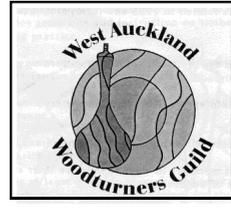


# Newsletter



Issue No. 262  
March 2013

## COMMITTEE

### President

Graham Bourquin 626 2602

### Vice President

Michael Bradstock 833 6253

### Captain

Paul Sokolich 838 2942

### Secretary

Paul Altena 832 3732

### Treasurer

Ted McKinstry 837 5012

### Editor

Alex Green 827 0308

### Members

Des Bellette 818 4607

Bruce Eccles 837 0108

Joseph Green 817 8929

Steve Hodge 0223245492

Phill Lunnon 818 6244

Reuben Wood 832 7060

### Club Rooms :

2 Rangeview Rd., Sunnyvale,  
Auckland, NZ. Tel : 027 604  
3851.

### Postal Address :

PO Box 69135, Glendene, Waitakere 0645

### Club Meetings

1st & 3rd Thursday ea. Month at  
7.15 pm.

### Hands on sessions

Mondays (not holidays) 1-3 pm.

Tuesdays (Juniors) 1-3 pm

Saturdays from 1.30 pm.

### Web Address

[www.wawg.co.nz](http://www.wawg.co.nz)

## GREYBEARDS

It is often said that woodturning clubs, and other hobby clubs, are full of men of advanced years.

This is largely true but as we look around our members we see some who are not yet in their dotage and we have an active junior section which would reduce the average age by a lot if we counted.

We know many of the reasons:-

Retirement gives the time to follow a hobby  
And without the cares of a family we are able to afford the costs involved

Ted McKinstry gives us the following news!

### Venerable Members

We have another octogenarian in our club.

**Ken Hawsworth** turned 80 on 14-Feb. 2013

This event was celebrated on Saturday 16 Feb.2013 attended by Family, friends and 4 old woodturning F\*\*\*ts from our club.

Congratulations Ken

## Dates for you diary 2013

Throughout the year the club is open for:- Mondays - Hands On Session :Tuesdays - Junior Tuition 9.30 – 1130 and 1.30 – 3.30Saturdays – Hands On Session (Public Holidays excepted)

### **MARCH**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Guild Meeting – **Competition – Start of Collaboration.**

### **APRIL**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Guild. **Competition – Judging of Lidded Box with Finial**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Guild

### **MAY**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Guild

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Guild

### **JUNE**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> MODEL X (Queen's Birthday weekend)**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Guild & AGM

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Guild

### **JULY**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Guild

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Guild. **Competition - Multi-Centre Turning**

## **AUGUST**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Guild

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Alternative Hobbies Night**

## **SEPTEMBER**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Guild

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Guild.: **Competition— Laminated Turning (at least 5 pieces of wood)**

## **OCTOBER**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Guild

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Guild

## **NOVEMBER**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Guild. **Collaboration Judging.**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Guild. **Turned Toy Judging**

## **DECEMBER**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Guild. **Top Night. (Last Meeting)**

---

## USING THE MICROWAVE TO DRY GREEN ROUGH TURNED WOOD

**Marshall Gorrow**

*(Central New England Woodturners)*



I used the microwave to dry the 11" diameter by 5 1/2" high box elder bowl to speed up the drying process a little.

I cut a tree damaged by the "*Ice Storm of '98*" one day. I rough turned and microwaved the bowl the next day.

After giving the bowl a few days to reach EMC (equilibrium moisture content), I finished turning the bowl a few days later. (The microwave can over dry or under dry the wood; I find it prudent to wait a few days to allow the turning to adjust to the relative humidity.)

To use the microwave to dry rough turned stock (It can also dry finished turnings using the same method), I use the following procedure:

- (1) After roughing to 3/4", I put the bowl into the microwave on defrost for 2 minutes. (a brown paper grocery bag will protect the microwave or some wrap with paper towels)
- (2) I leave it in the microwave (with the microwave off) for at least 10 to 30 minutes. This allows the outside to cool down in a high humidity area. This will cut down on checking from the outside losing moisture too fast before the inside has lost enough moisture. Then take it out and let it completely cool.
- (3) After 4 or 5 cycles on defrost, I often proceed to high for as many cycles as it takes. (**I recommend that you stay on defrost**; some woods will check at the high setting. At the first sign of checking, back off on the power

level.) **Please, never leave the room while the microwave is drying wood. A mistake in time or power can cause the wood to start smoking or worse. Even after the microwave is off, the wood should be watched for at least 1/2 hour. It has been reported that smoldering can start on the inside of an over dried piece and could result in delayed ignition.** You can tell when it is dry just by feeling and even the smell is different. Also it no longer beads up moisture. If you use brown paper grocery bags or paper towels, when the bags an/or paper towels remain dry, you know that you are done. **You can also weigh the turning after each cycle in the microwave. A "postal scale" is good for this method as it can detect slight loss of weight. When the turning no longer loses weight, it is dry. This is the best method of all.**

(4) Then I usually let it sit for 3 or 4 days to reach EMC (equilibrium moisture content) before finish turning and finishing.

Every species of wood is a little different and reacts a little differently. **If in doubt, use lower settings and shorter periods of time.** This is a guide line only and trial and error is ultimately the best teacher if you wish to push the edge. However, it is probably best to use the 2 minute (or shorter time), defrost setting, half hour between cycles as a safe starting point. **You'll get in less trouble if you also don't exceed those settings!**

Note: The microwave is also good for getting rid of insects. I turn quite a bit of wormy red maple. A minute or two on defrost will kill powder post beetles or any other insects. (It's actually the rapid vibrations not the heat that kills the critters.)

---

### A chuckle for your day

*For those who haven't heard, Washington State just passed two new laws - homosexual marriage and legalized marijuana.*

*The fact that homosexual marriage and marijuana were legalized on the same day makes perfect biblical sense because Leviticus 20:13 says "If a man lies with another man they should be stoned."*

*We just hadn't interpreted it correctly before!*

## Stabilising Wood With Detergent

Collated from newsgroup postings.

(Sydney Woodturners)

*In issue no.88 of Woodturning Magazine (the June 2000 issue that has May 2000 on the cover!) Hawaiian turner Ron Kent describes a technique using detergent soaked into the wood during turning. He claims that by conditioning the wood with detergent, he gets less movement and warping and improved cutting. He also claims that less sanding is required and the finish is improved perhaps due to greater oil penetration. Naturally, such a radical idea stimulated newsgroup discussion.*

*(N.B. A member was recently searching for this reference, after a little search I found it. If he or anyone else would like to go straight to the original it is:- <http://www.ronkent.com/techniques.php>. Regrettably the article is too long to print in the Newsletter. Ed.)*

Has anyone followed up on Ron Kent's technique of using dishwashing detergent to stabilize and condition green wood? For those who did not read his article, it was published in the issue 88 of Woodturning. He says that he has had very good results with it on Norfolk Island pine. I would be interested in any results by others.

A club member acquaintance of mine uses detergent on everything (I'm pretty sure) that he brings into the shop, especially green wood. He has a couple of those big plastic storage tubs, dumps a few gallons of the detergent into the tubs (maybe 4" deep, more or less) and starts sloshing around the pieces and letting them soak for a while, (actual time, I'm not sure). He then drip dries them on a rack over the tub, gives a quick wipe down of any heavy excess, and tosses them into a pile near the lathe to turn. He does this with both blanks and rough turnings, depending on if the green wood went right to the lathe or not. He has been doing this for many months now with great success.

If he is having trouble with some grain while turning, he will apply it then, also. Makes the grain behave and cut a lot better.

He uses the same cheap, bulk detergent that Ron Kent mentioned in the article - no-name bulk detergent available just about anywhere.

You can't go wrong, experiment with the stuff and see what happens. Be careful about detergent soaked shavings on the shop floor, they're probably pretty slippery, maybe even leaving a residue on the floor. Should just clean up with water, though!

I've tried out the detergent on a larch bowl I had roughed out and dried. It was turned the normal way, side grain. The whole thing didn't work for me mainly because I think that the detergent didn't soak in enough. The bowl was dry to start with. I think that using it on end grain only and on wet wood will make a difference and that's what I'm going to do next. I certainly didn't get those lovely shavings that Ron talked about in the article!

Detergents will do everything that has been said, but be careful of their ingredients. Many of these products contain perfumes and oils that will interfere with sanding and later finishing with either oils, lacquer, or shellac. You may want to try it on a "throw away" first.

I didn't like the slimy feeling surface that I got on the wood when using the detergent.

After trying many different dilution ratios, I found that a spray bottle of warm water did just as well for me, so that is what I use whenever I get vibration or poor cutting when finishing a dry bowl. Adding a small amount of household ammonia will help as a wetting agent, about 1/2 cup per gallon of the plain non-sudsing type seems to work without tearing up my nose when using it. I use the water in a metal spray bottle that is placed on a coffee cup warmer to keep it warm.

---

#### Childrens' Wisdom

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the the drawing was.

The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.'

The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like' Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'

West Auckland Woodturners Guild  
PO Box 69135 Glendene Waitakere 0645