeze in every nose  
you parted off and we all stood applauding  
Oh Jackie boy Oh Jackie boy we love you so !!

## Kev's Safe Bets

In this third instalment in a series on safety and health, following on from the head and eyes Kevin Hodder considers our uppermost appendages:

### #3 - Ears

I have to keep saying this so that you and I will not forget it. There are things that you need to protect no matter what and the word to say as you step towards the lathe or other potentially dangerous equipment is FEARFuL. This stands for FACE, EARS, FEET and LUNGS.

Thus far we have talked about our eyes and the top of the head where all the smarts are. This time I am still staying with the head or some bits on/in it. 90% of us have the holes for our ears located just below a line from the outer corners of our eyes. And most of us will stop reading this and check that we conform to the norm. Go on then, just put your fingers at the outer corner of your eyes and draw an imaginary level line heading towards the back of your head. If you are 'normal' then about 1.00cm below this line will be

your ear opening. After having done this let us not get too caught up about what occurs when a sound travels into that opening. Just settle for the fact that it is a bit like a lawn and that will explain it. A 'normal' sound entering your audio system is similar to you walking over a lawn. All the little blades of grass bend over and after you move on they spring right back up just like new. This is normal. Consider however that instead of just your delicate foot walking over the grass it is a 200kg foot and the moment it moves on it is replaced by another 200kg foot. Well, the grass gives the initial impact its best shot but after a while it just gives up and lies there and dies there. This is just what is happening in your hearing system with continuous loud noise. The tiny hairs which react to each sound wave just get overwhelmed and after too much for too long of the loud stuff some of them cannot get back up from being knocked down and thus we have the beginning of deafness. The thing is that it is so easy and cheap and simple to preserve our hearing that it is criminal that we do not do more to preserve what we have. However acute or blunt it is. Hearing protectors

are cheap and effective. Get some, wear some!

So let's take some precautions. DON'T push the START button without checking that the tool rest is secure. That the wood can revolve without hitting against anything. That the speed is appropriate to the task. That the tail stock is secure. That you are not in line with the wood. That your tool of choice is appropriate to the task and sharpened.

Lastly, or should it be firstly, think about head protection. And that includes all those things on and in your head. Even just a hat will at least keep the shavings out of your hair, off the pillow and provide a modicum of protection but is far, far from enough. Best is to go that tiny bit (I really mean sensible bit) further and use a face shield which covers the full face, head to chin and always wear some hearing protectors.

Aye? What did you say again? Could you please repeat that. What was that word again? FEARFuL. This stands for FACE, EARS, FEET and LUNGS. Keep them safe. Keep them intact.

## April 28th

Pepi Waite came well prepared to show us how she has used epoxy resin to embed shell and other small decorative pieces in to great effect. Originally a participant of Mike Lewis's class, since then discussing methods with other practitioners, plus plenty of trail and error, Pepi now produces great turned articles with some very effective colour and items of interest embedded in epoxy.

She went through the whole process slowly and clearly. By bringing many samples of her work at various stages of the different process the audience could see and touch the pieces and get a better understanding of the explanations she gave us.

At the end of the demonstration Pepi had a prepared prompt sheet giving the details of her demo and also offering helpful hints on where to get what we need to give it a go ourselves

Thank you Pepi for a good demonstration – clearly given, easy to follow and the notes at the end are very handy to anyone starting to get into using epoxy. [Ron Thomas]

Forgotten by some, but also very informative in my book, was Mike Durbin's demonstration of off-centre turning of handles that rounded out this first evening of the term. As well as making the handles infinitely easier to hold compared to plain round ones, these handles made in timbers such as manuka really are mighty classy. [Ed]

## May 5th

Every Tuesday night, Trefor asks someone to write a short article on the evening's presentation, and last Tuesday night it was my pleasure to volunteer to write on Kevin Hodder's demonstration. I've been a fan of Kevin's for a long time – not only the



quality of his woodturning, or his outstanding sense of humour, but the sheer enthusiasm he has for woodturning.

Kevin explained to me at the Takapuna Market where he sells his wares: "I'm a prolific turner – I enjoy turning so much that I end up with boxes full of turned articles." And that is the simple, straight-forward truth proving his love for the art. Kevin volunteers with every single training course we present – and with it being weeks and weeks of sacrificing one night a week (in addition to our meetings on Tuesdays), it is quite a sacrifice. In addition, Kevin is a self-confessed Taupo Jamboree addict.

On Tuesday night we were once again treated to a demonstration filled with humour and wit, with some woodturning thrown in on the side. Kevin showed us the art of speed-pen-making – the two new guys behind me were still asking what's going on, when the finished pen started making the rounds. Having turned 80 pens at one time, it's no wonder that Kevin is so adept that he finishes a pen in under 5 minutes. But more than that, it's also the tips and tricks stemming from years of experience that he loves to share with us.

Then Kevin showed us how to quickly and effortlessly turn tops for the kids and ended up with a demonstration of a salt (or pepper) shaker using the perforated tops and rubber bungs that Carbatec sells in a kit. Kevin's tip for the day: "turn a line at the bottom where the chuck jaws usually leave a mark – that way the marks are hidden".

Thank you, Kevin, for an enjoyable and informative demo. [Chris Sieberhagen]

## May 12th

For the second time in two terms Jack Renwick has demonstrated for us and we have no photos or report of the evening. Sorry Jack, I'll make sure I'm present for your next demo and will personally do the report!! For the record a younger member of the guild tells me Jack

## May 19th

This Tuesday night Peter Williams

demonstrated the turning of seed pods, objects of aesthetic appeal but no practical use, however a useful exercise to hone ones skills.

The method of manufacture results in pairs being formed. The finished items are 80% turned and 20% sawn and sanded. Initially two pieces of timber laid atop each other and fastened with screws at each end. The depth of each piece should be half of its width so when the two are joined the ends present as a square. Ensure the centre point on each end is identified. The piece is mounted for spindle turning.



As a seed pod's width varies along its length some thought should be given at this stage to the required shape of the finished item.



Being mindful of the screws at each end turning commences at the centre. On achieving a rough profile, which is



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that of one side of the pods, the piece is removed from the lathe and the two pieces separated. One is rolled 180 degrees and the two are rejoined. The shaped sides are now in the centre of the piece. Remounting in the lathe, turning of the other side can be done. This involves some air turning—meaning there are times during each revolution when the tool is not in contact with the wood, which is a bit tricky for the unwary.

On achieving a satisfactory profile remove from the lathe and again separate the pieces, which from now on will be treated individually. Now draw the final shape required on each pod and cut off as much of the excess wood as possible with the bandsaw.

More shaping is done by mounting a sanding mandrel in a Jacob's chuck placed in the headstock. This is used to finish inside curves. Replacing the mandrel with a sanding disc the outside curves are finished.

Dremel bits placed in the Jacob's chuck can be used to furnish embellishments such as longitudinal grooves. The final finish is done by hand sanding which can be a lengthy process.

Peter being very accomplished at making pods, resorted to regaling us with an interesting tale of the nautical adventure to fill in his allotted time.

Thanks Peter, woodturner and raconteur for an informative and entertaining evening.[Peter Burnett]

[Pods & setup pics are from Neil Scobie demo at 2007 Symposium; decorated pod by Dick Veitch; pods below by David Browne.]



**May 26th**

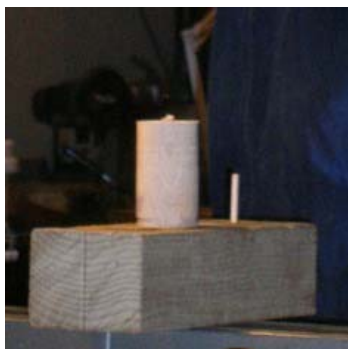
This was a most successful practical night, with members in groups having a go at making pods.



**June 2nd**

Andrew Bright of the Franklin Woodturners Club came up from down Waiuku way to demonstrate for us how he makes ducks. After giving recognition to Victorian Julio Marcolongo for passing on his method during a trip over the ditch to the Philip Island Turnaround, Andy got stuck into the job. He starts out with a piece of 50x50 wood around 120 long, turns it round, then mounts it in the jig shown to cut out a 90° segment that later becomes the beak.

With the segment removed he turns



and finishes the head shape, then glues in the beak and turns that.

The body is turned next and, then the delicate eyes and feet made. Holes for fitting the head to the body, and for fitting the legs and eyes are easiest drilled using a positioning jig, although they can be free drilled.

Another interesting jig Andy uses to finish any egg shaped bodies is shown in the photo. Thanks a lot for coming



all the way up north for the evening Andy. It was really great to see how you've developed the steps to get all your ducks in line.

**Welcome to our new members:** Geoff Martyn, Alex Martyn and Ian Bedwell. Good to have you all on board.

**9th June**

Continuing on with the previous week's theme, Mike Durbin showed us how he makes his ducks, using a simple to make offsetting jig that allows turning of the neck and head of the duck to the front of its body.



**June 16th**

Ron Thomas explained to us how to make a pepper mill, using a design he has established and finds aesthetically pleasing. He likes Pohutukawa as it's a good weight and finishes well, although he often makes them from

Swamp Kauri too.

Ron says the key to getting the 25mm diameter drill to track true down the body of the mill is using a Forstner bit and drilling at just a moderate speed, around 450rpm.



I have available full details on the steps involved along with a sequence of photos thanks to Ron and Tim Cook. If you would like these details just ask.

**June 23rd**

Mike Lewis came to town for the night and showed us how to make a salt pig with spoon. He makes some containers with a turned foot and others with a glued on foot, that may easily be positioned anywhere on the spherical pig, allowing a side opening to access the salt.

After creating the shape around the opening, Mike uses a Forstner bit to start the hollowing, then uses a hollowing tool to aim for a 10-12mm thick wall. Once the inside shape is formed the vessel is reversed in the chuck and the bottom end shaped.

Mikes method of making the spoon is simplified by using a pipe tool and two jigs. The sharp end of the pipe is used to create the sphere for two spoon bowls. The first jig is two hold the spindle safely in position while it is split down the middle with the bandsaw. The second jig is to hold the shaped spoon for hollowing.







Ian Outshoorn



Peter Williams



Julie Gannaway



Mike Lewis



Jack Renwick



Chris Sieberhagen



Peter Daymond-King



David Dernie



Chris Sieberhagen



Bruce Withers



Pepi Waite



Peter Burnett



Leslie Whitty



Michael Forth

This issue is a team effort as usual, thanks to stalwarts Kevin Hodder, Chris Seiberhagen and Peter Burnett. Thanks also for reporting by Tim Cook and Ron Thomas.

Any offers to photograph and/or write up any woodturning activities gratefully accepted - Ed.

Turning Tools Ltd annual Open Day held 28th February 2009 at South Auckland Woodturners Guild rooms.

On the morning of the Open Day the weather was blustery with rain. I would have thought that a lot of slackers would have hidden in their workshop (Trev) rather than venturing south to Fishies Open Day, but there were a lot of guild members present. A van load even came up from Tauranga. Ian Fish had a big stand with all his toys to drool over and even allowed Treeworx to have their Crown Tools on display (suppose it makes his tools look better).

Ian Fish explained what the days format was going to be. He also explained why the cost of our hobby is going to go up. While he has reduced his margins over the years, the current overseas costs combined with our NZ dollar becoming the South Pacific Peso again means that prices will have to go up by quite a significant percentage.

Robbie Graham was up first to show how he makes his terrific triple vessels. Some critical things to note are:

- Before turning he has spent a lot of time getting the measurements right through the use of templates. The turning is lifted off the backing by a packer which makes the top of the vessel follow an arc.
- He spends some time accurately counter-balancing the work with washers. The bigger the work the more critical it is in order to keep the turning smooth.
- When shaping the bottom of the small bowl, be aware of the rest of the turning spinning past the tool shaft.
- When he turns the work over to hollow the insides he uses a cup chuck to hold the work, hence another need for an accurate template fit.

- The blue metallic vessel that he brought with him had the bottom of the bowls done by Pyrography. He painstakingly textured the surface and then used Metallic Acrylic paints. The whole vessel took 4-5 days.
- Throughout his turning he was explaining the orientation of his tools. The use of the parting tool to create a clearance while turning shadow most of the time was very interesting.

When he had finished we were able to wander around the stands and place bids on the auction items.

After lunch it was Shane Hewitt's turn. Like Robbie before him it is immediately evident that he is very skilled with chisels, resulting in minimal effort for maximum effect. The finish straight off the gouges got a lot of comments from the other turners present.

Shane showed us how to save a ring off the bottom of a bowl. This ring could be glued back to the blank in order to raise the depth or to use as a picture frame.

Shane gave us lots of ideas how to minimise wasted wood by creating smaller articles such as clocks and picture frames.

The second part of the demonstration showed how he makes a separate neck piece for vases and hollow forms. This allows him to hollow through a larger hole and hide that afterwards with the neck piece. The neck piece was finished with nice carving that was easy to do once you knew how. As usual very sharp chisels are the key.

Afterwards everybody mingled and got to ask lots of questions of Robbie and Shane. I found that they were very knowledgeable and patient with even the silly questions.

I would like to thank the South Auckland Woodturners for their hospitality and Ian Fish for getting

such high quality demonstrators for us to learn from. [Ian Outshoorn]  
[Thanks to William for photos below]



### Members Available to Assist New Members

Colin Crann	17 Rambler Cres, Beachhaven	483 6012
Mike Lewis	31 Davies Rd, Wellsford	09 423 8894
Jack Renwick	169 Chivalry Rd, Glenfield	444 6228
Pierre Bonny	1 Agathis Ave, Mairangi Bay	478 0163
René Baxalle	48 Stott Ave, Birkdale	483 3799



## This Term's Project— Platters.

Day	Date	Activity
Tuesday	July 21	Ian Fish – Basic Platter turning
Tuesday	July 28	Kevin Hodder – Discussing the Platters
Saturday	August 01	Upskill Day
Tuesday	August 4	Dave Anderson Demonstration
Tuesday	August 11	David Dernie – Power Tools
Saturday	August 15	Working Bee (Stair Project)
Tuesday	August 18	Terry Meekan Demonstration
Tuesday	August 25	Practical Night
Saturday	August 29	Dave Anderson Spindle Turning Course
Tuesday	September 1	Mike Durban Demonstration
Saturday	September 5	Upskill Day
Tuesday	September 8	Mike Lewis Demonstration
Tuesday	September 15	Dick Veitch -AAW Albuquerque USA & more.
Saturday	September 19	Working Bee
Tuesday	September 22	End of Term Competition
Tuesday	October 13	Start 4th Term

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All the above events are at the Guild Hall, Agincourt Reserve, Agincourt Road, Glenfield. Tuesday meetings start at 7pm.

**Committee Meetings**—1st. Wednesday of each month

**Upskill Saturdays**— 1st Saturday of month during term.

**Working Bees**—3rd Saturday of month during term.

Keep an eye on what's happening around the country. Checkout [www.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm](http://www.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm)

## Other Special Events coming up

July 17-19	Manawatu Round-up. Manawatu Woodturners. A jamboree style event for all woodworking arts
July 25	National Association of Woodworkers Inc. AGM. Hawkes Bay Woodturners Guild Clubrooms, Napier. Demo's Demonstrations before and after the AGM by Dick Veitch, Jim Manley and Rolly Munro
September 5-13	Franklin Arts Festival, Pukekohe
September 11-13	National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau. All forms of woodcraft on exhibition, competition open to all.
September 25-27	Participation 2009 at South Auckland Woodturners Guild, Papatoetoe. Bring you lathe and make shavings.
October 24	Richard Raffin Demonstration at South Auckland Woodturners Guild. Book with Ron Thomas to ensure you don't miss out. \$45 for the day includes refreshments and lunch.
October 25	Richard Raffin Master Class at South Auckland Woodturners Guild. A limited number of participants and observers. Details on notice board and at <a href="http://www.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm">http://www.naw.org.nz/whatson.htm</a>

## Contacts & Responsibilities

### Committee

President: Trefor Roberts 475 9307  
Secretary/Treasurer: Ron Thomas 09 426 7782  
Members: Leslie Whitty, Julie Gannaway, Colin Crann, Pierre Bonny, Pepi Waite

Refreshments: Bruce Withers, Peter Burnett  
Raffle: Barrie Millar, Brett Duxfield  
Training Classes: Ron Thomas, Kevin Hodder  
Lathe Maintenance: Mike Durbin  
Library: Colin Crann, Vincent Lardeux  
Newsletter: Pierre Bonny  
Webmaster: William Hursthouse

Correspondence: c/o Ron Thomas  
35 Rushden Tce, Red Beach  
or  
secretary@wood.org.nz

Newsletter Contributions: [newsletter@wood.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@wood.org.nz)



Colin Crann's 1926 Buick

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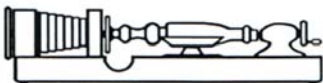
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Ask Ian Fish, or see <http://www.teknatool.com> for more details.

See

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