

WesTurn News

Issue 187

12th April 2016

Western Sydney Woodturners Inc
Twin Gums Retreat, Corner Northcott Road and Diane Drive
PO Box 4008, Lalor Park NSW 2147
Web Site: www.westernsydneywoodturners.com



President's Report

Hello to all, here I am again after my lapse last month.

The Stitches and Craft Show Rosehill is now over for another year and it was a very rewarding time for the Club and hopefully the participants as well. Lynwood Public School and Linnwood House are also over and each of them were also good for the Club, keeping in mind that all of these outings help the profile of the Club as well as our Charity. We need more helpers at these events; particularly we need more volunteers for all of our demonstrations. As I have mentioned before even a couple of hours would help, you do not have to stay all day.

We enjoyed an evening at Bunnings just before Easter and a few of the club's "Bunnies" were there demonstrating and making tops for all the children.

Coming up are another mass of demonstrations etc. Trend Timbers (2 days), St Bartholomew's, Guilio's workshop on Saturday and then Guilio on Sunday for our Maxi Day. Another Bunnings barbecue on the Saturday as well.

Keep in mind that Guilio's demonstration at our Maxi Day is a very worthwhile experience and many things can be learned from this, also it is an expensive day for the Club so let's see a large rollup of members on the day please.

Some of the members of the executive and my wife Lynne took some Easter eggs on our annual trip to the Children's Ward at Mt Druitt Hospital to give to the kids who generally can't go home for Easter. These were very well received by both the kids and their parents. Thanks also to Lyn de Belle for helping make the gifts which were Charity bowls filled with eggs and tied up with cellophane.

A bench has been removed in the container to facilitate better safety by moving the machines around and I would like to ask anyone if they have any ideas on where machines can or should go for safety. Can you draw up a small plan and give it to a member of the executive for consideration please. We want the best setup for convenience and safety as possible.

The wood shed, garage and timber cutting is still in progress, though slowly, as innumerable jobs keep cropping up. A great help to everyone would be to ask your daily convenor when you arrive at the Club whether there are any jobs that can be done to help out and this will speed up everything. Thanks.

Till next time, Happy Turning.

BOB YOUNG.

Club Committee

President: Bob Young (0408760131)

Vice Presidents: Paul de Belle and

David Searle

Secretary: Alan Eipper

Treasurer: Paul Collins

Grants Officer & Membership Secretary:

Raymond Saich

Catering Officer: Fiona Deane

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Editor: Ron Fathers

ron1947@optusnet.com.au

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Webmaster: Lindsay McEwen

Lcmcewen@optusnet.com.au

Training Co-ordinator: Ron Devine

Trainers: Graham Dawes, Rod Brown and

Alan Phelps

Shop Managers:

Paul Collins (JP) and Bob Young

Stores, Equipment & Maintenance:

Manny Farrugia, Dave Matthews,

Graham Dawes (JP)

Welfare Officer: Steve Attard

s.attard84@gmail.com

If you have any problems or information concerning the club please contact any of the above committee members.

Club Badges

Any Member who hasn't received their name tag yet or if you just need a new one, please let me know and I will make you one as soon as I can.

Jimmy Singh

Shop items

Triple "P"

Friction Polish

Sanding Sealer

Sandpaper

Club Shirts

Dust jackets

Club Badges

Pen Kits

Pen Blanks – Acrylics

Many more items also available

Shop Trading Hours

Mon-Thurs: 9am – 10:30am

12:45 – 1:30pm

Friday nights: 7pm – 7:30pm

See Paul Collins or Bob Young for more details



Thanks to Michelle Rowland MP, The member for Greenway, for her continued support which includes the printing of this newsletter

Club Trading Hours

Mon-Thurs: 8:30am – 4pm \$5

Friday Nights: 5pm – 9pm \$3

Third Saturday of the month:

9am – 3pm \$5

16th April – Guilio's Workshop

21st May

18th June

Contact: Liam Healy – 0411560984

Ladies Day – Second Saturday of the month:

14th May

11th June

Contact: Anna Dawes – 96386995

tandawes@optusnet.com.au

Maxi Day – Third Sunday of the month:

From 8:30am (Lunch included)

17th April –

Guilio Marcolongo: \$20

Various turning items

15th May – TBA

19th June –

Andy Tappourus

Bandsaw Box Making

Club Meetings

Second Tuesday of the month – 7pm

12th April

10th May

14th June

New Members

Welcome to all our new members this month. We hope your stay is both long and rewarding

Doraiswamy Jagadeesh Meera Jagadeesh
Anne Kintominas

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to all our members this month. We hope you have a great day with many more to come.

Peter Bland	Ron Devine
Joe Farrugia	Evan Grammatikos
Kevin Hilton	Jeanette Hitchcock
Doraiswamy Jagadeesh	John Lane
Robyn Mahoney	Lindsay McEwan
Les Pritchard	Barry Raxworthy
Shaun Slater	Lauren Vunisa

Welfare

Wishing all members and family members of Western Sydney Woodturners good health especially anyone who is dealing with any illness. Many members or loved ones have been in hospital for various ailments, a speedy recovery to all. Just a quick note, I will be away from the 13th of April until the 23rd of April I hope whilst I am away everyone stays safe and well. I am still contactable via email if required, my email is s.attard84@gmail.com

Until next time stay safe, stay well and happy turning.

Steve Attard

Pens Wanted for the Troops

Can members please make and donate any pens for the troops. Please give them to the convenor on your day.

Thankyou so much!

Editors

COMING EVENTS

Bunning BBQ's

Seven Hills – 8am to 3:30pm (Setup 7am)

- Saturday 16th April
- Saturday 23rd July
- Monday 3rd October

Trend Timbers – Open Days

Mulgrave – 9am to 4pm (Demo ONLY)

- Friday 15th and Saturday 16th April

St Bartholomew's

Prospect - 9am to 3pm (Setup 8am)

- Saturday 16th April

Bella Vista Farm

Bella Vista – 9am to 2pm

- Sunday 1st May

KOI Society – Pet and Garden Show

Fairfield Showground – 9am to 4pm

- Sunday 15th May

- **Any members interested in going to these events please put your name on the clipboards at the club**

- **MEMBERS – WE REALLY NEED MORE CHARITY BOWLS! So PLEASE make as many as you can 😊**

Wood for sale

Members don't forget we have a lot of wood and Benchtops for sale so please come in and buy some.

The wood varieties are:

Huon Pine, Sassafrass, Olive, African Olive, Yellow Wood, Jacarandra, Swamp Maghony, White Cedar, Tallow Wood, Norfolk Pine, London Plane and American Tulip Wood

Benchtops are:

Cherry, Sapele, Walnut, European Oak and Alder

We also have Corian which is FREE

White- 12mm and 20mm thick

Grey-12mm thick

Black-12mm thick

BS FROM THE BUSH

The last time we spoke, we had left the Stitches and Craft Fair and looking forward to the two big events in or near Wellington. The Vintage fair, which was on the Saturday after we got back turned out to be a tremendous success. Picked up over \$5000 for the day, with only eight of us working. The other event was the Iron Bark Festival at Sturt Town (Easter Saturday). Last year it rained on the day, this year every man and his dog came out with the gorgeous Autumn weather, we picked up another \$2000 plus. Two very good days for the Wellington Lion's Club.



We had the Family with us over Easter which was real good, hectic but good. I did not get much work done over that week, but tried to make up for it the last few days.

Before the Stitches show I got a couple of weeks of turning in and managed to get back into the swing of things. The way I had the workshop set out was not the best. Allowed room for a mobile office chair which worked well (getting lazy) but there was still too much walking. Nover offered the Club some strips of board and I managed to get some, so I built myself some new shelving and relocated some machines, hopefully things will work more effectively (save my feet). Today is the start of using the new set up so will let you know how it goes. It's not so good when you have too much room, you have to make choices.

Having changed the clocks, it's hard getting into the new timing again but it only means autumn is here and the cooler days and cold nights. Bring it on.

Ken Vodden

Stitches and Craft Show-Rosehill

Wednesday: 2nd

We all arrived at the racecourse as this was the setup day. A bit of confusion took place as our area was outside the actual building and there was no defined area to set up. After discussion with the people running the show we now had our area set out, we were outside but under cover. We started to set up surrounded by forklifts moving temporary walls into place and fixing them also an electrician trying to fix power to our site so we could run our lathes. Once this was managed we then drew lots for our tables and set up our wares. We finished this around 4pm and then joined the peak hour traffic for the return home, any fine tuning to be completed before show opening in the morning.

Thursday: 3rd

We arrived at various times before the start of the show depending on how much work you had to do to your display. There were a mixture of patrons, bus loads from country areas, school groups from around Sydney and run of the mill house clubs from all the activities that were on display. Once the show was open we had a steady stream of viewers but not necessarily buyers as they were all going to come back when they finished looking at the other products inside. The Charity table did its usual turnover as it always managers. By about 2pm we noticed the crowds starting to wane as bus groups and school groups started to depart and mothers headed off to collect children from school.

Friday: 4th

I had to attend a funeral at Penrith on this day so could not report on the happenings of the day. However I can say that other members of the club pitched in and sold goods for me and gave me the money the next day. I would like to say a special thanks to Jill Catford, Steve Attard and Rob Stewart. I will say more about this at the end of my report.

Saturday: 5th

The usual start before the patrons were let in at 10am, it was noticeable that a lot of the patrons stopped at the entry to our area as the show was air –conditioned and we were not however we still had a steady stream of viewers and members were picking up sales now and again. Once again we noticed the crowd starting to dwindle at 2:00 - 2:30pm. The Saturday sales were down but it was very muggy on the day and this probably resulted in our returns for the day.

Sunday: 6th

The crowds were down at the start of the day but then seemed to increase around lunchtime and then once again they started to ease off around 2:30pm. After that the only people we saw were the ones who were looking for bargains. The last hour really dragged on and it was a relief when closing time occurred as it allowed us to pack up our display and the club equipment. Before I close I would like to say thank you to Paul Collins for providing the sustenance that kept us going for the duration of the show, to all the people who provided refrigeration to keep it cool and to all our club members who attended the show and flew the flag so to speak.

Finally I would like to appeal to those members of the club who are names in the attendance book at the club but their faces are not known at demos, next month we have four occasions happening on the same day so why not come along, you may even sell one of the bowls you have made for the charity or you could even relieve one of the members at Bunnings Barbecue who has been there since 7am setting up. The money we raise from that goes to keeping **YOUR** and **MY** club going so **PLEASE** come down and lend a hand when it is **NEEDED**.



Rohan McCardell



Lynwood Park Public School - Fete

On Saturday 12th of March, Dave, Leonie and I arrived at the school around 7am. We set up in the playground outside the classrooms, so we had shelter and lots of seats which was good for us as the weather wasn't too good the night before.

We unpacked the trailer and setup all the tables and lathe. We just finished putting out the charity bowls when Rohan came around 8am. We didn't have any table cloths in the trailer so we just had to do without them this time. We had everything ready in plenty of time for the 10am start.

There were lots of other stalls around us including: Face Painting and Tattoos, Hair colouring, paper flowers, jewelry, show bags, lucky dips, white elephant, clothes, candles, games and toys. There were also many food stalls including: BBQ, Asian food, pizza, popcorn, ice blocks, cold drinks, cakes, fried food and much more. There were lots of rides for the kids on the oval including: Dodgem cars, slide, flying chairs, tea cups, Jumping castle and much more.

We had a lot of people coming around to look at our items which included some politicians (Michelle Rowland, John Robertson and our Blacktown Mayor Leo Kelly). They all came to say 'hi' to Leonie and I as they know us because we live in the local area and often see them at other events we do. A former teacher of mine from Seven Hills High School came over to see me as he was there with his family because his wife is a teacher at this school. He was very surprised to see me and glad to see I kept up with my woodturning.

The sun came out around midday which kept us pretty warm. The charity did very well and most of us did well also. We packed up around 2:30pm and hopefully we will be back in 2 years time when they have it again.

I would like to personally thank Dave for taking the trailer at the very last minute and for giving us a lift.



Whoops

Jimmy Singh



Bunnings BBQ

February the 27th marked the first of our Bunnings Bar-B-Q's for this year.

This weekend was also significant for a couple of members of the executive who were celebrating milestones in their lives. It was around this time many years ago that they tied the knot with their respective wives 51 years for one and 47 for the other member. The wives deserve a medal.

The Bar-B Q started out fairly quietly but it soon picked up in numbers both with club members in attendance doing various jobs such as buttering the bread, cooking the sausages and getting everything ready for the day ahead. Sales were reasonable considering the weather and the number of customers that were arriving was a little slow at first however the day progressed fairly well and a little money trickled into the club funds to assist with the club operations and running costs.

These bar-B-Q's are a major source of our income and it is pleasing to see club members attend to help, however I keep seeing the same faces at many club functions and activities. It would be good to see some new faces at future events. You never know you might have a bit of fun, especially as there is usually a great deal of banter.



Paul de Belle

Linnwood House

On Sunday 13th March, Wendy, Dave, John and I attended a sales and demonstration day at Linnwood House, Guildford. The weather was hot with some cloud but we coped. Hot as it was a fair crowd was in attendance. Those who attended from the public were impressed with our skills so we were fortunate to all have sales of our work.

John was very good at explaining all the various woods to potential customers.

Ask Wendy how to turn a butterfly into a moth.

It was such a good day I'm going to go to more sales and demonstrations. The big hit of the day was Dave on the cream cakes, or were the cream cakes a big hit with Dave.

All in all it was a great day.

Denis Keane

Maxi Day – Finishing with Alan Phelps

Another beautiful day at Twin Gums Reserve where a small audience gathered to support one of their fellow members.

After being introduced by Bob Young, Alan Phelps proceeded with a presentation on polishing and sanding. His subjects were polishing, staining and sanding.

On polishing Alan went on to describe the different types of waxes, oils (including Danish Oil), Shellac, friction polishes, followed by polyurethanes, lacquers and epoxies.



Although not generally used by turners, Alan wanted to describe the advantages and disadvantages of different stains. These included spirit stains, water based stains, dyes, food colouring and other methods of colouring wood. Alan recommends water based as it is more compatible with his friction polishes.



Alan commenced his presentation on sanding by emphasizing the safety aspects including different types of masks and filters. He then went on to discuss abrasives, different grits, backing papers or cloth and how to increase the life of some of these abrasives. Alan seems to be taken by the relatively new product called Abranet. He then discussed methods of hand sanding and (his favourite) power sanding.

We then broke for lunch prepared by our own Barbeque Guru, Paul Collins. I can assure you that no one went away hungry.

After lunch Alan hosted Show & Tell. Alan's critiques were constructive and gentle (positive reinforcement). I must congratulate two of our newer members, Shaun and Barbara for entering into the spirit of the event.

The afternoon continued with Alan giving a practical demonstration on polishing a pen using super glue, PPP and a new product he calls Pen Pol. This produced quite good results. He then finished the day with a demonstration of how to achieve a very high shine using PPP, friction polish and Pen Pol. This produced amazing results however the demonstration did start to drag after the sixth coat.

In conclusion the audience was treated to a very fine presentation. Alan's preparation was immaculate, with his stores arranged in logical order, with a written plan, he spoke directly to his audience and interacted with them and the presentation flowed smoothly from start to finish. Thanks Alan.



Steve Hitchcock

P.S. Despite Alan's best efforts I still remain chemically challenged and will have to be content to purchasing my polishing supplies, sorry Alan.

Show and Tell

Leida Jedniuk



Alder – Friction Polish

Barbara Clarke



Acrylics



Various Wood – Super Glue

Steve Hitchcock



Myrtle – Friction Polish

Shaun Slater



Camphor and
Huon Pine

Wax and
Mirotone

Jimmy Singh



Corian and walnut

Friction Polish



Walnut and Sapele

Friction Polish



Sapele and Oak

Friction Polish

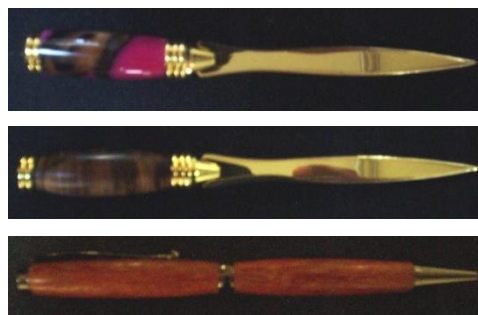


Various Wood

Friction Polish



Acrylics – Friction Polish

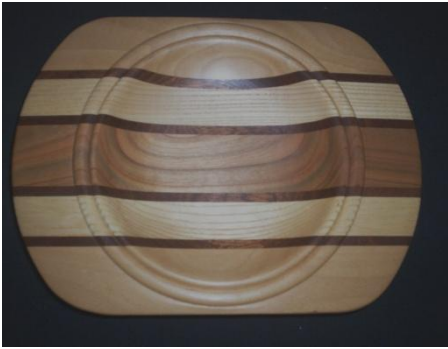


Friction Polish



Friction Polish

Ray Smith



Beech, Ash, Cherry and Sapele

Stylewood



Pine, Yellow Cedar, Organ and Sapele

Stylewood



Oak, Walnut and Plywood

Stylewood



Jacarandra - Stylewood



Merbau - Stylewood

GUILIO MARCOLONGO

WORKSHOP/HANDS-ON DAY

Saturday 16th April 2016



Limited places are available for those wishing to turn in the workshop with Guilio on Saturday. Cost yet to be advised. If you are interested please put your name and phone number on the noticeboard list as an expression of interest. First in, first served.



WOODTURNING DEMONSTRATION

Sunday 17th April 2016, maxi day

This is a great opportunity to see this well-known and experienced woodturner in action.
See notice board for more details.



Four Worms In Church

A lesson to be learned!!!!



A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.

The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol ... Dead.



The second worm in cigarette smoke... Dead.



Third worm in chocolate syrup...Dead.



Fourth worm in good clean soil... Alive...

So the Minister asked the congregation.
"What did you learn from this demonstration?"



Maxine sitting in the back quickly raised her hand and said
"As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"
That pretty much ended the service!

Footnote:

My Club Reporters have been rather lazy recently but Erick Eavesdropper delivered the following copy recently.

"I was recently surprised, nearly as much as the daily convenor, when I observed the following:

1. On arrival one member, as soon as he has placed his tools on a lathe approaches the convenor and asks "Any jobs to be done before I start turning?"
2. Another member, as he departs, has thanked the convenor for performing the role that day.

I was impressed as that is truly in the spirit of what a club is (or should be)."

Quote of the month:

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.- Bob Hope

Must Fly
Woodchip

Blacktown City Show

Well done to Associate Member Jill Catford for getting first place for a necklace of beads in the show. A beautiful piece of jewelry for which you should be proud. More successes followed with popular members Paul de Belle placing third for a painted bowl created at a workshop with Guilo Marcolongo, and Eddie Catford getting Highly Commended for his Double Bowled Burl (try saying that with a mouth full of marbles). Great effort and congratulations to the three of you.

Editor

The Magpie Syndrome

(All that glitters)

Woodturning is a simple hobby, you don't need many tools! When this is said the usual response is "Yeah sure."

The opening statement is totally correct so we must ask ourselves why it is that we need a trolley to carry our tools or need to make 3 trips to the car before we can begin the days turning.

As far as cutting tools are concerned the basic set of 6 is all we need. These are, the Roughing Gouge, Detail Gouge, Bowl Gouge, Skew Chisel, Scraper and Parting Tool. When kept sharp and properly sharpened these tools carry out most of the tasks required to achieve fine woodturning. Some people have the impression that they can buy their way to being good woodturners and purchase incredibly expensive gadgets that will do the job for them. Quite often they are disappointed and these doodads are relegated to the bottom of the tool box to add more weight. It is part of the human condition that we are never satisfied and are subject to temptation, so like magpies we are attracted to bright shiny objects with which to line our nests.

Steve Hitchcock

P.S. I'm as guilty as anyone.

Easter Egg Delivery

Three old buck rabbits, Bob, Paul de, and Alan left the warren on the Thursday before Easter and under the skilled guidance of Easter Fairy Godmother Lynn hopped out to Mt Druitt Hospital to make the annual delivery of Easter Eggs. I am not sure about the value of hospital security because on the approach of the three old bucks in green shirts and sporting pink and white ears the guards jaw bounced on the floor. After he picked it up he just opened the door and waved us in. Our salvation must have been the presence of the Easter Fairy Godmother.

The staff welcome was both warm and interesting to observe. The knowing smiles of appreciation of the long term staff contrasted with the "newbies" who were obviously thinking "What goes on here?" This of course was out done by the reaction of the children when presented with their basket of goodies. Probably best of all was the surprise and appreciation expressed by the parents.

The hop back to the club involved a little detour as the Easter Fairy Godmother relaxed; obviously thinking her old Buck knew the way back to the warren. Of course this was not so. Consequently when one of the young bucks gave very clear directions he did not listen and turned right which was wrong so then he had to go right again to get it right. In the end it turned out right.

Source: A young Buck.



Our Country is in Mourning, A Digger Died Today



He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the R.S.L.,
Telling stories of the past.



Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his mates;
They were heroes, every one.



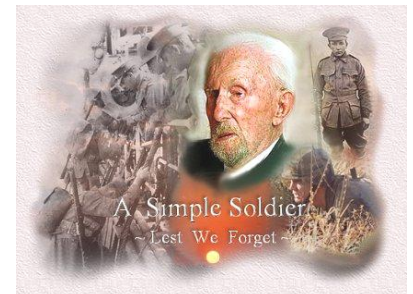
And 'tho sometimes to his neighbours
His tales became a joke,
All his mates listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.



But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Jack has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Digger died today.



He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.



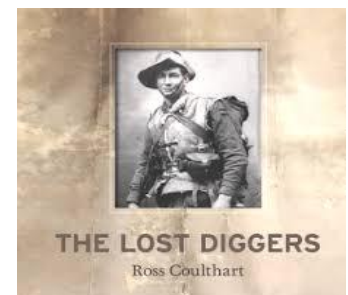
He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Digger died today.



When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.



The Media tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Digger
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.



Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some smoothie who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?



Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?



The politician's stipend
And the style in which they live,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that they give.



While the ordinary Digger,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.



It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.



Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?



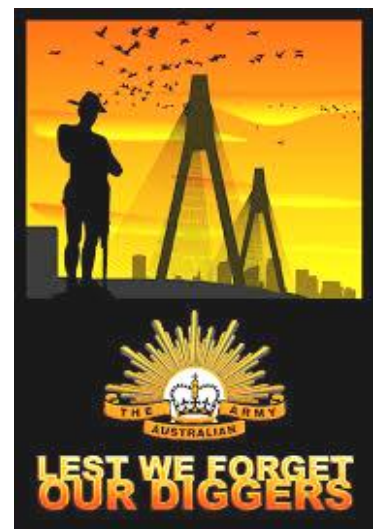
Or would you want a Digger
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Digger,
Who would fight until the end?



He was just a common Digger,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.



For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Digger's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.



If we cannot do him honour
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.



Some Songs



Some songs can send a message
 Though tiny it may be
 It's often quite important from your past
 But its not all there - It's wispy
 And you long to bring it back
 But things like this don't happen all that fast



Or sometimes its' a spoken phrase
 That sparks this memory
 Of melody and things that happened then
 Of memory in tiny broken pieces
 It will come back it always does
 We won't know where or when



So next time this happens to you
 Relax and enjoy what is sent
 A joyous moment in your world
 The thrill of sweet emotion
 That you knew so long ago
 Cherish it all let it all unfurl



Neil Guthrie

Royal Easter Show Entrants

This year our club had two members who put entries into the Royal Easter Show. Although they didn't place I'm sure they both caught the eye of the judges. Robyn Mahoney never ceases to amaze with her very delicate work. Following up from her award winning Dragon Fly in 2014, she presented us with this Spider on its Web. Well done Robyn.

Raymond Saich was very quiet about putting in his entry until Jimmy and Leonie spotted it among the other entries while visiting the Show. The photo doesn't do it justice but this is a beautiful segmented bowl and took Raymond many hours of work.

Ron Fathers



Safety Matters

A Reminder about Workshop Safety

We must all keep in mind the importance of WORKSHOP SAFETY. Please THINK and ACT responsibly at all times.

It is up to all of us to fulfill our commitment by wearing at all times;

- ✓ Dust masks
- ✓ Protective glasses
- ✓ Suitable clothing
- ✓ Footwear
- ✓ Ear protection

It does not hurt to discuss safety with other members if they are not doing the right thing.

REMEMBER..... **It is your body and your limbs.....**



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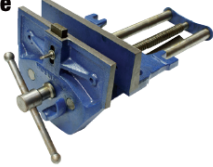
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WV-230 Wood Working Vice
 • 230mm jaw width
 • 260mm opening
 • Quick action release



Order Code: V184
\$129
 SAVE \$14

DS300 Bench Disc Sander
 • 305mm sanding disc
 • 435 x 225mm table size
 • 0.75kW / 1hp 240V motor
 • Includes: Mitre guide & brake



Order Code: L1335
\$309
 SAVE \$21

WOODFAST

DC-3 Dust Collector
 • 1200 cfm - LPHV system
 • Portable on wheels
 • 5 Micron fine filter bag
 • 1.5kW/2hp, 240V motor



Order Code: W394
\$369
 SAVE \$27

WG250 Wetstone Grinder
 • Ø250 x 50mm grinder stone
 • Ø230 x 30mm leather honing wheel
 • 160W, 240V motor



Order Code: R895
\$739
 SAVE \$53

RECORD POWER

M-16 Chisel Morticer
 • 16mm chisel capacity
 • 160 x 46mm adjust. table
 • 120mm head stroke
 • 0.37kW, 240V motor



Order Code: W347
\$369
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THE BACK PAGE

ITEM 26

BE PREPARED

One of the joys of this hobby is the solving of problems; unfortunately most of the problems we have to solve are of our own making.

During my wandering and sticky beaking I have noticed some members have mounted their blank; proceed with great gusto to turn only to come to a screeching halt not knowing how to proceed. This usually happens due to over enthusiasm and lack of planning. Never fear most members have been there and will be only too happy to help you.

Some members boast about free form turning where having mounted the blank they proceed to turn in order to discover what the wood has to offer, this can be quite enjoyable. Be aware however that these members are usually experienced turners who have developed an instinctive sequence of working. For us lesser mortals I offer the following advice.

PLAN, PREPARE and PRACTICE.

Following on from excellent articles on tools and equipment, I would like to continue with the following.

PLANNING: I have found the following steps useful. 1. Select your blank and think about what you intend to make with it. 2. Make a drawing of your intended project; this can be a scribble, a thumbnail sketch or a fully prepared technical drawing. The choice is yours. 3. Think long and hard how you will mount your blank and the steps you will have to take to complete your project. (See mounting methods in previous articles). 4. Give consideration to your method of finishing or polishing and at what point to apply it.

PREPARATION: Having produced a plan it is now time to prepare your work. 1. Inspect the wood for any flaws or defects, decide if these can be features if not reject it and choose another blank. 2. Ensure the face you are going to use for your mounting method is flat and the work will be secure and safe. 3. If turning a bowl, band saw the blank to approximately round to eliminate any sharp edges. 4. If turning spindles, ensure that you leave sufficient waste at each end to allow for parting off. 5. Ensure your tools are sharp. (Blunt tools are dangerous). 6. Check the lathe for speed, tool rest and everything is locked securely.

PRACTICE: Sports people, musicians, dancers and other people who take their pastimes seriously practice consistently. There seems to be an attitude among wood turners that practice is both boring and unnecessary. These people still expect to achieve a high standard of workmanship by some form of Osmosis.

Many wood turners tend to ignore spindle turning to concentrate exclusively on bowls. I believe these people are selling themselves short by limiting themselves to a very narrow set of skills and tool handling. Even to the point of totally ignoring the traditional set of turning tools.

It is no accident that all courses on wood turning begin with spindle turning. This allows the student to develop all the muscle memory and tool manipulation to be able to approach any cut with confidence. As an exercise if you have an half hour to spare, mount a piece of scrap wood between centers, turn it round and then proceed to play with it seeing how many shapes you can achieve e.g., beads, coves, fillets, scotias, thumbnails, balusters and any other odd shapes you can invent, expect and accept mistakes. If mistakes happen try to analyse them but don't be obsessed with perfection, this exercise is just for fun.

CONCLUSION: The way to successful turning comes from proper preparation and planning. In short have a plan (either written or safely tucked away in your head). Practice to achieve the necessary skills required, and enjoy the act of producing something outstanding using your mind, hands and body.

Steve Hitchcock

Note. As in all professions there are many and varied opinions and ways of doing things. This is true of wood turning. These articles are the results of my reading article publications.