

WestTurn News

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

Issue 56, May 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 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 **1st June**.

Committee Report:

Another quick meeting was held with some general discussions on various issues where agreement was attained for the Region to attend the St Marys Festival on Saturday 4th September.

The committee also agreed that the Regions turning tool sets would only be available for classes. This will become effective from 1st June.

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.

APRIL 18

Once again Rohan outdid himself with the lunch supplied. Thanks Rohan.



Tom Cattell & David Laird came down from Blue Mountains woodturners with a few of their friends & fellow members of our group. Tom started proceedings with his elliptical turning device, which attaches to the lathe bed allowing the blank attached to the faceplate on the device to

turn with a oval action. Not real friendly to the fingers but allows Tom to turn oval shaped bowls or boxes. You might wonder how the tool could be used to cut evenly but amazingly there is one point on the action where the tool can cut without any movement or vibration, that point is front & on centre. The shape can be altered by adjusting the off centre swing of the jig. A very interesting device, & procedure well done Tom.

David then showed us how to make a two-legged spiral candlestick; firstly a candlestick he already had made was put in the lathe. He then made two parallel line 180° apart then drew a line at each end where he wanted the spiral to start & finish, then a line in the centre. Next a line from the start through the centre to the finish line to mark the spiral, repeated on the other side. He then used a micro plane to cut the two spirals to a depth leaving approx 5mm in the centre, then took a double cut 4mm burr in a Dermal type tool to cut through the remaining wood shaping the two legs left. Then a lot of sanding to finish the spirals to a smooth & clean piece ready to apply the polish. Both demo's were well received & thanks to both demonstrators

Graham Murray

Theme for show & tell was Off Centre Turning.

David Laird: brought several items being, plate made from camphor laurel, clock made from huon pine, wine bottle holder made from camphor laurel, a wine tray made from camphor laurel and a tray on

stand made from rosewood and jacaranda all finished with Wattyly stylewood.

Tom Cattell: had a range of oval turned items of various sizes.

Ernie Newman: had a birdseye maple bowl with hand carved leaves (as separate items) of basswood and eucalypt with various finishes.

John Isemonger: brought along a couple of ducks made from liquid amber and rosewood finished with oil and natural.

Toby McIlwain; had his candle stick with both a captive ring and a captive triangle made from meranti, camphor laurel and jacaranda all finished with friction polish. Toby also snuck in his thin long stemmed goblet.

Graham Dawes: had his ducks made from various timbers finished with estapol. Also a Viking made from silky oak and NZ Christmas finished with friction polish.

Michael Harvey: had his partly finished Viking made from laminated pine finished with friction polish.

Neil Guthrie: left his Viking on Wednesday for today's S&T. Timber unknown finished with estapol.

Des Page: had his Viking made from privet and finished with friction polish.

Rohan McCardell: brought along trios Los Savages (3 Vikings) made from camphor laurel and pine finished with friction polish.

Larry Bailey: had two bowls of different unknown timbers finished with friction polish and Penetrol.

Sid Churchward: had a gavel made from hardwood and finished with friction polish.

George Wells: had a bowl with laminated lid made from silky oak and finished with estapol.

Gerry Bijl: had his Viking and Sadie (the cleaning Viking), which was thinking outside of the square.

Anna Dawes: brought several items along consisting of – Viking made from liquid amber, an off centre box of camphor laurel, a spoonfoot leg, a candlestick made from cedar finished with oil. Anna also brought along a couple of bowls made by Paul Croese (willow burl), the other by R Wilson & Larry Sloan. These were purchases made at the Wagga weekend.

MAY 16

Bring your tools, as this will be a hands on day. **Theme for show & tell will be something under 50mm.** Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

JUNE 20

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

JULY 18

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

AUGUST

Bruce Leadbeater will be demonstrating. **Theme for show & tell will be Laminated / Segmented Turnings**

SEPTEMBER

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

Past Demonstrations:

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

Nil to report on for this month.

Future Demonstrations:

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

May 29

Blacktown Festival – expect to be next to the Civic Centre on Flushcome Road. See Alan Phelps or Bill Swindail for more information.

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

We have been asked to participate with the Peninsula Region at Auburn 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.

July 18

Nepean Historical Society. This is becoming a regular event for us. This will be the third time we have participated

so see Alan Phelps for more information.

September 4

St Marys Festival – more details closer to the event.

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 & \$5.00 metre.

Wood – as priced on the rack on the stage.

End Sealer - \$4.00 per litre.

Friction Polish - \$8.00 per Bottle.

Scrapers & Parting Tools

–Range of round & square end \$30.00 ea.

Please see Bill Swindail if you wish to make a purchase

Grin and Share it

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu.

When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around a corner and someone saw my grin, when he smiled I realised; I'd passed it onto him. I thought about that smile, then realised its worth. A single smile, just like mine, could travel around the earth. So, if you see a smile begin, don't leave in undetected. Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected.

George Wells

Wood Finishing

By Alan Phelps

This article is continued from last month's newsletter-

.This time modern day technology was being used, the big plastic laminate makers Laminex, Formica and an import called Pre Wood had developed a technique of bonding timber veneers to a plastic backing and then using heat and pressure, applying a finish coat of clear melamine on the face. We now had the beauty of timber with a tough durable surface.

Most of the trim in the car was done in Blackwood, clear coated with Polyurethane. Part of the contract was to build a Commissioner's car for the West Australian Railways for the use of visiting dignitaries etc. This was one of my jobs. The car was all fitted out with Teak Pre Wood and Teak trim and when finished looked great. Again this contract drew to a close and I went back to the Airconditioning Industry.

The years rolled on and I had reached my middle forties and I decided to take up woodwork as a hobby. So I became a "weekend woodie" and this is where I became involved in

wood finishing on hands on basis.

I attended night classes and learnt French Polishing but I never really followed up on this to become proficient. Around this time I also did basic woodturning and bought my first lathe, I also did furniture restoration and some woodcarving.

Anyhow what I wanted was a clear finish that was good, cheap, easy to apply and somewhat fool proof so I could keep myself out of trouble. Taking into consideration that all my work was being inside a dusty and normally dirty backyard garage workshop. Plus I didn't fancy all the expense of a spray gun and compressor. I tried Polyurethane (Estapol etc) with a brush but I couldn't get a decent job. There was always brush marks and dust etc. So like all Ocker Aussies I started experimenting with all sorts of mixtures and of course the last thing you do is read the instructions on the can, because I reckoned that I was smarter than the manufacturers. So after a lot of disasters and the frequent use of plenty of paint remover to remove the mess and start again it started to dawn on me to consult the experts.

About this time woodworking was starting to become popular as a hobby but there was not a lot of products available. I read up on all that I could and decided that wood oils were what I wanted. Almost foolproof, easy to apply and a fault free finish. The only minor problem is they take a fair bit of time.

I started using Feast Watson Fine Buffing Oil, a great product, but only came in a satin finish, I wanted a gloss. I then started using Cabot's Danish Oil, which was better. Then somehow or other I got onto Penetrol Wood Oil. Now this stuff is bloody good and versatile.

Broadly, the action of oil is, it soaks into the pores of the timber and then dries and then builds up over several successive coats to a gloss finish.

How to use wood oil: You must sand the timber correctly up to at least 240 grit, the finish of the oil is such that any minor fault or scratch will show. You can sand even finer up to say 400 grit if you wish.

To be continued next month.

Report on Ladies' Turning.

The January meeting at Lalor Park had a small attendance of six ladies, plus three enquiries at the door. We turned small bowls for the children in hospital at Easter, which are filled with sweets. June turned in the ratio of 3:1 that is three bowls for June, one for Meg.

March ladies' day at Lalor Park turned out to be even more select. Three only plus Ted. What a treasure is Ted- when something doesn't work or needs fixing, he knows just what to do, or has some good advice to try.

We turned a variety of objects with June's Hairy Oak providing some problems with it's large crack and Judith's Cedar of Lebanon once again

(As in Wagga) splitting around the spigot.

Wagga

The trip to Wagga this year was well attended by Sydney turners. Six intrepid Sydneysiders (five ladies plus the 'woodie' husband of one) made the six-hour trek to Borambola (Just out of Wagga). This is a fun weekend-well organised and a feast of turning.

Many turners and many different ideas and techniques. Try deep hollowing a piece of Cedar of Lebanon with at least six (Or maybe more-we lost count) trying Roly Munro's deep hollowing gouge. Lots of helpful advice, but the wood at last winning by cracking its entire length.

This weekend is a great credit to the organisers and from just after lunch on Friday to the same time on Sunday, everybody turns till late at night swaps ideas and techniques, eats too much and too well.

A silent auction at the end of the weekend also provides great suspense and the chance to buy quality articles at "auction" prices. The proceeds go to help sick children- just on \$1500 raised.

Meg Webster

'Wasn't Wagga a buzz? I have continued to describe it as "a woodturner's paradise" - catering, companionship, expertise available upon request, numerous lathes, supplies, swimming pool flexible hours, friendliness...'

Kaye Paton

(Guys you don't know what you missed! So many new friends, new ideas, and much appraisal and application of old ones.)

Kaye returned home to put the finishing touches on a number of small bowls to be donated for filling with sweets. Several of our other ladies, including Judith Downes, June and Meg also contributed bowls for the same cause. Unfortunately Anna's contribution this time was restricted to the provision of many, many bowl blanks.

The Wagga Wagga Turn Around is hosted in March every year by the Riverina Woodworkers. It is a residential; hands-on, fully catered weekend which runs from the Friday afternoon to Sunday Afternoon. It is a self-help weekend with no formal demonstrations - just enthusiastic woodturners (like all of you) sharing their experience and knowledge.

TURNFEST 2004

Just two weeks after the Wagga experience I was fortunate to attend another weekend of woodturning - but this time no need to pack up the lathe, tools etc. For those of you who were at Newcastle in 2000 this was a similar type of event. Ten well-known demonstrators, eight sessions, and some 37 topics to choose from - oh the decisions. The demonstrators for 2004 were; Christa Welk, Guiloio Marcolongo, Stephen Hughes, Terry Martin, Neil Scobie, Vaughan Richmond, Dean Malcolm, Robert McKee, Don Powell (carver), and Graeme Priddle from New Zealand. As well Vic Wood was there to

make his contribution. A great line-up, a great weekend. A few too many ideas to take on board all at once for some, but a few notes and photos always help to jog the memory later.

Although held at Tamborine Mountain participants were there from far north Queensland, Darwin, Victoria, and New South Wales, as well as many living more locally. Another such event is likely next year with the possibility of a few more international demonstrators involved. Well worth the trip, especially if it can be worked in with your holidays.

Anna Dawes

Central Coast Woodturners

Anna, Toby and myself took the long drive up to The Entrance Public School for this monthly meeting on Friday the 7th May. Anna & Toby picked me up from Pennant Hills as I was leaving straight from work (I left early).

Well we arrived a little early so we sought out dinner ending up with fish & chips and eating them at a park bench on Shelley Beach. And then we made our way back to the school to see quite a few cars in the school grounds, all being the members of the Central Coast Woodturners.

We were made welcome and proceeded to talk and investigate what was going on. We took some pieces and added them to the show and tell and as with ours members were keen to pick up and investigate what were on the tables and ask questions (some

things don't change from club to club).

We were soon asked to take a seat and the clubs meeting got under way. This is also their committee meeting, first with several reports on recent events held and a brief review of their turning classes and the proposed planning for the future. Minutes read, treasures report and then Aaron Ehrlich (from Peninsular Region) was asked to take the floor, as he was the guest speaker.

Aaron started by saying that woodturning should be fun and introduced his funny farm of turned objects. His attitude and gadgets certainly made the night, as there were several times when volunteers were called for and we all had a good laugh. Aaron also talked about the history of some of the items that he had made which gave a little insight into some of his turnings. Well-done Aaron.

Next came show and tell and there were some pretty good items on display. Many questions were asked about Toby's miniatures again as they peeked a lot of interest. Anna had a couple of burl bowls and some small stools, while I had one of my English Dolls (Bills' design).

Then we broke for tea & coffee and soon after we were on our way back to Sydney. Thanks Anna for asking us to attend. I for one had a great night and have come back with more enthusiasm.

I would suggest that if you attend the Working with Wood Show take time to have a good

look at the Central Coast
Woodturners stand.

Larry Bailey

Useless Information

- The most reverse-charge calls are made on Father's Day.
- Kittens are born both blind and deaf, but the vibration of their mother's purring is a physical sign that the kittens can feel – it acts like a homing device, signaling them to nurse.
- Grasshoppers have white blood.
- Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was the most famous editor at Doubleday & Co.
- Anne Boleyn, Queen Elizabeth 1's mother, had six fingers on one hand.
- The correct response to the Irish greeting, "Top of the morning to you", is "And the rest of the day to yourself".
- The Netherlands and the United States both have anthems that don't mention their country's name.
- The "D" in D-day means Day. The French term for D-day is "J-Jour".

Larry

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**.

WORKING WITH WOOD SHOW

Date – 4th, 5th 6th June.
Location – Fox studios.
There will be a sales table.
If you wish to participate see Bill or Larry.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Richard Raffin will be demonstrating Saturday May 22nd. Cost \$20.00 including lunch. Book early – Albert Hodgson 4883 9542 or see Larry Bailey.
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

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

Please remember than **NO** one 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

Carba -Tec

Open day 28th, 29th 30th May.

PROJECT

In this issue and coming issues I will try to attach a project that I would like to see at our Sunday show & tell along with that days theme. I would like to keep these project items on display for a couple of months (you will get them back). This months project supplied by

Larry