



# Tutor's Tidings

No 44 Friday 11th Dec, 2015



This is the FINAL edition for 2015.

SEASONS GREETINGS to all.

Here's hoping your Christmas unfolds just the way you want it to be.

Happenings  
at our  
annual  
Christmas  
function



**The Christmas exhibition table:** Club members displayed two items they had made turned during the year. These projects were then judged against criteria in four categories. It's a tough job being a judge especially when the exhibition table is loaded with high quality turning projects. There were fourteen judges – partners of club members.

On Sunday 6th December a good number of club members gathered at the home of **David and Heather Mollekin** to celebrate the end of another year's progress in woodturning. The weather was fine, the food was quite outstanding, the exhibition table was a special feature and everyone had a good old time.

**Special thanks to:**

- **David and Heather Mollekin** for their generosity in hosting the event
- **Hand Tool House** of Frankton for a kind gesture in donating prize vouchers
- **Rob Grant** for his support in donating a large trailer load of turning wood
- **All those who attended** to contribute to another memorable happening.

**FUNCTION PHOTOS FOLLOW**









*Food*  
*Glorious Food!*





## Exhibition of Turnings - The Prize Winners

A) The **PICK of the BUNCH** winner

Runner up

B) The **ARTISTIC** winner

Runner up

C) The **PRESENTATION and FINISH** winner

Runner up

D) The **FUNCTIONAL ART** winner

Runner up

Richard Nicholls

Murray Price

Robert Wiseley

Colin McKenzie

David Rose

Chris Littlewood

Malcolm Porteous

Spencer Heald

**CONGRATULATIONS to all!**

## Club dates to put on your calendars

Tuesday 15th December: Final session for the Tuesday group

Thursday 17th December: Final session for the Thursday group

### **2016**

**Tuesday 2nd February:** First session for the Tuesday group

**Thursday 28th January:** First session for the Thursday group

2016 programme possibilities.

I expect that the 2016 session programmes will remain flexible and cater for ongoing club members' personal interests. As in the past, members new to woodturning will be offered the club's sequential skills programme.

For more experienced members I intend to emphasise the concept of "*ENHANCEMENTS*" to turning works.

These ideas could include creating turnings enhanced with:

- mixed media such as wood and copper, wood and brass, pewter, bone etc
- adding a resin inlay to turnings
- using natural features such as bark, cracks and flaws in the wood
- texturing turned surfaces with a variety of tools
- adding beading to turnings
- crackle painting add ons
- use of water-based and spirit-based stains to brighten up turned work
- fitting wood plugs to blocks prior to turning
- segmented turning
- banding additions

A portion of the enhancement ideas could be in the form of a volunteer participatory project (as we have done in the past) or some ideas could be done through an individual member's request. Whatever the approach taken we should have a lot of fun learning new ideas for woodturning.

Cheers

*Clive*

# Hamilton Woodturners Club, The History of, so far

*By Murray Price*

*Note: This report is published in the current Creative Wood magazine*

The club has its roots back to late 1993, (yes that's right 22 years ago) with the first classes held at The Waikato Polytechnic (TWP) building on the Central Hamilton Campus. This was mostly TWP building and engineering tutors and declared by one as, "the best week of my life".

These early courses were taken by **Fred Irvine**, who to this day, is a recognized member of the woodturning fraternity.

The courses were held **at the City campus** for the first two years before relocating to TWP newly-established Avalon Campus at Rotokauri, (ex NZ post and Telegraph workshops).

Around the same time TWP was renamed and branded *Wintec*.

Initially the workshops were fitted with Teknatool TL1500 lathes, with 11 of these sold to members and replaced with TL3000 lathes. Steel Stands were made to **Fred's design** by TWP engineering technicians. These were later modified to accept the TL3000 which had a shorter bed. Accessories for the lathes were also made by *Wintec* Technicians.

There were week-long courses held for rural folk who were accommodated at Te Rapa Air Force Base and Courses for secondary students were held over two days. Most class members were from the Waikato, but over the years members have travelled from Coromandel, Pukekohe, and the King Country.

During these years field trips were taken to Matakohe Museum, Scion (Forest Research, Rotorua), Maungatautari Ecological Island, Kinleith plywood factory and other local sawmills in the Waikato and Coromandel.

Class members during these early years were **aged 14-86 years** and were taught **good basics for wood turning** and allowed many to make Woodturning their long term hobby and expand their knowledge, skills and techniques. During these early years Fred Irvine continued to be the tutor and on the *Wintec* payroll.



Classes continued to be held on Tuesday day and Thursday evenings, generally catering for those retired or shift workers and those working. Courses were aligned with school terms and holiday periods.

One huge benefit that the club had was access to the adjoining carpentry workshop fitted with really good woodworking machinery. Due to the responsibility and nature of this equipment use was restricted to **Fred** other than the band saw and breakdown saw which members could use after receiving appropriate training.

There were a couple of traditions in place: one being that there was a supper at the end of the last session of the term, the other that a luncheon was held at the end of the year to bring members of the day and evening courses together. In later years this was held at the hospitality restaurant on site at Wintec Avalon Campus.

The Government's changes to the provision of Adult Education, together with **rumors about ceasing the woodturning courses**, a few members gained knowledge about Wintec's actual intentions. The idea was floated that a club was set up and buying the lathes and associated tools from *Wintec*. A plan was developed to lease the workshop and its equipment from Wintec. Wintec had confirmed that they may not need for their own use for several years. Wintec was also keen that the club took over the responsibility of **Fred** as tutor. **Fred** agreed to stay on with the club as tutor.

The club was to be called '**Avalon Woodturners' Club**' in reference to its beginnings.

Legal documents were put in place for leasing the room and equipment within the room and giving us the first right to buy the lathes and turning equipment in the event that *Wintec* asked us to vacate the room. The lease was daily hire of the room and that we would employ Fred directly.

Because of responsibilities that **Fred** would inherit, it was carefully documented where lines of responsibility were and how and who would act on them.

Woodturning classes resumed with **Fred as tutor** and the club being run by a committee of members. Courses were still based on school terms and both Tuesday day and Thursday evening courses continued.

In June 2013 we were given notice by Wintec that we needed to vacate the room by 31 August. Members were advised in a newsletter sent out and asked for their views on what we should do. The committee considered that there was enough support to justify exercising our option, to buy the lathes and associated equipment, and setting up a club in a new location. A new chapter in the clubs history was about to begin.

Again a few dedicated members stood up to make this happen.

Firstly we **needed to find new premises** and with a very short time period between finding out that we had to relocate and the date we had to be out by, put on the pressure. Fortunately one of the committee members was aware of a portion of a vacant building on a lifestyle block on the western outskirts of Hamilton.

Negotiations were held and a lease put in place for part of a vacant building that had been part of a small apple pack house. Along with this, clarity was made with *Wintec* as to what was 'associated with the lathes' within the room. What transpired was everything, but lights fittings and heaters. It even include the 2.4 x 1.8 store cupboard in the corner.

The club had built up some funds, but this was insufficient to pay the agreed amount. Members were approached and **several provided interest free loans** to the club, to be paid back as and when the clubs coffers would allow. These were paid back within the first 12 months of relocating. Others purchased or loaned the club necessary equipment. Some of which was bought by the club, other items remain with a loan tag.

So along with the 13 lathes, associated equipment including Bench grinders, band saw, 13 sets of chisels, chucks and tool rests, cupboards, wood storage racking, work benches, steel cabinets, brush and pans, leads, etc etc, and a lot of timber were all **moved to the new workshop**. Part one completed.

Part two was to install all this gear into the new workshop. This was a pretty big undertaking and included: installing the wood rack; locating and bolting down the lathes; positioning the band saws, workbenches, grinders, racks and all the tools. This proved to be the quick bit.

What took the time was installing all the required electrical and lighting. Some existing lighting has been retained but all relocated, along with a lot of new fittings. Finding homes for all the gear continued through this time.

It took nearly two months before the workshop was in a position to hold courses again. We lost a few members. **Fred had decided that it was time to re-retire** and so we **needed to find a new Tutor/Mentor**. Initially it was decided to run courses with more senior members mentoring new or newer members.

After a period of time **Clive Wilson, our most experienced turner**, having started with Fred at TWP some 14 years earlier was giving guidance to evening class. This **role moved to a tutor's position** and while still working he was able to support Thursday evenings, but with his semi-retirement/retirement status now also supports and tutors Tuesday turners.

Daytime courses recommenced again on Tuesdays and evening courses were provided on Thursdays. Our initial lease only allowed us to use the workshop for these sessions. This was seen as being restrictive to the growth of the club. A new commercial lease (3 x 2yr) was negotiated a year ago allowing 24/7 access, but necessitated an increase in rent. This does give the club more flexibility and the opportunity to run additional classes and workshop sessions.

It has **now been two years since the club has relocated** from *Wintec*, Avalon campus. It was agreed that we needed to rename/brand the club to '**Hamilton Woodturners' Club**' better reflecting our location and removing any confusion with our geographical position.

What has happened in these two years? Well the club has grown and we are looking at opening up an additional night in the New Year. The club has been successful with a grant which allowed the replacement of a band saw and purchase of a second band saw, a new dust extraction system, replacing an old model belt sander with a superior disc and belt sander. Other items that we have installed include a wet grinder, flip saw and soon to be installed air filtration units.

A program is in place to replace the TL3000 lathes with DVR's.

Membership has grown steadily. The club, **under the guidance of Clive**, has devised a **sequential skills program** to teach new turners good basics, and **higher**

**challenges for the more advanced turner.** The members are encouraged to use the **NEAGE** (Near Enough Ain't Good Enough) **approach to turning and finishing.**

**Clive's weekly Tutors Tidings (TT)** keep all our present and past members informed of members projects and progress, as well as providing general knowledge to all us woodies.

As all clubs know you have a turnover of members which means teaching many, but not always retaining, as well as having many that are well entrenched in the hobby.

We **now have 14 lathes and a waiting list**, so we are doing okay and keeping the hobby, pastime and skills of woodturning alive and well.

Courses are either 5 weeks x 6.5 hours on a Tuesday or 10 weeks x 3.0 hours on Thursdays. We do try and be flexible with **limited casual membership** to accommodate as many as we can.

We have **big plans to own our own premises**, so watch this space. If the drive and determination of previous members and committees that have seen this club morph as it has had to, over the 22 years it is definitely possible. So we may be new 'in name' on the block, but have a good past.

***Murray Price***

*President*

*Hamilton Woodturners Club*

**President**

**MURRAY**

**On the job**





Throughout the year our club member **MUHANNAD** has arrived at the workshop with a whole heap of trays of eggs.

The Thursday evening session members are very grateful for Muhannad's kindness and generosity.

## **MUHANNAD**

*.....Egg man by day  
and a wood turner  
on a Thursday night*



### **REMINDER NOTICE**

**Club Committee meeting is next Wednesday 16th December**

**7.00pm at the workshop**

I wish you all a  
very Merry  
Christmas and a  
prosperous, safe  
and healthy  
New Year

*Clive*