

WestTurn News



Guild Web Site:

<http://www.sydneystwoodturners.com.au>

Issue 100, 8th April 2008.

Western Sydney Woodturners

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

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

Library: See [Wayne Hipwell](#) if you would like to know what is currently available from our library.

Please remember that all care should be taken with borrowed items and 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 & Maintenance: [Graham Dawes](#), [Alan Phelps](#) and [Dave Matthews](#). Please let them know if you find any problems with any of the machinery in the hall.

Workshop & Storeroom:

This club has invested a lot of time and money in providing an excellent range of equipment for the benefit of all members. It is regularly serviced and maintained in good condition as we are fortunate in having a keen group of engineers who like maintaining machines and who are good at this kind of thing.

Read the club's Rules & Regulations regarding use of equipment and limitation of store-room access. Every lathe has its numbered box of accessories which needs to be borrowed and signed for. We also have some special tools and chucks for loan.

From the Storeroom we have for sale sandpaper in all grades, Friction Polish, club shirts in various sizes, club badges and some clock mechanisms.

[Manny Farrugia](#)

Sick List: : If anyone knows of any of our members or their partners who are on the sick list, please contact [Graham Murray](#) (0412 913 508) who will send a card on behalf of the club.

Editor:

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Catering Officer: [Rohan McCardell](#).

Secretary:

[Ian O'Connor](#) (9715 3450)

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Treasurer and Membership Secretary:

[Bob Young](#) (9873 2773)

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Workshops:

Tuesday and **Wednesday** from 9.30am (Entry \$5) and every **Friday Night** starting at 7.00pm (Entry \$3)

Maxidays:

Third Sunday every month from 10.00am (Entry \$6). Usually a guest demonstrator as well as Show & Tell. Lunch is provided.

20 th April	Carolyn McCully (pyrography)
18 th May	Simon Priem
15 th June	Glen Roberts

Committee Meeting:

The committee meeting is held on the **second Tuesday of the month** starting at 7.00pm at Twin Gums. All are welcome to attend.

PLANNED OUTINGS

April 13th
May 31st

Merrylands Central Gardens
Blacktown Street Fair

Phone: 02 4655 7295
Mobile: 0418 221 554



Frank Hicks

Macarthur Woodturning Supplies



48 Engesta Avenue
South Camden NSW 2570
Email: frankhicks@bigpond.com
ABN: 91 355 662 658

President's Message

[Ron Devine](#)

Every week we seem to be welcoming new members to our club. This is no doubt a result of the friendly attitude of our members at community demonstrations and other social contact and encouragement by our members to come along to a meeting.

Recent new members include:

Peter Bohan (the one-armed bandit)
Mathew Sparks and his son Raymond Sparks
Graham Sugar
Raymond Saich
Johannes Freke (Hans)
Hans Loomans (Hunz)

Maxiday Sunday 16th March

Due to the fact that it was the weekend when our garden recycling bin was to be emptied, plus the weather was perfect for weeding, cutting back overgrown shrubs and generally cleaning up, is it any wonder I had a "senior's moment" and clean forgot.

Sorry Santa for not managing to get there and of course it just happened that nobody had a camera at the meeting and hence there are no shots of your demo or the Show & Tell items.

However, Rohan McCardell reports that 18 members attended and that Bob Hodge gave an interesting demonstration on sharpening a detail gouge with a "fingernail" cut. His system means sharpening the point first before attending to the wings.

Bob then went on to his favourite tool, the skew chisel. He is preparing to make a video on the skew chisel and will be organising training classes soon. These will take place on Monday evenings from 7pm till 9pm. The cost is \$75 for the 5 week course and the class is limited to four members.

He then showed how to make a sugar scoop. It is bowl-shaped and the handle is turned using centre turning first, then offset to give the handle a shape that is comfortable to grip

The raffle was won by Bob Jarvis.

Thanks to Manny for collecting the tickets from the Show & Tell entries for me.

Those displaying their work included:

Dom Vaticano

- Candle Holder, olivewood, Estapol
- Easter Egg with chick, olivewood, Estapol
- Bowl, Purpleheart, Esterpol
- Bowl, Jacaranda, Estapol

Larry Bailey

- Vase, Camphor laurel, Penatrol

Bob Young

- Bowl, River Redgum burl

Manny Farrugia

- Bowl, segmented
- Vase, segmented

Syd Churchward

- Bowl, River Redgum, Shellac and Carnuba

Carlingford Retirement Village Report

On 12th February this year five of our members: namely Ron Devine, Bob Young, Rohan Mc Cardell Graham Dawes and Neil Guthrie spent a morning entertaining the elderly folk at the above mentioned Village with a demonstration of wood turning. Whilst the majority of the audience was older Ladies we did have a sprinkling of Gents though I doubt there were any potential new members among the group.

Neil turned a blackwood vase with glass insert and then Graham turned a pot-pourie bowl. Both items were donated to lucky door prize winners and according to a source within the Village the event was the highlight of their week, being much talked about and discussed for several days after.

We half suspect Bob's reason to be there was to visit with his elderly Mother In Law who is in her nineties. Despite the fact that some of our audience were noted to be dropping off during the show, we have it on good authority that most enjoyed the demo and talked about it for the rest of the week

Neil Guthrie & Rohan McCardell

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

One night, a police officer was staking out a particularly rowdy bar for possible violations of the driving-under-the-influence laws.

At closing time, he saw a fellow stumble out of the bar, trip on the curb, and try his keys on five different cars before he found his. Then the man sat in the front seat fumbling around with his keys for several minutes.

By this time everyone had left the bar and drove off. Finally, he started his engine and began to pull away. However, the police officer was waiting for him.

He stopped the driver, read him his rights and administered the Breathalyzer test. The results showed a reading of 0.0.

The puzzled officer demanded to know how that could be. With a smile on his face, the driver replied, "Tonight, I'm the designated decoy!"



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CLUB RULES & REGULATIONS

In the interest of safety and security, the following conditions must be observed at all times.

SIGNING THE BOOK AND PAYING DUES

On arrival at the club, go to the desk near the door and print your name in the book and pay your money or place it in the container provided. Doing this makes your attendance official and means you are covered by insurance.

BIG BAND SAW

- There must be two members at the saw when in use. If you need to use this saw, call another member over to help to feed and retrieve to job safely.
- There is a limit of two(2) pieces of timber per person per day.

STORE-ROOM

This is the room where we keep the tools and such. Nobody except the storeroom manager or his deputy who has the key is to enter this room.

Tools must be signed out and in again on return.

LATHES

Read and take notice of the information given in the Woodturning Safety Guideline on the next page, regarding safe working procedures.

CLEANING UP AFTER YOURSELF

When you have finished turning, use one of the dustpan and brush sets to remove most of the shavings and dust from the lathe and its table, then a broom to sweep up the surrounding floor area.

Place all the debris in one of the garbage bins provided for this purpose before finally using the vacuum cleaner to give the lathe, bench and floor a final clean. Turn off the dust filter and use the vacuum cleaner to suck all the dust from its surface.

Remember that we are expected to bring a plastic bag, so that we can all take a turn at removing the shavings and using them in the garden or otherwise disposing of them.

USE OF THE KITCHEN

Remember to wash up your cups, dry them and replace in the cupboard. Don't leave any cups on the lathes or tables as the "Cook" is likely to blow a fuse. And you know what that's like!

Use the correct garbage bin for food scraps and DON'T put them in with the sawdust and shavings.

TOILETS

Try to keep these tidy as somebody has to clean them. Stand close and aim too please. Just like at home.

GRINDER

The grinder and jigs are provided for members' use when sharpening tools. They must not be used for shaping a tool by grinding away steel.

Whether you use a jig or not, hold the tool at the correct angle and continually move the tool left & right over the stone to give even wear, and to prevent wearing a groove which means that the wheel needs to be dressed.

PARKING

Council has advised against parking outside our building in Diane Drive because of the danger when vehicles come around the corner at speed. You can park on the footpath but please be careful when leaving.

THE PROBLEM OF DUST

Try to wear a dust mask at all times, particularly when sanding. Use the small dust filter behind the lathe table and turn on the larger overhead filters. Remember someone may be allergic to the timber you're using.

Farewell Kenneth Raymond Rock (Rocky)

It is just five weeks since we celebrated Rocky's marriage to Karen, but unfortunately his illness has taken its toll and he died this week. About twenty members and partners attended his funeral at Castlebrook on 1st April. The chapel was packed, indicating how popular Ken was among his church group, lawn bowlers, his painting friends and of course the woodies.

Rocky was Guild Number 2150 and has been a member of Western Sydney Woodturners for many years. His favourite hobby, or rather passion, was restoring old hand planes and was quite famous because of his appearance on the ABC program "The Collectors".



Let's be serious for a moment and brush up on shop safety...

-WARNING-

Woodturning is a potentially dangerous activity. Improper use of tools and/or equipment, products or materials as well as not following recommended safety guidelines can result in serious injury or death. It is your responsibility to make sure you are properly educated in all aspects of woodturning and to follow safety guidelines and manufacturer's recommendations regarding the proper use of product to ensure your safety. If you have questions regarding proper lathe operation, tool use or safety guidelines, please consult an expert.

Woodturning Safety Guidelines

1. Safe and effective use of a wood lathe requires study and knowledge of proper machine operation, tool use and correct turning techniques. It is your responsibility to read and follow all warning labels and owners/operators manuals supplied on or with machinery, chucks, tools and other products. It is your responsibility to become properly educated in all aspects of woodturning prior to turning wood.
2. Always wear a full-face shield at all times. Shop/Safety glasses alone are not sufficient protection from flying debris.
3. Exposure to wood dust can be harmful to your respiratory system. Always use a proper dust mask or air filtration helmet in addition to adequate ventilation.
4. Always wear adequate hearing protection. Long-term exposure to noise can damage hearing.
5. Do not wear loose clothing, gloves, jewellery or any objects that dangle as they may become entangled in the lathe. Always tie back long hair. Check your person and your surroundings for any other items that may be accidentally entangled.
6. Check your owner/operators manual for proper speed recommendations. If you cannot find recommended speeds, please seek the advice of a professional prior to operating the lathe. Use slower speeds for larger diameter or out of balance work. NEVER start the lathe before checking to make sure the lathe speed setting is correct for the size of work to be turned. If excess vibration or shaking occurs, stop the lathe and determine the cause before proceeding.
7. Prior to starting the lathe, rotate the work piece by hand to make sure that it clears the tool rest support and lathe bed. Also, make certain that all clamping devices are locked and that the tailstock is properly seated against the work.
8. Be sure the work piece is securely mounted and is free of imperfections or substandard glue joints that may result in the piece flying apart.
9. Make certain that the belt guard and/or control and motor covers are in place. Check to make sure all tightening handles are properly tightened.
10. Make sure that the tool is resting on the tool rest before beginning the cut. Always run the lathe at slow speeds while making roughing cuts and NEVER use a roughing gouge on a bowl.
11. Prior to running the lathe in reverse, make sure that necessary steps are taken to prevent the work piece and/or chuck from unscrewing itself from the lathe.
12. Always know your capabilities. Work within your limits. Many techniques and procedures used by professional woodturners may be beyond your abilities or skill level and can prove to be dangerous if attempted.
13. Utilise the tailstock whenever possible. This provides an added level of safety as it often times prevents the work from coming off the lathe during a mishap.
14. Always remove the tool rest before sanding and finishing. Failing to do so can result in serious injury to your hand and fingers.
15. Do not over-reach! Although many of today's tools have long blades, this does not mean that they are designed to reach long distances over the rest. Overreaching can cause the blade and/or handle to break causing serious injury.
16. Keep your tools sharp and properly ground. Dull tools are dangerous as they require excessive pressure to make them cut. If you have difficulty in sharpening, seek the advice of an expert for proper training. Keep tools out of the reach of children.
17. Do not use tools for purposes for which they are not designed or intended. Using a tool, chuck or lathe component for purposes other than what they were designed to do will likely result in an accident.
18. Properly dispose of finishing rags and unused finishes.
19. Do not leave finish containers open and keep them away from open flame.
20. Keep your work area clean and free of clutter and debris.
21. Use caution when finishing with cloth rags, they may become entangled and cause injury.
22. Inspect your lathe and equipment frequently. Check power cords, connections and do not use extension cords for providing power to your lathe.
23. Stay alert, take frequent breaks and never operate the lathe or other shop equipment when under the influence of drugs, medication or alcohol.
24. Never leave the lathe running unattended. Be certain to turn off power to the lathe when not in use.
25. Use a well-balanced stance when turning while maintaining a firm, comfortable grip on the tool.
26. Use common sense, if you're unsure, see the advice of an expert. Always take necessary safety precautions to prevent serious injury.

Safe turning practices are not limited to the recommendations listed above.

It is your responsibility to become properly trained and educated prior to attempting woodturning.

Some Club Scenes



George shows how to get a good shine on pens



Eddie and Dave



Rohan turns his hand at drilling a cheese knife handle



Busy organising new memberships of the club



Selecting the bowls for loading with Easter Eggs



Presents for Blacktown Hospital children's ward

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AUTUMN

I love this time of Autumn
And the crispness in the air
For the leaves are turning yellow, red and brown
While the mornings are a pure joy
Of damp and misty light
Till the Sun comes through to warm the dewy ground

When autumn comes where I abide
The days are mostly sunny
And the sunshine has a softer lighter ray
So April is all pleasure
And working is a sin
And I still feel this way each month of May

Though March can be a happy time
May holds a special place
With early sunsets shedding muted light
Brown leaves are piling up all 'round
While evenings cooler air
Will usher in a softer darker night

A zephyr breeze might hurry by
And bring a wood smoke air
And rustle all the fallen leaves around
While Willy Wagtail darts about
From branch to fence and back
To spot the tiny insects on the ground

The month of May in northern climes
Brings Springtime's lovely hues
And tiny blossoms flutter as they fall
It seems to me this time of year
All over natures world
Brings joyous sights and colours to us all

Neil Guthrie

Wife: "What are you doing?"
Husband: "Nothing."
Wife: "Nothing? You've been reading our marriage certificate for an hour."
Husband: "I was looking for the expiry date."

Middle Eastern Experience

It is claimed that 25% of the world's large cranes are in use at this time in Dubai. This gives some idea of the number of tall buildings which are continually springing up along the major multi-lane freeways. Hence the skyline looks like this, extending over 20 kilometres along the coast.



Known as the Venice of the Persian Gulf, modern Dubai is famed for its international ambience and exotic, cosmopolitan lifestyle. Little wonder that Dubai's most famous landmark is the world renowned luxury hotel, Burj Al Arab, noted for its billowing sail design and which rates itself as 7-star.

The Burj Dubai, currently under construction, is already the tallest freestanding structure on land. As of 5 February 2008, the tower's developers reported its height to be 604.9m (1,985ft) with 159 completed floors, surpassing Taipei 101 as the tallest skyscraper. On its completion, projected for mid 2009, it will break the height record in all four categories for completed buildings by a wide margin.



Tourists are well catered for with plenty of opportunities to see the historic old parts of the city with the old fort (now a museum) and of course the gold and spice souks (markets). If you like, you can experience the desert whether on the back of a camel or dune bashing in modern 4 wheel drives.

The hotels and resorts are all 5-star standard and the shopping malls are something to behold.

The Mall of the Emirates has an indoor ski slope and an observation area where shoppers can watch the snow sports through a wall of glass.

The Madinat Jumeirah Resort is a magnificent tribute to Du-



bai's heritage and is styled to resemble an ancient Arabian citadel.

Meandering waterways transport guests to all parts of this intricate city of senses. The resort consists of two grand boutique hotels, courtyard summer houses, a traditional souk, and the region's leading conference and banqueting centre.

Our holiday in Dubai was in order to spend some time at

Christmas with our daughter and family. For doting grandparents, it is always a thrill to see them walk their first steps and hear them say their first words. Still, a month is too long to impose as a house-guest, so we decided on a 7 day cruise of the area. The ship was very comfortable and even though the seas were described as rough, I didn't feel a thing. The waters we cruised are very protected from the ocean swells, so our Quells went unused. They'll keep for the next fishing trip.



We cruised at night and each day took tours to explore the coastal cities of the Arabian (or Persian) Gulf.

Muscat, capital of Oman, has been a major Arabian trading port since the 6th Century B.C. The twin forts guarding the harbour were built in about 1550 by the Portuguese and reminded me of the old Gary Cooper movie in which Beau



Geste and the rest of the French Foreign Legion fought the Arabs. Our excellent guide gave us a tour of the Grand Mosque and explained the rituals of the Muslim religion.

Apart from date palms there are no trees in the desert so I didn't see any evidence of wood-turning. The only timber I saw was a stack of teak, imported from Tanzania for building the dhows, which are still used for transportation and fishing.



The picture below shows a monument in Muscat made in the shape of a frankincense burner. The shape reminded me of some of those pot-pourri containers or one of Erich's impressive lidded bowls with his fancy finial on the top



Fujairah is a modern city on the Gulf of Oman offering a unique combination of ancient traditions and modern resorts. In contrast to the other Emirates on the western side of the Arabian Peninsula, Fujairah is quite mountainous and because of the limestone rocks produces all the cement products used in the area. Its springs produce much of the bottled water consumed in the Gulf area.



Abu Dhabi is the capital city of the United Arab Emirates. It lies on a T-shaped island jutting into the Gulf. With a history going back 5,000 years, Abu Dhabi is now a wealthy state with the largest oil reserves of all the Emirates.

These places were originally sites where the Bedouin, who were desert-dwelling Arab nomadic pastoralists, set up their camps.

The modern development of these Middle Eastern cities, made possible by their oil riches, is extraordinary. However, equally impressive are the ancient buildings, artefacts and relics of life in this area hundreds and even thousands of years ago.

Just a bit further up the Gulf is where the Tigris and Euphrates enter the sea. The Tigris Euphrates valley was the birthplace of the ancient civilizations, known as the Fertile Crescent. Many different civilizations developed in this small region. First came the Sumerians, who were replaced in turn by the Assyrians and the Babylonians. Today this land is known as Iraq.

It is worth noting that all these Arab places we visited were friendly and peaceful where we at all times felt safe. Yet none could be regarded as a democracy.



MEMORIES

A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a checkup, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair. 'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?'

'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so's not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream — I got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

'Where's my toast?'