

Splinters February 2025

The newsletter of
Christchurch Woodturners Association Inc.



Collaboration 2025



Dee Morgan

I was so crazy excited about the collaboration weekend, and I couldn't wait to hear what the criteria for our work was going to be. Each year we are given a list of things that we must use as least one of.

The weekend started on the Friday night. We drew wooden pegs to see who our partner was going to be. I got Stuart Camp again. I was super excited about that as I enjoy working with him. He may not have been so excited. I was relatively new to woodturning last year.

The challenge was to make an art piece for the home, either free-standing or hanging, drawing inspiration from at least one of: inverted; the number 5; movement; or copper. Stuart and I chose upside down and copper. I thought of a hanging bowl (upside down), with copper ribbons dangling around the rim; sort of like a windchime. Stuart built on that idea and thought we could do a lampshade with copper wrapped around the bowl, and attached to a copper pipe stand with a driftwood base.

The next day, we chose our wood for the lampshade. It was going to be like a bell. It was the biggest thing I had ever turned. I was excited about that challenge. Stuart worked on the driftwood. He spent about three hours just sanding it. He also levelled the base, so I sat well. I got to work on the bell. It took almost all-day Saturday for me to turn the outside and most of the inside. My sides were even and of a good thickness, but I left too much in the base (which was going to be the top of the bowl). That was just because of my lack of confidence. We managed to glue our copper embellishment to the bowl and taped it up, ready for finishing on the Sunday.

Ben was working on his project with his partner, but he was happy to help us with the copper pipe and bending it. Stuart finished off reducing the thickness of the top of the bowl, so he could fit the light fitting. Just as he was about to make his last quick and gentle pass, the copper blew off the bell. It was such a loud noise that it gave us all a fright. I was close to our lathe. I saw Stuart standing there with wide eyes. The visor of his face mask was missing. What happened was that the copper wasn't fully stuck, and Stuart caught the tip, which caused the whole copper band to explode off the bell. It struck Stuart right in the face mask and caused this visor to separate from the top of his mask. This was a very real reminder of the absolute importance of wearing good safety equipment. His mask was one of the black ones, so the visor part is stronger than the yellow ones. When he found his visor, he noted that there wasn't even a crack in it, and he was able to reattach it. I would say, hand on heart, he was one very lucky man. I do not even want to think of the potential outcome had he have not been wearing his face mask.

The rest of the day went smoothly.



The other teams were, Peter and Ben, Noel and Deborah, and Summer and Don. Andrew came along on the Friday and Saturday only and helped Noel and Deborah.

Peter and Ben made an orrery (planetarium). There were knobs that you use to move the planets. That was very cool.



Noel and Deborah made a flowerpot, with flowers that moved on their stems.



And Summer and Don made a spiky kina (sea urchin) inspired hanging art installation.



The creations were all so very different and all came from the same criteria.

There are no prizes for first or second, as it is not a competition, but a collaboration. That is why everyone was very happy to help anyone else. That is what makes the weekend so great.

On Saturday we were treated to a wonderful meal. Peter's wife, Julie, is an awesome cook and provided, among other things, the yummiest lemon sponge drizzle cakes. I may have had seconds. Noel brought along his BBQ and Peter cooked our burgers and sausages. Thank you so much to Peter, Julie, and Noel for feeding us.

There were even some leftovers on the Sunday, which was a bonus. We wrapped up about 2.00pm on Sunday and were able to show off our masterpieces to each other. After a good clean-up the weekend was over.

If you get a tap of the shoulder from Ben about next year's collaboration weekend, consider coming along. For a small sum of about \$30, you get to turn all weekend, mix and mingle with like-minded people, enjoy a fabulous dinner, and use your creative ideas to make something that matches the criteria given on the Friday. It is truly one of the best weekends in my calendar.

I cannot wait for next year.

Club News

Webmaster Vacancy

We are looking for a volunteer to be 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 this role or are even able to help out for a short period, please contact Nigel Elson (president.chchwoodturners@gmail.com) to enquire.

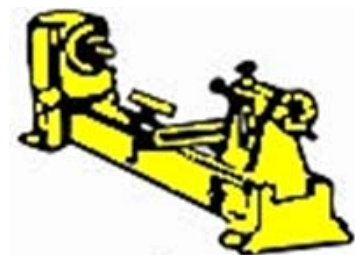
Annual Membership Fee Increase

Renewal of your Christchurch Woodturners' Association membership is soon due – you will find the reminder notice elsewhere in this newsletter.

Your committee has managed club finances very conservatively over the years, keeping membership fees low and limiting the size and number of increases. However, we now find the escalating cost of insurances and other liabilities means we are faced with the need to do so again. It has been decided that the membership fee for the coming year will be \$50 per annum.

Christchurch Woodturners' Association is a registered charity, which means that any donation over and above the membership fee can be claimed for a tax rebate. If you want to give over and above the membership fee, then we will gladly send you a receipt for the donation so you can use this with your tax return.

Existing members can renew any time from now until the end of March by making payment into the Club account. There is no disadvantage for early renewal as it will simply extend your membership until 31st March 2026. The membership period runs from 1 April to 31 March each year.



**Christchurch
Woodturners
Association Inc.**

Renew Your Membership Now

The end of our membership year is fast approaching and unless you are already paid up through to 2025, it's time to renew. Your current year's membership expires on 31st March.

Subscriptions for the 2025/2026 year have increased from last year. Please pay your \$50 by internet banking into the Club account or pay by cash to a Club officer at any meeting or workshop session. If paying by internet banking, don't forget to put your name and "Subs" in the details field.

If any of your details have changed (email address, phone number, street address, emergency contact, etc.) please drop me an email and let me know.

Peter Clemett (*Membership Secretary*) – membership.chchwoodturners@gmail.com



Note: If you are a member of NAW, your subscription to that organisation is also due.

You will need your membership to be current to attend any of the demonstrations at the **Wood Expo** later in the year.

Upcoming Event Calendar

- 22 February** **JEWELLERY MAKING** at the Workshop
Contact Noel Graham or Peter Clemett to register your interest
- 27 February** **CLUB MEETING** at the Harvard Lounge
Demonstration - Handled Plate (Peter)
Display - Old tool set including an old slicing tool – thanks Mike Ginty. *View a youtube video of Richard Raffan using an old slicing tool*
<https://youtu.be/pzRht6XY3oE?si=rIPyE94wsuVROJYS>
- 5 March** **SMALL THINGS NIGHT** at the Workshop
Bring along a project or be inspired by what others are up to
- 12 March** **EMBELLISHMENT NIGHT** at the Workshop (if running)
Learn about and try your hand at this month's embellishment technique
Kyle will offer a repeat of his carving & colouring techniques if there is enough interest
Contact Dee (vp.chchwoodturners@gmail.com) for confirmation
- 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

January Club Meeting

On the Show Table...





And the winning entry
comprised turning multiple
intricate parts into this
amazing wooden digger.

Well done **Peter White**.



January Monthly Meeting Demonstration - Noel and Peter on Chucks and Lathe Maintenance

Mary Clay



At the monthly meeting on the 22nd January 2025 at the Harvard Lounge in Wigram, attendees were treated to an excellent demonstration on what we would all agree is a fairly critical part of the woodturning process, but easily overlooked in our enthusiasm to get turning! Given we have all invested a fair amount (!) in our woodturning hobby, it makes sense to look after the gear that we have. The January demonstration covered both chucks and lathes, and what we all should be doing to ensure the longevity and smooth operation of all our kit!

Noel started by discussing an array of different chucks and their idiosyncrasies and then noted that Nova does have information on how to service their chucks, but that it is not easy to find on their website. Effectively, you have to go into each chuck option separately to get all the information needed.



Noel started by disassembling a G3 nova chuck, using circlip pliers to take the circlip off the back to get into the chuck, removing the locking screw and noted that he sometimes needs to bang the assembly on a large block of wood to encourage it to come apart. Once the chuck is apart, you should clean it with a wire brush, and wipe to get it all clean. Take care to get right into the threads to extract all the detritus and clean out all of the grooves and slides. Once all parts are clean, do NOT use oil. Instead, Noel uses a silicon spray, and confirmed that even when dry, this still has a lubricant and doesn't go hard. Make sure that you spray all parts of the assembly.

In reassembly, it's important to get the chuck back together correctly. For the ring component, note that the threaded part goes downwards and the teeth face upwards. Then replace the circlip back in, using a screwdriver to push it downwards until it all snaps into place. Make sure that you replace the sliders in the correct locations - noting the numbers - and turn anticlockwise until they catch, then add the slides in order. Once all the slides are in place, check that they close correctly by screwing them all the way in. Don't forget to put the lock screw back in at the end of the reassembly.

Do take note that some jaws have dots instead of numbers, and that some are very hard to see!

Noel then showed us the method for cleaning the Supernova chuck. It disassembles in a similar way, although the instructions apparently suggest a screwdriver to take the plastic backing off - leaving potential for damage to the plastic. Noel bangs it against a hard solid surface to encourage it.

In response to questions, Noel advised that there isn't actually too much damage that you can do to a chuck when cleaning it - and in any case, you can get replacement parts for all of the parts involved.



Noel advises that you only need to clean your chucks 'on occasion'.



Noel finished his demonstration by discussing older jaws, designed to expand rather than contract onto a spigot. He also briefly discussed cole jaws.

Noel's demonstration was very interesting, and left the audience feeling confident that we could clean our expensive chucks successfully, without causing damage, resulting in smoother operation of our chucks and more chance of woodturning success!

Peter then discussed lathe maintenance. He started by pointing out that basic maintenance of our lathes and tools will add significantly to enjoyment of the process of woodturning. He started by noting the importance of checking that all power cords are undamaged, with no nicks or cuts, and that there should be no play where the cord goes into the machine. If cords are damaged, they can be fixed by an electrician.

Check the controls and knobs on the lathes for damage - it's easy to get replacement knobs at places like Jaycar, as all shaft sizes are fairly standard. Again, consult an electrician if there is damage.

Peter then moved onto the bed of the lathe, pointing out that a lathe can get a film of surface rust on the bed of the lathe. Fine steel wool is useful - just brush the lathe bed with this, and the surface rust will be removed. You can use CRC as a lubricant with the steel wool if you wish and clean any residue off with a cloth. Once this is done, you can either leave it as is or add silicone spray or CRC dryglide which is a teflon based spray. For teflon based spray you have to let it dry on the surface.

Then look at the tailstock bed - you can use the silicone spray on that, and also do the bottom of the banjo. Use an old paintbrush as a dusting brush, and you can use steel wool or wet and dry 600 grit to tidy up any rust spots. If you are planning to lubricate under the tailstock, make sure you use a dry lubricant, not a greasy lubricant. (a squirt of kerosene also cleans). Graphite powder is another lubricant option. Graphite is very slippery and would be useful under the tailstock. Peter applies a paraffin wax, which is a hard wax, you rub it in to soften and spread it and it makes the lathe much smoother.

Then, check the levers lock tightly, then check the belts. Belts need to be tensioned correctly, and you can always get a new belt if needed. Replacement of bearings is a more complex job!

The demonstration finished with discussion regarding a significant issue that we must all be aware of in our home workshops. Never use a vacuum cleaner to suck up metal shavings and dust around your grinder because you are creating an instant fire hazard. Metal shavings can get hot, stay hot with intermittent use, and can slowly start a fire under your grinder. (This recently happened in the Auburn Ave workshop!!)

More sensible advice was also shared - Do not use large blunt forstner bits so that you can avoid creating hot shavings - be extremely careful and check. If you are in the workshop and there is any sort of fire started - speak up!

Make sure that you have a CO2 fire extinguisher in your garage. Importantly, make sure it is in date, and keep a clean workshop, with minimal shavings so as to minimise fire risk.

Thanks to Noel and Peter for a fascinating and useful demonstration.

Being able to carry out basic maintenance on our expensive gear is a must, and will certainly, as Peter pointed out, make the turning experience more enjoyable. There's nothing worse than a tool rest or tailstock that won't move smoothly, levers that stick or don't tighten, and gummed up chucks, to spoil the woodturning experience.



Do you play a Musical Instrument?

We wish to contact any musician that may be interested in occasional home jam session with our accordion and drum.



Please call Graham & Ethne 027 511 4177

Thank you, Graham Copp



Christchurch Woodturners Association Contact Details

Patron: Soren Berger
Life Member: Noel Graham

Committee

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Vice President:	Dee Morgan	03 359 4386	vp.chchwoodturners@gmail.com
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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

