

# WestTurn News

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

Issue 69, June 2005.

Western & Blue Mountains Region

Postal Address: PO Box 4008, Lalor Park, NSW 2147

e-mail: [susanjoanb@msn.com](mailto:susanjoanb@msn.com)

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

## Regional Committee 2005:

**Convenor:** Currently Vacant **Secretary:** Harry Cole **Treasurer:** Greg Maloney

**Regional Rep:** Larry Bailey 9622 6140 **Member:** Ted Edwards

**Events Co-ordination:** Urgently required volunteer is needed for the position of events Co-ordination contact for this Region. 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 Bill Swindail and Ted Edwards. Please let them know if you find any problems with any of the machinery in the hall.

**Editor:** Larry Bailey is putting the newsletter together. Articles can be e-mailed to [susanjoanb@msn.com](mailto:susanjoanb@msn.com) or give to a committee member who will pass them on to me. Don't forget that this newsletter is only as good as the contributions that you give.

**Catering Officer:** Rohan McCardell, see Rohan if you have any special needs.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

## Committees Report:

Xmas in July names to be confirmed by the end of June. Payment will be on the night. Alan has contacted Auburn Mega Mall & Castle Towers in regard to a stand at a future date. The committee will look into these as Castle Towers may not be a demo but more of a sales & video occasion (something new for us).

Some of you may know or realise that Alan has had to step down from the position of convenor due to his health. Alan will be away for about three weeks just relaxing and taking it easy and then he will be back in the position of a member of the region, so when you see him just say hello and how are you going. Thanks for your leadership in the past 10 months Alan.

## Western/Blue Mtns Region Calendar for 2005:

Third Sunday every month from 10.00am, Every Wednesday from 10.00am. Every Friday Night starting from 7.00pm.

## MAY 15

Theme for show & tell was **any item made by spindle turning**. Well not a lot of spindle turning but some good items display anyway. Alan Phelps conducted show and tell:

**Bill Moore:** had salt & pepper grinders made from Cyprus pine and two bowls one made from Sassafras and the other made from Macararpa Pine.

**Toby McIlwain;** had a goblet with several captive rings on the stem and two weeds/flowers made from various timbers and finished with shellac.

**Graham Dawes:** had an unfinished Angel from above, made from bleached Mulberry. Graham also had a hollow tennis ball as illustrated in the Australian Woodworker made from Jacarandah & Mahogany and finished with estapol.

**Des Page:** had three bowls made from Jacarandah and finished with friction polish. Des has named these his chunky bowls.

**Malcolm Clark:** had a table with turned legs of Camphor Laurel, a platter made from pine and another unknown timber, both with pyrography designs.

**Gerard Bijl:** had several turned fruits and small nut bowls made from various branch woods and finished with estapol.

**Alan Phelps:** had his sharpening system on display and some Radiata Pine that he is experimenting different stains on and some finished with friction polish.

**Bill Swindail:** had an oval bowl with wings made from Australian Red Cedar and finished with.

**Peter Calabria:** who has just joined today had several small bowls made from, Brown Mallee Burl, Red Mallee, Rosewood, Sassafras and Myrtle. Welcome Peter.

**This months raffle was won by John (Sleepy) Isemonger.**

### MAY 22

**Woodcut Tools (NZ Company). Ken Port demonstrated hollowing, bowl saving, sharpening & tool care.**

Well about 26 members and visitors turned up for this special Sunday. Ken spoke of his beginnings in woodturning in New Zealand and where it has taken him now with the company. Ken (Woodcut Tools) are not going to be at the Working with Wood Shows (WWW) as he believes he can sell his equipment easier by demonstrating it at various club venues around the country. And judging by the sales at lunchtime and after he finished he maybe right.

Ken demonstrated his sharpening jig by sharpening some of Bob Jarvis's tools. He then went onto the bowl saver where several members also had a go at this device. Now if this were at the WWW we wouldn't get the opportunity to try it. After lunch more bowl saving and then onto deep hollowing and at about 4 o'clock Ken left for the northern beaches to visit relatives.

Now I don't know about you but generally I like to try something before I spend a lot of money on the item of interest so this demonstration was good for me.

Before I forget Ken also donated a complete sharpening jig to the club.

Larry

### JUNE 19

Our guest demonstrator will be Ernie Newman. Theme for show & tell will be a vase/s. Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

### JULY 17

Bring your tools, as this will be hands on day. Theme for show & tell will be **something incorporating a turned sphere (lets see who can remember what information Gorgi Armen gave us in his demonstration)**. Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

### AUGUST 21

Our guest demonstrator will be Bill Sheen (Southern Highlands). Theme for show & tell will be **lidded boxes**. Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

### SEPTEMBER 18

Bring your tools, as this will be hands on day. Theme for show & tell will be **salt & pepper mills** Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

### OCTOBER 16

Our guest demonstrator will be Jack Butler. Theme for show & tell will be **eggs**. Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

### NOVEMBER 20

Bring your tools, as this will be hands on day. Theme for show & tell will be **Christmas decorations**. Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

### Past Demonstrations:

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

#### **Blacktown Festival: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June.**

Well what a day. About 8 members turned up to help and again what a day. It started off with our location being near the youth section which was OK as we had two entrances, one either side of our stall which afforded quite a parade of people all day. The

only real downer was the constant power failures throughout the day. Our sales from the bargain boxes went well as there was some haggling but in the end we broke them, some members still insist on giving our turning away though which defeats the purpose of our charity collection side of things.

The display was good as per usual but some items were a little below what I consider a good standard. I will be talking to the committee about having a standard even for our street stalls, similar to what we introduced for Auburn Mega Mart sales. Our turnings on the day went well even without bowls. I was asked by Toby to turn an egg as a customer wanted two and apparently we only had one in the rummage boxes. This was ok as I haven't turned many eggs and this was only the second whilst demonstrating. We then progressed with turning more eggs while one of the members asked why are we turning eggs now. It is simple. Because we can!!!!

Well what a day turned into a deafening blast from the stage as some I assume local youth groups started screeching and playing what they call music and song. I must be showing my age, as I couldn't understand what the lead singer (if you can call him a singer) was saying. The band had only four beats that just repeated it self over and over and over and over and well I guess you get the point. I even tried asking some of the people around us what they thought and I guess some just didn't hear me. It was loud. Even walking across the road didn't help much. Anyway all had another reasonably good day. Thanks to all who helped once again.

Larry

### **Working with Wood Show 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Well the \$5.00 entry was a success as I was approached several times on Friday saying thanks for organizing it. Well the thanks should ultimately go to Mik International who got in contact with me.

Well only 2 of our members helped man the stand on Friday along with members from Macarthur, Bankstown, Southern Highlands and Southern Region. I consider this a bit of a letdown but members have their own commitments. Saturday Robyn went along and caused quite a stir, as she was a bit nervous, as Robyn hasn't demonstrated in public before. Well from what I was told Robyn had the most spectators over the whole weekend with her turning small items (watch out Toby). I was even told that once Robyn got started it was hard to keep her off the lathe. I was again asked to thank Robyn, as it appeared that she had fun and from the comments given she made Saturday a great success.

The Guild display was quite good thanks to Southern Regions help with the setup. Our stand area appeared to be smaller this year but it may have been the way in which it was set up. But it still had a good variety of turnings and many a visitor asking questions, which is always promising. Mike Darlow was in attendance selling his books and Mike had a turn on the lathe which fascinated some of our members watching as he was quick to produce his turnings.

Speaking with Keith Jeeves (our show organizer) on Sunday afternoon, he indicated that all went well over the weekend except for a power outage on Friday afternoon. Well thanks to our members who gave their time to support this event.

Larry

### **Future Demonstrations:**

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

#### **Nepean Historical Society – July 17<sup>th</sup> – 9.00am start.**

See Alan for more details.

#### **St Marys Festival – September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

See Bill or Alan for details.

#### **Prospect Heritage Trust – September 18**

St Bartholomew's Church Prospect Highway.

#### **St Bernadette School Fete October 29<sup>th</sup>**

See Alan for more details

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

#### **Cadaga:**

A medium sized hardwood of north Queensland. Heartwood pale brown to chocolate brown. Sapwood distinctly paler. Texture medium. Grain often interlocked, giving a striped figure to the radial cut. Gum veins common. Relatively easy to work but difficult to glue. Used for general construction.

#### **Calantas: Other common name – kalantas.**

A medium to large Philippine hardwood, also found in Indonesia and Malaysia. Heartwood reddish brown. Sapwood narrow, paler red and distinctive. Texture moderately course. Grain often interlocked. Characteristic cedar odour. Very similar to

Australian Red Cedar. Easy to work if tools kept sharp, but can be 'woolly'. Used for furniture, panelling, joinery, decorative veneer, boatbuilding, carving.

### **Callicoma.**

A small hardwood, which is a common under storey tree in the coastal forests with high rainfall in New South Wales and southern Queensland. Heartwood pinkish brown. Sapwood distinctively paler. Texture fine and even. Grain straight. Used for turnery and craft.

### **Calophyllum: Other common name – bintango, damanu**

Large hardwoods found from south-east Asia across to Papua New Guinea and Fiji. Small amounts occur in north Queensland rainforests. Heartwood pinkish brown to reddish brown. Sapwood pale yellow to pink but not always distinct from heartwood. Texture rather course but even. Grain usually interlocked, producing a ribbon figure on the radial face. Used for general construction, flooring, joinery, veneer, turning and furniture.

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### **Have a Laugh**

While attending a marriage seminar on communication, Tom and his wife Mary listened to the instructor declare: "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other".

He addressed the men: "For instance, gentleman, can you name your wife's favourite flower?"

Tom leaned over, feeling very confident, touched his wife's arm and whispered "Self-Raising, isn't it?"

Supplied by George Wells

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**Raffle:** We intend to start a monthly raffle. That is the prize will be on display near the front door with the tickets for a whole month, so members can buy tickets at any meeting and we will have the draw at the Sunday monthly meeting. Tickets will be \$1.00 each. Please put your name on the ticket butt so if you are not at the Sunday meeting for the draw, we will know who is the winner. **Next months prize will be a Craft 18volt Cordless Drill, 2 speed, variable speed & reversible, I hour charge.**

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### **Christmas in July**

Details are; White Hart Restaurant, Cnr Windsor & Old Windsor Roads, Kellyville. \$28.00 per head + drinks to be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July. See Rohan for further details and payment.

### **Newsletters**

If you are interested in what is happening in other Regions & Woodturning/Woodworking clubs you will start to see copies of their newsletter on the notice board. Please read by all means but don't forget to put it back for others.

### **Projects – Themes**

If you wish to help me and you would like a special project or theme please let me know.

Larry

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### **"I CAN HEAR JUST FINE!"**

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other, "Windy, isn't it?" "No," the second man replied, "it's Thursday." And the third man chimed in, "So am I. Let's have a beer."

Supplied by Anna Dawes

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### **Can Woodturning be Safe**

The improper use of woodturning equipment and tools can make turning a very dangerous hobby. We are all guilty of breaking or bending the rules. Things like not checking the speed of a lathe before tuning it on or turning with the chuck above the recommended speed.

It is the responsibility of every member to make sure that he or she has the **required knowledge** and **skills** and that he or she is taking **every step possible** to make **woodturning safe**, for everyone around them. Rules and safety guidelines or recommendations of manufacturers to the proper use of equipment are given so as serious injury is kept to a zero level.

### **Some guidelines to safe woodturning**

1. Do I have the right clothing on for turning, i.e. no loose clothing, the right footwear, if you have long hair then tie it back out of the way. Jewellery or any other objects that may get entangled in the lathe or work are removed.
2. Have I checked the speed of the lathe? If someone else has used the lathe before you, it could be set to a higher speed than you need for working. Particularly if what you are about to turn is out of round.

3. The wood I'm going to turn has it any splits or cracks that may cause problems or if the piece is glued that the joints are not substandard and may fly apart when turned causing injury. If turning green timber have I told everyone that may be allergic to or affected by the dust? Some timbers are: - Silky Oak, Cypress Pine or Rosewood to name a few.
4. Prior to turning on the lathe. Set the tool rest to suite the work being done. Rotate the work by hand to check that it clears the tool rest and the lathe bed. Check that the tailstock is in place and all locking devices are locked. If you need to move the tool rest than stop the lathe, move the rest and turn the lathe on again.
5. Are my tools sharp? For without sharp tools you are putting undue force on the work piece making it possible for the work piece to become a flying object, with the possibility of injuring someone and more than likely "yourself"
6. Use the right tool for the job that it is designed for i.e. never use a roughing gouge on bowls. It is designed to be used on spindle work or use a scraper instead of a bowl gouge to take out the main part of the bowl. It is designed for finishing your work before sanding or instead of sanding.
7. We have all attended demonstrations watching long-term amateurs and professional turners. Their ability and skill level has taken years to perfect. When demonstrating they can make turning things look easy. Your capabilities may not be to their level and can prove dangerous when trying something new in a hall full of people. If you wish to try new things in turning, then do them in your own workshop and take every step possible to make it save.
8. Never leave a lathe or other machine running unattended. Turn the machine off before walking away. Take precautions to prevent serious injury. Use **common sense** when working and if you're unsure about how to do something than ask one of the teachers or someone with the knowledge needed to carry out the work.

These are some of the things we all need to take notice of. There is a lot more that could be written on safety. A gun by its self never injured anyone. It's the inexperience of the person using the gun. The same with a lathe, by itself never hurt anyone. The capabilities and inexperience of the person using the lathe is the one responsible.

It is up to you, to make sure you known as much as possible to turn safely. If needed, take classes and learn from the teachers and practice as much as possible. Listen to the more experience turners and take notice of what they say. Don't think just because you read it in a book or magazine you know how to turn.

**You expect others to work safe around you, then other club members should expect the same from you.**

If you have a problem with safety in the hall please tell someone on the committee.

Bill Swindail

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Ken Port's demo at Lalor Park  
by Alec Bendeli

I was able to attend recently a demo by Ken Port from NZ (manager of Woodcut and maker of the bowlsaver). The following article is not an endorsement or advertisement for Woodcut tools but just a news report. Members will have to make their own judgment as to the suitability of any product for their intended use.

Ken Port is fairly fluent and an enjoyable raconteur. I loved his NZ accent and we listened to his anecdotes and how Woodcut was started, his current status and how he set up a small factory in the North Island before moving to Matamata. His intro lasted about one hour and it was informative because you get to know the person's background and his progress in marketing the various gadgets he manufactures and the philosophy imparted in his tools. His tools are ready to use whereas many other manufacturers supply a rough ground gouge and allow the user to profile it to their own requirement. His main aim was in part a sales pitch by directly marketing to woodturning clubs around Australia rather than via agencies. Thus his current purpose is to visit as many clubs as he can rather than attend commercial shows. He is offering some discount to woodturning club members and he has a new "secure" website for internet orders. Clients' credit card details are used once to generate an order and are automatically erased once the order has been processed. Tools were available for sale during the demo at a reduced once-off special price. So if you are in the market for a Woodcut tool, attending one of his demos would be a good opportunity.

Being a toolmaker by trade, he stressed the virtues of having a jig to repeatedly and precisely obtain a uniform result. He used to sharpen all his production tools by hand and the introduction of the jig made sharpening a simpler and faster process. He then proceeded to demonstrate his sharpening jig, which appears to be a copy of Gorgi's Unijig, and according to Ken, he was not there to praise or criticize any other jig except to say that the original concept was developed by Jerry Glaser (the Joystick). Indeed Ken visited J. Glaser and discussed his improvements and he also had long conversations with Gorgi Armen. Ken claims the Woodcut jig (which is patented) is cheaper and easier to manufacture. I understood that it was able to fit a larger variety of tools because of the V-shape of the holder and it could also be pivoted on a second pivot point rather than the pivot at one extremity only. Furthermore, the clamping mechanism being smaller and easier to grasp does not crash into some of the large grinder motors. The

clamping forged brass knob is certainly thinner and easier to turn especially for some older members who have arthritis. In my opinion, that is the main improvement. One can always incrementally improve on concepts. He demonstrated his jig by sharpening several tools belonging to members. He also demonstrated a T-bar diamond dresser that he manufactures.

The second item was his bowlsaver that he demonstrated and asked for volunteers to come and hold and feel the handle's pressure while gouging into a bowl. He explained that the aim was to concentrate on saving the main bowl rather than extracting the maximum out of the lump of wood. His philosophy is that any extra bowl saved is a bonus as it was going to be shavings anyway. Thus do not try and extract four bowls to the detriment of ruining your main bowl. Certainly the demonstration was a well-explained narrative on the use of the tool, as many of us could not decipher the original written instructions and the video he originally produced.

To gauge the bowl depth and define the cut, he showed us an MDF template to simplify the bowlsaver's setting. The MDF was shaped like a huge Vernier caliper permanently set at 150mm. I volunteered to push the handle into the cut and also asked Ken to explain to the audience another detail that still escaped me then. He must have had a lot of customer feedback because he has released a new video describing the bowlsaver's use and it's setting up.

The next item to demo was his set of deep hollowing tools (straight and gooseneck) and he proceeded to make a huge goblet to show the use of the tool and the long extendable handle available to provide stability to the tool. I particularly liked the brass depth-of-cut gauge he has mounted at the end of the tool. It certainly cut fairly cleanly. Like most of his new HSS tips, this one is held in place with industrial strength Loctite or CA glue. I think that the tool shape is very similar to the Soren Berger hollowing tool.

The photo shows Ken near the completion of the giant goblet he turned using his deep hollowing tool. In the foreground is the main bowl extracted using the bowlsaver and on the right is the slide and pivot for the Woodcut sharpening jig.



### **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.

**End Sealer** - \$4.00 per litre.

**Scrapers & Parting Tools** –Range of round & square end \$30.00 ea.  
Please see Bill Swindail if you wish to make a purchase.

**Wood** – as priced on the rack on the stage.

**Friction Polish** – priced to bottle size.

**Swindail Gouge;** \$50.00 made upon request only.

**FREE TIMBER-** Kiln Dried: Contact Clive Hales 4653 1070 Frank Hicks 4655 7295. Take what is given. Various species – Tassie Oak, Myrtle, Cherry etc.

**Ladies Days:** Date 30 July.

**Bowls for Any Event Plus!**

Don't forget if you are not turning anything in particular think about turning one of our blanks.

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**Every man can relate to this!**

A man asked his wife what she'd like for her birthday. "I'd love to be eight again." she replied. On the morning of her birthday, he arose early, made her a nice big bowl of Coco Pops, and then took her off to the local theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park: the Death Slide, the Wall of Fear, the Screaming Monster Roller Coaster, every thing there was. Five hours later she staggered out of the theme park. Her Head was reeling and her stomach felt upside down. Right away, they journeyed to a McDonald's where her loving Husband ordered her: a Happy Meal with extra fries and a refreshing chocolate shake. Then it was off to the movies: the latest Star Wars epic, a hot dog, popcorn, all the Coke she could drink, and her favourite lolly, M&M's. What a fabulous adventure! Finally she wobbled home with her Husband and collapsed into bed exhausted. He leaned over his precious wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, "Well, Dear, what was it like being eight again?" Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed. "I meant my dress size, you idiot"  
The moral of the story: Even when a man is listening, he's gonna get it wrong.

Supplied by Larry Bailey

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**PAPA'S JUNIOR APPRENTICE**



What's in Papa's Shed? "Chisels"

This is the response from John Isemonger's, 22-month-old grandson Daniel.

What does Papa make? "Shavings"

John believes in "training them young" by letting Daniel get the feel and smell of the wood.

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**Ladies Day**

9 ladies gathered at the hall last month for another ladies turning day. We all had a lesson on tool sharpening and jig set up (thanks Bill for teaching us) and then we ventured into making our own tools. With a bit of experimenting and a lot of noise a few nails were bent into hollowing tools for miniature work. Then it was back to the grinder to sharpen them into a workable angle before testing them out on making small hollowed spinning tops. The final testing was the race of the tops seeing which top would spin the longest.

Some of the women tried their hand at multi centred tuning to fashion a Lady and others were content with testing their hollowing tools on miniature bowls.

The other exciting part of the day was the news that our collaborative table sold at the Hunters Hill art and craft exhibition. Much discussion evolved around what to do with the money and what would build our collaborative skills. The decision was made to buy some wood and give each person the same piece and see what different creations evolve.



I have a favour to ask if anyone has free time and wants a little project to do. I work in a school with disabled children and am currently the teachers' aide for a group of 8 autistic boys. There is one toy which is their favourite which is a series of ramps in which a ball wooden rolls down. The big problem is we have only 4 balls and 8 boys and sometimes one of those balls gets lost, now if you are any good at maths you can work out that 4 divided by eight doesn't go! if anyone would like to make a little ball 32mm. diameter it would be greatly appreciated. The more the merrier

thanks Robyn

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### Blue Mountains Woodturning Symposium 2005

The Blue Mountains Woodturning Symposium 2005 is being held on 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October 2005. The venue is Emu Heights Primary School, Wedmore Road Emu Heights (just west of Penrith NSW – at the foot of the Blue Mountains).

Eighteen International and National Demonstrators will provide a weekend of turning fascination.

Attendance number will be limited so early enrolment is recommended. Please see the brochures in the hall.

From the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc Web Page.

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### TURNING CLASSES

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**.

**Please note that due to requirements under the child protection act we cannot teach children under the age of 21.**

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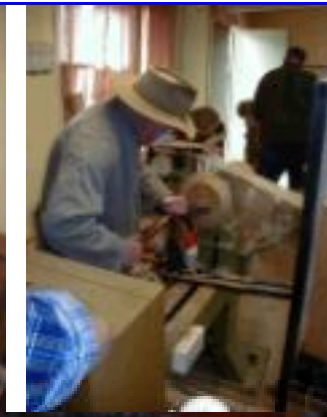
Please remember that **NO** member can commit the Region to participate in any demonstration or event without first presenting to the committee. Guild approval is also required for insurance purposes.

**Convenor**

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### Some images from the last Sunday meeting.





**This months project is from the newsletter of the Hampshire Woodturners Association**

**MONTHLY PROJECTS** by Ian Woodford

**Cheese board and knife.**

There can be many variations on a theme with this project but we will look at three basic designs and I'll leave it entirely up to you, which one you make. The first is a basic board whilst the other two require a tile. There are two important points to consider which, if ignored, could ruin the end result.

1. Make sure the timber is well seasoned or if in doubt, rough turn first and leave to settle before finishing.
2. Use a flexible adhesive such as bathroom and kitchen sealant to glue the tile otherwise any movement in the wood could result in a broken tile.

The three designs are shown below in profile. The first two require a blank approximately 250mm in diameter by about 30mm thick whilst the third is 300mm by 50mm. The tiles are 150mm and 200mm respectfully. Sycamore, ash or beeches are very suitable for these boards. The first design is a simple board and sycamore is a good wood for this. Attach the blank to a glue chuck, sturdy screw chuck or face plate and true up what will be the underside. Make a recess to suit your chuck and sand to a finish. Apply food safe oil. Once the oil has been allowed to soak in for a few minutes, sand it in with 320 grit and then buff it with kitchen paper. Reverse onto your chuck and true the edge. Now true the face and then apply a simple edge design. Sand in the same manner as before and allow the oil to dry. A further application of oil the following day will finish it nicely.

The second board is made in the same way except that a recess is cut to allow the insertion of a 200mm tile. Cut this recess so that the tile just sits above the board's surface and also with a very slight gap around the edge. Don't oil the area to which the tile is fixed otherwise poor adhesion will result. Glue in the tile with flexible adhesive.

The third board is again made in the same way except that a recess is cut around a 150mm tile so that biscuits can be displayed with the cheese. Cheese knife blades can be bought from the usual sources and require a simple wooden handle in which to glue it. This is made from a piece of timber about 150mm long by 25mm square. The first job is to drill a hole into one end to take the blade's tang. Make the hole the same diameter as the tang but slightly longer. Drilling on the lathe is probably the easiest to control, as you don't want the drill bit to wander off line. Mark the centre of each end with the drill bit held in a Jacob's chuck mounted in the headstock bring up the tailstock. Place the blank between the bit and revolving centre and holding the blank firmly, switch on the lathe at a fairly low speed. Drill to the appropriate depth by turning the tailstock hand wheel. Mount the blank between centres with the drilled end supported by the revolving centre. Turn the handle and finish with oil in the same way as the board. Glue in the blade and you now have a gift that will grace any dining room table

