

Stephen Mackay

Confident learners in the making...

Course Title

Pole lathe turning - 1 day beginners course

Introduction

The 'Pole Lathe' is a traditional woodworking tool used for turning 'green wood'.

Rotational power is produced by the operation of a simple foot treadle against the inherent springiness of a long pole. In action, the operator uses a range of chisels in order to quickly and efficiently remove material. In doing so, a wide range of product can be produced from chair parts to spoons.

This kind of equipment has been used in various forms around the world for centuries. Early settlers to New Zealand used a variation of the 'Bodgers' pole lathe illustrated.



Course outline

This course offers an insight into the basic process of selecting and cutting timber, the tools and processes involved and simple turning techniques.

Courses detail

During this course you will:

- learn to prepare timber by snedding and cleaving, using axes, froes and wedges
- learn how to produce a billet using a shave horse, draw knife and spoke shave
- set up and operate the pole lathe using a selection of chisel's
- complete a simple turning project to take away with you

Skills to be developed

All courses are designed to ensure that you achieve some level of mastery with minimal instruction and maximum hands-on experience. The success of these practical courses will be as a result of the full engagement of your physical senses along with your mind. Whichever course you undertake it will be an opportunity to expand your understanding of how you process instruction.

This particular course will offer you the opportunity to develop a broad range of personal or soft skills and in addition, specifically to,

- Rediscover or acquire fine motor skills in the use of a limited range of tools and equipment,
- Develop core strength and hand-to-eye co-ordination in order to produce precision work,
- Experience the meditative effect of complete physical engagement,
- Gain an appreciation of the historic context of technology.

You will also be invited to take part in the risk assessment for any process you are involved in, highlighting specific tools and equipment as appropriate.

+64(0) 21 347 663 / +64(0) 283 3573
steve@stephenmackay.co.nz
206 Cames Road, RD5,
Wellsford 0975, New Zealand

**Time frame**

Minimum 4hours

Course numbers

Tuition is offered individually but small group sizes can be arranged.

Photos/web link

Take a look at the following [weblink](#) to see some examples of simple turnings.

Prior knowledge, materials, background reading list, essential equipment required

No prior knowledge required. A small supply of green wood i.e. trees that have been recently felled and are still oozing sap. Dry firewood will not do. Assistance can be offered in this regard, please ask at the time of booking. Please ensure clothing worn is not so precious that a little dust and dirt is a problem.

Brief resume of tutor

I studied green woodworking in the UK over ten years ago. Whilst I enjoy practicing my craft, my pleasure comes from sharing it. It was therefore a joy for me to be the resident 'Bodger' at the Howick Historic Village for a period of five years offering demonstration during their 'live days'.

Whilst I am driven by all things 'rustic', I bring a disciplined approach born of thirteen years of industrial experience. There I achieved chartered status in mechanical design and production across a broad range of disciplines. I am also a qualified, secondary trained Design & Technology teacher and in the last twenty years have developed a successful career in the special needs sector. In 2012, I was recognised as one of New Zealand's 'Most Inspiring Teachers'.

In 2005 I took six months unpaid leave of absence to provide humanitarian support in Thailand after the Tsunami. I led an international workshop project that involved locals in the production of their own furniture (Thaieka).

In short I have a passion for making things and am happiest when surrounded by those that share that passion.

Course cost

For details regarding price see my [Pricing Policy](#)

Note that materials and travel costs may apply
Green wood supply by negotiation

+64(0) 21 347 663 / +64(0) 283 3573
steve@stephenmackay.co.nz
206 Cames Road, RD5,
Wellsford 0975, New Zealand