

WestTurn News

Guild Web Site: <http://www.sydneymountturners.com.au>

Issue 59, August 2004.

Western & Blue Mountains Region

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Twin Gums Retreat Address: Cnr Northcott Rd & Diane Dr, Lalor Park

Regional Committee 2004:

Convenor: Bill Swindail
9864 1620

Secretary: Harry Cole

Treasurer: Greg Maloney

Regional Rep: Larry Bailey
9622 6140

Member: Ted Edwards

Events Co-ordination: Alan

Phelps is the events Co-ordination contact for this Region. So if Alan approaches you to help please assist.

Library: See Don Hughes if you would like to know what is currently available from our library. **Please remember that some of the items within the library are on loan from other members and all care should be taken to bring them back as soon as you are finished. Just as in other libraries one month is usually sufficient time to have an item out.**

Stores & Equipment: is being looked after by Graham Dawes and Ted Edwards. Please let them know if you find any problems with any of the machinery in the hall.

Editor: The newsletter is being put together by Larry Bailey. Articles can be e-mailed to susanjoanb@msn.com

or give to a committee member who will pass them on to me.

Sick List:

If anyone knows of any of our members or their partners who are on the sick list, let **Graham Murray** (4658 0563) know, and he will send them a get well message from the Region.

Committee Meeting:

The committee meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 7.00pm at Twin Gums Retreat. All are welcome to attend. Next meeting **7th September**.

Committee Report:

The committee has decided to buy five (5) new books on various turning subjects and projects for the library. We are also looking into purchasing some videos.

The committee also declined to attend the St Marys Art & Craft show and the Tregear Festival

Western/Blue Mtns Region Calendar for 2004:

Third **Sunday** every month from 10.00am

Every **Wednesday** from 10.00am.

Every Second & Fourth **Friday Night** of the month. Starting 7.00pm.

Please note that Friday Night 22nd October will be cancelled due to the Guild AGM being held at this Date/Time

JULY 18

Theme for show & tell was **Spoons / Ladles. Graham Dawes conducted show and tell.**

Ernie Syratt: produced two platters (approx 350mm) one from New Zealand Beech (from Toby's design April newsletter) the other without the handle and an unknown timber both finished with EEE shellawax. Well-done Ernie for your first time in show and tell.

George Wells: produced 8 candlesticks, which he tells me he has been working on at our Wednesday meeting over the last four weeks. These were from various timbers finished with estapol.

Barry Logan: produced a candlestick made from pine and a scoop made from maple both with friction polish finish. Well done for a beginner and first time in show and tell.

Graham Murray: produced a scoop made from Tassie Oak and friction polish finish.

Bill Swindail: produced a lidded box made from Coachwood with a Purple Heart lid finished with friction polish. Bill also had a table leg made from oregon. Bill gave a little talk on the problems turning with oregon.

Graham Dawes: produced a candlestick made from camphor laurel and finished with friction polish.

Des Page: produced a scoop from an unknown timber (hardwood) finished with EEE friction polish.

Alan Phelps: produced a candlestick made from pine. Alan stained the pine with a water based cedar stain and finished with friction polish and wax. Alan also produced a gavel & striker made from tallow wood finished with friction polish.

Larry Bailey: produced two silky oak potpourri bowls with silky oak lids with holes drilled in the lid. (Larry still insists that his storey is true. One being for the older person with arthritis and the other being for a younger more nimble) both finished with friction polish.

Thanks to Graham for conducting show & tell and for those who participated.

AUGUST 15

Aaron Ehrlich will be demonstrating. Theme for show & tell will be **Laminated / Segmented Turnings**. Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

SEPTEMBER 19

Bring your tools, as this will be a hands on day. Theme for show & tell will be **Goblets (two the same)**.

OCTOBER 17

Col Herbert will be demonstrating. Theme for show & tell will be a **Bowl on a Pedestal**.

NOVEMBER 21

Bring your tools, as this will be a hands on day. Theme for show & tell will be **clocks**.

Past Demonstrations:

Our members have participated in the following demonstrations. The details are as follows:

July 18

Nepean Historical Society

Saturday was fine but with cloud gathering south of Blacktown, the forecast was wind with some showers. The morning was definitely sunny by midday the cloud had increased, together with the wind, defiantly blowing from the Mt Kosciusko area, with some light rain.

Bob rang me about 4.30pm expressing his doubts about the weather, and the forecast for the next day, but we decided to talk about it Sunday morning at 8.00am. That day started with fine windy weather. Bob & Tony decided to travel up to Emu Plains to see what they were going to do.

About an hour later Bob rang again, fine weather with a strong wind, they had set up in a marquee provided by the Historical Society. Edna and I joined them later.

The day varied with gusty winds, people coming, staying,

watching for a while and then moving on to the various displays associated with the museum, returning to our stand later. A few expressed their interest in joining or visiting us at Lalor Park.

We avoided some of the wind, Bob parked his van across the block about 10m from our stand, unfortunately, and often a strong gust of wind coming from a different direction prevailed at times.

It was not an outstanding day, the weather I think kept many people away. We packed up promptly at 2.00pm. Many other participating groups did the same. Thank you Bob & Tony.

Malcolm Clark

Future Demonstrations:

Our members have been asked to participate in the following demonstrations:

September 18

Lalor Park Pre-school has again invited us to attend their annual fete. Last year was cancelled at the last minute because of bad weather.

MEMBERS AND VISITORS:

Welcome to our new members and any visitors today.

We hope that you enjoy yourselves at this meeting and, indeed, many other meetings that you may attend at this region and at our other regions.

Safety Instruction:

In line with Work Cover, OH & S practices, and pure, simple common sense, NO ONE is to attend workshop type meetings or any Guild

function wearing thongs, sandals, or open foot wear.

****Please note: Current first aid officers are:
Ted Edwards
Larry Bailey**

ITEMS FOR SALE

Sandpaper – Various grades at \$6.00 metre.

Wood – as priced on the rack on the stage.

End Sealer - \$4.00 per litre.

Friction Polish – priced to bottle size.

Scrapers & Parting Tools

–Range of round & square end \$30.00 ea.

Please see Graham Dawes or Bill Swindail if you wish to make a purchase.

U Turn at Q Turn

Sunday 13th June 2004, Edna & I travelled by our motor vehicle to Port Macquarie, Lismore via the Pacific Highway. Then to Casino, Tenterfield, Warwick and finally arriving at our destination on Friday 18th at Camp Tracey, situated off the Cunningham Gap Road between Warwick and Brisbane, to attend the U Turn at Q Turn organised by the Allora Woodwork Club situated in national park.

After meeting the organisers of the event we were shown to our cabin, after unloading our bags from our vehicle, I walked to a large shed twice the size of our hall, standing nearby were two lathes owned by their club, and another one belonging to one of the members. During the next four hours, more participants

arrived. After lunch the number of lathes moved from three to twenty, the last one arrived the next day. Some large and others medium and small. Turning commenced from about 9.30am, stopping for meals, we finished about 10.00 or 11.00pm each night, commencing after breakfast the next day. I was allowed to use the club lathes together with two other members. You could turn whatever you wished, leaving it on a table in the centre of the circle of lathes. Except for one piece of 80mmx80mm of jacaranda, that was allowed to be turned to whatever design you liked. The best was chosen by a democratic vote by members.

Edna also demonstrated her pyrography skills. Some new members of the club practiced and improved their skills with their tools, using the same type as many of our novice members do during lessons, etc. One woodturner on a large variable speed Vicmarc lathe turned in a production fashion, platter, bowls and balls. I did turn one bowl out of the special allotted timber, a platter when the lathe was available, talked, looked and commented. Helped a new member during the day and night after tea.

I was asked if I would be coming next year, I said yes providing our health remained steady.

Summing up. It was a enjoyable weekend worth the cost of \$120.00 per person, all meals, beds, use of lathes and equipment. I regret I failed to attend the Wednesday meeting of our area to pick up wood blanks Graham had cut on his large "Green Machine"

bandsaw for me. Another interest, the purchase of a new vehicle is my excuse for that error. Fortunately timber could be bought at the event at a reasonable price.

I was advised that there were sufficient meetings of this event occurring each year, i.e. Port Phillip, Wellington (South Australia), and Wagga Wagga, that one and another is Prosepine Queensland. That is also the reason why that Allora Club books theirs in the winter each year. They have also helped install extra power points in conjunction with the owners being the Uniting Church, to allow this meeting to be organised every year. It ended with the handover of a cheque, donation to a charity in that area and other presentations including one for us, the longest distance travelled to the event, and other prizes for various efforts.

Malcolm Clark

The Cat

A man absolutely hated his wife's cat and decided to get rid of him one day by driving him 20 blocks from his home and leaving him in the park. As he was getting home, the cat was walking up the driveway.

The next day he decided to drive the cat 40 blocks away. He put the beast out and headed home. Driving back up the driveway, there the cat was!

He kept taking the cat further and the cat would always beat him home. At last he decided to drive a few miles away, turn right, then left, past the bridge, then right again and another

right until he reached what he reached what he thought was a safe distance from his home and left the cat. Hours later the man calls his wife:

“Susan, is the cat there?”

“Yes’ the wife answers, “Why do you ask”???”

Frustrated, the man answered “put the son of a bitch on the phone, I’m lost.

George Wells

Wood Finishing
By Alan Phelps

My favorite finish -

How to use the Polish:

Now nothing is fool proof, so you have to do some preparation. Always shake the bottle before using. Don’t worry if the polish starts to harden in the bottle especially in the cold weather. Just give it a shake and it will be OK. If you wish to thin it out use Methylated Spirits sparingly.

Wood Preparation: You have to sand the timber up to at least 400 grit with no scratches left. They will really stand out if you don’t. For a really good high gloss finish sand up to 1200 preferably 1500. Don’t bother applying the polish below 250 grit finish, it won’t shine up very well.

Application for items larger than say 250mm STOP the lathe and with a small piece of cloth specially for the job and just big enough for the job and apply a generous coat and lightly rub in. Start the lathe at the max. speed possible. Lubricate the cloth with the polish.

The action of the lubricated cloth is to rub the polish into the pores of the wood at the same time generating heat, which evaporates the solvent and melts the wax and shellac and fuses it into the wood. An old polishing cloth that has been used before and is full of polish and is shiny seems to be best. Hold the cloth hard against the wood and move it slowly over the job at the same time. Now it’s going to get dammed hot, as you will find out. You will do 95% of the polishing with this cloth. Only change to a clean cloth to finally clean up any surplus polish around the edges. On smaller work, say pens, you can leave the lathe running and apply the cloth lubricated with the polish directly to the job. Finally finish rubbing the lubricated cloth briskly in the direction of the grain or length of the pen as this will give a mirror like finish. You may need a couple of coats. I reckon this is the best finish I have seen. It is a beautiful gloss, which resists greasy finger marks etc. when you constantly use a pen.

To be continued next month.

**The Birds & The Bees –
Cyber Space Edition.**

Child: Dad, where did I come from?

Dad: Okay, we had to have this conversation some day! Listen ... Dad and mom met in a chat room on the net. I set up a meeting with your mom and we landed in the bathroom at the Cyber Cafe. Then, mom did some downloads from dads memory stick and when dad was ready to upload, we discovered that there was no

firewall. Seeing that it was a bit late to cancel, I just carried on doing the upload. !

Nine months later, the damn virus appeared!

Child: Huh?

**TURNING
CLASSES/WORKSHOPS**

We encourage all beginners to seek help, ask questions and enjoy what we hope will be a great hobby.

If you are interested in joining classes please see **Bill Swindail.**

**LADIES WORKSHOP, 31
JULY**

This month those present tackled the turning of small natural edge burl bowls. One or two of the blanks brought for the purpose proved to be very dry and hard but persistence and maintenance of sharp tools won through. Our thanks to Ted who opens and closes the hall for us and cheerfully shares his expertise on topics of interest before leaving us to ‘get on with it’.

For our September get-together we intend to participate at the Blue Mountains Inc ‘Beyond Turning – Surface Decoration Workshop’ being held at Blaxland High School, Blaxland. on Saturday 18 September from 10am to 4pm. It is open to all with an interest on the subject.

On 30th October (not 13th November as previously advertised) we have decided to try our hands at laminated/segmented turnings.

**Peninsula Region
Open Day**

Sunday 12th September from
10.00am to 2.00pm

Location; **Narrabeen RSL** at
the end of Nareen Parade,
North Narrabeen.

Contact either Ted
Thornburrow on 9449 5499 or
June McKimmie on 9974 5042
for catering purposes RSVP by
31/8/04.

Cost \$5.00. Take something for
show & tell.

**Beyond Turning – Surface
Decoration Workshop**

This is a hands-on workshop
where you can experiment with
a wide variety of decorative
techniques and apply them to
turnings. Experienced people
will help you to learn new
skills – wood burning,
texturing, relief carving, chip
carving, marquetry, chatter-
work, inlaying stone and shell,
blacksmithing, sandblasting,
painting, staining, air brushing,
calligraphy, resin work and
more. We will run
woodworking demonstrations.

You are welcome to bring your
own bowls, candlesticks, toys
ect. to decorate.

WHEN – 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday September 18th

WHERE – Blaxland High
School, Coughlan Road,
Blaxland

COST – \$20. Pay at the door.
Covers morning tea but bring
your own lunch or use the
restaurants and takeaway shops
(400metres away).

Further Information:

Ross Dando – 71 Valley Road,
Hazelbrook, 2783

Rhys Jones –
woodturner@pnc.com.au

Des Lane – 4751 5128

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

The Southern Highlands
Region is 10 years old this year
and will be having a
celebration day on September
25th at Bowral. Also see
brochure at front desk.

WOODTURN 2004

October 9th & 10th.

Brochures are now available at
the desk as you enter the hall.
Book early or miss out.

Please remember than **NO**
member can commit the
Region to participate in any
demonstration or event without
first presenting to the
committee. Guild approval is
also required for insurance
purposes.

Convenor

PROJECT

In this issue and coming issues
I will try to attach a project that
I would like to see at our
Sunday show & tell along with
that days theme. I would like to
keep these project items on
display for a couple of months
(you will get them back). This
bi-monthly project supplied by
Larry

Larry

**Also attached this moth is a
design of a bowl on a pedestal
that is the October theme for
show & tell.**

**PROPERTIES OF SPECIES
OF SOME WOODS CONT.**

Birch:

Medium sized hardwoods,
which are very hardy, growing
further north than any other
European tree. In very cold
regions it may be little more
than a shrub. Found from
southern France to the Arctic
in Europe, also in North
America and Asia. Heartwood
cream to pale brown generally
but in the Japanese species is
bright yellowish red. Sapwood
may not be clearly
differentiated. Texture fine and
even. Grain straight. Little
figure. Easy to work, glue and
finish. Turns and peels well.
Mainly used for plywood,
furniture, turnery, and interior
joinery.

Birch, White:

Other common name –
Crabapple.

A large hardwood of the
coastal rainforests from the
Shoalhaven River in New
South Wales to the Mackay
district in Queensland.
Heartwood variable in colour,
from off-white to pale brown,
often with pinkish or purple
streaks. The sapwood is not
distinctly different in colour
and may be up to 150mm wide.
Texture fine and even. Grain
variable. Easy to work, glues
well. Used for plywood,
furniture, turnery and interior
joinery.