

Hornsby Woodturners Region.

Monthly Newsletter.

February, 2007.

B.Gude.

A warm day presented itself for the first meeting of the year and Lindsay Skinner gave a warm welcome to the 29 members and 2 visitors – Ray Harris and Arthur Poole. Lindsay also acknowledged our two demonstrators Darryl Smith and David Laird.

Our meeting commenced with the S 7 T segment with Keith Day showing several platters turned from Burdekin Plum a dark, a dense dark purple coloured timber, both platters having a slightly rolled over edge and had a lacquered finish. Keith also displayed a segmented bowl comprising of 3 sections that had been cut on a band saw with the blade set at 45 degree from a slab of 2 inch Radiata Pine. The 3 sections were then assembled and glued using a 2 pack Adheze.

Colin Hunter had turned a pepper mill as well as a straight-sided canister with lid as well as a small vase in the shape of a small drinking vessel. All these had been turned from “road side” Eucalyptus. Colin also had turned a lidded box using Camphor Laurel. All the items were finished using Shellowax.

Ted Utick had been able to obtain a goodly sized piece of lemon (fruit) tree timber and had turned a small bowl. The colour of the bowl was lemon interspersed with a swirl of grey, quite an attractive piece.

Lloyd Thomas had turned a delicate lidded box, the thickness of the sides being about 3mm from Black Cypress.

Martin Nielsen had been busy using his band saw cutting up pieces of Tasmanian Oak, Blue Gum, Jarrah, Pacific Maple, Radiata Pine and numerous other timbers. Sufficient to make several turned segmented bowls. Two of which were straight sided the other had a more rounded sided. Martin had also made a scraper with a pine handle, the scraper had been an old file that had been hardened and tempered. (A word of caution not all files make good scrapers. Ed).

Robert Dechnik had been busy making a piece of furniture, a light stand with plantation louvers on each side. A meticulous piece of construction as each component was cut separately and then assembled. (Well done Robert. Ed).

Greg Croker reported that all the Regions are now fully incorporated and that any outstanding monies will shortly be distributed by the Guild. There will also be an election for officers for the SWTG on 23 March 07 and anyone wishing to stand please contact Greg.

After a short interlude during which members had a BBQ lunch and much social interaction. Lindsay introduced today’s demonstrators Darryl Smith who would be showing how to use a router to cut flutes on turned items and the “marriage of wood and

metal". David Laird was then introduced who would be explaining and operating the Rose engine lathe.

Darryl commenced his demonstration by mounting an aluminum indexing plate on the lathe behind the scroll chuck. This indexing plate consisted of two circles of drilled holes, one comprising of 180 holes the other of 60. Then a turned platter was mounted onto the lathe using the scroll chuck. One other change was done it that the normal tool post was replaced with a tool post that held an aluminum plate in the horizontal position. This plate was some 5mm in thickness and had a moveable fence on two sides. The router had a collar and a metal plate or foot, which enabled the router to be slid along the horizontal plate by hand in any direction. The movement of the router was only being restriction by position of the moveable fence. A cove or reed cutter was then inserted into the router and having lined up the cutter with the centre of the lathe, the router was drawn across the edge of the platter to cut a groove. (It should be noted that the lathe was not switched on). The platter was turned by hand to the next position on the indexing head locked in position and the process was repeated until the edge of the platter was completed with grooves radiating out from the centre. Altering the number of spaces moved each time on the indexing head could change the pattern or the spaces between each groove. If a bowl or a table leg was mounted between centres and the router was placed on the aluminum top tool post to operate along the length of the turned item then flutes could be cut in the same manner.

David Laird then demonstrated the Rose engine lathe and its capacity to move in a number of ways unlike the normal lathe. This lathe being able to rock backwards and forwards as well as sideways. Many of these movements being determined by the shape and position of gears mounted at the back of the lathe. Another major difference of the Rose engine being that a router mounted in a compound slide is used to cut and create the various shapes and patterns in the material being turned be it timber or Perspex. David then showed how a wavy edge could be cut on the edge of a small platter something not able to be done on a normal lathe.

Darryl continued the demonstration by showing a product by MetalCraft that enabled wrought iron bars, straps and strips to be shaped, scrolled, twisted and bent into any shape using a number of shaped dyes and cutters. Each of the completed shaped pieces were fastened together using cold steel rivets. At no time was there any need to apply heat to make the required shapes. Here was another way that timber and metal could be used together.

All had a very interesting and informative day. Our thanks to both Darryl Smith and David Laird for their participation.

For our March meeting John Allen will be showing how to turn a Lighthouse – a meeting not to be missed.

Keep turning,