

WestTurn News



Guild Web Site:

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

Issue 113, 9th June 2009.

Western Sydney Woodturners

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

President's Message

This is my last report before resigning as president. My reports in the past have been rather scant and usually to the point (sometimes even written by editor). Thank you one and all for your support over the past 18 months. My term as president has been enjoyable because of this.

We have achieved as much or more in the last 18 months as we did in the previous 4 or 5 years and increased our membership to the level we had before the breakaway 2 years ago. So much for the prediction that we would fail within 6 months.

Our biggest accomplishment apart from membership increases was the extensions we made to the hall. Filling in both ends of the front and removing the stage added so much to the work area. We also increased the amount of equipment including 4 additional lathes, but not including the new Woodfast, which is still waiting to be setup.

We now open 2 extra days and the ladies seen to be using the club more often.

Last year our charity donation was \$2800.00. This is an amount we have not come close to in the past. While we have achieved considerable in the past 18 months there is always something that nags you that should be done. I particularly refer to young people in our community. Principally those say 14 upwards. We have a fee schedule for this group but no members. Maybe the new committee will take it on board in the coming year.

In summing up let me again say thank you to all the members especially those who helped and then helped some more. I will not mention names but you know who you are and without your continued help the club would not be the best in the Guild.

Ronald Devine 02 9639 6099

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Gary Hansell

Editor:

Bill Hartley (98716128)

williamhartley@optusnet.com.au

Catering Officer: Brian Brooks.

Secretary:

Wayne Hipwell

Treasurer and Membership Secretary:

Bob Young (9873 2773)

Stores, Equipment & Maintenance: [Graham Dawes](#), [Alan Phelps](#), [Mannie Farrugia](#) and [Dave Matthews](#). Please let them know if you find any problems with any of the machinery in the hall. Make a note of them on the whiteboard outside the Tool Room.

Sick List:

Members will be concerned to hear that Allan Eipper has had a stay in hospital overseas. His cruise was interrupted by a haemorrhage resulting from a previous bit of surgery. He was offloaded to Singapore hospital and flew home from there.

Glad to report that Peter Bland is recovering from a recent partial hip replacement. He was so engrossed in installing the 21 new finials he had turned to replace those affected by dry rot, that he lost his footing and gravity did the rest. Get better soon, Pete, as the Working with Wood Show is coming up very soon.

[Graham Murray \(0412 913 508\)](#)

Western Sydney Woodturners Programme 2009

Workshops: Every **Tuesday** from 9.30am, \$5
Wednesday from 9.30am \$5
Thursday from 9.30am, \$5
Friday Night from 7.00pm. \$3

Maxidays: Third Sunday every month from 10.00am
There is usually a demonstration by a guest turner then Show & Tell. Lunch is provided. Cost \$6.

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 Events:

June 19 – 21 Working with Wood Show

June 21st Maxiday Carolyn McCully — pyrography.
Bring your burning equipment.

July 19th Maxiday Richard Raffan Cost \$25.

July 20th Monday Richard Raffan will conduct a workshop for 12 people. Cost \$60.

July 26th Christmas in July

August 16th Maxiday Pepper & Salt Grinders

Maxiday 17th May

We really appreciate the effort made by several members of the Central Coast Woodturners Co-op Ltd who travelled down to attend our meeting. They certainly are a friendly bunch and are skilled turners willing to share their knowledge with others.



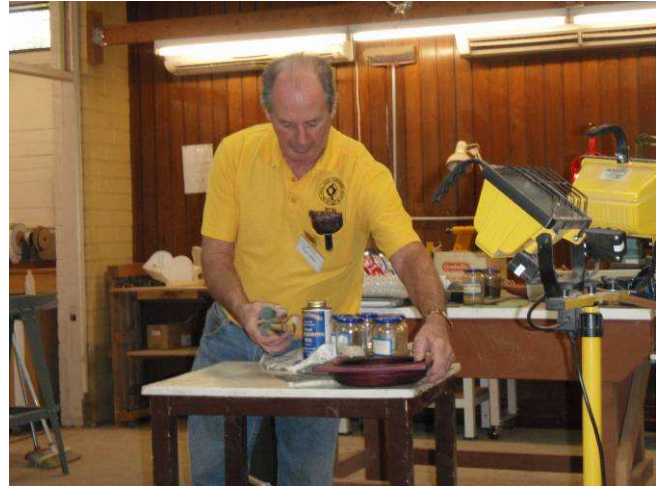
First up was Kerry Robertson who turned a bowl from a very dry and extremely hard piece of mallee burl. Despite the fact that the tool rest kept coming loose and the drive belt started slipping, Kerry persevered with the job in hand and did not let the comments of his mates put him off. As he pointed out "It pays to be deaf at times".



Kerry gave a good demo on the use of his gouges and skew chisel and ended up with a burl bowl with attractive patterns and colour.



After lunch, Ron Gibbs stepped up to the mark and gave an enlightening session on finishing. In our club, as I suspect many others, there exists a significant difference of opinions as to the best method of getting the desired "look" of the article. Some favour the high sheen glass-like finish of a polyurethane like Watty 7008 while others go for the more subtle finish of applying oil.



Ron demonstrated the complete finishing process on two identical pieces of timber. After going through all the grades of sandpaper and wet & dry paper from 150 grit to something like 1000 or 2000 grit, he produced an oil finish on one piece and a lacquer finish on the other, so we could compare them. Needless to say, both were exceptional.

Ron emphasised that if you are using an oil finish, it does no good to keep adding additional coats of oil as it sinks in. This just makes the surface sticky.

He showed us the correct procedure by working on a nice bowl belonging to Graham Dawes. Graham made his bowl from the piece of purpleheart he won as a prize at the recent Blue Mountains Challenge.



Ron removed the excess oil then used a buffing pad in an electric drill to illustrate his preferred method of producing a really great finish.

We thank the boys from the Central Coast including Kerry Robertson, Ron Gibbs, Reg Watt and Terry Cochran for attending our Maxiday. I know that we will all benefit from your visit.



Ron Gibbs gave some hands-on experience to members wishing to have a go at producing a good finish.

Below is a copy of the notes he handed out on his method of producing a good finish using oil or lacquer.

Many thanks to Ron for conducting the Show & Tell and for giving us advice on improving our techniques and finishes.



FINISHING MY WAY

By Ron Gibbs

All objects sanded from 120 grit through to 150, 180, 240 & 320.

Your preferred finish e.g. Oil or Lacquer.

OIL

Apply one coat by brush or cloth.

Wait 20 minutes.

Apply second coat.

With lathe running, friction sand using 400 grit wet or dry and sand through to 600, 800, 1000, 1500 & 2000 without adding any more oil.

Buff with soft cloth.

LACQUER

By brushing, apply two coats of one part lacquer to four parts thinners.

Buff off while still wet using a soft cloth.

Third coat, apply as above using one part lacquer to two parts thinners.

Then buff off while still wet. To enhance the finish, rub with 1000 wet or dry using turps as a lubricant, rubbing with the grain.

Finish while still on the lathe, turning by hand.

SPRAYING

Brush two coats as above. Wipe off.

Spray two coats of one part lacquer to one part thinners.

Sand between coats with 400 grit. To enhance, sand with 1000 wet or dry, rubbing with the grain.

ABOUT FINISHING MY WAY

by Erich Aldinger

We had Ron Gibbs and Kerry Robertson, both turners from the Central Coast, demonstrating on our Maxi-Day.

Kerry showed us how he approached burl turning and Ron Gibbs gave us valuable information and hints on how to get that professional finish on our turned masterpieces.

Ron handed out a flyer entitled "Finishing my Way". The flyer, though very informative, left quite a few questions unanswered, which I was able to extract from Ron during lunch.

Graham Dawes had a beautifully turned square platter from a slab of purple heart which he won at the Blue Mountains Challenge. Graham finished it with some sort of oil, which left a blotchy finish, and Ron pointed this out to Graham and ways to fix it. Ron advised a 50/50 mixture of Turps & Metho to remove excess oil and wax. He then worked on one corner of the platter and polished it to a lovely finish, which with a bit of buffing would even improve further.

Ron starts on a newly turned object with a mixture of 30:1 thinners (Lacquer thinners, NOT general purpose thinners!) and Stylewood Lacquer from Watty. (We had some in our store)

He had a number of screw top jars, labeled of course, with various mixtures of thinners and lacquer to apply step after step, increasing from the first coat of say 30:1 down to 4:1 or 3:1 etc.

Follow Ron's flyer, keeping in mind the lacquer is either Stylewood or Isogard (some say it's the same thing) and the thinners have to be Lacquer Thinners, not general purpose thinners!

Erich Aldinger

THE SENILITY PRAYER :

Grant me the senility to forget the people
I never liked anyway,
The good fortune to run into the ones I do,
and
The eyesight to tell the difference.



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Show & Tell 17th May

As you can see from the photos on the next page, there was a good selection of articles for the Show & Tell as the display included several pieces brought by our visitors from the Central Coast Woodturners.

The numbers next to each turner identify their work in the photos.

1	Bob Jarvis	Camphor laurel bowl
2	Dom Vaticano	Clock in capstan wheel Olive and European beech
3	Kerry Robertson	Bowl Mangrove Stylewood finish
4	Kerry Robertson	Vase Huon pine Stylewood finish
5	Bob Jarvis	Bowl Camphor laurel
6	Graham Dawes	Bowl Purpleheart Finished with Organ oil
7	Terry Cochran	Tasmanian Devil carving
8	John Malysiak	Wine goblets on stand Camphor laurel Finished with 5 coats of 7008
9	Reg Watt	Platter Rosewood Lacquer & wax
10	Bob Jarvis	Camphor laurel bowl
11	Reg Watt	Decorated bowl Norfolk Island pine
12	Dom Vaticano	Clock Cedar Lacquer finish
13	Ron Gibbs	Ringed bowl Camphor laurel, bubinga and jacaranda
14	Ron Gibbs	Ringed bowl Camphor laurel, bubinga and jacaranda
15	Kerry Robertson	Bowl Redgum Oil finish
16	Kerry Robertson	Bowl Mangrove
17	Dom Vaticano	Bathroom fittings camphor laurel
18	Graham Murray	Needle travel case Cyprus pine
19	Kerry Robertson	Platter Jarrah Oil finish
20	Reg Watt	Bowl Box burl Sealer and Orange oil
21	Reg Watt	Natural edge bowl Red mallee Orange oil
22	Kerry Robertson	Platter Black butt Oil finish
23	Terry Cochran	Segmented lidded box Camphor laurel & cedar
24	Bob Jarvis	Bowl Camphor laurel

Goodbye Granddad

Poor old Granddad's passed away, cut off in his prime,
He never had a day off crook - gone before his time,
We found him in the dunny, collapsed there on the seat,
A startled look upon his face, his trousers around his feet,

The doctor said his heart was good - fit as any trout,
The Constable he had his say, 'foul play' was not ruled out.

There were theories at the inquest of snakebite without trace,
Of redbacks quietly creeping and death from outer space,

No-one had a clue at all - the judge was in some doubt,
When Dad was called to have his say as to how it came about,
'I reckon I can clear it up,' said Dad with trembling breath,
'You see it's quite a story - but it could explain his death.'

'This here exploration mob had been looking at our soil,
And they reckoned that our farm was just the place for oil,
So they came and put a bore down and said they'd make some trials,
They drilled a hole as deep as hell, they said about three miles.

Well, they never found a trace of oil and off they went,
post haste,
And I couldn't see a hole like that go to flamin' waste,
So I moved the dunny over it - real smart move I thought,
I'd never have to dig again - I'd never be 'caught short'.

The day I moved the dunny, it looked a proper sight,
But I didn't dream poor Granddad would pass away that night,
Now I reckon what has happened - poor Granddad didn't know,
The dunny was re-located when that night he had to go.

And you'll probably be wondering how poor Granddad did his dash—
Well, he always used to hold his breath.....
Until he heard the splash!!

Phone: 02 4655 7295
Mobile: 0418 221 554



Frank Hicks

Macarthur Woodturning Supplies



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ABN: 91 355 662 658

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.



Your Turn — Vince Harrison

Vince has a most impressive collection of tools in his garage including a sharpener for bandsaw blades, an old jointer/tablesaw combination, a planer, a Woodfast 908 lathe together with a metal lathe and mill drill which he imported in 1982. He also has installed ducting to carry the shavings and dust to his dust collector from his various machines..



Vince loves to use his extensive range of tools such as this mill drill, which appears to give him the features of a metal lathe but in a vertical configuration. Of course his bandsaw is also heavy duty and will cut as high as 12 inches.

When most of us break a bandsaw blade we head off and buy a replacement, but not this retired agricultural engineer! Vince has the equipment and the ability to silver-solder the broken joint and sharpen the blade on a special grinder among his tool collection.



A sheet of metal plate on the garage floor is in readiness for when he gets around to rebuilding the body of his rusted trailer. That is, after he gets around to rebuilding the trailer frame out of angle iron.

Like a lot of our enthusiastic members, Vince has quite a collection of timber logs, slabs and bowl blanks which are more than enough to meet his future needs.

I enjoyed a pleasant afternoon tea with Vince and his wife Janina, while we solved the problems of the world then Vince told me how his brother introduced him to woodturning. He had bought a second hand Woodfast lathe like the schools have and really got into the turning.



He joined the Guild at Lidcombe (his number is 329) and regularly attended their meetings with such identities as Bruce Leadbetter, Ernie Newman, Simon Priem and George Hadfield.

In 1991 Vince bought a new Woodfast 908 on special from Hare & Forbes and advertised the old one in the Trading Post. He likes to relate his brush with fame, as at 6am the next morning an eager buyer arrived and got Vince out of bed.

It happened to be the famous Mike Darlow looking for an additional lathe for his training school. Mike must have been pleased with the deal because he gave Vince a copy of his recently published book.



The local birds have got Vince well trained, so they regularly waddle into his shed to peck at a handful of grain which has been supplied by our nature lover.

Vince is still very active keeping up with what's happening in the woodturning world and I for one value the contribution that he and the other senior members make to our club.

Timbers I have turned

Kauri was the very first
Of timbers I have turned
Long long ago when I was just fifteen
It had been the staves
Of some monstrous vat
But I didn't care at all what it had been

It turned so very easy
For an unskilled clumsy youth
That my work looked half presentable at best
And I even sold some pieces
To the neighbours round about
But some of it just couldn't stand the test

Three years went by
As interest waned
While the cobwebs owned the lathe
For girls were my new interest
And the turning had to wait
Till the simple love of timber made me slave

Turners all have such a feeling
For its colour and its grain
And the smell of fresh cut woodchips in the air
So I bought myself a good strong lathe
And built myself a shed
And practiced on some cedar from a stair

I turned some jacaranda
That I found beside the road
Slightly green it splattered everything with sap
But the shavings made my heart sing
As the ribbons passed my ear
For turning jacaranda is a snap

I splurged and bought some timber
Mahogany they said
And I turned a pretty platter, it was red
Then suddenly my turning
Was required for making gifts
When any slight relation was to wed

Kwilla from New Zealand
Was a less expensive buy
And it turned up pretty nicely off the blade
So I turned some bowls and platters
And my skills were growing now
So I even liked some things that I had made
I taught myself (well sort of)
To turn a lidded box
Richard Raffin's book just helped to shine a light
The wood was called Parmarfin
It turned up very well
And I even got the lid to fit real tight

I did a bloke a favour
When I did a little job
He rewarded me with planks of spalted oak
A trailer load I salvaged
From underneath a tarp
I was laughing but he couldn't see the joke

I turned some pretty pieces
From this lovely spalted oak
And two of them I still have yet today
I'd love to have that timber now
That seems unlikely though
To spalt some seems to be the only way

Camphor Laurel I discovered
Was a weed in some folk's eyes
But most turners love the colours of the grain
Turn a bowl or turn a platter
And you soon see rich dark hues
Why it's hated so is just hard to explain

I now discovered something
Of a beauty quite unique
When I turned the first of several red gum burls
For within that cranky outer
Lay a miracle unseen
With the grain and bark all twisted in to curls

I planned a trip to Tassie
For a little holiday
It would do the pair of us the world of good
So we took the car and ferry
And we had a look around
But we came back with a back seat full of wood

There are many more nice timbers
I have turned in all these years
But I'm finding that my deadline is quite close
So I'll tell you of them next time
If you care to read my lines
And I'll try to be a little less verbose

In Tassie I had purchased
Some golden Huon Pine
And Blackheart Sassafras with lots of black
The Huon Pine was willing
Anyone could turn the stuff
For Sassie keep your chisels sharp as tacks

I had a sort of set back
When I turned another wood
False Sandal Wood or Budda is its name
The oil and dust attacked me
I came out in quite a rash
I now can't turn it, that's a real shame

A friend gave me some Gidgee
And a bit of Mulga too
They both look sort of similar it seems
I like to turn the Mulga
The colour is so deep
The dark brown nicely set against the cream

Gidgee isn't easy
It can be very hard
And chisels need their edge to be so keen
The colours are as gorgeous
But you're really working hard
If you want the timbers beauty to be seen

Some timbers don't impress me
They don't have colour and grain
And Ash is one such timber I have turned
And Oregon is okay
For building timber frames
But radiata pine should just be burned

No doubt when I'm more skillful
I'll take on any wood
I'll learn to shape my chisels like they teach
I'll foster real patience
And I'll beat the mighty skew
It all depends on what great age I reach.

by Neil Guthrie

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