

Graeme Priddle – Studio Woodturner/Sculptor

Graeme Priddle has 20 years experience in the woodworking field, best known for his sculptural turnings/carvings reflecting his life and environments in Northland, New Zealand. He has won numerous awards for his work, which has been exhibited widely in New Zealand, UK, Japan, Taiwan, France, Germany, U.S.A and Canada.

He is very active in the wood turning world and commits his time and talent to many creative endeavours. He has served on the committee of the New Zealand National Association of Woodturners for five years as well as being instrumental in establishing the New Zealand 'CollaborationNZ' Conferences in 1998. Graeme has demonstrated and taught for numerous woodworking and woodturning groups and at many woodworking events throughout the world.

Graeme was born in Lower Hutt, New Zealand in 1960. He moved to Northland in 1986 while working for Telecom as a radio technician. He took voluntary severance in 1989 after twelve years service and started woodturning in 1990.

Graeme now lives and works on a 100 acre bush block 30km North-East of Whangarei.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

"I have always felt a natural affinity with wood and after twelve years working as radio technician I felt the need to do something more creative with my life.

Originally I was drawn towards 'free-form' furniture as our bush block is littered with deadfall timber, the leftovers from the Kauri logging days of the early 1900's. However with the 1990 economy very depressed there was a limited market for original hand-crafted furniture.

Fortunately, at that time I met a group of very creative woodturners and realised that there are endless creative possibilities to lathe work.

I am mainly self taught with a lot of advice and inspiration from many other woodturners. In my first four years or so of turning the emphasis was on using very decorative timber and applying simple form so as not to overshadow the natural beauty of the timber.

While this is still a dominant factor in some of my work I now spend more time on creating pieces where my design is the dominant factor and using timber and other materials sympathetic with my designs, these pieces tell stories about who I am, where I live and the things in life that I am most passionate about.

Major influences in my designs come from my natural surroundings, especially the sea and coastal environs, dreams and life experiences. "

HISTORY

Feb 91 - Group Exhibition - Artstop Gallery - Northland.

Jun 91 - Group Exhibition - Quarry Craft Co-op - Whangarei.

Aug 91 - Group Exhibition - Northland Craft Trust Expo.

Nov 91 - Design Arts & Crafts - "Original Works Show" - Auckland.

Dec 91 - Design Arts & Crafts - "Original Works Show" - Wellington.

Jan 92 - Design Arts & Crafts - "Original Works Show" - Auckland.

Feb 92 - Group Exhibition - Stanley Street Gallery - Auckland.

Jun 92 - Group Exhibition - Marilyn Savill Gallery - Wellington.

Jul 92 - "Artex" - Auckland.

Aug 92 - Kawerau National Woodskills Festival

- 2nd prize & commended in woodturning section.

Aug 92 - Group Exhibition - Compendium Gallery - Auckland.

Feb 93 - "The Art Of Turned Wood" - Juried Exhibition - Aotea Centre - Auckland.

Jun 93 - "Artex" - Auckland.

Sep 93 - "Artex" - Wellington.

Oct 93 - Group Exhibition - Cologne - Germany.

Feb 94 - "Turned Art & Furniture Expo" - Juried Exhibition - Auckland - Merit Award.

Jul 94 - "Artex" - Auckland.

Nov 94 - Guest Exhibitor - Ngatea Arts Festival.
 Nov 94 - "National Woodturning Exhibition" - Taranaki Museum.
 Mar 95 - Demonstrated at "Working with Wood Show" - Perth - Australia.
 May 95 - Demonstrated at "Working with Wood Show" - Brisbane - Australia.
 Jul 95 - "Artex" - Auckland.
 Jul 95 - Demonstrated at "Working with Wood Show" - Sydney - Australia.
 Sep 95 - Kawerau National Woodskills Festival
 - 1st prize & 2 x commended in open woodturning section
 - Commended in fantasy section
 Jan 96 - Guest Exhibitor - Whakatane Arts Festival.
 Jun-Aug 96 - Invited to Exhibit in "Growth Through Sharing" Exhibition
 - Greensboro - North Carolina - USA
 Awarded Creative New Zealand Grant to attend exhibition and American
 Assn. of Woodturners annual symposium, and also to attend
 "Collaboration & Conservation" conference -Emma Lake, Saskatchewan -
 Canada.
 Jul 97 - "Artex" - Auckland.
 Aug 97 - Commissioned for woodsculpting as part of Shona Firman's exhibition
 " Cross Over ", - Whangarei Art Museum.
 Sep 97 - Kawerau National Woodskills Festival
 - 1st prize & commended in open woodturning section
 2nd prize in woodturning - bowls section
 commended in fantasy section
 Nov 97 - " Masks at Mahara " collaborative exhibit with Barbara Salt " Omni Caeon ".
 Mar - May 98 - " Woodturners Art " - juried exhibition - Hawkes Bay Cultural Trust.
 Jun - Jul 98 - " Outside the Circle" - exhibition of invited Northland artists
 - Whangarei Art Museum.

Oct 98 - " TURNZ National Woodturning Exhibition" – Putaruru
 - First Time Winner Award
 Decorative Bowl Award
 Best Exhibit Award

Mar 99 – Invited Resource Artist – CollaboratioNZ, Northland, NZ
 Mar/Apr 99 - " Diversity " - exhibition of invited Northland artists
 - Northpower corporate offices
 Mar/Apr 99 - "The Art of Turned Wood" - Juried exhibition
 - NZ Academy of Fine Arts Wellington
 Merit Award

Feb 00 - Commissioned by the 'Halberg Trust' to create presentation boxes for the
 New Zealand Sports person of the Century Awards.
 Jun 00 - Invited Demonstrator - 'Artistic Woodturning Worldwide 2000' conference
 Puy-St-Martin. France.
 Jun-Aug 00 - Artist in Residence for the Wood Turning Center's 'International Turning
 Exchange' residency program from 10th June - 8th August 2000, including
 attendance at the Emma Lake Collaboration conference, Saskatchewan,
 Canada.

Mar 01 – Invited Resource Artist – CollaboratioNZ, Northland, NZ
 Mar 01 - 'Turned Multiples II' - International group exhibition -
 Craft Alliance, St Louis, Missouri, USA
 Saskatchewan Craft Council, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
 Wood Turning Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
 Jun/Jul 01 – 'Turned Wood 2001' – del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles,
 USA.

Jun 01 - Jan 02 - 'Art of Wood' - Curated exhibition of works from the Lipton Collection
 LA International Airport
 Jul 01 - 'Te Kauri' - The Kauri in Northland Creative History
 Whangarei Art Museum
 Jul/Aug 01 – 'Out of Woods' - Tamarillo Gallery - Wellington

Sep 01- Dec 03 - 'Challenge VI' - 'Roots: Insights & Inspirations to Contemporary Turned Objects'
 International touring juried exhibition
 exhibition venues - Philip & Muriel Berman Museum of Art, Collegeville, Pennsylvania
 - Indianapolis Museum of Art - Columbus, Indiana
 - Museum of Art, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington
 - Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, Wisconsin
 - Schneider Museum, Art of Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon
 - Houston Center for Contemporary Art
 - The Wood Turning Center Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

Sep 01 - Kawerau National Woodskills Festival - Merit - Open woodturning
 2nd Prize - Spindle Turning

Sep 01 - NAW Sth Pacific Symposium - Palmerston Nth, NZ
 1st Prize - Sculptural Turning
 1st Prize - Carved Turning

Oct 01 – 'Forum 2001', Collectors of Wood Art in conjunction with MIA/Yale/WTC Symposium, Minneapolis, USA.

Feb 02 – 'Art of Northland' - invited Northland artists - Aotea Centre – Auckland

Mar/Apr 02 - 'Small Treasures' – del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.

May 02 - 'Starfish Vessel' image featured on 40c stamp in New Zealand Post
 'Art meets Craft' stamp issue.

May 02 - Invited Demonstrator - Israeli Woodturners Association.

Jun 02 - 'Lead Demonstrator' - American Assn of Woodturners annual symposium in Providence, Rhode Island, USA

Jul 02 - Invited Demonstrator - Prince Albert Woodturning Symposium, Saskatchewan, Canada

Jul/Aug 02 – Invited Demonstrator – 'Turned & Sculpted Wood', del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.

Aug 02 – Invited 'Resource Artist' - 'Emma Lake' Collaboration Conference Saskatchewan, Canada

Aug 02 – Invited Demonstrator - Honolulu and Big Island Woodturners, Hawaii.

Oct 02 – Invited Artist - 'Scrap to Sculpture' – Recycled Material Sculpture Symposium, Whangarei.
 3rd Prize

Mar 03 – Invited Resource Artist – CollaboratioNZ, Northland, NZ

Mar/Apr 03 - 'Small Treasures', del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.

May 03 – Invited Demonstrator - '2003 Utah Woodturning Symposium', Provo, Utah, USA.

May/June 03 – Invited Demonstrator - American Assn of Woodturning Chapters
 Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Santa Fe and Vancouver.

May-Aug 03 – 'Tony Boase Tribute'
 - The Wood Gallery, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford, UK.
 - The Ronald Pile Gallery, Ely, Cambs, UK.
 - International Woodturning Seminar, Loughborough University, Leicester, UK.

Sep 03 – Kawerau National Woodskills Festival – 1st Prize - Open Woodturning
 1st Prize – Multicentre Woodturning

Oct 03 – Invited Artist- 'Scrap to Sculpture' – Recycled Material Sculpture Symposium, Whangarei.
 'People's Choice' Award

Oct 03 – Invited Artist – Mittagong Collaboration Conference, NSW Australia.

Oct 03 – Invited Demonstrator – Blue Mountains & Newcastle Woodturning clubs, NSW Australia

Oct 03 – SOFA, Chicago, USA. Invited exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.

Nov 03 – ‘Art of Turned Wood’ – National juried exhibition – Aotea Center, Auckland
1st = Prize

Nov 03 – Invited Artist - ‘Big Red’ an exhibition celebrating the Pohutukawa,
Rotorua Art Museum

Jan/Feb 04 - ‘Selected Works’, del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles,
USA.

Mar 04 – Invited Demonstrator – Turnfest, Mt Tamborine, Qld, Australia

Mar 04 - ‘25 years of Woodturning’ - International exhibition celebrating 25th
anniversary of the Utah Woodturning Symposium, Museum of Art, Brigham
Young University, Provo, Utah, USA.

Mar/Apr 04 – ‘Small Treasures’ – del Mano Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

Jun 04 – SOFA, New York, USA, Invited Exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.

Jun 04 – Invited Attendee – Utah Woodturning Symposium 25th anniversary, Provo,
Utah, USA

Jun/Jul 04 – Invited Demonstrator – American Assn of Woodturning Chapters in
Portland OR, Bozeman MT, Chicago IL,
Hickory, Charlotte, Greensboro NC.

Jul 04 – Invited Faculty – Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts, Gatlinburg TN, USA

Sept 04 – Invited Judge – Kawerau National Woodskills Festival, Kawerau, NZ

Sept-Nov 04 – ‘Ipu Karea’ – Solo Exhibition – Waikato Museum of Art and History

Oct 04 – SOFA, Chicago – Invited Exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.

Nov 04 – Invited Exhibitor - ‘NZ Sculpture Onshore’ - Devonport, Auckland

Mar 05 – Invited Resource Artist – CollaboratioNZ – Northland, NZ.

Jun 05 – SOFA, New York – Invited exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.

Jun/Jul 05 – Invited Demonstrator – American Assn of Woodturners chapters in
Long Island, Connecticut, Pearisburg VA, Jackson
MI, Seattle WA, Portland OR, USA.

Sept 05 – Invited Judge – Kawerau National Woodskills Festival – Kawerau, NZ

Sept 05 – Invited Demonstrator – Wood Turning Center’s International Turning Exchange
10 year Retrospective Conference, University of Arts,
Philadelphia PA, USA.

Sept 05 – Invited Exhibitor – ‘Connections’ – Wood Turning Center’s International
Turning Exchange 10 year Retrospective Exhibition,
Philip & Muriel Berman Museum of Art at
Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA, USA.

Oct 05 – Invited Exhibitor – ‘The Reyburn House Gallery 3D Exhibition 2005’,
Whangarei, NZ.

Oct 05 – Invited Participant – Collaboration Conference, Newcastle, Australia

Oct 05 – Invited Demonstrator – ‘Blue Mountains International Woodturning
Symposium’ - Sydney, Australia.

Jun 06 – SOFA, New York, invited exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.

Jun 06 – Invited Demonstrator - Utah Woodturning Symposium, Provo,
Utah, USA

Jun/ 06 – Invited Faculty – Appalachian Center for Craft, Smithville, TN, USA.

Jun 06 - Invited Panelist – AAW Symposium, Louisville KY, USA.

Jun/Jul 06 – Invited Faculty – Arrowmont School of arts & Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN, USA.

Jun/Jul 06 – Invited Demonstrator- American Assn of Woodturning Chapters in
Hattiesburg MS, Asheville NC, Milwaulke WS.

Jul 06 – Workshop Facilitator – Black Forest Wood Co – Galgary, CA.

Jul 06 – Invited Artist - ‘Emma Lake’ Collaboration Conference, Ness Creek,
Saskatchewan, Canada

Sept 06 – Invited Judge – Kawerau National Woodskills Festival – Kawerau, NZ

Sept 06 – Invited Exhibitor – ‘Woodturned Sculptures Too’ – Jack & Shirley Lubeznik
Center for the Arts. Michigan City, Indiana, USA.

Sept 06 – Invited Exhibitor – ‘Passion3’ – Tukaha Gallery, Tutukaha, Northland, NZ

Apr 07 – Invited Artist – ‘CollaboratioNZ’ – Northland, NZ.

Jun 07 – SOFA, New York, invited exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.

Jun 07 – Invited Demonstrator – ‘Yankee Woodturning Symposium’ – Connecticut, USA
 Jun 07 – Workshop Facilitator – Johannes Michelsen School of Woodturning – VT, USA
 Jun/Jul 07 – Invited Demonstrator – AAW chapters in Wilmington DE, Bucks County PA
 and New Jersey
 Jun/Jul 07 – Invited Faculty – ‘Peter’s Valley Craft School’ – Delaware, USA
 Jul 07 – Invited Demonstrator – Israel Association of Woodturners.
 Sept 07 – Exhibitor - Kawerau National Woodskills Festival – Kawerau, NZ
 Sept 07 – Invited Demonstrator – Magma Fine Woodworking, Austria.
 Oct 07 – Invited Demonstrator – ‘Ohio Woodturning Symposium’ – Cincinnati OH, USA
 Sept 07 to Feb 09 – Invited Exhibitor – ‘Far from the Tree’ – Juried touring exhibition.
 exhibition venues - Messler Gallery – Rockport, Maine
 AAW Gallery – St Paul, Minnesota
 Ohio Craft Museum – Columbus, Ohio
 Southern Ohio Museum – Portsmouth, Ohio
 Houston Center for Contemporary Craft – Houston, Texas.
 Nov 07 – SOFA, Chicago - Invited exhibitor with del Mano Gallery.
 Apr 08 – Invited Demonstrator – ‘Southern States Symposium’ – Georgia, USA
 May 08 – Invited Faculty – John C Campbell School of Craft – NC, USA.
 May 08 – Invited Demonstrator – Bay Area, Silicon Valley and Wine Country Woodturners, CA, USA
 May 08 - Invited Faculty – Johannes Michelsen School of Woodturning, VT, USA
 May 08 – Invited Faculty – ‘Peter’s Valley Craft School’ – Delaware, USA
 Jun 08 – Invited Artist – Echo Lake Collaboration, Pennsylvania, USA
 Jun 08 – Invited Faculty - Appalachian Center for Craft, Smithville, TN, USA.
 Jun 08 – Invited Faculty – Arrowmont School of arts & Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN, USA.
 Aug 08 – Invited Resource Artist – Emma Lake International Collaboration Conference, SK, Canada
 Aug 08 – Invited Demonstrator – Vancouver Woodturners, BC, Canada
 Sept 08 – Invited Demonstrator – Palm Beach Woodturners, FL, USA
 Sept 08 – Invited Demonstrator – Magma Tools, Austria.
 Nov 08 – Invited Exhibitor – NZ Sculpture Onshore – Devonport, Auckland
 Mar 09 - Invited Demonstrator – Blue Mtns Challenge, Sydney, Australia
 Mar 09 – Invited Resource Artist – CollaboratioNZ – Northland, NZ.
 Apr 09 – Invited Demonstrator/Judge – Sth Auckland Woodturners / Ak Easter Show
 Jun 09 - Invited Faculty – Johannes Michelsen School of Woodturning, VT, USA
 Jun 09 – Invited Faculty – Marc Adams School of Woodworking, Indiana, USA
 Sep 09 – Invited Demonstrator – Oahu & Big Island Woodturners, HA, USA.
 Sep 09 – Invited Demonstrator – Magma Fine Woodworking, Austria.
 Sep 09 – Invited Artist – Collaboration Conference, NSW Australia.
 Mar 10 – Invited Demonstrator – Saratoga Woodturning Symposium, NY State, USA
 May 10 – Artist in Residence – 5 week collaborative residency with Michael Cullen – Breville, France
 Jun 10 – Invited Lead Demonstrator – American Assn of Woodturners Annual Symposium, CT, USA
 Jun 10 – Invited Faculty - Arrowmont School of arts & Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN, USA.
 Jun 10 – Invited Faculty – Johannes Michelsen School of Woodturning, Manchester, VT
 Jul 10 – Invited Demonstrator – New Mexico Woodturners, Albuquerque, NM
 Jul 10 – Invited Faculty – Craft Supplies – Provo, Utah
 Jul 10 – Invited Artist - ‘Emma Lake’ Collaboration Conference, Ness Creek,
 Saskatchewan, Canada
 Sep 10 – Invited Demonstrator - West Coast Roundup III, Vancouver, Canada.
 Sep 10 – Invited Demonstrator – Bristol Woodturners Guild, UK
 Sep 10 – Invited Demonstrator - Magma Fine Woodworking, Austria.
 Oct 10 – Invited Demonstrator – European Woodshow, Cressing, UK
 Oct 10 – Invited Demonstrator – French Woodturning Seminar, France
 Oct 10 – Invited Demonstrator – Luxembourg Woodturners, Luxembourg.
 Oct 10 – Invited Demonstrator – Duluth Woodturners, Duluth, Mn, USA
 Oct 10 – Invited Demonstrator – Maine Woodturners, USA
 Oct 10 - Invited Demonstrator – Chicago Woodturners, IL, USA

WORK IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Whangarei Art Museum - NZ
The Wood Turning Center - Philadelphia PA ,USA
The Detroit Institute of Arts - The Bohlen Collection - Detroit MI, USA
American Craft Museum - The Lipton Collection - New York, USA
Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts collection, Gatlinburg, TN, USA.
American Assn of Woodturners collection, St Paul, MN, USA

Graeme's work can also be found in numerous private and corporate collections throughout the world.

ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

May 97 - Jul 98 - Elected to committee of the National Assn. of Woodturners NZ Inc.
Mar 98 - Established 'CollaborationNZ' as a charitable trust to promote and organise collaborative art and craft events in NZ.
Mar 98 – April 05 - Coordinator & Trustee for 'CollaborationNZ'
Jul 98 - May 01 - Elected Secretary of the National Assn. of Woodturners NZ Inc.
May 01 - May 02 – Co-opted to committee of the National Assn of Woodturners NZ Inc.
Apr 09 – Elected to committee and trustee of CollaborationNZ

PUBLICATIONS

2004 – Beneath the Bark – 25 Years of Woodturning pg 106
2006 – Urbis – Design Annual pg 56. 'Sentinals' collaborative sculpture with Shona Firman.
2007 – American Craft Aug/Sept pg 15
2007 – American Woodturner Summer issue Vol 22, No. 2 pg 78
2007 – American Woodturner Fall issue Vol 22, No. 3 pg 13, 78
2008 – New Masters of Woodturning pg 156-161
2008 – American Woodturner Spring issue Vol 23, No.1 pg 1, 8, 11, 80
2008 – American Woodturner Summer issue Vol 23, No. 2 pg 18
2009 – Masters-Woodturning pg 64-71