

# WestTurn News

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

**Issue 83, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2006.**  
Western & Blue Mountains Region  
Postal Address: PO Box 4008, Lalor Park, NSW 2147  
Twin Gums Retreat Address: Cnr Northcott Rd & Diane Dr, Lalor Park

## Regional Committee 2005/06:

**Convenor:** Robert Jarvis 9622 2741  
**Secretary:** Robyn Mahoney 46288236  
**Treasurer:** Bob Young 98732773

**Regional Rep:** Ian O'Connor 9715 3490  
[ianroy5@bigpond.com](mailto:ianroy5@bigpond.com)

**Member:** Tony Maberly 9622 7561

**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 & Maintenance:** Toby McIlwain, Ted Edwards and Graham Dawes. Please let them know if you find any problems with any of the machinery in the hall.

**Editor:** Bill Hartley 98716128  
[williamhartley@optusnet.com.au](mailto:williamhartley@optusnet.com.au)

**Catering Officer:** Many thanks to Rohan McCardell who has again stepped into the breach and taken on this job of organising the lunches for the Maxi days.

**Sick List:** It's good to see Don Hughes back on duty in the Library corner and he certainly looks as though he is back "in the pink". Welcome back, Don.

### AGM — Important Notice:

There was some controversy regarding the meeting procedures at the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August.

The Guild has supported the committee election results where all existing committee members were re-elected. However, another AGM needs to be held to hear the minutes of the previous meeting and to receive the audited financial report. The meeting should be short as no further elections are necessary.

This meeting will be held at Twin Gums at 7pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October before the usual monthly Committee Meeting takes place.

All are welcome to attend.

## Western/Blue Mtns Region Calendar for 2006:

**Third Sunday** every month from 9.30am, Every **Wednesday** from 10.00am. Every **Friday Night** starting at 7.00pm.

### Sunday September 17

Our guest demonstrator will be **Fred Holder** — American Woodturner/Demonstrator/Teacher. This is our normal Sunday meeting but due to the demo the entry fee is \$10 for members Western & Blue Mountains Region; \$20 for other regional guild members and visitors. (Lunch provided).

### Bungendore Wood Gallery. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Erich Aldinger is organising this proposed trip and has provided the following details:

Travel by coach with pickup at Wentworthville Leagues Club at 8am The club will permit us to park our cars there for the day

Numbers required:  
Maximum is 48 cost per person \$20.20  
Minimum is 40 cost per person \$24.25

(Cost of the coach is \$970 for 12 hours)

There are cafes and shops within walking distance of the gallery, including one right next door. Or you may bring your own lunch.

On return to the Wentworthville Leagues Club we have a number of members who could sign in non-members. They have a nice, reasonably priced bistro but they can't book a table for the group on Saturday night. However, this should not be a problem.

You can view the Gallery on  
[www.bungendorewoodworks.com.au](http://www.bungendorewoodworks.com.au)

If you are interested, please sign up and pay by no later than 29<sup>th</sup> September

## In Memorium

It is with sadness that we report the passing of John Conway of Carlingford. John had been a member for four years. The club has sent a tribute to the family and was represented at the Thanksgiving Service by our Convenor



## Saturday September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006 St Marys

This was the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Festival held in the main street of St Marys. On this occasion, Bob Jarvis, Bob Taylor, John Malysiak and Eric Aldinger manned the stall. There was plenty of interest in the turning display and activities.

## Future Demonstrations:

Our members have been asked to participate in the following demonstrations: Please help by participating and putting your name against the event. We ask that you try demonstrating as these can be fun and it helps improve your skills.

## September Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>

Wisteria House Parramatta

## Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2006

Linwood House Please see Tony Maberly if you are interested in attending.

## November 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Hare & Forbes Parramatta

We have been invited to demonstrate here in order to promote woodturning in this area.

Please remember that **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.

## Bowls for Any Event!

Don't forget if you are not turning anything in particular, think about turning one of our blanks. It appears that these are becoming very popular at our demonstrations in the rummage box. A significant source of income for the club and our charity work.



Preparing bowl blanks

## Just a Laugh

### 11 on a Rope

Eleven people were hanging on a rope under a helicopter, ten men and one woman. The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one had to leave, because otherwise they were all going  
to  
fall.

They weren't able to name that person, until the woman gave a very touching speech. She said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because, as a woman, she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids, or for men in general, and was used to always making sacrifices, with little in return.

As soon as she finished her speech, all the men started clapping  
their  
hands!

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### For Sale

The following are ads that appeared in a newspaper over a period of four days - the last three hopelessly trying to correct the first day's mistake.

#### MONDAY:

For sale: R.D. Jones has one sewing machine for sale. Phone 555-0707 after 7pm and ask for Mrs Kelly who lives with him cheap.

#### TUESDAY:

Notice: We regret having erred in R.D. Jones' ad yesterday. It should have read "One sewing machine for sale cheap. Phone 555-0707 and ask for Mrs Kelly, who lives with him after 7pm"

#### WEDNESDAY:

Notice: R.D. Jones has informed us that he has received several annoying telephone calls because of the error we made in the classified ad yesterday. The ad stands correct as follows: "For sale -- R.D. Jones has one sewing machine for sale. Cheap. Phone 555-0707 after 7pm and ask for Mrs Kelly who loves with him."

#### THURSDAY:

Notice: I, R.D. Jones, have no sewing machine for sale. I smashed it. Don't call 555-0707 as I have had the phone disconnected. I have not been carrying on with Mrs Kelly. Until yesterday she was my housekeeper but she quit!

## Sunday Maxi-Day Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> August 2006

**Demonstrator: Darrell Smith — Subject: Clocks**

by Ian O'Connor

Unfortunately I missed Darrell's first demonstration (as I was carving the leg ham in the kitchen). However all was not lost as he did a second one before lunch.

The shape of your clock is cut on the band saw and the edges are sanded smooth on a belt or disc sander. The faces are then planed and sanded. The lathe is used only to cut the recess for the clock movement and the face of the clock and numbers.

Using a good piece of rosewood, he drilled a hole to take the barrel/shaft of the movement which is normally 8 - 10mm.

Depending on the type of timber (colour) and size of clock face Darrell selected the size of the clock hands. (These come in all lengths and colours). He suggested that for dark coloured timber use light coloured hands and numbers for contrast.

After selecting the correct size hands, Darrell then placed the minute hand in its correct position (over the hole drilled) and then marked out the inner edge of the recess where the numbers would sit. He then selected the size and colour of the clock face numbers, then placing the numbers on the inner edge, he was able to mark out the outer width for the number recess.

Using a small bowl gouge and skew he was able to form the clock face, dress the edge of the clock face and the recess for numbers, square up the base of the recess to enable the numbers to sit flat.



He then shaped up the centre by leaving a boss for the mechanism to sit on, then sanded the whole job. Darrell does not recommend any wax finish as you will have difficulties in having the numbers stick securely to the timber.

Hints: Use a forstener bit to cut the recess for the clock mechanism. If unable to hold work in a clamp or vice use a sand bag to hold work. If the clock is more than 2 kilos it is suggested to hang the clock using an alternative method. Darrell prefers to recess the hanger into the wood.



**Some scenes of weekday activity**



Tony



George & Allan



Rohan



Allan, Ron & Terry



Ted is quite at home with this equipment



Ian

## Show & Tell 20<sup>th</sup> August 2006

There was a great response to the Show and Tell as evidenced by the impressive creations seen below.

Toby McIlwain:

- Candle Holders, Camphor Laurel and Pianowood, (Shellawax)
- Needle Box, Unknown timber, Shellawax

John Malysiak:

- Segmented Bowl, Cedar & Jacaranda (Instant Estapol)
- Bowl, Camphor Laurel, (Instant Estapol)

Graham. Murray:

- Christmas Decoration, Decking Board (Shellac)

George Wells:

- Candle Holders, Cypress Pine, (Shellawax)
- Candle Holders, Willow, (Estapol)

Trish Gale:

- Tea Light Candles, Camphor Laurel, (Friction Polish)

Emmanuel Farrugia:

- Bowl, Pine & NG Rosewood, (Friction Polish)
- Bowl, Plywood, (Friction Polish)
- Bowl, NG Rosewood, (Friction Polish)

Bob Mayer:

- Fishing Reel, Kalandis, (Marine Varnish)

Larry Bailey:

- Bowl with Many Holes, Mulberry, (Penatrol)



## Stitches & Crafts Show 23 – 27 August 2006

As usual, our Guild was among the hundreds of exhibitors attending this mother of all craft shows at Rosehill Racecourse. Our stand was well patronised with plenty of inquisitive and interested visitors eager to learn something about woodturning or just to look at something a bit different to the myriad of paper crafts, knitting, quilting, workshops and fashion parades.

We have plenty of members willing to spend time on the stand and thanks go to Manny Farrugia, Bob Taylor, Bob Jarvis, Toby McIlwain, Bill Swindale, John Malyasiak, Ian O'Connor, Terry Boddy, Rohan McCardell, Trish Gale, Larry Bailey, Ron Devine, Robin Mahoney, Reg Carrick, Syd Churchward, Bob Young and Bill Hartley

Sales of knick-knacks netted over \$400 which will go towards our charities.



"Just hang on, kid, and I'll make you one."



Doctor Syd entertains a visitor.



Pen making was popular.



"Honestly, Manny, it was this long."



Bob Taylor shows how it's done.

## Your Turn ... Ken Rock (Rocky)

This is how you'll find Rocky on most Wednesdays at our club, turning yet another knob for one of his beloved planes. Rocky has more than 120 planes which he has collected over a lifetime and is progressively restoring them to their former glory.



Many old planes are being restored. Each plane is disassembled and all the parts stored in a plastic container with a card documenting details of each purchase and the stages of repair. Parts are stripped, cleaned and painted and new handles and knobs are made where necessary. The last knob Rocky turned was from timber originally from a Botanical Gardens fig tree.

It was because of his intense interest in planes that Rocky was featured in a recent episode of the ABC show "The Collectors"



Above is a German plane with handles of African zebra wood.

He has planes from many countries of the world. One of his favourites is a plane made in Czechoslovakia. It is in its original box together with instructions written in Russian. It is beautifully proportioned and balanced with easy fingertip control of the blade and frog.

Some planes are very small, like the violin plane and the thumb plane.

Below, Rocky is holding a Stanley from the 1880's.



He also has a plane with a swing fence for cutting the tongue and grooves on timber flooring. It has a low model number 48, and it is not even in the Stanley catalogue.

At the completion of his apprenticeship as a cabinet-maker, Rocky was presented with a new plane. This may have sparked his fascination with these tools and led to the magnificent collection he has today

Rocky told me his workshop contains 37 machines as well as a good collection of tools. It is no wonder that the mitres on the corner of the picture frames he makes are so true and neat.

It would be natural to assume that restoring planes took all his time. But Rocky seems to have enough energy for two men.

He is also a talented artist and often brings along a painting to show his mates at the club. He exhibits his pieces widely and is particularly proud of his Last Supper, Darwin Harbour and Richmond Convict Bridge in Tasmania



Rocky insists that he has two more hobbies but I'd run out of time for my interview so we left it at that. A very interesting character, Rocky.



## SOME MORE SPECIES OF WOODS

*Maclura pomifera*: **Osage-Orange**, Hedge, Hedge Apple, Bodark

Osage-orange trees are native to an area centred on the Arkansas and Red River valleys in southern Oklahoma and northern Texas. They derive their name from the Osage Indians. These people prized the wood from the osage-orange for its strength and elasticity. They used it primarily for making hunting bows and war clubs. The wood is strong and so dense that it will neither rot nor succumb to the attacks of termites or other insects for decades. Dried for firewood, it is the next best thing to coal.



During the 19th and early 20th centuries the tree was planted throughout the United States probably more than almost any other tree species in North America. Before the invention of barbed wire in the 1880's, many thousands of miles of hedge were constructed by planting osage-orange trees closely together in a line. The saplings were aggressively pruned to promote bushy growth. Osage-orange can be either a shrub or a tree, depending on its surroundings. Standing alone in full sun it will become a multi-stemmed shrub; with neighbouring competition it can become a single-stemmed tree. Although it is the only member of its genus (a monotype), it is cousin to the mulberry family (Moraceae).



*Maclura pomifera*  
**Osage Orange**

Osage-orange possesses strong form, texture, and character, maturing with a thick, gnarled appearance. The trees are easily recognized by their glossy, lance-shaped leaves and their short, stout thorns. Generally they live a trouble-free life in the home landscape. Preferring open sunny areas, they can grow in a variety of soils and is considered hardy to Zone 5. Occasionally they may be attacked by leafy mistletoe, verticillium wilt, fungal diseases, stem borers, scale, and some

rodents. Considered as one of the most drought-tolerant trees and shrubs, an established osage-orange will need supplemental watering only twice a month during the summer.

The osage-orange averages a height of 30-25 feet, but heights of more than 60 feet have been recorded. The tallest osage-orange stands at Red Hill, the home of Patrick Henry in Brookneal, Virginia. Both a National Champion and a member of the American Forestry Hall of Fame, this 400-year-old specimen has an eighty-five foot span and stands sixty feet high. Generally, the tree's circumference reaches 4 to 7 feet, although 1.5 feet is the average, and the crown spread reaches up to 60 feet (with an average of 25 feet).



The skin of the fruit has a pleasant, orange-peel smell. It is a large, dense, green wrinkled ball up to 6" in diameter that often persists on the tree after the leaves have fallen off. "Hedge apples" contain a chemical (2,3,4,5-tetrahydroxystilbene) that has been proven to repel many bugs: cockroaches, crickets, spiders, fleas, box elder bugs and ants. Cut the fruit in half or crush it on the driveway with your car, then place it in a dish set in the pest problem area. One piece will last for a few weeks.

As a woodturning timber it is second to none. It is relatively simple to turn, sands very easily and takes a finish brilliantly especially if finished with Shellwax or Shellwax Cream. The amazing opalescence in the wood shows up especially well on turned work.



Timber is available for purchase. Due to the various shapes and sections, it is usually sold by weight.



Available from time to time are roots, (root bark for use in bark paintings), stumps, logs, slabs, baulks, fitches and planks in both green or stabilized air-dried condition, rough bandsaw finish.

