

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2009

(Bert Gude)

Lindsay Skinner welcomed the 25 members and 2 visitors to our monthly meeting held at Annangrove. There were apologies from Greg Croker and Keith Day. With Greg Croker being away overseas there was no news with respect to guild activity.

Our S & T commenced with Russell Pinch displaying two pepper mills each some 300 mm in length. One had been turned from Red gum and the other from Jacaranda. Russell had also turned a small Tea candle bowl from an unidentified pole wood obtained when the Sydney Hospital was demolished. As well as a large Camphor Laurel bowl some 400 mm in diameter, Russell related that during the turning process a dig in had occurred as a result of being interrupted by his wife and therefore it was all "her fault" that there had to be made a change in design.

John Markham had turned a lidded box from Radiator Pine. He had made the box as a test piece in order to practice the different methods of removing and hollowing the inside section of a box. John also showed a desk clock, the clock mechanism was mounted into a Brown Mallee burl. The timber had been ebonised using a mixture made from vinegar and old nails. The burl had been buffed finished using wax.

Martin Nielsen showed a lidded chalice or urn with a pedestal base and a finial top. The chalice had been turned from Camphor laurel showing good colour and highlighting the coloured sap wood that ran through the centre of the turned item. Martin had also made a small desk clock that had been inserted into a Silky Oak polygonal shaped blank and finished by buffing with Shellwax and EEE. Martin explained how he had made several sanding discs that had been backed with Velcro and held by having a centrally located bolt in the disc. He had also made a buffing pad from a lambskin paint roller with turned inserts in the open ends and mounted between centers in the lathe. The discs were passed around for the members to examine.

John Knight had turned a lidded box from American Oak the outside of which had been carved using a Dremil. The carving were in an Asian or oriental style and highlighted the timber used in constructing the box.

Rusty Manola displayed two small lidded boxes; the first had been turned using Silky Oak, the other from FOG wood (found on ground). Both items were nicely finished and would be suited to holding rings.

Eddy Watts had been busy turning four furniture legs from Cherry timber and finished using Ultra shine.

Elwyn Muller showed his attempt of Alastair Bennett's twist fluted box (demonstrated at last months meeting). Elwyn proceeded to create 12 flutes on the outside of the lidded box. He admitted that he encountered problems in achieving evenness in the depth of the flutes, the chipping of timber when turning against the grain, the rigidity of the jig "whatever could go wrong did" said Elwyn. The timber that was used in creating the twist turned box was Paperbark. *(This may have contributed to the problems encountered but you should be congratulated for having a go. Well done Ed.)*

Ian Raper had entered the "jewelry business" by turning two decorative rings/ necklace pendants using a method of off-centre turning. One pendant was turned from Mulberry

and the other consisted of Huon Pine and Cedar laminated together to show the contrast in colour.

John Markham had collected a list of email links of different wood turners and tool sites and these were distributed to members present.

After lunch, Lindsay demonstrated and discussed split turning and the use of brown paper to hold two blanks glued together during the turning process.

He also mentioned that by cutting out the required shape or pattern required using coloured cardboard and sandwiching this between two timber blanks. Then mount the glued up blank in between centers on the lathe. By removing the excess timber until the coloured edge of the paper emerges one will achieve the pattern or shape required. This method will only work if the shape is equal on both sides of the centre line and that the cut out pattern is glued on the centre line of the blanks.

By then splitting the turned blank along the paper line the turned item can be remounted on the lathe at 90 degrees and a bowl shape can be turned on the inside face of the split turned item. The ends can be shaped and carved to create a very individual and unique turned piece. It was during this process that Lindsay displayed on several occasions the strength and holding capabilities of wood glues compared with timber blocks.

The method of turning the Neil Scobie's erosion bowls was discussed and Lindsay demonstrated the tools used to make the grooves and holes that are found on the rim of the bowls.

Lindsay also demonstrated how the legs were made to support the bowl by carving away the waste timbers. In addition he also showed how the curved legs were made.

Our thanks to Lindsay for a very informative afternoon enjoyed by all.

Next month for homework, you guessed it, an item of split turning.

Keep turning.

PS, for next month's meeting we will have the **Plane Man** with us, a meeting not to be missed.

Some dates of interest, for your diary.

Sept 4-6: Canberra Timber & Woodworking with wood Show.

Sept 25-27: Hasting woodworkers Guild Exhibition at Port Macquarie

Oct 16-18: Melbourne Timber & Working with Wood Show

Nov 1-7: Grafton, Northern Rivers Woodworkers Association, 2009 Jacaranda Woodwork Display