

# WestTurn News

Guild Web Site:

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

Issue 91, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

Western Sydney Woodturners

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

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

## President's Message

There was a great rollup for the Maxiday on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> to see Jack Butler. We plan to try and have as many demonstrations as we can at these occasions because we know our members love to watch talented turners and see new ideas which they can try themselves.

There will be no Maxiday on June 17<sup>th</sup> because of the Guilio Marcolongo demo on the next Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. Register your name and save up your \$25 and remember that lunch will not be provided.

Bob Jarvis (9622 2741)

**Library:** See [Don Hughes](#) 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:** It's great to see Manny Farrugia looking so well after his recent operation. As you'd guess, he was straight back into action the next day after his overnight stay in hospital and attended the club demo at the Blacktown Festival.

**Secretary:**

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**Catering Officer:**

[Rohan McCardell](#)

## NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

With the prizemoney for taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place for our display at the Blue Mountains Challenge, we have added two new books to our club library. The books are "Woodturning – A Foundation Course" by Keith Rowley and "Beyond Basic Turning" by J Cox.

## Western Sydney Woodturners

### Workshops:

Every **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** from 9.30am and every **Friday Night** starting at 7.00pm.

### Maxidays:

**Third Sunday** every month from 10.00am

Usually a guest turner gives a demonstration, then Show & Tell.

Lunch is provided.

### Committee Meetings:

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

1<sup>st</sup> September St Marys Spring Festival

15<sup>th</sup> July Nepean Historical Society at Emu Plains

## HOW TO KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLD

Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work. The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.

You feel like the morning after and you haven't been anywhere.

Your children begin to look middle-aged.

You've finally reached the top of the ladder only to find it's leaning against the wrong wall.

Your mind makes contracts your body can't keep.

You look forward to a dull evening.

You turn out the lights for economic reasons.

You sit in the rocking chair and can't get it going....

Your knees buckle, but your belt won't.

You regret all those mistakes you made resisting temptation.

You're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist, and 96 on the golf course.

Your pacemaker makes the garage door open when you see a pretty girl.

The little old grey-haired lady you help across the street is your wife.

You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there.

You have too much room in the house and not enough room in the medicine cabinet.

You know all the answers, but nobody asks the questions.

Your broad mind and narrow waist have exchanged places

## Tamworth Woodworking and Craft Festival.

28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Jeanette and I decided to travel to Tamworth and spend the weekend there taking in the local sights and visiting the Festival of Woodwork and Woodturning held by the Tamworth Woodturners at the Tamworth Regional Craft Centre.



As you can see, this guy was selling slabs and bowl blanks for very reasonable prices so I picked up some pieces and that's my stack on the shelf.



The organisers were quite happy for me to take photos of the displays.



There were some interesting bowls - a mixture of turning and carving.



Also on show were model trucks, tractors and steam engines and the usual turned items like pens, salt and pepper grinders etc.



In another room was a display case of Colin Hemmings miniature work. For a man who is legally blind this is amazing. He said he is a member of the Blue Mountains club and taught Toby all he knows!

Hughie Mitchell is the president of the Tamworth club and organised the weekend. The Festival not only targeted woodturning but also had displays and demonstrations of quilting, beading, knitting and lapidary. All of these groups had areas of their own. This made the visit more fun for Jeanette.

By Peter Bland

## Spalted Wood



### *What is it?*

Spalting is a by-product of the rotting process that is carried out by a vast array of stain, mould and decay fungi, that are found naturally on the forest floor. When the temperature and humidity are right, spalting can cause many different and beautiful patterns in rotting wood. The unusual colouration may be due to chemically induced reactions between the wood, fungi and insect deposits, often resulting in black, pink, grey and multicoloured streaked wood.

It is decorative and can be greatly valued over the uninfected wood. Lighter coloured woods like birch and maple offer the best canvas for dramatic spalting. Once the wood has been cut and kiln dried, the fungi can no longer grow, and the spalting process will stop. Airflow, wood moisture content above 25% and air temperature between 60 and 80 degrees F. are all necessary for spalting.

### *How to work with spalted wood:*

It can be very easy to very difficult to work with, depending on whether you "caught" the wood before it became too punky. Some severely spalted wood can tend to crumble. These areas can be saturated with liquid hardeners (like cyanoacrylate glue, Superglue), or small soft spots can be coated with a coat

or two of clear shellac or sanding sealer.

### *Finishing:*

Spalted wood can have a tendency to splotch on finishing so often woodworkers use clear, de-waxed shellac as a sealer. Almost any finish can be applied as a topcoat over this once it's been sanded. If you have had to use hardeners, you'll find that oil finishes and stains do not absorb into the wood so you'll be limited to lacquer style topcoats. Most hardeners will darken the wood as well, so keep that in mind.

### *Health Concerns:*

Spalted wood may still contain spores, therefore it should always be worked and sanded only when wearing a good dust mask or respirator, and using a dust collector. There is medical evidence that substances from decaying wood are a health threat and some allergic reactions and serious lung diseases have been traced to spores and fungi that inhabit rotting wood.

The effect on an individual woodworker however depends on his/her natural tolerance to the spores and fungi, since some individuals are more likely to react to environmental toxins than others.

The woodworker should be careful in selecting the species used for making kitchen utensils, food storage containers or toys an infant might chew on, since heat, moisture and time stimulate the release of the toxins found in some of these types of wood.

There are several more sites on the Internet dealing with spalting and some of them give details of how to encourage the growth of the fungus in your own wood samples.

Contributed by Ian O'Connor. Internet reference: [www.thewoodbox.com/data/wood/spaltedinfo.htm](http://www.thewoodbox.com/data/wood/spaltedinfo.htm)



# Addictive Pen Kits

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## Show & Tell — Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2007

<b>Erich Aldinger</b> Polygonal Bowl; tea tree; friction Bowl, burl; 7008 Lightning strike burl bowl; clear spray Square bowl; African Zebrano; 7008 Globe on a Stand; tea tree; friction	<b>Bob Taylor</b> Vase; Huon pine; 7008 Vase; Buddah; 7008 Vase; jacaranda; 7008 Vase; Australian cedar; 7008	<b>Syd Churchward</b> Toothpick holder; Shellawax Bowl, unknown timber; friction polish Serviette rings; Shellawax Bowl; red gum; friction polish
<b>Anna Dawes</b> Shallow bowl; camphor laurel; decorated with pyrography and beaten texture	<b>Emanuel Farrugia</b> 3 Segmented vases; several timbers including honey lotus; Estapol	<b>Trish Gale</b> Yoyo; New Guinea rosewood; friction 2 pens; acrylic; Silvo Kaleidoscope egg; camphor laurel; friction polish
<b>Allan Kirkland</b> Tray; camphor laurel; Estapol satin Bowl; camphor laurel; Estapol satin	<b>Bob Mayer</b> Jar; New Guinea rosewood; wax Egg cup; NG rosewood; wax	<b>Des Page</b> Lidded box; bottlebrush; 7008 Lidded box; unknown timber; 7008
<b>Larry Bailey</b> Vase; camphor laurel; oil finish Bowl; jacaranda; oil & friction polish	<b>George Wells</b> Light stand; Pacific maple; Estapol	

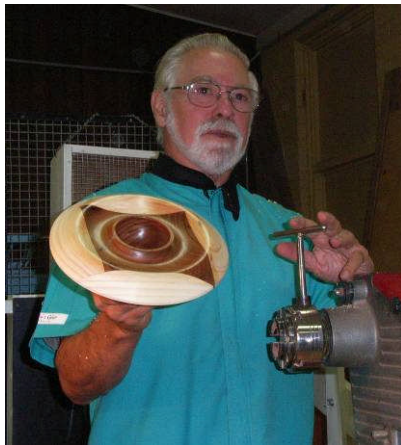
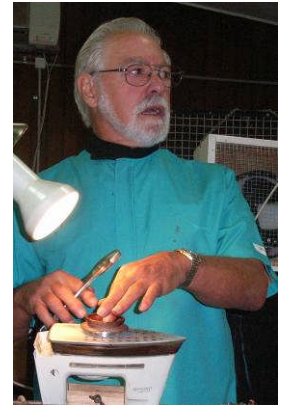


**Maxiday Demonstration  
Jack Butler 20<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

There was a good attendance at this Maxiday where Jack Butler, who is the president of the Sydney Northern Beaches club, gave an interesting and informative demonstration of different types of turning. He also showed us some little tricks of the trade to make life a bit easier such as using the metal wheels from the internals of an old VCR as small face-plates. Jack breaks some hotmelt glue into pieces and using a hot iron (his own, not the family one) melts the glue and attaches the job.

His first project was a lidded box made from tea-tree wood which demonstrated what can be done with leftover pieces of timber. During this exercise he used some extended jaws he had made from MDF for his chuck so that he could reverse the job when required.

Jack likes to use EEE Ultra Shine and must have been a little bit heavy handed with it and I soon discovered I was in the firing line as particles of wax headed in my direction as soon as he turned on the lathe. My fault for always wanting to sit in the front row.



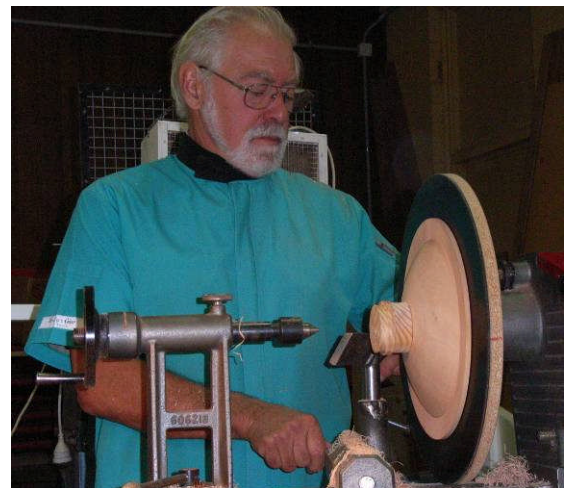
Jack's second project was a square bowl; one of those apparently offset bowls with a square rim and with a wavy surface. He has previously surrounded a square of cedar with four pieces of pine glued to it. He then showed his skill with the bowl gouge by shaping the top as you can see in the photo. He then had to turn the matching curves on the bottom of the piece.

During lunch, Jack used the bandsaw to cut off the pine surrounds then sanded the square edges of the bowl and finished the polishing.

Jack then turned a bowl with no base as it was designed to sit on three legs. He had previously shaped it while the jacaranda timber was still green so it has gone out of round while drying. This posed no problem to Jack who quickly had it back under control and back into shape.

Turning the bottom of this piece enabled Jack to show his vacuum chuck in action and to explain how they work and the pitfalls to be careful of.

Altogether a great demo and I am sure that all members gained something from watching a skilled turner in action.



A videotape and a DVD were made of Jack's demonstration and these have been placed in the library for the use of members.

Jack kindly accepted a request to conduct the Show & Tell session during lunch and his comments on the pieces submitted and his words of encouragement were very much appreciated.

## Making a Segmented Bowl

Bill Mottram

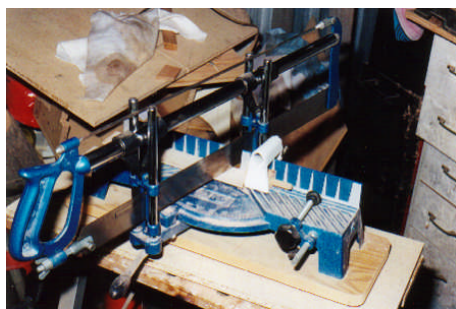


This is Bill Mottram holding a segmented bowl which he had brought in for Show & Tell. While I was jealously admiring his article, he casually mentioned that he documented his work and took photos at each stage and filed them for future reference.

Bill offered to bring some photos to the next meeting so that I could satisfy my desire to do a story complete with little pictures just like they do in the woodworking magazines.

He even brought the shots in on a CDROM to make it easier for me, so I am pleased that at last I've got around to doing the story of how Bill makes a segmented bowl.

Now all I have to do is to come up with the text under each picture and make it sound as if I understand the process.



1 After getting the plan of the job he wants to make, Bill uses this manual mitre saw to cut the segments for each ring of the bowl, following the construction plan.



2 The mitre angle is determined by the number of segments on each ring and its diameter. Segments are cut and layed out and checked for fit before being glued.



3 When the glue is dry, each ring is sanded flat. Here Bill is using a lathe-mounted disk of MDF with sandpaper attached to sand both front and back of the ring..



4 When ready, apply plenty of glue and evenly spread it over each disk before it is carefully centred on its neighbour and clamped in position.



5 Preparing for pressing. The ring is placed in position and slid back and forth to evenly spread the glue.



6 Notice how the car jack is used to apply pressure to the stack so that the excess glue is squeezed out. The frame enables downward pressure on the stack.



7 Here the ends of the glued stack of rings is being sanded flat on the sandpaper disk



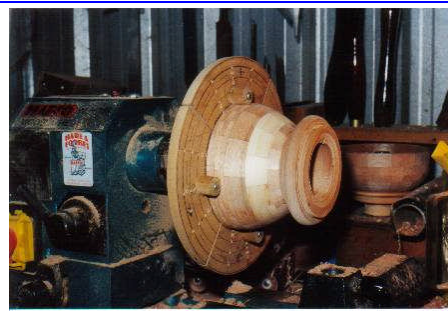
8 Bill makes the bowl in two sections. Here the top section is mounted on the lathe for turning.



9 Shaping of the bottom section on the right has been completed. The top is held on a jam chuck in order to shape the opening.



10 The rim at the top has been turned to the desired shape.



11 Bill decided to hold the top in the Cole Jaws to complete the sanding and finishing.



12 The top has been reversed on the Cole Jaws so that the inside could be sanded and given a coat of shellac.



13 Here both the top and the bottom parts have been given the desired number of coats of shellac to the inside of the bowl.



14 The two sections are glued together carefully, sanded and given the final finish treatment while being held on the lathe by the recess in the base.

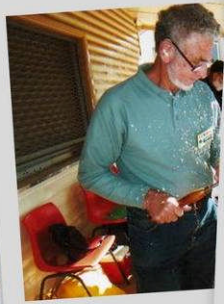


15 At last Bill has the satisfaction of seeing the finished article. This was made a few years ago now, before the current craze to do segmented turning.

## Oxley Park Public School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Erich Aldinger, Bob Jarvis, Bob Taylor, Ron Devine, Rob Tuckwell, Dave Matthews, Rohan McCardell and Manny Farrugia manned our stall at the school celebrations. The spinning tops and dolls were popular with the kids and we added to the charity kitty with some sales of bowls and aromatic shavings for pot-pourris.

Below are some shots of the day taken by Erick Aldinger.



Rob Buckw



Dave, Rohan and Ron



Bowls and camphor laurel shavings



Manny, Dave, Rohan and Bob



Student TAPERA with a turned doll

## SOME MORE SPECIES OF WOODS

**Family: Anacardiaceae (mango family)**

**Common names: African wild plum ;Kaffir plum**

This is an attractive evergreen tree that is useful as an ornamental garden tree and for attracting birds and butterflies into the garden. It is popularly planted as a street tree in a number of towns and cities.



With its thick crown and somewhat drooping leaves, the wild plum is a good shade tree in the garden.

The wild plum is a large, evergreen tree that grows up to 15 m tall, and is usually found in riverine forests in Africa. The main stem is clean and straight, but the forest form often has supporting buttress roots. The bark is smooth when young, becoming rough, dark grey-brown as it grows older. Branches are curved bowed upwards, with leaves crowded towards the ends, forming a thick crown at the top of the tree.

The shiny dark green and glossy leaves are sometimes interspersed with the odd red leaves. The whitish green flowers are borne near the ends of the branches with male and female flowers on separate trees, throughout summer (November to February). The tasty plum-like fruits first appear green and then turn red when they ripen in autumn; they contain a single seed and are enjoyed by mammals and birds.



As attractive as this tree is in the appropriate location, there comes a time when the size of the tree and its nearness to the house and underground services means a difficult decision has to be made and so Erich Aldinger called in the tree loppers for some ground-level pruning.

However, as a keen woodturner, Erich was consoled by the number of logs he was able to rescue from the mulcher and split then into decent sized bowl blanks.



The wood of the *H. caffrum* is pale reddish and fairly heavy. Internet sources claim that it polishes well but is not very durable, and that it has been used as a general purpose timber, for furniture and beams and that it is also used for carving curios.

Well, we'll all know more about the turning properties of the African Plum Tree when this specimen dries out. Erich has sealed all the pieces and what he hasn't given away or brought to the club has been stacked for drying.



If you can't possibly wait all that time for the timber to dry then there is always the microwave, but use your own, NOT the ones in our club kitchen!



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