

# HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC

## NEWSLETTER JULY 2009

(Bert Gude)

The 23 members who gathered at Annangrove were not deterred by the overcast winter's day and received a warm welcome from Lindsay Skinner.

The members were informed that Alastair Bennett would be today's demonstrator. Also that Arthur Poole had a Nova chuck for sale and would accept any reasonable offer. Lindsay also reminded everyone of Richard Raffin's demonstration at Lalor Park on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the Hands on Day on the Monday 20 July, commencing at 9:30am.

Our S & T segment commenced with Martin Nielsen displaying several turned pens that he had turned from "Fogwood" (Found On Ground).

John Edwards had used Silky Oak to turn a pair of pens contained in a timber case.

Rusty Manola had also turned a pair of pens, one of which was a gun metal colour (possibly turned from a plastic material). Rusty had used Shellowax to finish both pens.

Ted Utick (who had demonstrated the turning of pens at the last meeting) had turned a pen from the sapwood of a Flame She oak. As well as a pen from Solomon Island's Queen Ebony. Ted also displayed a pen and letter opener on a stand with a large paper clip in the centre to hold messages. The base had been turned from Jarrah.

John Knight for something different had turned a pen from some Coolabah burl; this was quite an attractive coloured pen.

Lindsay Skinner showed a pen that had been turned from Angophora that had been carbon dated to be 9,000 years old. The timber had been reclaimed from a swampy area when the third runway at Mascot airport was constructed, the timber was very sandy to turn.

Arthur Poole had turned a small vase from a piece of "Binatree".

Eddy Watts had used a piece of Blackwood to turn a spurtle (used in Scotland to stir the porridge) as well as a circular timber holder for a small compass.

Harry Jones had used a slab of Coolabah Burl to make a mantle clock, the mechanics of which had been inserted into the back of the timber slab.

A mysterious turned item was displayed consisting of a close lidded box with a six sided helical spline on the outside (more of this latter).

After a BBQ lunch, Alastair Bennett admitted that the mysterious turned item was his and it would be today's demonstration. In this exercise Alastair mentioned that it is essential to have very sharp tools, not able to undercut the joint between the lid and the base and that taking light cuts is essential to achieve the outside pattern on the box.

- A blank of close grained timber in this instance Mackay Cedar was mounted between centers, using a roughing gouge was turned to a cylinder and completed by using a skew chisel

- Mark out tenons on each end as well as the box dimensions. The size of the tenon needs to fit snugly into a jig. Then cut out the lid and base recess making sure that the shoulders are square and not undercut. Check for any undercut on shoulders and correct if necessary.
- Part the shoulders allowing 3 – 4mm lips on top.
- Mount chuck in the headstock, place top portion in the chuck. Using a skew chisel mark out the centre and place a Jacobs chuck in tailstock with a suitable sized drill remove excess timber to desired depth. Then using a hollowing tool open up the recess and clean up the bottom with a square nosed scraper and also clean up the lip. Sand and finish the lid as you will not be able to get another chance to do so.
- Mount the base segment on the chuck. Remove the tenon using a parting tool and square off the face.
- With Jacobs chuck in the tailstock, drill a hole to the required depth.
- Now carefully open up the hole to ensure a tight fit with the lid. Cuts on the side must be parallel to the lathe and keep the shoulder square.
- Complete the hollowing out process of the base and then match up the grain pattern of the timbers and if necessary clean up the face of the lidded box.
- Scribe a circle on the face of the tenon and drill a hole to fit a pin.
- Construct a jig consisting of 2 circular discs to which has been attached an angled block cut a precisely 45 degrees to hold the turned box securely between the two discs. At an angle of 45 degrees.
- The angled block must be square and has a recess drilled in one end. On the other end drill six holes which must be 60 degrees apart ( to be able to turn six twists on the outside of the box).
- Mount the lidded box onto the jig on the lathe and by revolving to lathe by hand one can mark out a centre line on the outside of the box as well as the width of the facet.
- Turn on the lathe at a low speed and holding the handle of a spindle gouge well down carefully cut out the facet. After completing the first facet sand through the various grades. Then undo the jig and turn the lidded box to the next position in the jig. Screw up the jig and repeat the process by taking very shallow cuts with the spindle gouge, ensuring that one gets a sharp edge between the two facets.
- Repeat the process until all the facets have been turned on the outside of the lidded box.
- You have then turned what David Springett has called a Twist-Turned Box.

For a complete and detailed explanation with respect to making the jig read “Adventures in Woodturning” by David Springett , Chapter 18 Twist –Turned Box, P167 – 176.

Our thanks to Alastair for pushing the boundaries in turning, a very informative afternoon was had by all.

Next month for homework, you guessed it, a lidded box with external embellishments or a turned pen.

Keep turning.