

WestTurn News

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

Issue 58, July 2004.

Western & Blue Mountains Region

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

e-mail: 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

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 **3rd August**.

Committee Report:

The committee has agreed to the offer made from the Peninsular Group to take on the organising and running of any future events at Auburn Mega Mall. Larry Bailey will be the organiser for any future events at the mall.

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.

JUNE 20

Swap meet. Theme for show & tell was a **Gavel**.

Des Page; had a gavel & pad turned from teak. Des also had a lidded box made from teak, an unusual design being square with turned circles on the four sides. Well-done Des

Graham Murray; presented a barley twist made from pine finished with shellac & friction polish. Graham was inspired to try this from the demonstration we had from David Laird.

John Malysiak; had a gavel & pad made from walnut and a Vinnie the Viking made from various timbers both finished with friction polish.

Toby McIlwain; had a small gavel & plate made from melaleuca and blackwood finished with friction polish.

Peter Bland; had a gavel and pad made from pallet material (some hardwood). Well-done Peter for your first show and tell.

Gerhard Bijl; had a bald brush, which he makes and sells at his market stalls. His daughter paints these.

JULY 18

Bring your tools, as this will be a hands on day. Theme for show & tell will be **Spoons / Ladles**. Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

AUGUST 15

Aaron Ehrlich will be demonstrating. Theme for show & tell will be **Laminated / Segmented Turnings**.

SEPTEMBER 19

Bring your tools, as this will be a hands on day. Theme for show & tell will be **Goblets (two the same)**.

OCTOBER 17

Col Herbert will be demonstrating. Theme for show & tell will be a **Bowl on a Pedestal**.

NOVEMBER 21

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

Past Demonstrations:

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

June 19/20, 26/27 July 3/4
Auburn Mega Mall

Thanks to all who participated with manning the stand and submitting items for sale/display.

Future Demonstrations:

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

July 18

Nepean Historical Society.
Once again we have been

invited to attend and participate this event.

September 4

St Marys Festival. This is an annual event so please help out. See Alan Phelps for more details.

September 18

Lalor Park Pre-school has again invited us to attend their annual fete. Last year was cancelled at the last minute because of bad weather.

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 – priced to bottle size.

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.

PROPERTIES OF SPECIES OF SOME WOODS CONT.

Beech, Silky:

A large hardwood of occasional occurrence in the coastal rainforests of New South Wales and Queensland. Heartwood pale yellow, with a grey-green tinge. Sapwood not clearly differentiated. Texture moderately fine. Grain often interlocked. The rays are prominent, giving an attractive figure to the radial surface. Relatively easy to work but the sanding dust is very irritant to nose and eyes. Particularly good ventilation of the workshop is essential. Glues well.

Used for furniture, turnery, and decorative veneer.

Beech, Silver:

Other common name:
Southern beech.

A medium sized hardwood growing on both islands of New Zealand in the heavier rainfall areas but especially on the west coast of the south island. Heartwood pink to reddish brown. Sapwood pale greyish pink. Texture fine and even. Grain usually straight. Slight growth ring figure on the tangential surface. Good for steam bending. Used for furniture, turnery and flooring.

Beech, Wau:

Other common names: Elmeril, Hui.

A widely distributed hardwood in the rainforests of Papua New Guinea. Heartwood pale brown to golden brown. Sapwood creamy and to 50mm wide. Texture moderately fine and

even. Grain variable. Some stripe figure on radial surface. Spicy odour. Used for furniture, veneer, joinery, boatbuilding, turnery and carving.

Beech, White:

Large hardwoods of scattered occurrence in the coastal rainforest from the Shoalhaven River in New South Wales to Queensland, and also in Papua New Guinea. Heartwood pale brown, not clearly distinguishable from the sapwood. Texture medium and even. Grain often interlocked. Easy to work. Sometimes difficult to glue. Used for furniture, boatbuilding, carving, turnery, patternmaking, and shives for beer casks.

Belah:

A small to medium hardwood of the heavy soils of the inland plains in New South Wales and also in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. Heartwood dark chocolate brown. Sapwood creamy and narrow (10-15mm). Texture very fine and even. Grain usually straight. In contract to most casuarinas it has fine inconspicuous rays. Limited size and availability used for fencing and fuel. Could be used for turning.

A little message from far away

Tell everyone I said hi, and wish I was there turning lidded boxes!

Will be in touch soon!
Breony. xx

Food for Thought

A question asked at an interview.

You are driving along in your car on a wild, stormy night. You pass by a bus stop, and you see three people waiting for the bus:

1. An old lady who looks as if she is about to die.
2. An old friend who one saved your life.
3. The perfect man (or) woman you have been dreaming about.

Which one would you choose to offer a ride to, knowing that there would be one passenger in your car?

Think before you continue reading.

Consider the options:

You could pick up the old lady, because she is going to die, and thus you should save her first (do the right thing, set aside your personal desires).

Or you could take the old friend because he once saved your life, and this would be the perfect chance to pay him back (loyalty above all else, plus you restore equilibrium to your life, fulfill an obligation).

However, you may never be able to find your perfect lover again (risk everything; choose love, without which life has no meaning).

The candidate who was hired (out of 200 applicants) had no trouble coming up with his answer.

What did he say?

I would give the car keys to my old friend, and let him take the lady to the hospital. I would stay behind for the bus with the woman of my dreams.

Never forget to ‘think outside of the box’.

Supplied by **George Wells**

Wood Finishing
By Alan Phelps

My favorite finish -

My favorite finish is a friction polish I make myself.

When I first started woodturning I thought because of my ‘Woodie’ background that I knew how to sand and prepare woodturnings. Well I was wrong again. With woodturning the technique is slightly different and the application of finishes is different. Applying a clear finish to a piece of timber whilst on a lathe or stationary is also different.

Fortunately I was introduced to shellwax Friction Polish right at the start. As far as I am concerned this is the almost ideal finish. The only problem is that it is expensive. I became somewhat intrigued about the composition of this product. I found that it was basically a mixture of Shellac and Wax. This started me researching and I finally worked out what I thought the ingredients were. It then took me some time to find out where I could get them. Eventually with the help of a few of the guys in the region I obtained all I wanted and my life’s experiences and common sense told me how to process them into a friction polish.

Well I made the first batch and low and behold it worked! There were some teething problems as I experimented with slightly different recipes. I was fortunate to make contact with Australia's oldest supplier of Shellac and ancillary products, "Shines" at Auburn. The advice given to me by the guy who runs the show was invaluable. He saved me many hours of experimenting. Also there is a book on Wood Finishing put out by Neil Ellis the owner of "U Beaut Polishes" in Melbourne. It is the best I have ever read on the subject.

As you are probably aware Shellac is what is used for French Polishing, which is one of the finest wood finishes there, is, but unfortunately it is susceptible to water and damage. Well modern day technology has solved the problem; there is a special new chemical hardener available (Not Viagra) that can be added to the shellac during the mixing stage that sets the shellac to a rock hard finish that is water resistant. I started using this early in the piece.

Anyhow, my basic ingredients are now five different waxes combined together with Shellac and the hardener. The result is a dam good polish and cheap. As you may know we are now selling this through the region to our members.

To be continued next month.

The Writing On The Wall

*The best way to a man's heart is to saw his breastplate open. -
- Lady's room, Murphy's,
Champaign, IL

*Beauty is only a light switch away. -- Perkins Library. Duke University. Durham, North Carolina.

Supplied by **Anna Dawes**

TURNING CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

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 or workshops please see **Bill Swindail**.

Beyond Turning – Surface Decoration Workshop

This is a hands-on workshop where you can experiment with a wide variety of decorative techniques and apply them to turnings. Experienced people will help you to learn new skills – wood burning, texturing, relief carving, chip carving, marquetry, chatterwork, inlaying stone and shell, blacksmithing, sandblasting, painting, staining, air brushing, calligraphy, resin work and more. We will run woodworking demonstrations.

You are welcome to bring your own bowls, candlesticks, toys ect. to decorate.

WHEN – 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday September 18th

WHERE – Blaxland High School, Coughlan Road, Blaxland

COST – \$20. Pay at the door. Covers morning tea but bring your own lunch or use the

restaurants and takeaway shops (400metres away).

Further Information:

Ross Dando – 71 Valley Road, Hazelbrook, 2783

Rhys Jones –
woodturner@pnc.com.au

Des Lane – 4751 5128

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

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

WOODTURN 2004

October 9th & 10th.

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

Please remember than **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

PROJECT

There will not be a project sheet this month.

Larry

Sunday 15 August is our AGM.

Please consider who will be nominated for positions to be on the committee for next year.