

WestTurn News

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

Issue 53, February 2004.

Western & Blue Mountains Region

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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 **Bill Swindail** if you would like to know what is currently available from our regional 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.**

Thanks to **Allan Kirkland** and **Bob Jarvis** for volunteering their time in the past.

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

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 **2nd March**.

Committee Report:

The meeting has agreed to provide lunch on Sunday's at an extra cost of \$1.00; this will mean that Sunday fees will now be \$5.00 commencing April meeting (this to be reviewed at a later date). Anna Dawes has donated a couple of steel (bowl) stands for use when we have a display, so please make use of them. Anna to purchase three more stands.

The proposal to purchase a larger bandsaw has been put on hold at the present time.

The ladies turing group has donated several bowls for the 'Bowls for Easter' project.

BOWLS FOR EASTER.

These bowls are to be filled with small Easter eggs and given to the children at Blacktown, Mt Druitt and Nepean Hospitals. (About 120).

Please donate your time and timber to produce bowls of about 100mm. Also remember which finish you are putting on, as it must be suitable for children.

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.

JANUARY 18

Theme for show and tell was bowls and was conducted by **Bill Longhurst**.

Toby McIlwain - had a ring bowl made from River Red Gum Burl finished with 7008, also a cheese platter of Teak again finished with 7008.

George Wells - displayed his craftsmanship with a segmented vase of Red Cedar and another

Unknown (forgets) timber finished with estapol.

Des Page – had several bowls made from QLD Kauri, Mountain Ash, QLD Maple & Huon Pine all finished with ‘eee’ friction polish.

Graham Dawes - displayed his Singapore Ball made from Red Ash finished in estapol. Graham also had some special tools on display that he had made to turn the ball.

Bill Swindail – has a camphor Laurel bowl which he named Nailed or BHP because of the amount of steel (nails) he found whilst turning it. This was finished with friction polish. Also displayed were a Tasmanian Myrtle Burl bowl & a Hoop Pine bowl.

Graham Murray – had a camphor laurel natural edged bowl finished with isogard.

Bill Longhurst – has an impressive candelabra made from Brazilian Mahogany that he had turned and carved.

Terry Boddy - had several Silky Oak bowls finished with shellawax & friction polish. Well-done Terry for your first items for show & tell.

Maria Gear – had a large Mulberry vase, which was turned with the use of a glue chuck. Well-done Maria as this was your first time in show & tell.

Malcolm Clark - had several bowls made from Black Hearted Sasifrass & Liquid Amber finished with wax polish, also displayed were Camphor Laurel & Jacaranda lidded boxes.

Larry Bailey – displayed a Pacific Jarrah? (That’s what I was told it was) and a small maple bowl both finished with friction polish.

Thanks to all who participated and especially the members who have displayed their turnings for the first time.

FEBRUARY 15

Kaye Paton/June McKimmie & Anna Dawes will demonstrate. As to what the demonstration will be I have been told to wait and see.

Theme for show & tell will be personal Favourites.

Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

MARCH 21

Bring your tools as this will be a hands on day. We are expecting several members from the Blue Mountains at this meeting. Lunch will be provided. **Theme for show & tell will be Vases / Lamps.**

APRIL 18

David Laird & Tom Cattell will be demonstrating oval turning. **Theme for show & tell will be Off Centre Turning.**

MAY 16

Bring your tools as this will be a hands on day. **Theme for show & tell will be something under 50mm.**

JUNE 20

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

Past Demonstrations:

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

January 26 – Australia Day

Generally the Council did a great job. The layout and the organisation were very good. The only minor problem was there was no Loo's close & handy, we had to walk several minutes down to the Main Amphitheatre. Now with us old blokes and our rusted out bladders and prostates plus crook knees ect it was slightly inconvenient.

In light of our last years experience with the heat, we asked for a shady spot and we were given one. We used our pipe-framed booth, which is a beauty, with our canvas over the top. We lifted one side of the canvas up and tied it to a tree, which gave us a fairly large area under cover. The weather was good, not too hot and no rain.

We were able to drive our vehicles right up to our spot and off load with no problems and we were given three parking permits for the Blood Bank parking area, which was fairly close. During the whole day a total of around seven of our guys turned up which was adequate. We mainly turned the small bowls that we are doing for the Kids Hospitals and the public generally was fairly impressed. We attracted a crowd but my organisation should have been better, we needed a display of our work. People kept asking what we normally make. Next time we should take a full display. Now, I know it's easy for me to say this. But unfortunately somebody has to organise the display and explain to the public the details and keep an eye on the kids. This may or may not be a problem. I know we have done

this in the past quite successfully.

It would be nice if we could get two shifts of people to demonstrate. I started at 5 am and didnt get back home till about 5.30 pm and Bob Jarvis and John Malaziak were the same. And for us old blokes it was a bit tiring but very rewarding. Anyhow generally everything went well.

Alan Phelps

February 11- 15

Stitches & Craft Show at Rosehill Racecourse. We will have a report in next month's newsletter.

Future Demonstrations:

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

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

We have been asked to particiapte with the Pensinsula Region at Auiburn 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**

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.

PROPERTIES OF SPECIES OF SOME WOODS CONT.

White Ash:

A large hardwood of limited occurrence on the southern tablelands of New South wales. Heartwood almost white to pale brown. Sapwood not clearly distinguishable from the heartwood. Texture moderately coarse. Grain straight. Growth rings prominent. Relatively easy to work, often has good appearance. Some uses are for furniture, panelling, and general construction.

Stony Backhousia:

A medium to large hardwood of the north Queensland rainforests. Heartwood greyish brown. Texture fine and uniform. Grain often interlocked. Hard to work. Used mainly for framework.

Balu:

Other common names: Selangan Batu no.1, Alan.

A group of denser Shorea hardwoods of Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Heartwood yellow to brown, distinct from the paler sapwood which can be up to 50mm wide. Texture moderately fine and even, Grain interlocked, producing a stripe figure on the radial surface. Resin pockets sometimes present. Not hard to work. Used in heavy construction, wharfage, sleepers and shipbuilding.

Nostalgia

- I remember the cheese of my childhood and the bread that we cut with a knife
- When children helped out with the housework and when men went to work, not the wife
- The cheese never needed an ice-chest and the bread was so crusty and hot
- The children were seldom unhappy and the wife was content with her lot
- I remember the milk from the billy with yummy rich cream on top
- Our dinners came hot from the oven and not from the shop
- The kids were a lot more contented, they didn't need money for 'kicks', but a game with their mates in the paddock and sometimes the Saturday 'flicks'
- I remember the shop on the corner where a

penn'oth of lollies was sold

- Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic or is it I'm just getting old

George Wells

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**.

WOODTURN 2004

Brochures are now available at the desk as you enter the hall.

Wood Finishing By Alan Phelps

This is the first of several articles-

Over 50 years back around 1952 I served my apprenticeship as a Carriage Builder in the NSW Railways. That was when carriages were built from wood (by iron men) and looking back it was a great era and I am now glad I was part of it. A Carriage Builder was a combination of a Carpenter, Joiner and a Cabinet Maker, so I am a "woodie" from way back.

The Insides of all carriages were finished in timber and varnished. I am talking about country trains, the suburban cars were painted. During their normal service the varnish on the inside took a heck of a beating from the public, mainly

from suitcases and the like, plus normal wear and tear with people brushing up and down the corridors. (Nobody had even heard of graffiti and vandalism was only minor in those days).

Periodically the cars would be returned back to Eveleigh workshops at Redfern for what was called a rebuild. That was, they were stripped down to a shell, fully repaired and brought up to as new condition. Now this was a major job. Part of this process was most of the interior fitments, doors, windows, seats, seat frames etc. were stripped out and put "on the benches" as was the saying. The benches were mostly located along side the carriage and this was the work area for the repairs.

All the varnished surfaces on all the fitments and inside the carriage was stripped off by the painters with paint remover and then the surfaces were bleached with Oxalic acid and hot water to remove the residue dirt and marks in the timber. Now that's where we came in. our job was to repair and resand the timber back up to an as new condition for re varnishing and what a bugger of a job this was. It was called 'scrubbing' and naturally most of the work went to the apprentices and it was mostly done the hard way, by hand.

This was the days before electric orbital sanders or belt sanders. But we did have a hand held sanding machine driven by compressed air which looked like a modern day rectangular orbital sander but with two pads which both vibrated back and forth. They were cumbersome and heavy and only suitable for big flat surfaces. Now sanding up all the fitments out on the benches

beside the carriage wasn't too bad, but up in the confines of the car it was a bit different. When the timber was bleached it didn't seem to matter how well it was washed down there was always some oxalic acid left in the pores of the timber in a fine white powder form. Now combine this with wood dust when sanding and your nose used to run like a tap. Nobody had even heard of the word 'carcinogenic' in those days. We were given rubber-breathing masks but with the combination of a hot day and the physical exertion of a hard scrubbing they were left off more than they were on. We were constantly blowing brown dust out of our noses and sometimes there was even traces of blood, the acid was pretty potent. Anyhow we all survived.

To be continued next month.

Some Quotes

"To know what you prefer instead of humbly saying Amen to what the world tells you you ought to prefer, is to have kept your soul alive."

Robert Louis Stevenson

"A discovery is said to be an accident meeting a prepared mind."

Albert Szent – Gyorgyi

"It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that they are difficult."

Seneca

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."

Albert Einstein

Anna Dawes