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HERO of the Week: Bruce Macdonald

On Tuesday of this week, club member Bruce Macdonald called into our workshop to donate more samples of tool steel. It just happened that while he was there one of our lathe tailstocks ceased to function by completely jamming its working parts. Bruce kindly volunteered to have a go at fixing the stubborn lathe mechanism. Three hours later, after completely stripping down the tailstock, filing off metal burrs, repairing threads, lubricating, adjusting the key plate then reassembling everything the tailstock was back in good working order. The club is very grateful for the urgent help Bruce provided and for his ongoing enthusiastic support for club activities.



BRUCE at work fixing the damaged tailstock.

MANY
THANKS for
your help!

TUESDAY's Newbies make great progress.

The Tuesday session: - All five new club members, **John, Rob, Graeme, Graham and Michael** have made notable progress with their respective turning-learning journeys. They are right in the middle of the club's introductory basic skills course and already showing heaps of potential.

In just a short time early achievements include:

- 1. Becoming confident in handling the club's lathes (aligning, speed adjustment etc)
- 2. Mounting wood between two centres
- 3. Using a roughing gouge to turn a square-section block into a cylinder (spindle turning)
- 4. Creating a precise spigot size to fit a 35mm spigot-jawed chuck
- 5. Correct fitting of a ferrule in handle making
- 6. Shaping by using 10 and 13mm gouges
- 7. Parting off procedures
- 8. Sanding and polishing techniques
- 9. Using a mini-gouge to create special effects
- 10. Using a scraper to remove stria

Goodonya fellas!

(it's a start on bowl turning next week)





Woo Hoo. Just look at those cupcakes

Heather shouted for our morning tea on Tuesday. The club's tradition of rolling pin makers having to provide a plate of scones continues. But this time expectations were excelled. The scones duly arrived but were followed up by this plate of gormandizers' delights. Many thanks Heather!

(Heather won the chooky raffle too)







Maestro **TERRY SCOTT**using burr wood. Here are pictures of Terry's latest works.

OK one of these turnings was awarded **second place** in a recent traditional woodworking competition.

Which one do you think it was? 1, 2, 3, or 4?





THE ONGOING DEBATE ABOUT THE USE OF SANDING SEALER IN WOODTURNING PROJECTS

I am often asked about the use of sanding sealer (SS) for woodturning projects and who sells sanding sealer and are there different kinds of sanding sealer.

Some turners use the stuff for every turning, some turners use SS sparingly while other don't use it at all. I searched the internet and found this online debate about SS - reproduced for your interest. - Clive

Online debate starts here:

Views as expressed by a random selection of wood turners

"Should sanding sealer be used on all turnings or just the porous woods?"

"I use it every time I am finishing with lacquer. PS... I don't finish with lacquer very often."

"It is really a matter of personal preference. I know turners who use it on everything and turners that never use it and they end up with nicely finished pieces

"You can use sanding sealer as a flat work craftsman does. Apply to fill a porous wood. Then sand and remove most of it. Then finish. You can use a spirit based (alcohol) sanding sealer (a half or maybe one pound cut of shellac). You can use a cellulose based (laquer thinner) sanding sealer. If you are finishing with a shellac - you want the same base. If you intend to use a laquer - you want the same base. Yes, you can put the alcohol base under just about anything."

"Because a seal is intended to penetrate, while the finish is intended to build a film - the difference is not the product -- it is the consistency. A thicker product will build a finish layer by layer and not penetrate as a thinner product would. "

"You can thin laquer with laquer thinner to make your own sanding sealer. You can apply it to a fuzzy grain or end grain, and allow it to provide support to the end grain for cutting."

"I am finishing a Walnut burl bowl right now with Laquer. My test pieces showed that the end result was much better after using the sealer than before. The sealer really helped to even things out." "A SS can be provided by a thinned coat of the non-waterborne finish itself, and if you wet sand with it, you can clog the pores a bit as well. Use other sealing methods with caution to insure compatibility with the final finish. Shellac has the advantage of setting up the grain for scuff sanding as well as sizing to retard the soak of subsequent finishes, which makes them look more even on the first coat."

"Sanding sealers are really not pore-fillers, and some are still **stearated** to help do what the original intent of a *sanding* sealer was - set up the grain, reduce the coefficient of friction and keep dust from clogging the paper."

"I like using a sealer to keep dark dust out of the light wood areas, especially wood like walnut where a white sap ring contrasts with the dark heartwood. The sealer helps keep the white wood white."

"Any finishing technique used on flat wood pretty much works on round wood."

"I used a spray lacquer sanding sealer for the first time about a week ago on a canary wood bowl and was very disappointed that the sanding lealer seemed to be a bit translucent and obscured the grain detail a bit. Like MM, I do not see any particular need for sanding sealer and as MM said, its main function is to prevent getting corns on the sandpaper. Besides all that, sanding sealer is softer than the topcoat."

The facts of the matter!

Sealer For Open Grain Timber

A clear, fast drying timber sealer that dries to fill the timber grain. Once sanded back, it provides a super smooth surface which can be stained and top coated to achieve a mirror finish with varnish or French polish.

What is sanding sealer?

What is stearated sandpaper?

What is **Stearated** Sandpaper? Stearated Sandpaper is also known as self-lubricating sandpaper. It is used primarily for sanding wood and paint finishes as well as metal.

Cheers Clive

Turnings from the Thursday team

GIDEON has been busy creating in his workshop. A - B - C - D









Another first-time turner making great progress! Gideon's next challenge is to create a round bowl within a square rimu wood plank.

The following supplies are available for members to purchase as needed. Please use the honesty box system for payment.

- Discs of Astra Dot sandpaper (velcro backed)
- Brass ferrules
- Two-pot epoxy glue
- Wood blanks (check with Clive for prices)





Above left: MURRAY's hollow-form made from Northern Silky Oak

Above/Below right: MURRAY has been experimenting with coloured wood dyes on blonde colour wood.

Quality work here. Great beading work added to a creative flair!









- DYLAN made a snazzy tulip wood bowl in a very short time. (skilled and confident)
- 2. **ROSS** made his beautiful platter using a rimu wood floor joist from a shop that once stood in Victoria Street
- 3. **SPENCER** carefully crafted a block of swamp matai to make his second wave bowl

Free to a good home and garden

Bags of wood shavings from lathe turnings. Good clean shavings from wood that hasn't been treated with preservative chemicals.

Great for mulching around roses and other garden plants and will help prevent the soil from drying out and will smother the pesky weeds.

Call at the workshop and pick up soon.





Aurora "Raglanis" maybe. I captured this fascinating western sun set photo while sitting in the grandstand at Rugby Park last Saturday evening. Actually the sun went down on the **WARATAHS** team too! Goodnight fellas. **Well done CHIEFS!**



OK that's the TT for this week. Go the **CRUSADERS**, The **CHIEFS** and of course **TEAM NEW ZEALAND** on board the Emirates boat in Bermuda.