

# Splinters

## March 2025

*The newsletter of  
Christchurch Woodturners Association Inc.*



## Club News

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. The membership period runs from 1 April to 31 March each year.

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:president.chchwoodturners@gmail.com)) to enquire.

## Upcoming Event Calendar

- 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](mailto: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*



You know you are a woodturner, or their spouse/partner when you look at beautiful big trees  
and only see bowls

# March Club Meeting

On the Show Table... Great work everyone!



Nette – Hammer Handle



Kyle B – Textured Plate



Dee M – Crush grinder + salt pinch bowl



Andrew B – Bottle openers



Peter C – Handled plate



Ben McC – Red Beech, shallow bowl



Mike G – Lidded vessel



Gavin C - Matai



Keith McF - Bowl



Dee M – Scrap piece with ears!

Don M - Bowls from same piece of wood



Don M - Bowl



Dee M – Hollow form bowl, from same wood as Don's bowls above

**And the peoples vote...**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ben McC – Red beech shallow bowl
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dee M – Hollow form bowl
- 3<sup>rd</sup> = Mike G – Lidded vessel
- 3<sup>rd</sup> = Kyle B – Textured plate



# February Monthly Meeting Demonstration

## Peter Clemett - Turning a Serving Platter



*Thanks Dee M for the writeup and operating the cameras.*



Peter Clemett demonstrated how to turn a platter with handles. This was a very clever technique. He used walnut in a rectangular shape.

As it was flat and not thick, he chose to use a faceplate rather than a spigot. He cut out the screw holes when he shaped the inside. He recommends thinking about the grain of the wood and to line the handles up with the grain.

The diameter of the bowl is constrained by the width of the wood. There will be a shallow spigot on the bottom. He started by knocking the corners off. This was at 45 degrees which stops the splintering of the end grain. After taking away some of the thickness of the wood he shaped the base of the bowl/platter.

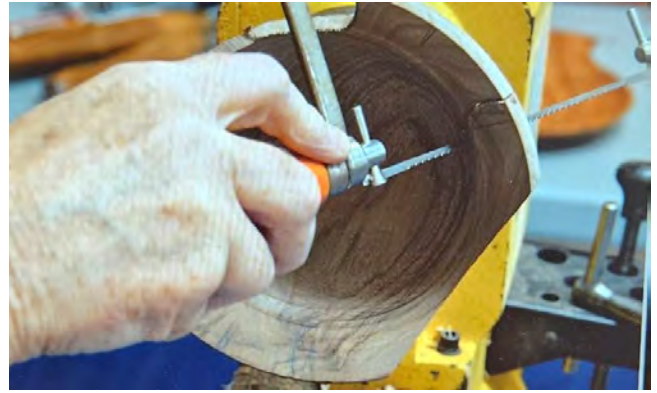


Peter finished taking off the corners by using delicate and fine cuts. Then he worked on his spigot on the base or outside of the platter. He said he thinks about the shape of the handles. Remember, at this stage he was turning mainly air, so he didn't push so hard.

As we know how to sand, he skipped that step. He said that once you've finished the sanding and finishing of the outside, remove the faceplate and turn your piece over. So, once he was satisfied with the bowl outside shape and the handles position and shape, he turned the platter over and attached it to the chuck. Now he worked on the handles (or apart. I learnt that lesson the hard way.

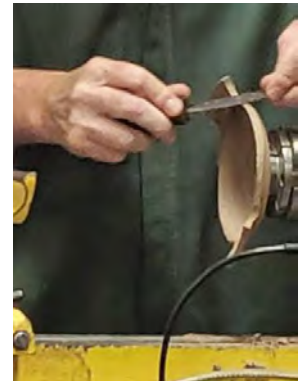
He would stop often to look at the shape, ensuring the curve was gentle. He said to finish the shape as you would like it.

When he was happy with the finished shape of the handles, he removed the wood from inside the bowl. One of his tips was to remember to let your hips do the moving. This is where the handle of the chisel sits on your hip (for stability), and you move your body to move the chisel. This produces a smooth movement and better finish. I have tried this, and it is so much easier, and I had much better control of the chisel. It seemed to glide over my wood much easier. I felt like I was moving to music.



To shape the handles, lock the spindle, make a centre line mark and line that up with the tool rest. Mark a centre line on the other handle (you can use a long ruler to mark both handles at the same time). Then consider the shape you want and mark it accordingly (decide whether you want narrow handles or wider handles). Peter uses a coping saw to cut out the handles.

Lastly, he refined it with a refining tool (micro-plane, much like a zester or fine cheese grater). Use a food friendly finish, like rice bran oil. The last thing to do is to remove the spigot off the base.



*Peter is always a great demonstrator. I/we have learned so much from his demonstrations. His pieces can look quite complex, but he makes the turning of them look straight-forward.*

***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.***

## Some creations from members...



Bowls turned by Mike Ginty made from the Olive Tree Root that originated from a farmer in Burnham



Bowls turned by Andrew Biggs made from the Olive Tree Root (from the same farmer as above)



Lim and his latest cowboy hat turning creation



# This months' Club Member Profile

**Evan Gow** - I have been woodturning for just under 10 Years and am also the current Club Secretary.



**What inspired you to start wood turning?** I was looking for a hobby that I could likely use as a form of selfcare that I would be able to do at home using the limited workshop space that I had available. I have always enjoyed working with wood but I was running out of small projects that I could make. Apparently, there is a limit to how many shelves or outdoor furniture you can have. The other major disadvantage I had was the unwritten understanding that the double garage would house both cars.

**Part of the club?** I have been part of the Club for around 7 years. I was introduced to the club by the father-in-law of one of my wife's workmates who I had gifted a wooden bowl.

**My woodturning journey in a couple of paragraphs...** During the initial stage of my journey I watched an unhealthy amount of YouTube videos, searched out second-hand books and magazines to gauge whether or not this was for me. Then I needed to find someone with a lathe. I found a woodturner in Woodend, Greg Morris, who offered a one day tutorial so I could try woodturning and hopefully turn a bowl. It worked, I was hooked and now I needed a lathe.

It has been said that woodturners wood is always a problem. You either don't have enough of it or you have far too much of it. Initially, I went searching for wood to buy, second-hand dealers, eventually I found a Trademe trader who would send a banana box of bowl blanks of various sizes for a modest cost. After I joined the CWA and started the NAW Woodturning course that wood doesn't need to be dry, you can actually turn green timber.

Suddenly, I needed a chainsaw (or 2) and somewhere to store the wood. However, what I should have been told was that I needed to have the inability to say 'No' when asked if I would like more free wood.

Due to a change of responsibility at work, I was in a position that I could help support Noel with the NAW woodturning course on the Saturdays and the workshop on Thursday evenings

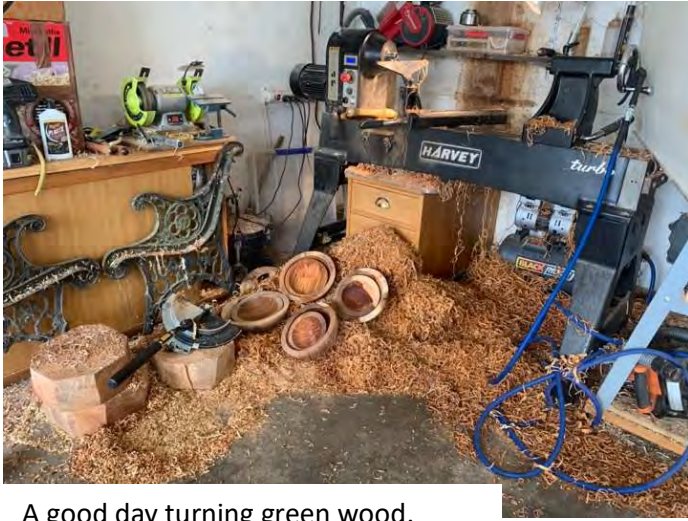
**Any great tips / pieces of advice for your fellow turners?** Do not forget that you woodturn for enjoyment. Self-evaluate your work, what do you like about it? What would you do differently? Work towards having a plan before you start the project. Be inspired by others and be proud of what you create.

*SANDING*....Actively look for flaws that can be removed with 80 Grit, before moving through the grits. OLD Sandpaper can be thrown away 😊

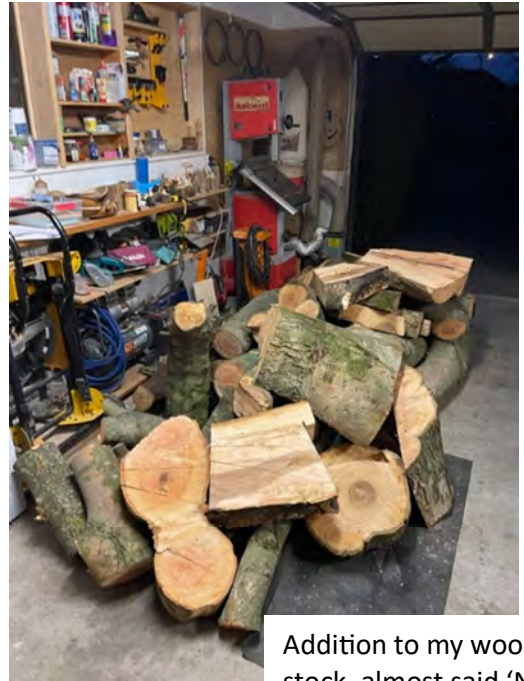
**What inspires meto keep woodturning?** My greatest inspiration seeing the reaction of people as they create something special with a little support. I find myself spending more time on the other side of someone's bowl or spindle gouge searching for the elusive bevel. I have been known to offer feedback, sometimes when asked.... It is the enthusiasm, community spirit and talented presence in the club that keeps me inspired.

**Some of my woodturning creations...**





A good day turning green wood.



Addition to my wood stock, almost said 'No'!



Cake stand for my Daughters Wedding. Turned from Ebonised Oak.



Graduation piece. Turned from Purple Heart and Walnut.

*Many thanks Evan*



## Rimu Burl anyone?

Deb Wilson has asked if anyone in the club is interested in a Rimu burl for Woodturning, it does have bora in it (see the photo 1).

Deb and the burl are located on the West Coast 15 mins south of Ross.

The burl is approximately 1.8 in height and the girth of about 3 or 4 men, of which it would take that many men to roll it out of their Atrium. It has been dry stored for over 30 years. They will cut it up for firewood if nobody is interested.

A price can be negotiated, call Deb anytime on 027 2511 445, reception is not great here so text if you are not successful with a phone call.



## What is a burl? (Google AI Overview)



A burl is a knot or lump in cloth or thread, or a hard, woody outgrowth on a tree.

Tree burls:

- Burls are a protective response to stress, such as injury, disease, or insect damage
- They are made of callus tissue, which is a collection of tree cells
- Burls are often found on the trunk or branches of trees, but can also occur on the roots
- Burls are made up of many small fibers that grow in different directions, which makes them strong and hard to break

## 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

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:	<i>Vacant</i>		webmaster.chchwoodturners@gmail.com
NAW Course:	Noel Graham	027 240 8112	
	Keith McFadden	03 352 0333	
	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

