Hornsby Woodturners Region Monthly Newsletter.

March 2008.

B.Gude.

After a night of torrential rain, a bright sunny Saturday encouraged 28 members to attend our monthly March meeting. Lindsay Skinner welcomed one and all and made mention of an upcoming event that the Blue Mountains group would be holding a Decoration Day on the second Saturday in September 08. Those demonstrating are Glen Roberts, Terry Martin, Anna Dawes as well as others including our own Lindsay Skinner.

Lindsay introduced Brendon Venner a furniture restorer and member of the Hawkesbury group, who would be how to repair damaged and broken furniture pieces, but more on that later.
John Knight was presented with his raffle prize won last Christmas; fortunately it was something that could not spoil over time.

Greg Croker mentioned the collaborative effort planned with the wood turning club in Spokane USA. Members of the Macarthur club have indicated that they will be taking part. Any one wanting to participate to contact to let him know as he was looking for volunteers to take part.

- Woodturn 2008, a number of our members have indicated that they want to attend. The raffle tickets to be drawn at the event have been printed but still waiting on the event attendance tickets.
- At the Guild ordinary meeting, the Eastern group had made a request of the Guild for funds to purchase a lathe; apparently they only have a small sized lathe available on which to work. The meeting could not decide on this request. However, the Guild does have a lathe themselves that was currently not being used. It was unanimously agreed by the Hornsby group, that the spare guild lathe be on permanent loan to the Western group.
- Discussion also ensued as to future membership in the Guild and it was agreed to remain in the Guild for the ensuing twelve months.
- WWW show in June 08, need to follow up with the Guild as to those wishing to act as Marshalls and demonstrators and the access arrangements to the show.

The S&T segment commenced with Martin Nielson showing what he called a “sample” of a “natural edged” bowl turned from Jacaranda that had a leather thong used in a overlap pattern on the edge of the bowl. Martin had also turned a natural edged bowl from a branch of Camphor Laurel and the internal colour of the timber had joined together on the inside of the bowl.

Elwyn Muller had made “something from nothing” (his words). He had cut a slice of timber at an angle from a branch of Cedar and then turned a bowl shaped hollow in one of the smooth sides. *(It was a simple but pleasing to the eye turned item, Ed)*
Edward Utick had also used some branch material this time from Claret Ash to turn a natural edged bowl. Ted had used the full diameter of the branch and the bowl was nicely balanced in shape.
John Knight (our raffle winner) has been importing some exotic timber blanks from overseas. He had turned a straight sided bowl from Cocobolo a beautifully marked piece of timber. The natural oil content of this species of timber meant that no finishing wax was needed. John also showed a blank of Snake wood destined to become presentation pens. He showed one of these with the pen standing in its own holder that had been turned on a different axis from the horizontal.
Russell Pinch displayed a small bowl turned from Juniper showing the timbers pink and cream natural colours. Russell had also turned a selection of mushrooms from Jacaranda and Plum.
Our Demonstrator Brendon Venner showed several items, these were a square sided bowl turned from Iron Bark that was a regular 5 mm in thickness. Brendon had also turned a lidded box on a pedestal from Lance wood as well as slightly flat doughnut shaped lidded box using Myrtle surmounted with a delicate finial coming out of a pair of leaves. There was a split turning made from Camphor Laurel in the shape of a banded barrel with expanded ends.

After an enjoyable BBQ, Brendon Venner told us all something of his background of being a furniture restorer and him being also a wood turner for the last 8 years. He mentioned that in the past wood workers would specialize in only one aspect of woodwork be it joinery, turning, polishing or finishing. But now one has to be able to do the lot and this is more so in restoration work. He also does a lot of restoration work particularly in repairing old fashioned clock cases.

Today’s demonstration would cover the repair of a broken turned table leg, also one that had bead work damaged and replacing water damaged lower sections of a table leg.
A turned table leg will naturally break at its narrowest section usually where a hollow has been turned between two large beads. In the past the method of repairing this damage would be to drill a hole in each section where the break had occurred and insert a dowel and glue both sections together. This would usually result in the repaired led being slightly out of alignment and where the break had occurred easily identifiable.
The new method is to first insert a Jacobs’s chuck into the headstock of a lathe. Then take one of the broken sections and mark the centre of the timber with an awl where the break occurred. Place the broken section in the tailstock and then drill a hole using the Jacobs chuck. Start with a small drill and increase the size of the hole by using larger sized drills until the hole is the same size as the dowel to be used for repairs. Leave the drilled section on the drill bit but stop the lathe. As a section of the table leg that includes the broken end will now need to be sawn off using a fine Japanese saw. Before

you cut, place a piece of marking tape on either side of the cutting line and mark both pieces of tape as this will assist in realigning both sections later. Now carefully cut off the piece by rotating by hand the timber whilst cutting. Remove both pieces of timber from the drill and then glue back the cut off section with the broken edge onto the other broken section ensuring that the timber fibres are aligned. Using gap filling super glue and accelerant glue the two pieces together. Now take the glued up piece and drill a hole through the end. (The glued up segment already has the start of a drilled hole.) Measure the depths of both holes and cut a dowel to the required overall length. Grove the dowel on both sides to allow excess glue to escape, dry fit the dowel and line up both sections by the marks made earlier on the marking tape. Then using gap filling super glue and accelerant push fit both sides together. After 24 hours finish off with a suitable coloured stain and filler if needed.

Damage that has occurred on high points such as a bead on a turned table leg or where a piece is missing can be repaired by first flattening the damaged section using a small block plane. Then cutting a small block of similar timber and gluing this on the planned section to be repaired using super glue and accelerant. Then Mount the table leg between centers on the lathe and turn away the excess timber back to the original profile.

If the damage to the bead is more severe, then take two pieces of patch material with a hole in the centre (each piece on end being like a bridge). Then mount the damaged table leg between centers and turn down the damaged bead to the diameter of the hole cut in the patch. Make sure that you undercut both sides of the bead to be renewed. When satisfied with the fit of the patch timber apply super glue and glue up the two patch pieces to the table leg. Reduce the patched timber to a cylinder and mark the centre line then turn the bead to the required shape. Also using other high points on the table leg as reference points.

Water damaged timber on the bottom part of a leg can best be repaired using a Birds Mouth joint. This joint is made by firstly cutting away the damaged timber and cleaning up the bottom of the leg. Then make a V shape part on the base of the leg it is important that both sides of the V are equal both in angle and length and the base of the V must be level. Now take a piece of patch timber and carefully mark out the V shape. Then cut out the V shape waste from the patch block using a band saw. When satisfied with the fit apply super glue and accelerant glue both pieces together. Mount the table leg between centers and follow down the existing profile shape. Then sand down to finish raise the grain (wet and then dry the piece) use 400 grit or sawdust to burnish the repaired section of the table leg before applying shellac or stain.

Thank you Brendon for a very informative afternoon had by all.

For our April meeting Ken Cooper will be the demonstrator and his subject will be “The router and its usage in turning”.

Keep Turning