

HORNSBY REGION WOODTURNERS INC

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2006

(Greg Croker)

16 members and one guest, all 'true believers' congregated at Annangrove on Saturday 9th at 11 am: it being our first meeting on a wet and windy Saturday in memory

With the gas heaters all fired-up, our Convenor Lindsay opened the meeting, welcomed our guest (and later our newest member, John Markham) and started Show & Tell

Colin Hunter showed and described fittings for quick turning (based on Bill Shean's demonstration last month) and a few examples of the turned items made from NG Rosewood. Additionally he showed a wonderful Huon Pine figured bowl finished with Shellowax, and the mandatory Kodusai Dolls, (1 x NG Rosewood, 1 x Pine)

Lloyd Thomas showed his 'commercial' K Doll, painted traditionally but with a stiff neck. Lloyd also exhibited one of his recently built Bedside tables. Made from laminated Brazilin Mahogany with Australian Cedar panels, drawers, shelving and knobs, and finished with 70% gloss Stylwood; this was quite an item. One or two members were overheard suggesting that with slight modification this unit would become a great Liqueur Cabinet

Keith Day's two larger matching Dolls were supplemented with a smaller Doll in Huon Pine: all three were nicely painted and presented. Keith also showed a veneered Camphor Laurel hinged box, with a carved gum leaf inserted into the lid and an internal tray; a great item.

Ian Irwin, (who the whisperers say has stoked up the steam engine on his lathe recently), showed a beautifully finished smallish wooden bear doll, made some years ago, with a squeaky neck. A great piece indeed – with more to follow Ian?

Greg Croker showed something abstract, or that's what he thought it was, which confused all present. Made from Camphor Laurel, unpainted and finished with shellac, the advice was that the piece started out to be a K Doll but without plans and the knowledge of what these dolls should be the result was unpredictable, finally being described by Lindsay (while smiling) as "just a little strange."

Kevin Leverton showed his two Dolls, which were traditional, well made and a great contrast to the above

Finally Martin Nielson had turned 3 styles of Lace Bobbins, 3 of each style so far and very nice but is wondering how many more to make before stopping permanently

After S & T we broke for an hearty BBQ lunch of sausages-and-onion rolls smothered with sweet chilli sauce

Resuming, we were reminded that Saturday 14th October will be our next meeting with Daryl Smith as the demonstrator. Daryl specialises in constructing his own tools for ornamental woodturning and no doubt will discuss the design as well as demonstrate his tools

For our November meeting (11/11) Lindsay and Ian have organised Gary Light to demonstrate. The theme is “ Square Turned Bowls – Offset Turning in the Future “

Our subject for the afternoon “Bowl Design and Embellishment “ was commenced by our Convenor

Lindsay showed and described a number of items from his collection which had been artistically improved/embellished by the use of features considered by many woodturners as unorthodox

The gallery of items was,

Sand blasted grain; an 18 cm dia Oregon bowl sandblasted after turning to greatly accentuate and enhance the colour and graining of this timber. The height between the growth rings and the softer wood exceeded 1 mm as a result of the sandblasting and the resultant bowl looked fantastic

Morton Bay Fig bowl; approximately 25 cm in dia with an extended foot as the major feature, changing the style as well as greatly adding to the “display appeal”

A multi-coloured patterned bowl; here a bowl of simple design was textured in part with dimples (in this case using a countersinking bit), overfilled slightly with (oxide coloured) epoxy then covered with another/contrasting coloured epoxy as desired. After setting, the epoxies are sanded to give a pattern of the colours. The result revealed a startlingly pleasant effect, which can be modified or intensified dependent upon the texturing, colours chosen and the sanding. (We were advised that prior to the use of epoxy, to dab or lightly brush the holes/cracks etc with metho and allow to almost dry before applying the epoxy. The evaporating alcohol sucks the epoxy into the open wood fibres securing an improved grip)

The use of gold foil together with paint; particularly to the bowl’s interior was discussed and a bowl shown. The result is impressive. Some careful practice is advised before contemplating real gold foil. (Further advice on this embellishment, together with a source of a much cheaper substitute for gold foil can be found in a recent edition of the UK Woodturner)

Adding duel fillers to epoxy; a Hoop Pine platter with a 20 mm wide concentric band of black epoxy, to which some fine brass filings had been included was shown. These brass pieces in the black band near to the circumference of the platter made a striking difference to the (plain) Hoop Pine timber

A discussion on the use of carving subsequent to turning finalised this topic, and the day finished with a demonstration of hot melt face-plate turning techniques.

This month’s homework is a Decorated Bowl or Item, so until Saturday 14/10

.....please Keep Turning.