

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2009

(Bert Gude)

A chilly winter's morning could not deter 26 members from attending our June meeting. Where they received a warm welcome from our convenor Lindsay Skinner. Lindsay informed the members that John Jones from the Hawkesbury Group had been in contact to inform the George Hatfield would be demonstrating "Back to Basics" at their next meeting commencing at 09.30am.

Greg Croker advised the members that the annual dues were now due. The next bi-monthly meeting of the Guild would be at the Southern Districts on 16 July. Also that the Western Sydney (Lalor Park) would be holding classes run by Richard Raffin on 19-20 June. On the 12 September the Guild will be holding their AGM and any one wishing to stand for election to inform the Guild in writing.

Colin Hunter mentioned that he had brought a load of Australian Cedar and members to help themselves. He also provided details of a band saw for sale, a 12" Pascal pickup at Berowra.

Keith Day had cut a number of angle gauges from Perspex's that are available for members.

Our S & T segment commenced with Lindsay Skinner displaying a flat platter turned from Paduak and finished using Isoguard turned by Martin Nielsen.

John Markham had turned a platter from Brush Box and finished using Shellowax. As well as a small salt mill turned from Black hearted Sassafras.

John Edwards displayed several turned items, these were a bowl with a flared out edge from Kauri Pine. An open sided box from Huon Pine and a small tooth pick holder from Camphor Laurel.

Harry Jones had turned a large figured bowl containing beautiful colour using Mangrove timber, also a large vase turned also from Mangrove displaying the dark purple sapwood colour. Harry also handed round a blank of spalted Mangrove timber for the members to see.

Colin Hunter had turned from Red cedar a small winged vessel with a rounded recess in the centre in a Chinese style, the vessel could be used to hold salt or any other condiment.

Russell Pinch displayed a small sided dish that had been turned from River Red gum.

John Talbot showed a small bowl with a flat base turned from Sydney Blue gum, as well as an open sided bowl that had been turned from Camphor Laurel displaying sapwood through the centre.

Tom Maronov had turned a bowl with a rolled over edge from fiddle back River Red gum. On the rim Tom had incorporated an ebonised groove to highlight the colour of the timber. He had also turned a barrel shaped key ring using She Oak and Merbein and also a handle to fit a London pattern screw driver.

Ian Raper showed a pair of pepper and salt mills turned from Oregon that had been burned, brushed and ebonised to highlight the growth ring pattern of the timber. Ian also had turned a number of pens using coloured plastic blanks showing the variety of colours available as well as the different shapes that are possible.

After a BBQ lunch, Lindsay introduced our own Ted Utick who would be showing some of the different methods used to turn pens.

- Timber blanks need to be at least 10mm in thickness and of dense timber; open grain timbers are not suitable for pen production.
- Cut the blanks to size and mark the top and bottom pieces and also mark along one side to ensure for pattern match.
- To drill the blank use a 7mm spur twist or brad point twist drill bit, by either holding the blanks in a compression chuck on the lathe and feeding in the drill bit mounted in a Jacobs chuck in the tail stock. Alternatively the blanks can be held in a jig and using a pillar drill, It should be noted that the travel on the pillar drill may be insufficient the drill right through and that the blank has to be lifted slightly to achieve the through drilling of the hole. The third option is to first turn the blanks on the lathe into a cylinder and then drill the holes.
- Then insert the brass tubes, clean the outside of the tube with emery cloth to remove any oxidation, then apply a small dab of glue "Well Bond" to the outside of the tube and slowly screw in the tube into the drilled blank to get a good adhesion.
- Leave the glued up blanks to dry and then use an "End Trimmer" to remove any excess timber and glue. A word of caution when making a run of pens always keep the top and base blank together by holding using rubber bands there is nothing more frustrating as to match up different timber blanks at this stage of the proceedings.
- Mount the glued up blanks on to a pen mandrel, as follows ferrule first, then a glued blank, then another ferrule followed by a glued blank and then again a ferrule. Then tighten up the mandrel.
- Mount the mandrel on the lathe and shape the blanks using a small detail gouge and finish off with a small skew chisel. taking the ends of the blanks down to the ferrule.
- Sand the turned blanks and finish with Style wood, Speed Clear or an acrylic which are moisture resistant. Don't use wax to finish the pen as when the pen is used in warm weather the pen will become to feel sticky.
- Assembly, dab a small drop of glue on the tip end and using a vise (with soft jaws) press in the tip end into the top blank. Then the end cap again using a dab of glue. Insert the internal mechanism, but put the central ferrule in first, before putting into the top end. Press in until the circled indent shown on the brass tube, then screw in the refill. Check the pen operation and make any required adjustments. Push on the end of the pen and it is then complete.

Thanks to Ted for a very informative afternoon.

Next month for homework, you guessed it, a turned pen.

PS don't forget,

1. **Guild dues**, if not yet paid bring these for the next meeting,
2. Sydney Tool Sale and Swap, on 16 August at the Strathfield Men's Shed, 28 Pomeroy Street, Homebush.
Till then.....keep turning.