

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2007

(Greg Croker)

Well 23 very lucky members and 2 guests met at Annangrove on Saturday 11th. The weather was perfection, 25 degrees, warm and sunny, and our Convener's demonstrations were superb!

At 11 am Martin rang the bell and Lindsay welcomed our guests and members, told a couple of stories and commenced the meeting advising;

Harry Jones is at home recovering from his operation and looks forward to seeing us soon, John Wilson is confined to his wheelchair at home for another couple of weeks after his operation and Russ Pinch is at home between operations!

Harry Rossitor sends his apologies and best wishes to all, and hopes to see us soon. We hope to see you all at our next meeting.

Colin Hunter mentioned again the Rotary Arts & Crafts? Show on 2-4/11/2007. If you would like to exhibit or sell some turnings for sale please let him know ASAP as time for entry registration is early September.

Greg Croker advised that our first AGM will be within our next (September) meeting at 12 noon. If you want to include anything please advise him prior to the meeting. The SWG AGM will be held at 6:30 pm at Chester Hill on 29/10/2007.

Lindsay commenced Show & Tell.

John Knight presented a nicely finished Leopardwood bowl and described the wood's virtues and its growth areas in Australia.

John Edwards showed a square edged bowl (the homework) made from recycled eucalyptus ex Parramatta Jail! The bowl polished-up well with a distinctly pleasant pinkish lustre. A separate section of the same timber showed many nail holes, so most likely this is the second recycling of this timber beam?

Martin Nielson showed a square bowl made from poplar collected on our sojourn to the Wisemans Ferry area last year. The bowl had diagonal corners up turned and down turned. Also presented was Martin's 'trembleur' (French spelling?) a la last month's demo by Anna Dawes, which nearly didn't make 'it' as his wife thought the item was a mistake. Two good items made from poplar wood.

Ted Utick had been busy and showed three turnings. A white cedar square edged bowl with droopy corners and good graining, a large claret ash platter on a stand highlighting this beautiful wood and its grain patterns. The third item was a 3 inch diameter deep bowl (possibly from a branch) incorporating the bark and a subtle indent ring setting the bowl nicely.

Rusty made a deep square edged bowl from camphor laurel with prominent darker grain throughout which was enhanced by finishing with Shellowax.

Alastair Bennetts has also been very busy with 3 or 4 items to show. A straight sided part conical bowl of spalted black hearted sassafras was well received; it was finished with sanding sealer, Danish oil then finally Carnuba wax. A largish platter of 'north-coast teak' ex the WWW Show showing a striking colour flash of blond sapwood and

contrasting with mid-brown glowing heartwood was admired by all, a fine example. A well finished jacaranda bowl and a willow wood bowl (the latter requiring patience with turning and oiling) were shown.

Alastair fashioned a 10 inch wall clock from an oblong Tasmanian myrtle slab, (showing some burling and with bark attached), with recessed numbers and a beautifully polished face. Lastly some camphor laurel recently obtained from the Annangrove monastery was dried and made into a smaller platter. There was some good colouring in this wood particularly as the trunk was not of large diameter.

Geoff Poulton then showed a square edged treated pine bowl showing a hint of green (copper?) haze. As this bowl is yet to be oiled it will be interesting as to the fate of this green colouration. Stay tuned?

Colin Hunter made deux bon trembleureaux??? (French again). Both were recycled from wooden knobs ex his employer's unwanted hat or coat racks. (I suppose we could say good 'work' Colin; and you're also in line for the recycling prize!)

After Show & Tell we adjourned to the BBQ, and later 'on-the-bell' Lindsay's demonstration of bowl designs and types began; a shamrock bowl, an emerging bowl and a three cornered bowl.

The Shamrock bowl. A band sawn 3 leaf block the shape of a shamrock approximately 10 x 3 inches with a spigot of foreign wood glued to what is to become the bowl's base is mounted on the chuck using a wood-worm (parallel screw thread) and the outside of the bowl turned, including the spigot. (The best wood for the spigot is generally ply due to its strength, and the bowl blank on this occasion is poplar).

Turn the bowl watching the leaves particularly, and carefully, which are undercut heavily for best effect. Turn so that the thickness of the resultant leaf rims will be approximately 6 mm. To turn poplar sharp tools and extra care need to be taken so as not to tear end grain; remember also to guide the gouge from to outside to the centre using an arching arc to minimise chatter and possible rough finish areas. When the exterior bowl design is completed and sanded to at least 320 grit, reverse the bowl mounting the spigot in the chuck.

Again watching fingers, turn the tips and the leaves to the 6 mm thickness and to the planned design, then undercut the sides of the bowl and to the depth required. Check the turning for areas that may require 'trimming' before sanding the bowl and the edges of the leaves to make a more natural looking leaf pattern.

Consider carving veins or adding other detail to the leaves to embellish the shamrock.

To turn off the foreign spigot, reverse the bowl over a mushroom shaped blank covered with an anti-slip cloth, square-up and bring the tailstock point to the spigot's centre to hold the turning in place and carefully turn away the wood. Sand the base and stain the Shamrock green.

The Emerging bowl. Select dressed wood say 6 x 3 inches with good corners and cut two identical lengths, say 8 inches in length. Using the glue and brown paper method accurately join the wood to form a block of 6 x 6 inch square.

While the glue sets prepare a circular wooden template 5 inches in diameter by cutting out the circle on the lathe from thin plywood measuring 6 x 6. Cut the template exactly in two.

After the glue has set, place the block carefully between centres and turn a spigot at one end to suit the chuck and mount this into the chuck. Ensure that the block is tightly gripped and square. Turn an hemisphere at the tail measuring with the template to ensure size and spherical uniformity. (Another handy way to gauge uniformity is with a small glass tumbler inverted onto the hemisphere and moved around whereby any inconsistencies can be seen and corrected.) Turn to ensure that the ends of the square block are an extension of the hemisphere's diameter. Sand to 320 grit without dulling corners.

Remove the turning from the lathe and split the block along the join from the spigot end and lightly sand away the glue and paper without removing wood. Take one half turning, and with the previously joined side up, scribe a circle (using a compass centred at the mid point of the diameter) to give the desired wall thickness of the emerging bowl after hollowing, in this case say 5 mm. Mark the centre of this circle clearly.

Prepare a one inch thick 12 inch dia. plywood disk, mount on the chuck and sand lightly. With hot melt glue fix the turning to the this disk so that the centre of the scribed circle is at the centre of the disk using the tail stock point to assist. Allow the hot melt to cool and set.

Remove the tail stock and carefully turn out the centre of the bowl to the scribed line and the required depth to obtain symmetry. Using a small gouge turn down the top of the bowl wall 2 or 3 mm to finish the concept and sand the inside of the bowl remembering to watch your fingers. Loosen the turning from the disk and clean away the glue using a sharp chisel.

Band saw the spigot end to the required length, sand and finish as desired.

The Three Cornered Bowl. Start with square sectioned wood say 4 x 4 and 6 or 7 inches long and support the diagonal ends between centres. For safety and ease flatten the corners slightly to better accommodate the stocks. The wood will need to rotate very slowly as it will be well out of balance initially. Watch your fingers please!

Using a bowl gouge turn a spigot just over 2 inches long at the tail stock. This spigot should be wide enough to form the bowl's base also. Turn the bowl shape between the spigot and the head stock, watching carefully fingers and the rotating corners, to develop these 3 corners. The symmetry or otherwise will be dependent upon the length of the wood between the base and the cross section of the wood, but either way an interesting bowl exterior should eventuate. The points/wings can be turned in or out as desired, with care.

Reverse the bowl clamping the spigot in the chuck and as a safeguard bring up the tailstock and clamp. Carefully remove the interior of the bowl (watching for the corners) with a smaller gouge maintaining a thin spigot to the tailstock as long as possible, then clean out the inside to the desired wall thickness.

Turn the base, sand and finish as desired, cut off the remaining base spigot and finish the base of this fine item.

So, what a day, an excellent array of complex bowl turning techniques. Next week Lindsay will show how to embellish these bowls, ie two coats of green on the Shamrock bowl 'to be sure to be sure' etc

For homework, please make your choice of these bowls. And till Saturday 8 th September please keep turning.