

# WestTurn News

Guild Web Site: <http://www.sydneywoodturners.com.au>

Issue 55, April 2004.

Western & Blue Mountains Region

Postal Address: PO Box 4008, Lalor Park, NSW 2147

e-mail: [susanjoanb@msn.com](mailto:susanjoanb@msn.com)

Twin Gums Retreat Address: Cnr Northcott Rd & Diane Dr, Lalor Park

## Regional Committee 2004:

**Convenor:** Bill Swindail  
9864 1620

**Secretary:** Harry Cole

**Treasurer:** Greg Maloney

**Regional Rep:** Larry Bailey  
9622 6140

**Member:** Ted Edwards

**Events Co-ordination:** Alan Phelps is the events Co-ordination contact for this Region. So if Alan approaches you to help please assist.

**Library:** See Don Hughes if you would like to know what is currently available from our library. **Please remember that some of the items within the library are on loan from other members and all care should be taken to bring them back as soon as you are finished. Just as in other libraries one month is usually sufficient time to have an item out.**

**Stores & Equipment:** is being looked after by Graham Dawes and Ted Edwards. Please let them know if you find any problems with any of the machinery in the hall.

**Editor:** The newsletter is being put together by Larry Bailey. Articles can be e-mailed to [susanjoanb@msn.com](mailto:susanjoanb@msn.com)

or give to a committee member who will pass them on to me.

## Sick List:

If anyone knows of any of our members or their partners who are on the sick list, let **Graham Murray** (4658 0563) know, and he will send them a get well message from the Region.

## Committee Meeting:

The committee meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 7.00pm at Twin Gums Retreat. All are welcome to attend. Next meeting **4th May**.

## Committee Report:

The committee wishes to thank all who participated in turning bowls for the Easter project. The committee agreed to attend the Nepean Historical Society event on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

## **BOWLS FOR EASTER.**

Thankyou to all who helped in this event.

## Western/Blue Mtns Region Calendar for 2004:

Third **Sunday** every month from 10.00am

Every **Wednesday** from 10.00am.

Every Second & Fourth **Friday Night** of the month. Starting 7.00pm.

## MARCH 21

Sunday saw 24 members and visitors attend for this day of hands on turning.

Theme for show and tell was Lamps / Vases and was conducted by Larry Bailey.

**Bill Swindail:** had a lamp made from cedar mostly a natural form and finished with shellac.

**Toby McIlwain;** had a small working lamp made from maple & Jacaranda finished with shellac Toby also had a suspended hollow form made from various timbers and finished with shellac.

**George Wells:** had another clock one of a series he is making made from radiata pine & mulberry laminate finished with estapol.

**Graham Murray:** had two vases one made from silky oak the other pine both finished with isolac and EEE.

**Malcolm Clark:** brought in Vinnie the Viking made from camphor laurel with no finish.

**Tony Maberly;** had a vase of unknown timber finished with

shoe polish and his first turning project of a lamp of Lebanese cedar and a base of? gum finished with isogard.

**Larry Bailey:** had three vases one of camphor laurel, two of jacaranda all finished with friction polish. All vases had been hollowed with the Roly Munro deep hollowing tool.

**John Malysiak;** had a laminated bowl with five different timbers finish with 7008 estapol, also a fruit bowl of mortan bay fig finished with instant estapol

**Des Page:** made a wall lamp made from teak and finished with EEE friction polish. Graham Dawes had a lamp stand made from silky oak finished with estapol gloss.

**Graham Dawes:** had a tall lamp made from silky oak and finished with estapol.

#### **APRIL 18**

David Laird & Tom Cattell will be demonstrating oval turning. **Theme for show & tell will be Off Centre Turning.** Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

#### **MAY 16**

Bring your tools, as this will be a hands on day. Leigh & Yvonne Ferguson (Wood-eze) will be attending with their supply of wares for sale so bring your money as well. **Theme for show & tell will be something under 50mm.**

#### **JUNE 20**

Swap meet. **Theme for show & tell will be a Gavel.**

#### **JULY 18**

**Bring your tools, as this will be a hands on day.** Theme for show & tell will be **Spoons / Ladles.**

#### **AUGUST**

Bruce Leadbeatter will be demonstrating. **Theme for show & tell will be Laminated / Segmented Turnings**

#### **Past Demonstrations:**

Our members have participated in the following demonstrations. The details are as follows:

#### **March, 27 & 28**

Dutch Festival, Dunheved Circuit, Dunheved.

For the past 5 or 6 years members of our region have attended the Dutch Festival. On Saturday at least 6 of our members spent time demonstrating turning to the public. As normal it was a bit slow on Saturday and it gave us a chance to catch up on things with members of the Hawkesbury region.

It also gave the newer members a chance to learn how to demonstrate without a large crowd around them. On Sunday a change of members with our old members having a go. Again it was slow and gave me a chance to catch up on some badly needed practice.

Setting up this year was made easy as the Dutch Club supplied the stand and seating for us, so that all we had to do was set up the lathes and turn. The food was again superb. Many thanks go to the members who gave up their

time to attend on one of the days and special thanks goes to Toby who turned on both days.

**Bill**

#### **Future Demonstrations:**

Our members have been asked to participate in the following demonstrations:

#### **May 29**

Blacktown festival is on again so if you wish to participate see Alan Phelps. Please note that due to construction underway in Blacktown our usual site will be different this year.

#### **June 19/20, 26/27 July 3/4**

We have been asked to participate with the Peninsula Region at Auburn Mega Mart once again. Display items for sale are required. Please note that all items should be of a good quality. It is expected that if you wish to sell items that you attend at least one of the days and help with the stand. For more details please see Bill Swindail.

#### **MEMBERS AND VISITORS:**

Welcome to our new members and any visitors today.

We hope that you enjoy yourselves at this meeting and, indeed, many other meetings that you may attend at this region and at our other regions.

#### **Safety Instruction:**

**In line with Work Cover, OH & S practices, and pure, simple common sense, NO ONE is to attend workshop type meetings or any Guild function wearing thongs, sandals, or open foot wear.**

**\*\*Please note: Current first aid officers are:**

**Ted Edwards**  
**Larry Bailey**

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## ITEMS FOR SALE

**Sandpaper** – Various grades at \$6.00 metre.

**Wood** – as priced on the rack on the stage.

**End Sealer** - \$4.00 per litre.

**Friction Polish** - \$10.00 per 250 ml. Bottle.

### **Scrapers & Parting Tools**

–Range of round & square end \$30.00 ea.

Please see Graham Dawes or Bill Swindail if you wish to make a purchase.

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## PROPERTIES OF SPECIES OF SOME WOODS CONT.

### Balsa:

Though the lightest and softest of commercial timbers it is botanically a hardwood. It is native to tropical America, the main commercial source being Ecuador, but it is being grown in other tropical areas, including Papua New Guinea. Sapwood very wide and greyish white or oatmeal in colour. Heartwood pinkish brown and said to be considerably weaker in strength than the sapwood. Texture rather coarse but even. Grain usually straight. Used for model making, stage sets, insulation of refrigerated trucks, floats, rafts, surgical splints, surfboards & hat blocks.

**Baltic Red:** other common names – Scots Pine, Red Deal, Baltic Pine.

This medium sized softwood is widely distributed throughout Europe and northern Asia. Sapwood creamy white or pale

yellow, 50 to 100mm wide, and easily distinguished

**Baltic White:** other common names – Norway Spruce, White Deal.

This medium sized softwood is the traditional Christmas tree of northern Europe. The sapwood is white to pale yellow and not clearly differentiated from the heartwood. The growth rings are less conspicuous than those of red Baltic and the wood is much less resinous. Texture medium. Grain usually straight but there is a tendency for spiral grain to be present. Easy to work, except for small tight knots which soon dull tool edges. Used for general construction, flooring and cladding.

### Banksia:

There are a number of species of this small hardwood in coastal districts of eastern Australia. Heartwood reddish brown, sapwood distinctively paler. Conspicuous ray figure, somewhat like that of silky oak. The trees are usually small and gnarled. Used for decorative wood ware and turning.

**Basswood, New Guinea:** other common names – white Milkwood, Sendok-Sendok, Kouvula (in Fiji).

A large hardwood of common occurrence in Papua New Guinea. Species of similar properties occur from Malaysia through to Fiji. Sapwood and heartwood both pale yellow. Texture rather coarse but even. Grain straight or slightly interlocked. Easy to saw but rather “woolly” surface. Glues well. Used for internal joinery, plywood, and patternmaking.

### Basswood, Silver:

A small hardwood of the coastal rainforests from the Illawarra district of New South Wales to northern Queensland. Heartwood and sapwood both white to very pale brown. Texture moderately fine and even. Grain straight. Small ray figure on the radial face. Used in internal joinery and veneer. Scarce

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Bob Jarvis has built a slabbing machine. This one is a bit different. He has built his own chain saw using a standard electric motor the drive mechanism is made from old car parts and it has a vee belt drive. The blade and saw chain are from a standard petrol type saw. Some blokes are ingenious aren't they?

The frame is made from scrap tube and pipe he had laying around his backyard. Anyhow it had its first inaugural run on Sat 28 Feb 04. Tony Maberly and I were both there. It works! Bob was using a 1hp motor, which was a bit small, it needs more grunt. Anyhow we cut some slabs quite successfully

The frame is different to the normal type and the method of holding the timber is Bob's own design that I feel is quite good. Bob being an old blacksmith and a welder has made a good job of the frame, in fact its built like the proverbial brick s--- house. Consequently its very heavy so its not all that portable,. It looks like it will have to stay at Bobs place. Bob took the 2hp motor off his air compressor the next day and tried this and he reckons this is much better, but he would like to go up to a 2.5hp. Bob said he has a few teething problems and a few

minor modifications to make. Anyhow as far as I am concerned, full marks for a great effort. Now I know where I can go to get timber slabbed.

**Alan Phelps**

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### Quotes

- Love your enemy – it will drive him crazy.
- Style is a simple way of saying complicated things.
- Never get married while you're going to college; it's hard enough to get a good start if a prospective employer finds you've already made one mistake.

**George Wells**

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This article is written to express my view on a few noticeable pleasant encouraging aspects, not detrimental or criticism against anyone.

The first point I wish to mention is an apology, for an error I made in my last article in the newsletter, where I repeated myself, had I checked before handing my article to Larry I would have eliminated the problem.

Next, I note the improvement in regard to members approach to each other at meeting and when someone requires help. My bench drill at home failed (resister) so Alan Phelps came to my rescue, replacing it with a second hand one from his own supply. Thank you Alan for the help, and the scraper

you made a couple of months ago.

I am looking at a picture of serenity and interest that has happened over the last twelve months, a essential improvement to our region, after the problems that have occurred. Dissention is unsuitable for moral, to understand and appreciate other views we must rise above previous problems, and face the new ones with greater wisdom, leave the old problems behind us. The Guild was formed to help each other, members in this region are now achieving that purpose, keep it up. Keep your lathe turning. Also includes George who creates great work turning segmented bowls.

Final note, due to medical reasons I have cancelled my trip to Tasmania so I will not be obtaining any Tasmanian timber owing to these circumstances. George will be pleased; his work together with others is far superior.

**Malcolm Clark**

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### Wood Finishing By Alan Phelps

This article is continued from last month's newsletter-

In my previous articles I described my experiences as a carriage Builder in the Railways. A couple of years after I came out of my time I left the Railways and started as a draftsman at the Commonwealth Eng. at Granville. In those days they were the big carriage manufactures in Australia. I worked in the interior finish

section doing drawings for the 'Southern Aurora' train.

Now this saga is starting to sound like my life storey and you are probably starting to ask what the heck has this got to do with wood finishing. Be patient and we'll get there.

The Southern Aurora was a major breakthrough in carriage design, all stainless steel and the first modern contemporary design for sleeper cares in decades.

A complete radical change in interiors, no polished wood. What was the finish? It was mainly plywood with upholstery type vinyl cloth glued to the face in various colours, a lot of extruded aluminium for the trims, door frames, skirtings, and some Plastic Laminates such as "Laminex & Formica" on doors ect.

Most of the aluminium trim was painted a neutral grey. We were all somewhat enthusiastic about this as this was the era of change and colour clear finished timber was out of vogue.

You may remember in our homes this was the era of Laminex topped tables with chromed legs, chromed tubular chairs with coloured upholstery. In our homes we were painting over varnished wood work with bright colours to give them a "lift" we used to say.

I always felt that timber would never disappear as it has a timeless beauty.

Anyhow the contract at Comeng ran out and I ended up

in the airconditioning industry for years as a draftsman engineer. Then out of the blue I was offered a job back with Comeng as a design draftsman to build the "Indian Pacific" and guess what, the interior designers had gone the full circle, back to timber finishes.

**To be continued next month.**

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## TURNING WOOD

"Turning is one of the simplest techniques in woodworking, and it has enormous universal appeal. People are fascinated by watching wood being shaped on a lathe because the effect is immediate and the shapes alter so quickly. It is possibly one of the easiest techniques to learn, though to master it well there is no shortcut to experience.

Anyone can learn to use a lathe, a quiet, relatively inexpensive power tool which takes up little room, needing only a bench for mounting.

On a lathe you can turn small functional objects such as bowls, platters, goblets, and decorative items, as well as make turned components for furniture such as chair and table legs.

The principle of lathe work is simply that the wood is rotated at speed in a holding device such as a chuck, and these come in various shapes and sizes to suit the type of work being undertaken.

A variety of differently profiled scrapers or gouges are carefully fed into the rotating wood against the firm support of a tool rest, which acts as a

stationary lever. These chisels or gouges are hand-held and moved by the operator to cut various shapes. ...

As lathe work creates dust and chips, which fly everywhere, protect your eyes and lungs with an appropriate mask/face shield.

Turning wood is a mesmerizing activity and once taken up will give endless hours of satisfaction."

This definition of our hobby as found in  
"The Encyclopedia of Wood Working Techniques"  
By Jeremy Broun

**Anna Dawes**

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## TURNING CLASSES

We encourage all beginners to seek help, ask questions and enjoy what we hope will be a great hobby.

If you are interested in joining classes please see **Bill Swindail**.

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## LIDCOMBE MEETINGS

Starting 30<sup>th</sup> April this meeting will now be at Bankstown Regions hall at Waldron Road, Chester Hill.

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## WORKING WITH WOOD SHOW

Date – 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> June.  
Location – Fox studios.  
There will be a sales table.  
If you wish to participate see Larry.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Richard Raffin will be demonstrating Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cost \$20.00 including lunch. Book early – Albert Hodgson 4883 9542 or see Larry Bailey.

The Southern Highlands Region is 10 years old this year and will be having a celebration day on September 25<sup>th</sup> at Bowral. Also see brochure at front desk.

## WOODTURN 2004

Brochures are now available at the desk as you enter the hall. Book early or miss out.

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Please remember that **NO** member can commit the Region to participate in any demonstration or event without first presenting to the committee. Guild approval is also required for insurance purposes.

**Convenor**

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## PROJECT

In this issue and coming issues I will try to attach a project that I would like to see at our Sunday show & tell along with that days theme. I would like to keep these project items on display for a couple of months (you will get them back). This months project supplied by Toby McIlwain.

**Larry**

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**Open Day**  
**Trend Timbers**  
**Windsor, Sydney**  
**Friday 14th May and**  
**Saturday 15th May**