

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2010

(Colin Hunter)

Convenor Lindsay welcomed 18 members and three visitors, Darrell Smith (demonstrator) Geoff Walker and Peter Harding to Annangrove.

The AGM was conducted by Greg Croker, after which the normal monthly meeting proceeded.

Previous visitors Peter and Geoff submitted their applications for membership and were welcomed into the Club.

Lindsay advised that Ian Irwin has relinquished his role as representative at SWG and as V-President of HDWT Inc. The meeting acknowledged and thanked him for his contribution. He also advised that he received an invitation to the Expressions of Wood 2010 Exhibition to be held at the Deerubbin Centre (Windsor Library) 500 George Street Windsor from Friday 8th October 2010. All HDWT members would be welcome to attend.

As well, Lindsay stated that the Forestry Commission at Pennant Hills had enquired about someone to demonstrate at an Open Day in October. Lindsay suggested that he would contact Ted Utick who already sells items through the Forestry Commission shop.

The meeting discussed the previous meeting which was held as a visit to the Trend Timbers Open Day. It was agreed that it was an enjoyable day with interesting demonstrations.

Lindsay acknowledged the items that some members had brought along as donations to a raffle but it was agreed that a belt sander donated by Colin will be held over and auctioned at a future meeting as a fundraiser.

Greg proposed to organise a working bee to be held in the next couple of months to build some steps and a ramp to improve access to Lindsay's pergola and to build a frame for our TV screen.

Show and Tell

Colin Hunter showed 2 flat platters approx 120mm diameter in an unknown dark timber. One had been turned using a VCR ring as a glue chuck, the other using a conventional scroll chuck recess. Both were finished using Shellawax liquid.

Russ Pinch showed a Jacaranda bowl approx 200mm diameter and 120mm deep with a small section of bark on one edge, finished in Shellawax. Russ advised that it was re-shaped following consultation with his wife.

John Edwards showed:

1. a small upright bowl turned from Desert Oak and finished with Organoil.
2. a lidded box approx 60mm diameter turned from Grapefruit with a Blackwood bottom edge ring.
3. a lidded box approx 50mm diameter turned from ancient NZ Kauri
4. a lidded box approx 50mm diameter x 100mm high turned from Blackwood
5. a door wedge and a plastic bag carrier handle made from off-cut Radiata Pine, as example of small items that sell well or can be given away at local functions such as Church fetes.

Eddie Watts showed a candle stick base approx 100mm high, turned from Jacarandah, copied from a ceramic original.

Tim Sinclair showed an apple corer that had been in the family for some time for which he had made a new handle from recycled hardwood.

Rusty showed a vase approx 200mm high, made in layers of Pacific Maple and Meranti, and including a glass lines, plus a Goblet turned from Jacarandah.



Harry showed two hollow vessels turned using his hot glue chucks – the first was a squat hollow form approx 250mm diameter turned from a red burl, the second was a tall urn or vase turned from Claret Ash.

Demonstration

After lunch, Darrell Smith demonstrated his oval turning lathe and techniques using his oval turning adapter fitted to a Leady lathe.

The oval turning adapter is driven by the headstock spindle and converts circular rotation to an oval movement. The degree of ovality is adjustable in the mounting plate of the adapter.

Workpieces are hot glued to a backing board of craftwood which is screwed to a steel backing plate which in turn attaches to the mounting plate of the oval turning adapter.

Oval turning needs to be done at lower speeds than circular turning due to the out of balance forces – normal maximum speed is about 300rpm.



Oval turning works best with the grain of the workpiece running in the long dimension of the oval.

In oval turning, all cutting must be done on the horizontal centreline, because that is the only point at which the workpiece is describing a consistent circle with respect to the tool rest.

Most oval turning is done using a scraping action because of the need to keep the tools flat on the tool rest to ensure that the point of cutting is always on the horizontal centreline.

Darrell turned an oval picture frame from Pacific Maple, in which he:

firstly faced off the workpiece;

1. used an oval template to mark out the cut-out for the photo;
2. cut out the oval centre completely, slightly under size, using a parting tool and gouge;
3. cleaned up the inner face of the cut-out with a scraper with a straight diagonal cutting edge;
4. used a hook tool (90 degree) to undercut the back of the cut-out to suit the glass and backing board (note this must be done from the front since the adapter does not allow a workpiece to be reversed to clean up the back);
5. Used a gouge to shape the front face and outside rim of the picture frame (note that the outside and front can be whatever shape suits the turner);
6. used a power sander to sand all surfaces (note that the sanding must also be done on the horizontal centre line of the workpiece to avoid the sanding pad bouncing on the oval shape);
7. used a wide chisel to break the finished piece off the craftwood backing board.



Following the picture frame, Darrell commenced turning an oval bowl, then invited the Hornsby members to try the system. His offer was taken up by Tom Marinov.





The oval turning system used by Darrell requires that the back face of the work piece be flat, smooth and well finished, both to get the best hot glue joint to the backing board, and because the workpiece cannot be remounted with the back facing outward to clean up the back. Clean-up of the back face including removal of the hot glue residue must be done by hand or on a belt sander or similar.

After the demonstration, the members discussed the technique extensively with Darrell and examined the other examples of his work that he had brought along. (see photo)

Lindsay thanked Darrell for sharing his time and expertise and advised the meeting that the demonstration for the next meeting will include alternative approaches to hot glue chucking.
