

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNES INC

Newsletter September 2008.

(Bert Gude)

There were 25 including 1 visitor assembled together on a sunny spring Saturday at Annangrove where they were welcomed by Lindsay Skinner the Group's Convener.

After a short interlude to hold the Groups AGM, Lindsay went straight into the S & T segment commencing with a footstool turned and constructed by Rusty Manalo. A good example of copy turning and a discussion ensued as to the best method to attach the legs to the cross members.

John Markham displayed three shallow turned bowls, one was turned from Sassafras, one from New Guinea Rosewood and the last from Camphor Laurel. Martin Nielsen had turned a set of three natural edges bowls thin walled with a squared off base, two of these were turned from Wattle (*Acacia* unknown) the other from Camphor Laurel. Each of these bowls had been turned using a multispur Steb center in the head stock. Martin had also turned a three legged round top occasional (wine) table using Indonesian mahogany. (*A very nice piece of turning, Ed*).

John Edwards had turned a large pepper mill using Rosewood and also a squat sided bowl from Judy's wattle that had been water seasoned.

Harry Jones showed a bulbous based vase turned from Camphor Laurel as well as a large sided oval shaped urn that had come off the lathe at the last moment and needed some restoration work on the rim.

Ian Raper had turned two large "biscuit" lidded bowls from Silky Oak; he had also turned a nicely shaped bowl with a flat horizontal top side with a central raised edge. The edge had been embellished with black enamel that contrasted nicely with the light coloured timber (species unknown).

After a BBQ lunch our own Alastair Bennett would be demonstrating how to turn a thin sided (2mm) natural edge vase.

One of the essentials is to use a fine grained timber with closely attached bark and not too elliptical. If the blank is too elliptical, this will impact on the overall shape as well as the flow pattern of the natural edge. On this occasion Alastair had chosen a blank of Blackwood that was still slightly damp.

*The blank was mounted between centers.

*Clean up the end of the blank at the tail stock end, using a skew chisel and parting tool.

*Square off the shoulder and prepare a spigot to fit the chuck

*Take the blank off the lathe and recheck the blank.

* Clean up the end of the blank at the tailstock end.

*Mark out the dimensions and check the bark edge.

* Commence by hollowing out the end grain timber, either by using a detail gouge or a bowl gouge. Placing the gouge at the outside edge of the blank and working up hill.

*On this occasion Alastair used a hook tool to open up the hole and remove the end grain timber. When using a hook tool one starts on the right hand side of the blank, shear cutting down and across.

* When satisfied with the internal shape, finish off this section of the turning to a smooth finish.

*Now using a detail gouge the bark was removed on the outside of the blank leaving a rim of bark on the tailstock end.

*Continue to shape the outside shape of the turned piece using a light projected onto the end of the blank to provide an indication as to the thinness of the timber wall.

*When satisfied with the thinness of the wall carefully finish off this section.

*The continue using the detail gouge complete the shape of the stem and then part off the finished turned article.

Alastair then demonstrated how a hook tool can be made using a flat spade bit. The flat spade bit was heated in a ceramic oven and when sufficiently hot the stem of the bit was flattened on an anvil using a hammer. The bit was placed back into the oven and this procedure was repeated several times. The flattened steel piece was then sharpened on a grinder and placed back into the oven. A piece of round steel was mounted in a vice and using the steel bar as a brace the heated sharpened steel was bent around the bar. When the heated steel had been bent into shape it was then hardened and allowed to cool. To complete the process the hook tool cutting tip would then be welded onto a steel bar.

Our thanks to Alastair for a very interesting demonstration.

Next months homework is any turned item.

Keep turning.