

WestTurn News

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

Issue 82, August 2006.

Western & Blue Mountains Region
Postal Address: PO Box 4008, Lalor Park, NSW 2147
Twin Gums Retreat Address: Cnr Northcott Rd & Diane Dr, Lalor Park

Regional Committee 2005/06:

Convenor: Robert Jarvis 9622 2741
Secretary: Robyn Mahoney 46288236
Treasurer: Bob Young 98732773

Regional Rep: Ian O'Connor 9715 3490
Member: Tony Maberly 9622 7561

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 & Maintenance: Toby McIlwain, Ted Edwards and Graham Dawes. Please let them know if you find any problems with any of the machinery in the hall.

Editor: Bill Hartley 98716128
williamhartley@optusnet.com.au

This month we have an informative article from Toby McIlwain on some important considerations when turning at public demonstrations.

Catering Officer: We thank Trish for the great job she performed in this position but we now need a replacement Catering Officer. If you feel you could help out, please let us know.

Sick List: We are concerned to hear that our Librarian Don Hughes is still on the sick list. You must get better soon Don as we need you here to keep an eye on our library resources and watch over the loans and returns. Get well soon Don.

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.

Next meeting 12th September, 2006. *If you have a gripe and want to have your say please come along. Complaints at meetings and at demos will not make*

changes but only cause rumours and we all know what happens when rumours start.

Western/Blue Mtns Region Calendar for 2006:

Third Sunday every month from 10.00am, Every **Wednesday** from 10.00am. Every **Friday Night** starting at 7.00pm.

Sunday September 17

Our guest demonstrator will be **Fred Holder** — American Woodturner/Demonstrator/Teacher. This is our normal Sunday meeting but due to the demo the entry fee is \$10 for members Western & Blue Mountains Region; \$20 for other regional guild members and visitors. (Lunch provided).

Xmas in July

Nineteen members braved the chill on the evening of Monday 17th July to celebrate Xmas in July at La Porchetta. Unfortunately this clashed with the weekly training classes which meant that instructors and students were unable to attend.

The restaurant has a Monday night special featuring all the pasta and pizza you can eat for \$9.95 a head and our members really tried this out.

It was a very good night and an opportunity for partners to meet people they had only heard about and to put a face to a name. Also it meant that they could be exposed to terms such as dig-ins, skew chisels, band-saws, timber types and all the beaut tools they could have bought at Bruce's demo on Sunday.

All the assembled party had a ten second silence for Bob Young who was unable to partake of any form of alcohol due to the medication he was taking. Our regional rep offered to have a couple for Bob if he would pay for them. This offer was turned down by Bob in most uncomplimentary terms.

Once again, a really good night was had by all and I expect we now should find a reason to have a similar night out. Suggestions have ranged from dog's birthdays to purchase of lathe anniversary, but who needs a reason to have a good time together.

Rohan McCardell

Future Demonstrations:

Our members have been asked to participate in the following demonstrations: Please help by participating and putting your name against the event. We ask that you try demonstrating as these can be fun and it helps improve your skills.

Saturday September 2nd 2006

St Mary's Development Committee Spring Festival

September 16th and Sunday 24th

Wisteria House Parramatta

Sunday October 8th 2006

Linwood House Please see Tony Maberly if you are interested in attending.

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.

Other Regional Events/Demonstrations:

Wallacia Sunday 23rd July

The Blue Mountains Woodturning group had an outing at Blaxland Crossing Park, Wallacia as part of the celebrations for the centenary of Wallacia. There was quite a large attendance when I arrived and there were plenty of stalls with all kinds of goods for sale and a concert at one end of the ground. The woodturning was at the other end of the ground between the antique chainsaws and the model farm exhibits with Lyn Draper in charge. There were four members on the stand, Darryl Smith with Sam, Ron and Allan. Bob Mayer arrived a bit later and we wandered around the ground for a while. On the stall they turned tops for the kids and Darryl made small bowls. The two lathes they had were a small Jet and a Hafco WL18. It was a very enjoyable day.

Bob Jarvis

Ladies Days: Ring or see Anna Dawes for details on 96386995.

Bowls for Any Event!

Don't forget if you are not turning anything in particular, think about turning one of our blanks. It appears that these are becoming very popular at our demonstrations in the rummage box. A significant source of income for the club and our charity work.

Have a Laugh

This is a story with a moral to it.

There was this little bird sitting on the lower branch of a large tree. He was cold and hungry, with wings drooped and feeling very depressed about his circumstances.

Then along came a coach drawn by four horses and as the coach passed by, one of the horses passed some droppings. The little bird saw the steam rising from this horse manure, so he flew down and scratched about in the warmth of the manure and found a considerable amount of undigested grain to eat. He no longer felt hungry or cold, in fact he felt quite happy so he flew to the top of the highest tree and sang and sang. A large hawk heard this singing and swooped down and gobbled up the little bird.

Now the moral to the story is this: If you have to scratch about in shit for a living, don't sing about it!

George Wells

A guy was lonely and so he decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. He went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet.

After some discussion, he finally bought a centipede (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for its house. He took the box back home, found a good location for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to a restaurant to have a meal.

"Would you like to go to Frank's with me and have a bite to eat?" he asked the centipede in the box. But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked him again, "How about going out and having a snack with me?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. He decided to ask him one more time — this time putting his face up against the centipede's house and shouting, he said, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go get some food with me?"

A tiny little voice came squeezing out of the box in reply, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes."

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](#).

Please note that due to requirements under the child protection act we cannot teach anyone under the age of 21.

Last Sunday meeting 16th July 2006

Guest Demonstrator: Bruce Leadbeater

I, together with the other members who attended, were in awe of Bruce's knowledge, ingenuity, friendliness and willingness to assist our queries with answers and advice.

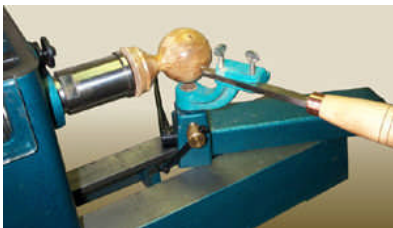
Vase Turning

Mount your piece on a face plate secured by 4 x 3/4" screws. After obtaining desired shape Bruce uses a scraper to remove any of the tool marks left. Use the scraper in a downward motion. This will result in a better, smoother finish as the fibres will tend to lay down. For hollowing of a vase, Bruce used a Jacobs chuck with an extension bar at the tailstock end. Using a 1" and 2" forstener bit he would drill out the centre of the vase to the desired depth. Bruce suggested that you use the 2" drill bit first and drill approx. 1/2" into the end. Then with the 1" bit, drill right through the centre to the desired depth. Then take the 2" bit and drill down to the desired depth. The 1" hole previously drilled will now make it easier for the 2" bit to be used. As Bruce said "like putting a knife through butter". He then used his "Leady Vase Hollowing Tool" which has a circular cutter and a flexible gauge, Bruce's quote was "using this tool any fool can do it".

Ball Turner

With the Ball turner attachment you can turn balls from 3 3/4" down to 1/2".

First, turn a spigot the desired length and width for the Screw Cup Chuck. Using the template provided when you purchase the Screw Cup Chuck makes this easy. If the timber is hard, ensure the spigot is the exact size. If the timber is soft you can be slightly larger as this would give you a fatter thread when you screw the spigot into the chuck. Bruce applied soap to the spigot and used a car oil filter wrench, which is of plastic and rubber components. The rubber banding does not damage the timber when tightening.



He roughed out the size of the ball then adjusted the ball turning attachment to the axis of the ball. Using a 1/2" scraper attached to

the ball turner and with the lathe running at approx 3,000rpm (to provide a smooth cut) he was able to turn a ball within minutes. To provide a smoother finish, he lifted the 1/2" scraper ever so slightly to obtain a superfine cut. If desired you could finish the end and use a skew chisel to cut off the ball and then place this into a jam chuck to finish the end.

Bruce however continued by removing the excess timber at the cup chuck end. With his beading tool he turned a small bead on the base within a second. Isoguard was used initially and then wax was applied.

Bruce finished by using the friction from the palm of his hand over the completed work. The wax he used was 1 part bees wax, 3 part carnauba wax and orange

shellac. Then he used his drill guide and the index on the Leady Lathe to drill 6 holes into the ball. Presto, "Pen Holder". If you have the right tools, it is made to look so easy, especially when Bruce is demonstrating.



Goblet with Captive Ring

Bruce used the Screw Cup Chuck for this quick demonstration. To achieve this, Bruce used his goblet cutter which made short work of the receptacle and he then used his ring tool to finish off the inside and shape the goblet. The captive ring, stem and base were all done in a flash. (I will need to view video or DVD it was so fast). Then he sanded and cut with the parting tool. As Bruce said "Rough and ready Leady".

Ring Cutting Attachment

What a clever invention! It helps to reduce all your off cuts (timber waste) with a bit of gluing and turning these into any shape of bowls or vases. Your imagination is the limit of creations you can achieve. You will need to see the video or DVD to see how easily Bruce turned a bowl from his off cuts. Basically the cutters (two blades) are attached to a jig with a handle.

After you have glued all your offcuts, you cut out a round disc. This is placed on the headstock using the self tightening chuck. The Ring Cutting attachment is used to cut rings from the disc at an angle of 50% and 12mm thick (templates are provided for this). The cutters are used by cutting from the front and back with a simple turn of a handle. It was so easy that he called on Erich to cut a ring. Bruce said that if you have used this cutter you end up purchasing one. This was the reason he let Erich have a go cutting a ring.

When all the rings have been cut they are sanded and then glued together with PVA glue, set aside to dry either with a weight on top or in a clamp.



Other items Bruce demonstrated were the Vase Hollowing Tool and Hollowing Tool, router jigs which he used to place flutes on the outside and inside of bowls.

Overall we had an enjoyable day. Thanks go to Bruce for a great demonstration as much was learnt by all.

By Ian O'Connor

Show and Tell 18th June 2006.

Bruce Leadbeatter conducted this Show and Tell and commented favourably on the high standard of the exhibits. He described how we all go through stages of learning in this hobby and we learn from each other.

Any "happy" design has to fulfil a number of appropriate elements, things like colour, shape, line and balance. He contends that two important factors in evaluating design are whether the article is pleasant to look at if it is functional.

It was certainly pleasing to see so many pieces on display so a big thank you to all those members who brought items along. The quantity and standard of the items reflects well on our club.



Erich Aldinger presented 3 wine goblets with captured rings in olive and black walnut, finished with 7008. He also showed a potpourri bowl in sandalwood.

Bob Taylor had 2 bowls in blackhearted sassafras glistening with 7008 together with a pepper mill from camphor laurel.

Trish Gale had 2 fountain pens of mountain ash and mahogany, finished with friction polish.

George Wells presented 3 bowls finished with Estapol, 2 of camphor laurel and 1 of jacaranda.

Manny Farrugia had 2 segmented bowls.

Toby McIlwain left the natural oregon timber finish on his Mari Dai (Japanese) braiding stool.

Robyn Mahoney had a music box from New Zealand beech and kalatis (shellac) and a cockleburn puzzle in cedar.



Larry Bailey displayed a vase from Japanese cedar and a paulownia bowl, both finished with Isogard and friction polish



Syd Churchward had a pot pourri made from jarrah burl, another bowl and a candle holder (shellac).

John Malyziak presented a segmented vase from cedar and jacaranda and an impressive camphor laurel teapot finished with Instant Estapol.

Mike Harvey had a bud vase and a chunky elevated bowl, both from camphor laurel and finished with friction polish.

Allan Kirkland displayed a silky oak bowl, a rosewood vase and a camphor laurel pedestal all with Estapol Gloss.

Des Page received favourable comments for his walnut platter finished with 7008 and 3 lidded boxes from camphor laurel, jacaranda and callistemon (bottle-brush)

Graham Murray had ducks from pine, maple and jacaranda (shellac).



My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 now and we don't know where she is.

Your Turn... Erich Aldinger

Erich's eye for appealing design and his high level of skill in the areas of woodturning and carving are evident in all his creations. After all, it's not everyone that gets a round of applause at the monthly Show & Tell for their collection of goblets with captive rings.



His handmade furniture and collection of wooden toys reveal Erich's love of working with wood. Tables and bookcases contain an impressive sample of his jobs which of course must share space with his wife Lynne's pottery pieces.



Erich's seven grandchildren have all benefited from Grandpa's hobby as Erich has made each of them hobby horses, desks with drawers and other toys and is even making toys for future great grandchildren. He and Lynne have also made jigsaw puzzles and wooden toys for the hospital.



Being a retired engineer, Erich has an impressive array of tools of all types in his workshop, but like most of us would like more room for more gear. If only he could sell that car taking up good space in the garage. Any takers for a nice C220 Merc?



Erich joined the group last April and credits his success in woodturning to the instructors who have trained him at the Monday evening classes. He says "Toby McIlwain is so multi-skilled in making intricate measuring tools, and gives you plenty of ideas on how to approach a project."

He regards Ted Edwards as a supreme teacher who implants a sound knowledge of tool skills. "It is Ted who is responsible for my lack of fear of the skew chisel. Bill and Larry make up a formidable team. We are extremely fortunate in having such a group who undertake to teach the skills of woodturning to new members and novices like myself."

He looks forward to the Guild turning days where he enjoys the companionship of like-minded people with varying backgrounds who are willing to share ideas and learn from each other's experiences.

As Erich likes to quote: "No man is really happy or safe without a hobby. (Sir William Osler 1849-1919, a Canadian physician and one of the greatest medical teachers."



**RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN TURNING AT
PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS
by Toby McIlwain**

Check lathe, tools, timber and equipment.

- Do not use faulty equipment.
- Do not use oversize tools to tighten chuck, toolrest, etc
- Check power leads and boards.
- Where possible run leads overhead and secure safely.

NOTE:

Lathes used at Demo's are light weight machines.

Check timber

- Do not use cracked or faulty timber.
- Do not use out of balanced timber.
- Do not turn toxic timber such as Silkyoak
Scented rosewood
Cypress pine
Treated pine
Banksia cones
Grass tree root

NOTE: Check and prepare timber prior to Demo.

Check lathe speed

- Do not turn at high speed.
- Do not drill at high speed.
- Do not use large drills.

Use Suitable Gouges.

Sanding finished work

- Do not power sand.

Polish finished work

- Do not use toxic finishes.
- Use wax or shellac base finishes.
- Do not apply polish to revolving work. [STOP MACHINE]
- Do not use large cloth or cloth with loose threads.
- DO NOT USE STYRENE FINISHES .
- DO NOT USE THINNER BASED FINISHES.

What not to turn.

- Do not turn large bowls that is any thing over 100mm.

Preparation

- Inspect timber and cut to size
- Turn dovetail spigot or recess prior to demo..

Consideration .

- Consider stall holders by positioning lathes away from them if possible.
- Do not crowd behind Demonstrator.
- Do not lean on lathe.
- Do not obstruct visitor's view.

The site.

- The site is provided to us low or no cost.
- Please clean site before leaving

The organisers.

- Respect and comply to their directions.
- Present some small turned object to the organiser and or helpers.

Teknatool scroll chuck	Maximum recommended Speeds	
JAW TYPE	TURNING METHOD	
	Expanding	Contracting
25mm jaw	684 rpm	1440 rpm
pin jaw	684 rpm	1440 rpm
50mmjaw	684 rpm	1020 rpm
step jaw	684 rpm	684 rpm
35/45mm spigot jaw	684 rpm	684 rpm
100mmjaw	684 rpm	684 rpm
130mm jaw	400 rpm	400 rpm
powergrip jaw	684 rpm	684 rpm
cole jaw	600 rpm	600 rpm
vacuum faceplate	684 rpm	n/a

SPEED GUIDE

The following guide sets out recommended speeds for various work diameters.

Remember, excessive speed is a serious lathe hazard — give careful consideration to the speed you use:

1. The bigger the work diameter-the slower the speed used
2. Out of balance work being roughed out must always be turned at the slowest speed possible.
3. Specific speed recommendations are made for some jaw sets. You must follow these.
4. Speeds set out below may differ from those in your lathe manual.

If there is a difference, use the SLOWER of the two recommended speeds.

DIAMETER OF WORK	ROUGHING	SHAPE/FINISH CUTTING
Under 50mm	900 to 1300 rpm	1200 to 2000 rpm
50 to 100mm	600 to 1000 rpm	1000 to 2000 rpm
100 to 150mm	600 to 800 rpm	1000 to 1800 rpm
150 to 200mm	500 to 600 rpm	800 to 1200 rpm
200 to 300mm	500 rpm	600 to 800 rpm
300 to 350mm	300 rpm	500 to 700 rpm

NOTE:-These speed guides are from Nova scroll chuck manual.

Please read and understand your manual.

SOME MORE SPECIES OF WOODS

PURPLEHEART



Common Names:
Purpleheart
Amaranth
Violetwood
Botanical Name:
Peltogyne spp.
Family:
Caesalpinaceae

Distribution

The commercial name Purpleheart is reported to refer to timber produced by about 20 species, including *P. porphyrocardia*, which grow in Central America and tropical South America, from Mexico to southern Brazil. They are reported to be most common in the Amazon basin, and are also found in Colombia, Guyana, Surinam, and Venezuela.

Product Sources

It is not known at present whether some material from this species is available from sustainably managed, salvaged, recycled, or other environmentally responsible sources.

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) reports that timber production from this species is regular. The material is exported at a low but regular rate.

Tree Data

Mature Purpleheart trees are usually tall and attain a height of about 100 to 150 feet (30 to 45 m), and a diameter of up to 48 inches (120 cm), usually between 18 and 36 inches (45 and 90 cm).

Sapwood Colour

The sapwood is creamy white or off-white in colour, and is very distinct from the heartwood. The colour has also been described as pinkish cinnamon with light brown streaks, and is usually about 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 cm) wide.

Heartwood Colour

The heartwood is initially dull brown, but it rapidly changes to a bright, vibrant purple. Prolonged exposure darkens the wood to a dark-purplish brown or dark brown, but the original colour can be restored by recutting the wood. Colour variation between boards is reported to be moderate to high. Presence of minerals in some boards may cause uneven coloration and steaming is reported to affect the colour. *Peltogyne* timbers are reported to vary widely in colour between, and probably within, species.

Light & Air-Induced Changes

Treatment against the effects of ultra-violet rays has been suggested to maintain the original colour of the wood. A treatment with Armorall, the car finish product, under lacquer is reported to hold the colour well.

Grain

The grain is typically straight, sometimes wavy, roey, or irregular.

Texture

The wood has a medium to fine texture.

Lustre

The wood exhibits a medium to high lustre.

Odour

There is no characteristic odour or taste.

Exudates

Working the wood with dull cutting tools may cause gum exudation.

Blunting Effect

Cutting tools may be gummed up if they are not very sharp. Blunting is rated as moderate to severe.

Cutting Resistance

Peltogyne timbers are reported to be moderately difficult to saw. Tools usually require frequent sharpening. Slow feed rates and specially tipped cutters are suggested.

Planing

Peltogyne timbers are reported to be moderately difficult to work in most machining operations including planing, turning, boring, and moulding. They respond rather poorly to ordinary tools, and working with dull cutters may cause the wood to heat up and exude resin which can considerably increase machining difficulty. Slower feed rates and specially tipped cutters, or sharp, high-speed steel knives are suggested. A reduced cutting angle of 15 degrees has also been recommended, especially when planing and moulding material with interlocked or wavy grain.

Gluing

The material is reported to be easy to glue.

Sanding

The material is reported to be fairly difficult to sand.

Polishing

Polishing properties are reported to be rather good.

Staining

The material is reported to take finishes rather well. There is a tendency for some finishes to bleed, but reports indicate that water-based finishes hold colour better. The use of spirit finishes are reported to remove the purple colouring in the wood.

Uses:

Purpleheart reaches the world market only in small quantities. It is prized for fine inlay work, turnery, fine furniture and cabinetry, parquet flooring, decorative and figured veneer, and many specialty items such as handles, billiard cue butts and carving.

Source:

www.exotichardwoods-southamerica.com

OVERHEARD ON THE WOODWORK FORUM

Ozwood2003

13th April 2004, 06:24 PM

I turned a piece of purple heart yesterday into a bowl. Turned out perfectly. The problem I have is that I went down to polish it the next day, and I suspect like most turners, I didn't like the bottom so I proceeded to do a bit of extra shaping and sanding. When I had finished the bit I renovated, it was brownish?? I know it turns brown in the sunlight, but does it lose colour when it is heated up by sanding? If so, why didn't it change yesterday when the bowl was originally turned and sanded?

Cliff Rogers

13th April 2004, 09:17 PM

G'day.

Air (oxygen) & daylight (uv) are the 2 things that I know of which cause colour loss.

Rebus

15th April 2004, 12:29 AM

Greetings,

With the few pieces of Purple Heart that I have turned, the wood became more purple over the following days. (There are several species which are termed Purple Heart, so I cannot guarantee that all act in the same way).

What you may be seeing is the difference between the older surface, which is now more purple, and the fresher surface, which is yet to turn as purple. The next day or so will tell.

Ozwood2003

15th April 2004, 12:40 AM

Thanks for info. I let it stand for 48hrs before finishing it but no change happened. Confused. Finished product turned out alright though.

river rat

15th April 2004, 05:50 PM

I turn purpleheart or amaranth quite a bit for a friend who is in the amaranth society. Gavels, pens, etc. When it is first turned or cut, it is brown. If it is heated it first turns purple progressing to black. If you put alcohol on it, it will not turn purple or if it is purple it will turn brown. It will turn brown with age, exposure to sunlight, oxygen. Here is what I do. I turn and sand the piece, place it in sunlight turning ever so often to ensure an even colour. Once the colour is as deep as I would like, then I put on 2 coats of natural Danish oil then 2 coats of high buildup friction polish. Then I keep it out of the sunlight. I find that purpleheart can be a pain to work with. Very hard, dense, dulls tools quickly, eats sandpaper etc. I have heard that it turns a funky colour when wiped with acetone but have not tried it yet. Will let you know when I do.

Babytoolman

8th September 2004, 12:26 PM

Hi Guys,
I bought a Purple Heart blank. I was wondering if anyone has used this wood before. What does it finish like? It looks to be a very hard wood. I was thinking of making a lidded box using the Purple Heart as the box and a Huon pine blank for the lid. Do you think this would be a good combo

PAH1

8th September 2004, 12:54 PM

Purple heart can be real special. Despite its density it turns pretty well and takes a very fine finish. Contrasts are up to you really. I would not do it as purple heart is such an eye catcher all by itself, as is Huon really. That old adage about sharp tools is the case for this timber.

John Saxton

8th September 2004, 05:06 PM

Made some pen sets with purple heart a few years back as gifts for special birthdays. Came up a treat with Shellawax. People still comment about the timber and the finish.

Happyinsydney

8th September 2004, 10:43 PM

Hi Babytoolman

This purple heart bowl is about the 4th bowl I turned, yet I was able to get a pretty good finish. Sharp tools are a must. The finish is Shellawax. Only bought the blank because my wife LOVES purple - wanted to do something a bit different with it. Have another piece waiting to be turned into a lidded box. Here are a couple of pics of the finished product. Happy Turnin'



Babytoolman

9th September 2004, 02:17 PM

Hi Happy,

Mate that is sensational. The bowl looks great. I will take a photo of mine tonight and I will post it. I used EEE and Shellawax as my finish and it looks good.

