

# HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC

## NEWSLETTER MAY 2009

(Bert Gude)

Our May meeting commenced with Lindsay Skinner extending a warm welcome to the 23 members and 1 visitor who gathered at Annangrove, Lindsay made mention of an air operated sander that he would talk about later.

Greg Croker advised that the WWWS were still looking for demonstrators and those wishing to purchase tickets to let him know today. Also a number of members have donated timber blanks that would become raffle prizes to augment the group's income. The Guild questionnaire is nearing its due deadline and those who intend to participate do so quickly. In order that the completed questionnaires could be collated and returned to the Guild. A new editor has been appointed to produce the Hand & Eye he is Scott Rollo and you can read about him in the March copy of the H & E. The annual **Guild DUES** fall due by our July meeting, it is preferable that the members pay these dues of \$25.00pp by the **June meeting**.

The S & T commenced with Tom Maronov displaying a large bowl turned from Sapele Mahogany that he had acquired and during the drying process had begun to get out of shape. As there was sufficient timber left in the bowl it was suggested that the bowl could be remounted on the lathe using a glue chuck and returned. There was a risk however that this may result in a variation in wall thickness. Tom had also turned a pepper mill from spalted Cyprus Pine, the spalted timber created an interesting colour effect. (Spalting in timber can be started by either storing timber blanks in mushroom compost or by painting it with milk or yoghurt and then storing them, the blanks, in a plastic bag in a dark place. Need to regularly check the process until the desired result is achieved. To stop spalting one can paint the timber with mentholated spirits.)

Greg Croker had been experimenting with the hot glue chucking method and showed what could be achieved with a thin platter of Kauri Pine.

Harry Jones showed the now completed large burl bowl, some 20" across the face that had been completed using an air spray gun. Harry also displayed a large weedpot that consisted of a turned disc that had an arc of timber removed on the top and mounted on a rod on a plinth.

Martin Nielsen had used Shellowax and Triple E to finish a simple but elegant shaped bowl that had been turned from Huon Pine.

John Edwards had also used Shellowax and Triple E to complete a straight sided bowl turned from Jacaranda.

Kevin Leverton displayed a flat low sided bowl with relatively thick sides turned from New Guinea Rosewood and finished using Danish Oil.

John Markham had turned a slightly "squat" pepper mill with an overlapping lid; the base had nicely flowing lines. The timber used was Paduk; the finish was 3 coats of Danish Oil. The use of Danish Oil tended to make the colour of the timber slightly darker in colour.

John Knight had turned a lidded box from American Oak, a quite dense and heavy timber. The lidded box was finished by applying a wax solution (purchased from Buckley & Phillips, Victoria).

Lloyd Thomas had turned a straight sided bowl using Chinese burl, the weight of the bowl was very light in comparison to its size, and it was finished using Style wax.

Keith Day a number of mechanical toys made from wood that had been integrated together to enable wooden balls to travel along a predetermined pathway, The source of Keith's inspiration was "Making Mechanical Marvels in Wood".

After a BBQ lunch enjoyed by all, Lindsay demonstrated the air powered sanding devise (mentioned earlier). This sander was powered by compressed air and used very fine mesh discs of various grades to produce a fine finish with no resultant saw dust. The sander would make a nice addition to the workshop however the price was somewhat prohibitive.

Lindsay then discussed the various methods of chucking a timber blank onto the lathe in respect to bowl turning. Covering the Nova and Glazier screw held in a scroll chuck, gluing the blank to a face plate, using a paper insert and gluing the blank to a face plate. Each of these methods was demonstrated. He (Lindsay) then turned a bowl and demonstrated the usage of different shaped tools used for hollowing out. Using the bowl gouge, the ring tool and different shaped and sized hook tools. Each of these tools ably removed the timber and it is up to the individual turned which they prefer to use.

Having completed the bowl the demonstration then extended on to ebonizing of timber. The basic method of ebonizing is to soak rusty nails or steel wool (not the soapy sort) in brown vinegar. A chemical process will start up and after some time perhaps a week or so, a dark liquid is produced that can be applied with a brush to a bowl. This will result in a shallow penetration of the stain into the timber. If you are not satisfied with this result one can apply a light coat of Drano or sugar soap to neutralize the acid and return the timber to its normal colour. For a deeper penetration stain in timber one can use black spirit stain or long black oxide. One of the best results is achieved by using Chinese Drawing Ink that after it is applied and allowed to dry and then use a finishing oil will result in a deep mat finish.

Thanks to Lindsay for a very informative afternoon.

Next month for homework, you guessed it, a turned ebonized bowl.

PS don't forget the,

1. The Richard Raffin demonstration at the Western Sydney Group at Lalor Park ring Bob Jarvis 9622 2741 for details.
2. Guild dues bring these for the next meeting,
3. The Central Tilba, South Coast region Annual exhibition of wood work on 6 -7 June.
4. Sydney Working with Wood Show on 19 – 21 June.
5. Our next meeting will be how to halt rot in timber

Till then.....keep turning.