

# WestTurn News

Guild Web Site:

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

Issue 98, 14<sup>th</sup> February 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.

**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:**

[Bill Hartley](#) (98716128)

[williamhartley@optusnet.com.au](mailto:williamhartley@optusnet.com.au)

**Catering Officer:** [Rohan McCardell](#).

**Secretary:**

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

[ianroy56@bigpond.com](mailto:ianroy56@bigpond.com)

**Treasurer and Membership Secretary:**

[Bob Young](#) (9873 2773)

**Workshops:**

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

**Maxidays:**

Usually the **Third Sunday** every month from 10.00am (Entry \$6). This month the Maxiday is on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February and the demonstrator is Anna Dawes. After Show & Tell, the Guild Meeting will take place. Lunch is provided.

**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.

**Coming Outings**

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> Creative Living Expo, Rosehill  
March 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Dutch Club  
April 13<sup>th</sup> Merrylands Central Gardens

## President's Message

### OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

I was handed this draft which I believe was prepared by Alan Phelps in 2004 and submit it to members for comment.

1. To share ideas and knowledge of Woodturning.
2. To teach the craft of Woodturning.
3. To provide members with the environment of a safe workplace, equipment, machinery, tools, literature and anything else deemed necessary to achieve these aims.
4. To encourage a friendly sociable and mutually supportive environment for our members.
5. To encourage our members to contribute their knowledge and life experiences into the club for our mutual benefit.
6. To loosely affiliate and cooperate with any other club, group or organisation with common objectives.
7. To encourage junior members to learn our craft.
8. To demonstrate and exhibit to the general public our craft, at the same time where possible raising money for charitable or other worthwhile organizations. This would mostly be by way of demonstrations and exhibitions at fetes, fairs and any other public or private gatherings.
9. To promote discussions, seminars, continuing education, competitions and demonstration of our craft or associated crafts.

### FOR SALE

Triton Workcentre Mk 3 with 900 x 900 ext table

**\$150 ono**

Phone: Bob Jarvis 96222741

Phone: 02 4655 7295  
Mobile: 0418 221 554



**Frank Hicks**

Macarthur Woodturning Supplies



48 Engesta Avenue  
South Camden NSW 2570  
Email: [frankhicks@bigpond.com](mailto:frankhicks@bigpond.com)  
ABN: 91 355 662 658

## President's Message (Cont.)

From Ron Devine

I have also prepared the following points as my vision of what the Western Sydney Woodturners Inc could achieve:

1. That we become the best region in the Guild.
2. That we participate in the Castle Hill Show in 2008. As demonstrators, competitors and judges.
3. As a condition of membership that all members agree to turn 1 bowl per month for the charity box. If we do this we will have at least 600 bowls to sell for our charity.
4. I would like to see us renew our Easter trip to the children's ward at Mt Druitt hospital.
5. Increase our membership by at least 20% in the next 2 years.
6. That we start upgrading some of our equipment. This will be a long term project and will require an injection of funds.
7. Investigate the possibility of a government grant to achieve the above.
8. Restart the classes that were abandoned at the end of last year. Bob Hodge is preparing a report on how this could be done.
9. Investigate with council to have the carport filled in and move the bandsaws out there. Thus freeing up an area for more lathes.
10. Ensure that our members continue to enjoy our friendly club, and to keep making woodturning a great and wonderful experience.
11. Introduction of other disciplines such as pyrography, ornamental turning and other forms of woodworking that may fit with our hobby.
12. It's probably a good time to start thinking out side the circle and expand the use we put the hall to.

---

Those who dance are considered insane by those who cannot hear the music

---

## A Watery Grave

Mick and Paddy had promised their uncle Seamus, who had been a seafaring gent all his life, to bury him at sea when he died. Of course, in due time, he did pass away and the boys kept their promise. They set off with Uncle Seamus all stitched up in a burial bag and loaded him into their rowboat.

After a while Mick says, "**Do yer tink dis is fer enuff out, Paddy?**" Paddy slips over the side only to find himself standing in water up to his knees.

**"Dis'll never do, Mick. Let's row some more."**

After a bit more rowing Paddy slips over the side again but the water is only up to his belly, so they row on.

Again Mick asks Paddy, "**Do yer tink dis is fer enuff out Paddy?**"

Once again Paddy slips over the side and almost immediately says, "**No dis'll neva do.**"

The water was only up to his chest.

So they row and row and row and finally Paddy slips over the side and disappears. Quite a bit of time goes by and poor Mick is really getting himself into a state when suddenly Paddy breaks the surface gasping for breath.

**"Well is it deep enuff yet, Paddy?"**

**"Aye it 'tis, hand me the shovel."**



**"Yes! That was very loud Sir, but I said I wanted to hear your HEART!"**



**Trend Timbers**  
SPECIALISTS IN AUSTRALIAN & EXOTIC TIMBERS

WOOD TURNING; WOOD CARVING;  
PYROGRAPHY; TIMBER FINISHES;  
TURNING & CARVING TOOLS

**4577 5277**

Lot 1 Cunneen St,  
Mulgrave/McGraths Hill

[www.trendtimbers.com.au](http://www.trendtimbers.com.au)

# Postcard from Egypt

It was a choice of either following Bob Young on an adventurous 4WD journey to Perth and WA or fly to Egypt to visit ancient sites, Egypt won!

We got together a small group including our Allan Kirkland and his wife Helen. Lucky for us to have Allan with us, he was a great bulldozer in the busy Cairo bazaar.

Our trip to Egypt was the grand tour, which included traveling into the Sinai, Alexandria and El Alamein, apart from the usually visited Pyramids and numerous temples along the Nile Valley.



The Bus took us under the Suez Canal via the 1.8km long tunnel on the drive through some desolate looking desert towards Mt. Sinai. One wonders why armies fought for centuries

over this barren Peninsula, which makes our outback look absolutely lush.

We climbed Mt. Sinai ( the Moses mountain), starting at 1am up a torturous 3hr climb, to witness the sunrise. One can either go up the camel track or the alternative nearly 4000 step route. I cheated and took a 1½ hr Camel ride up to the 700 step mark. From there it is shank's pony. It is a truly amazing sight to see hundreds of people of all ages and sizes trudge in total darkness up a barren mountain just to see the sun rise. How Moses ever found the place is a wonder in itself!

After a crowded visit to St. Catherine Monastery to look at the not so burning bush, we headed towards Alexandria, via Suez City, where the ocean-going ships and cargo vessels glide majestically through the Suez Canal.



**Standing in the Red Sea**

Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great in 332BC, is a sight to behold — a most quaint National Museum, Roman amphitheatre and eerie Roman catacombs, very busy markets and unbelievable traffic!

I will never complain about Parramatta Rd. traffic again.

On our way back to Cairo we took in El Alamein, the War Cemeteries and Museum which only emphasize the futility of war!

In Cairo we enjoyed the magical Sound and Light Show at the Pyramids, a few days later Aida was performed there at \$300 the cheapest seat!

From Cairo a 1 hr flight to Luxor and the spoiling environment of a Cruise boat and numerous visits to Temples and Monuments, built to glorify the living and dead Pharaohs. It would take many books to describe all the Egyptian treasures but the Valley of the Kings has over 60 burial chambers. The most spectacular were King Tutankhamun and Rameses 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the Valley of the Queens, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut stood out.

A short ½ hour flight to Abu Simbel to the two Temples of Rameses 2<sup>nd</sup>. and his Queen Nefertari are an absolute must! One can see a hundred pictures, but seeing the real thing is just mind-blowing .



Even the rescue of the Temples from the flood waters of Lake Nasser after the construction of the High Dam is a modern miracle. Many Nubians were displaced by the rising waters and were also relocated to higher ground.



We enjoyed a leisurely seven days cruising on the Nile, with bucolic landscape on both sides. This turns abruptly into endless desert just a stone's throw from the shores of this mighty river. Even the belly-dancer did not distract us. Our interest was the ancient Egyptians, not the modern ones. Then back to Cairo and the famous Egyptian Museum with the golden treasures of Tutankhamun. After that a short drive to the step pyramids of King Zoser at Sakkara and on to the 3 pyramids at Giza with the enigmatic great Sphinx in the foreground.



As one lady said at breakfast, she was "all templed out" with information overload.

Well I have to agree. So much in so short a time.

Good to get home again — my machines and chisels were missing me.

*Erich Aldinger*

## The Burl



I was looking through my wood stack  
When I came across a burl  
It was deep dark red with swirling knotty grain  
And a spiral wisp of creamy light  
That surfaced now and then  
In a tortured curling gorgeous milky vein

It was Coolabah or Mallee  
You can never be quite sure  
But I chose it for its sad and cranky pain  
I could make a thing of beauty  
From this grumpy piece of wood  
Though some would say to try would be insane

So I screwed it to a face plate  
With some short but sturdy screws  
And I dropped the belt speed way down just in case  
I employed my safety glasses  
I applied the roughing gouge  
Being careful not to work in any haste

Slowly out - from inside ugly  
A beginning showed its face  
And the bottom of the bowl was looking stout  
So I formed a recess in it  
To accept the old scroll chuck  
And I turned it round to start to hollow out

As the bowl gouge did its magic  
And the colours came to light  
I was awed by nature's masterful display  
And the wood chips hit my glasses  
But I didn't really care  
For creating is its own reward they say

Creation sounds so pompous  
When nature's done the work  
And the beauty you create was always there  
You're the instrument that finds it  
You unearth her hidden joy  
And you tend to think it's you that has the flare

You're careful not to go too deep  
You stop and check for depth  
And while you check you notice one small rut  
It's upsetting when the rest is fine  
And sanding should begin  
I'll just start it up and give it "one more cut"

Now the bowl is spinning faster  
And it's unbeknown to me  
That a flaw lies deep within its inner space  
So in ignorance I take it  
That "only one more cut"  
And a lump of it goes whistling past my face

And another piece goes flying  
As it bounces off the wall  
So I stop the lathe to see what I can save  
And the shard that's left is worthless  
Good glue won't help a bit  
I'll send the broken pieces to their grave

*Neil Guthrie*



The burl — exploded view!

# Addictive Pen Kits

*Importers and Distributors of Berea Hardwoods Pen Kits*

WE NOW HAVE IN STOCK AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF BERE A HARDWOODS PEN KITS AND ARE ABLE TO SUPPLY THESE SUPERIOR QUALITY PEN KITS TO ADDICTED PEN TURNERS ACROSS AUSTRALIA. OUR CURRENT RANGE OF KITS INCLUDES 30 DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF PENS AND PLATINGS SOME NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN AUSTRALIA.



FOR A FULL COLOUR CATALOGUE WITH DETAILED PICTURES, DESCRIPTIONS AND PRICES  
PHONE, EMAIL OR EVEN SMS NAME AND ADDRESS TO :  
PHONE : (02) 9896 7319 - MOBILE : 0411 340921  
EMAIL : [penkits@bigpond.net.au](mailto:penkits@bigpond.net.au)



# Christmas Party

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December saw 55 members and their partners enjoying our Christmas Party which this year was held at the Seven Hills – Toongabbie RSL Club. Everyone seemed to agree with the new arrangements as the club was very impressive with its air conditioned comfort, separate function room, ample parking and outstanding menu featuring seafood, Asian dishes, carvery, desserts, etc.

Our Catering Officer got a laugh when he reminded the members not to forget to take their medication. Rohan himself seemed to be taking his in schooner glasses. He must have liked the new arrangements because he actually stayed till the end this time.

It was a great occasion to spend some time socially with friends and their partners, to forget diets and get into the Christmas spirit.



## A RUSTIC BOWL

By Bob Hodge (Santa)

### The Commission

The client was quite specific. The bowl **must** have a rustic, hand crafted style; **must** retain the bark on the outside; **must** be a one off irregular shape; **must** have gloss finish inside and out; preferably distinctive and beautiful grain

### Choice of timber

This task obviously required a suitable burl. I purchased a two day old burl which the client enthusiastically approved. She then added the condition that it was to sit flat on the table (no feet or supports) and the inside rim should approximately follow the outside contour.



### Process

1 A faceplate was secured to the burl and a recess turned to fit the chuck. Because the burl could not be bandsawed to round, it was severely out of balance, restricting the lathe speed to 195rpm. The burl was still only 3 days old and was easily cut with a 16ml detail gouge. (Yes, detail gouge.) The recess was made a couple of mil deeper than usual because of

- (a) the severe out of balance and
- (b) the edge was hard up against the bark at one part.

2 The burl was chuck mounted and turned out-board at 90 deg. to the bed to ensure no unwanted hitting against the bed. The basic bowl was turned to about 2 cm from the closest outer rim and about 1cm less than the final depth. The 16ml



detail gouge was used again. It was quicker than the bowl gouge but a little harder to control with the "chattering" caused by the confused grain of the burl. It was now showing some resemblance of a bowl even if somewhat odd with rim thickness varying so markedly.

3 With much of the timber removed, the bowl was microwaved 6 or 7 times in a large 1200W microwave. Each time it was heated for 3-6 mins until the timber was hot to touch, then allowed to cool again. I judged it was time to stop when microscopic cracks began to appear in the thickest parts. This was real seat of the pants stuff, but subsequent turning showed it to be seasoned.

4 2Days later the bowl was chucked again and an exploratory cut made with a scraper to see how much it had moved due to seasoning. Not very much at all and it was now spindle locked to allow removal of all the unwanted material using an Arbortech. With it chuck mounted this way the debris was being thrown down to the floor. Much better than a horizontal position with the debris thrown out horizontally. Rotating the bowl when required and spindle locking at the next position allowed the whole 360 deg of the inside to be dressed this way.

5 Still using the spindle lock process, the inside was then sanded with a 40 grit flap sander disc then repeated with 80 grit

6 Final sanding stages were done with a Bohler 3 pad variable speed sander using grits from 80 to 400. Being conscious of the client's insistence on a rustic hand made look, I resisted all urges to strive for very smooth curves, no tool marks and a steel wool quality finish. (That is like asking a trained singer to sing off key!)

7 Finishes. The **outside** was given 4 coats of 7008 with 10% thinners. This was to act as a binder as well as a sealer because bark particles tended to crumble when the job was handled. The 4<sup>th</sup> coat showed a slight gloss, showing it was now sealed. A final coat was given with no thinners. The **inside** was given 3 coats of Danish oil. Each coat was applied using 400 grit paper and allowed to dry past the tacky stage before applying the next coat, but not allowed to fully harden. The final coat was allowed to harden for about 4 hours, then a test section hand buffed with lambs wool. This brought a nice lustre but some "drag" could be felt, showing it was still a bit soft. An hour later it was buffed with a lambs wool pad in the cordless drill. No drag and lots of shine. (fig3) Danish oil applied as per usual will have a soft lustre, but the process just described will produce a durable gloss finish that is very pleasing. But word of warning. If you polish too soon it will drag and tear the polish. (Hence the hand trial) If you leave it dry completely, it will not yield a gloss.



### Conclusion

Before presenting it to the client, I gave her 2 guarantees.

- 1 Nobody else will ever have a bowl the same as hers (because each burl is unique).
- 2 her friends will want to know where she got it.

She is over the moon and is going to photograph it sitting on her table where it will be on display as a "no touch" heirloom piece, and will give me a copy. Another happy customer.



All the best to club members reading this. If you have never tried this type of piece, I hope it encourages you to "ave-a-go".

Luv, Santa.



## A LETTER FROM AUNT ANNIE

Got a letter from Grandma the other day. She writes...

Dear Friend,

The other day I went up to a local Christian bookstore and saw a "honk if you love Jesus" bumper sticker. I was feeling particularly sassy that day because I had just come from a thrilling choir performance, followed by a thunderous prayer meeting, so I bought the sticker and put it on my bumper.

Boy, I'm glad I did! What an uplifting experience followed!

I was stopped at a red light at a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good He is...and I didn't notice that the light had changed. It is a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn't honked, I'd never have noticed! I found that LOTS of people love Jesus!

While I was sitting there, the guy behind started honking like crazy, and then he leaned out of his window and screamed, "For the love of GOD! GO! GO! Jesus Christ, GO!"

What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus! Everyone started honking! I just leaned out of my window and started waving and smiling at all these loving people. I even honked my horn a few times to share in the love!

There must have been a man from Florida back there because I heard him yelling something about a "sunny beach"... I saw another guy waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck up in the air. I asked my teenage grandson in the back seat what that meant, he said that it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something.

Well, I've never met anyone from Hawaii, so I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing ... he was enjoying this religious experience, too!

A couple of the people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started walking towards me. I bet they wanted to pray or ask what church I attended, but this is when I noticed the light had changed. So, I waved to all my sisters and brothers grinning, and drove on through the intersection. I noticed I was the only car that got through the intersection before the light changed again and I felt kind of sad that had to leave them after all the love we had shared, so I slowed the car down, leaned out of the window and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck sign one last time as I drove away.

Praise the Lord for such wonderful folks!

Love,

Grandma

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE ONE OF THOSE?

Do you mean...

not plant the tree, but find the wood,  
just 'see' the piece, (as I could)?  
to find a highly figured burl,  
a crotch, an eye, or pearly curl?  
And once I spy it, perhaps buy it,  
inventory, store, and dry it?  
Then saw or cut it, possibly I kiln it'  
glue, imbue with fill, or drill it?  
You mean that once I'm satisfied  
it's stopped the warps, checks,  
cracks, once dried?  
And mounted on the lathe, to turn it,  
(which takes much practice, just  
to learn it);  
and then employ a gouge, or two,  
or use a skew, which I don't eschew,  
to mould it, shape it (what's your pleasure?)  
by all means, I'm sure to measure,  
then sand it smooth, please wear your mitts,  
from coarse to fine, 10,000 grits,  
then braze, or burnish, paint, or polish,  
(the goal: enhance, and don't demolish)?  
Is that your question, start to end,  
how long's that path, its way to wend?  
Or do you merely want to know  
how long it turned?

Ten minutes or so.

--John A. Styer, North East, MD

## Language Lesson

Jimmy was having problems in English class, so his teacher decided to stop by on her way home to speak with his parents. When she rang the bell, Jimmy answered.

"I'd like to talk to your mother or father," said the teacher.

"Sorry, but they ain't here," he told her.

"Jimmy!" she said, "what is it with your grammar?"

"Beats me," Jimmy replied, "but dad sure was mad that they had to go and bail her out again!"



**Trend Timbers**  
SPECIALISTS IN AUSTRALIAN & EXOTIC TIMBERS

WOOD TURNING; WOOD CARVING;  
PYROGRAPHY; TIMBER FINISHES;  
TURNING & CARVING TOOLS

**4577 5277**

Lot 1 Cunneen St,  
Mulgrave/McGraths Hill

[www.trendtimbers.com.au](http://www.trendtimbers.com.au)

## Your Turn — George Wells

No wonder George Wells loves using his old hand tools as he has been using and caring for them all his working life. After leaving school, he obtained an apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner and worked with various firms over the next five years. He was then advised by his tech teacher to complete a Clerk of Works course. This meant travelling to Ultimo TAFE after work and after the lessons getting to Strathfield in order to catch a steam train to Pendle Hill.



George joined the Sydney County Council as a carpenter and joiner, but before long he was selected to replace a retiring clerk of works even though he was only 25 years old. George held this position for forty years travelling round the city and suburbs inspecting work on projects of all kinds.

He retired in 1991 and while passing along Northcott Avenue noticed the Woodturners sign and decided to enquire. John Galati invited him to join and George remembers how helpful Adrian Varendregt and Graham Dawes were in showing him the ropes and honing his woodturning skills.



George is a keen gardener, growing strawberries, cabbages, beans, corn, and butternut pumpkins. I can attest to the crispness of his cabbages as the one George gave us made great coleslaw and stirfry. Lawn clipping from his neighbour forms the basis of the garden mulch he uses and it must be good stuff to grow pineapples like George produces.

He has built a fernhouse for Pat's plants and hanging baskets and combined with the neat lawned areas and mulched garden beds, they have a garden that anyone would be proud of.

Being an old "woodie", George has a fine collection of hand tools and modern electric versions as well. He has made much of their furniture and this dressing-table is a fine example of his craftsmanship.



George is always trying new things to make. After some tuition from Bob Hodge, he is turning some fancy table legs. Of course things don't always turn out as intended. He didn't hesitate in showing his model car powered by a mouse trap. In order to provide more power, George upgraded the power unit to a rat trap. Unfortunately the thing has too much power and the car just sits there with its wooden wheels spinning like crazy without any sign of forward motion. Looks like back to the drawing board for this project.



George and Pat ("the minister for home affairs") have a very comfortable home and of course there are plenty of examples of their handicrafts throughout the house. On the walls are some fine examples of needlecraft that Pat has produced and of course there are dozens of George's turned pieces, some featuring folk art, covering every horizontal surface.

Lately he has become interested in laminating different timbers for his bowl designs and gives credit to his friend John Malysiak whom George describes as the "Guru".

