

Splinters January 2025

The newsletter of
Christchurch Woodturners Association Inc.



Cars For Ukraine

Noel Graham

Back in June we were commissioned to produce toy racing cars for children in orphanages in the Ukraine. Thanks to the team who gathered to ensure the task was completed. The making of parts, sanding, finishing and painting took much longer than was expected.

There was a small snippet that made TV News early in August, showing items being placed onto a container for shipment. This was the expected last that we would hear about our endeavours – that was until these two photos, showing children in Ukrainian orphanages receiving their cars for Christmas, arrived in the in box.

Heart melting.

Thanks to all those who participated.



Club News

Wednesday Workshop Evenings

Miniature Turning – Noel Graham, each 1st Wednesday of the month - Resumes at the Auburn Reserve Workshop on the 5th of February. Anyone with a suitable project or just an interest in turning smaller-scale items is welcome to come along and take part.

Embellishment – Dee Morgan, each 2nd Wednesday of the month – Will be starting up in the next month or so. Previously reserved exclusively for pyrography, we will instead cover a range of different embellishment techniques. These evenings will be tutored by volunteers who put up their hand to share a technique they've learned. If there is no volunteer tutor, then there will be no class running that month. Don't fear, we are working hard for you to line up tutors.

Our first volunteer is Kyle Burns and we are working with him to schedule when he can teach an amazing, but reasonably simple method to make his bowls look stunning. I have seen his bowls at the Encraftment Fair last year. Kyle is helping Noel tutor and supervise the Certificate courses and he is a very talented turner. Hopefully, he will teach us some of the other techniques he uses to finish his bowls to a very high standard. What I saw at the Fair was truly stunning.

So, watch this space. We will confirm when Kyle will be teaching us his technique. It will be February, March, or April.

Committee Changes

Ray Hall has resigned from the Committee and his positions of responsibility as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. The Committee sincerely thanks Ray for his contributions to the running of the Club, including extended service as a Committee member and a stint of 3 years as Club President. Your experience and knowledge around the committee table and careful stewardship of our principal communication media will be missed, Ray.

Vacancies

With Ray's resignation, we have vacancies for the following Club roles:

Newsletter Editor – responsible for compiling our monthly *Splinters* newsletter. You will need a computer and to be proficient in the use of a word processor to compile text and images.

Webmaster – responsible for managing the Club website and maintaining content. You will need to be familiar with modern website operation and maintenance practices.

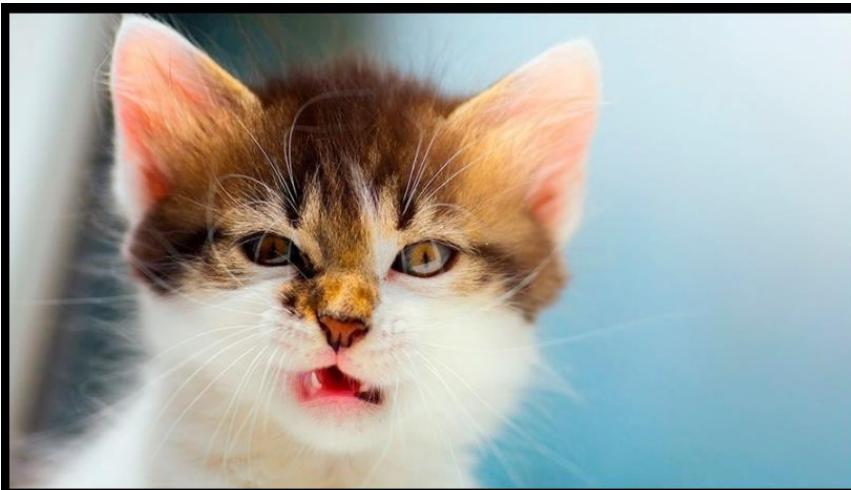
If you are interested in picking up one of these roles or are even able to help out for a short period, please contact Nigel Elson (president.chchwoodturners@gmail.com) to enquire.

A New Course Tutor

Congratulations to Kyle Burns who has been appointed as our newest Club Tutor. Kyle has been assisting at Saturday course sessions for a while and is now working towards his NAW Course tutor qualification and will soon be leading some of the teaching at our Club. Thank you, Kyle.

Upcoming Event Calendar

- 22 January** **CLUB MEETING** at the Harvard Lounge
Demonstration = Essential Workshop Maintenance (Noel & Peter)
- 24-26 January** **CLUB COLLABORATION WEEKEND** at the Workshop
Join in or just come along to see what's being created
Contact Peter (membership.chchwoodturners@gmail.com) to register
- 5 February** **SMALL THINGS NIGHT** at the Workshop
Bring along a project or be inspired by what others are up to
- 12 February** **EMBELLISHMENT NIGHT** at the Workshop (if running)
Learn about and try your hand at this month's embellishment technique
Contact Dee (vp.chchwoodturners@gmail.com) for confirmation
- 22 February** **JEWELLERY MAKING** at the Workshop
Contact Noel Graham or Peter Clemett to register your interest
- 14-16 March** **PARTICIPATION** (South Auckland Woodturners Guild)
Camp Adair, Hunua
<https://sawg.org.nz/event/participation-2025/>
- 11-13 April** **WAIORA TURN INN** (Otago Woodturners Guild)
Waiora Scout Camp, Silverstream Valley, Whare Flat, Dunedin
Contact Leah Jelgersma (03 453 1174), email: otagowood@gmail.com
- 24-25 May** **NAW WOOD EXPO** (National Association of Woodworkers)
Cosmopolitan Club, 11 Logan Street, Upper Hutt
National Association of Woodworkers 2-day AGM/Demonstration event



MY FACE WHEN
SOMEONE SAYS
THEY DON'T LIKE
WOODTURNING

A Gift Bowl With A Surprise

Peter Clemett

My main turning project over the Christmas break was a much-anticipated pleasure. One of my nephews (Michael) and his fiancée (Sayuri) are tying the knot at the start of February and I wanted to make them a bowl as a wedding gift. I have a stash of rough-turned blanks I've produced over the years and amongst them I found one which seemed just perfect – a nice piece of cherry able to yield a generously sized salad bowl, or similar, of around 300mm diameter. I was particularly happy with the timber selection – not just because I expected it to have interesting character, but I also liked the idea it pays homage to Sayuri's Japanese heritage. Later, as you will see, it inspired the personal touch I added to record their special day and acknowledge their marriage of cultures.

I had rough-turned the bowl blank from green wood over 5 years ago, leaving around 25 mm wall thickness throughout. It had distorted slightly whilst drying but I expected it to be thoroughly dry and stable. There were a few minor looking cracks and some staining on the timber as the only visible defects, but little to herald what lay beneath the surface.

With the bowl held against the chuck as a friction drive and the tailstock in place for support, I proceeded to true up the spigot and re-turn the exterior of the bowl. As I got the blank round again and started to shape it, one of the original surface flaws became increasingly prominent and changed shape. At this stage it looked just like a bark inclusion and not anything of particular concern. However, another pass with the gouge and as I crossed the defect the tool gave a small jump, and I heard a regular ticking sound. Uh-oh, I must have hit a hard patch of something. Imagine my surprise to discover the "something" was in fact the head of a nail, fully embedded within the wood! That certainly explained the timber staining (from iron in the nail), but it's a wonder how it had come to be fully enclosed and so deeply embedded in the original tree. I can only think it must have hammered fully into the trunk at some stage and the tree grew over and around it for many more years after. It's a wonder I didn't encounter it when processing the freshly harvested wood.



After a cup of tea, some pondering, and cautious probing with a variety of tools, I figured out how I would approach extraction without damaging the surrounding timber. I was able to get a narrow screwdriver in and under the head of the nail and bend it up. The shaft of the nail bent surprisingly easily and eventually exposed the head enough to for me to grab it with a pair of nail pliers. Just a quick lever and it was out. The nail remnant was 30mm long and had been in the wood almost parallel to the bowl surface I was turning.



Once the nail was out, I finished shaping the bowl and rough-sanded it with 80G. I filled the hole with several layers of ground soot and super-glue (picture on the right), before re-sanding to achieve a flush surface. From there, finish sanding through all the grits, as usual.

The outside completed, I reversed the blank and mounted it in the chuck. Not surprisingly, as I turned the interior, what was initially a small crack on the other side of the bowl wall from the nail site opened up. Once the inside was fully shaped I was able to treat the void in the same manner as for the exterior. I think the combined effect of the black filler and dark staining works well and adds quite a point of interest.



I wanted to personalise the bowl for Mike and Sayuri and decided I would burn a design into the base, as the grain figure on the interior and exterior of the bowl was enough decoration by itself. I had envisaged a design that would represent icons of Japan and New Zealand, but it took me quite a bit of image searching on the internet and a few false starts to settle on the final form. I originally envisaged silhouettes of a cherry tree to represent Japan and a cabbage tree, but found this didn't really work at the scale of the finished artwork. Focusing in on the flowers seemed a much better approach and whilst Cherry blossoms were an easy choice on the one hand, it still took me a little while to settle on a Pohutukawa bloom to represent New Zealand. In my defence, I'm a South Islander, born and bred, and even at Christmas I don't automatically think of Pohutukawa. Anyway, I'm really pleased with the result and I'm looking forward to giving the gift and seeing the reaction from the happy couple.



November Club Meeting

On the Show Tables and winners of our Club Trophies

Show Table

This year's Show Table Trophy winner was Andrew Biggs – congratulations, Andrew.



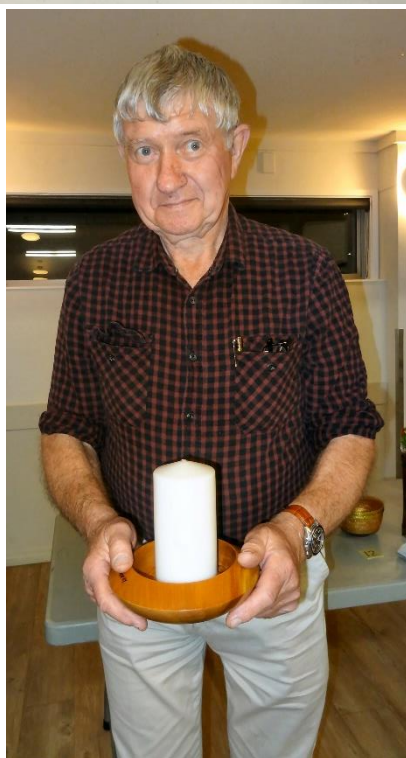
Peter Hutchinson Memorial Trophy

This year's winner was Kyle Burns – congratulations, Kyle.



Jim Dunford Memorial Trophy

This year's winner was Keith McFadden – congratulations, Keith.



My Christmas Holiday Projects

Dee Morgan

This year my law firm only closed for two weeks, so it was a whirlwind of activity during the break. After sorting Christmas and my birthday, I made sure I had time to get into the shed (our garage) and do some turning.

I had three Pot Pouri bowls to make, so I chose my wood and off I went. What a great way to relax. Once I put on my CWA green jacket I am in the zone and ready to turn.

This is my first bowl. There was no plan in my head. The shape just developed. I suppose you can say I am an organic turner. I just remove the wood that shouldn't be there and there is the finished shape. Hubby commented about the angel-hair ribbons I was making when finessing the curves. That is when I am the happiest. I love seeing the ribbons of wood flying off.



My next bowl looks like it is a bowl on a saucer...well, kind of. The inside turning was so much fun. I used the gooseneck hollower (mid-sized Easy hollower), which is so much fun to use. I also learned that you should not sand the inside with your fingers. They may get flicked back and hurt lots...LOL



My last bowl is made from Cherry wood. It was meant to be another piece of wood, but it had too much rot in it. I will make a different bowl out of that blank. The Cherry wood fought me every step of the way, but I won. I thought of Japan (cherry blossoms), so stylised an oriental shape. I think it is pretty.



I am a tactile person, so I often feel the shape of the bowl that I am turning and close my eyes, so I see it with my fingers. That shows me how nice the bowl shape feels, or whether there are unwanted lumps, humps, bumps, or dips. The end product, hopefully, is something that is pleasing to the eye and to touch.

If you want to tell your fellow woodturner members about a project you have done, please feel free to put in a wee article (and pictures) to secretary.chchwoodturners@gmail.com. It is always inspiring seeing what others are turning.

Workshop Door Fees

A reminder that whilst the Auburn Reserve Workshop is open for use by all members, there is a \$5 daily door charge. This money is used to offset the costs of operating the workshop and equipment maintenance. Most users will be familiar with the blue metal cash box used for collecting door fees or the option of paying by internet banking.

The Committee is aware that some regular users are paying for multiple days at a time, which is fine, but complicates things for Noel when he's trying to keep track of who has paid what. He's happy to accommodate those who want to pay for multiple days in advance, but we need a little formality around the process to protect everyone's interests. From now on, if you want to pay in advance for multiple sessions, please discuss this with Noel first, so that he can make a record of it.

Billy's wife steps into the workshop and asks if he would do some turning on the lathe for her.

"Of course," he replies, "What do you need? Maybe a new bowl or possibly a rolling pin or a vase? I have Elm, Kauri, Sycamore, Beech, Walnut and some Oak. What would you like?"

"Oh, I don't care," his wife says. "I just need about six bags of shavings for the flower beds."

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
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Secretary:	Evan Gow	021 033 8065	secretary.chchwoodturners@gmail.com
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Newsletter:	<i>Vacant</i>		
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	Joe Hayes	03 385 3910	
	Mike Ginty	022 164 3322	
	Abraham Faid	022 038 9919	
	Nette Edlin	027 440 7517	

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

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.

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

