

WestTurn News

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

Issue 54, March 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 **Bill Swindail** if you would like to know what is currently available from our regional 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.**

Thanks to **Allan Kirkland** and **Bob Jarvis** for volunteering their time in the past.

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 **6th April**.

Committee Report:

The committee has agreed to collect member's renewal fees and send a single cheque once a month (this is not compulsory).

The committee to contact Peninsula Region as to how they organise their market days.

BOWLS FOR EASTER.

These bowls are to be filled with small Easter eggs and given to the children at Blacktown, Mt Druitt and Nepean Hospitals. (About 120).

Please donate your time and timber to produce bowls of

about 100mm. Also remember which finish you are putting on, as it must be suitable for children. It won't hurt to have more bowls than required.

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.

FEBRUARY 15

Kaye Paton/June McKimmie & Anna Dawes.

Twenty odd members & visitors turned up early, with our lady turners anxious to start their demonstration. Kaye was first up with a nutcracker hammer, made to fit in a peanut butter jar, a project she uses for school kids. Kay also handed around a jar she made with a decorative wood lid that fitted the jar and made it quite useful.

June was next with a Yellow Box Burl turned on the outside. After mounting on the lathe she faced the top and commenced to make a potpourri bowl, using her special secret weapon, which turned out to be a special tool rest made to go inside the bowl

& a small round end scraper so as the scraper has a minimum of over hang reducing almost all the chatter of the tool and no dig in giving a very smooth finish.. On completion June finished the bowl with Organ Oil a Hard Burnishing Oil, which gave a nice texture. This was then handed around for all to see.

After lunch and show & tell, Anna showed us how to use small plastic containers, how to reduce their size for special jobs. About this stage the temperature was on the rise, I decide to call it a day leaving the girls still at it. Well done it was informative and an interesting day. Hope we continue to have more days like it.

Graham Murray

Theme for show and tell was Personal Favourites s and was conducted by Ted Edwards.

June McKimmie – had a silky oak lidded bowl finished with organ oil, a miniature vase made from a tagua nut with no finish and a red gum dish finished in organ oil and ebonizing of gold paint.

Sid Churchwood - had a support for a table leg made from hardwood with no finish.

Mike Harvey - had a compote made from pine & blackbutt finished with friction polish, a goblet made from pallet material again finished with friction polish and a echidna (slim) of unknown timber. Well done Mike as these were your first show and tell items.

Toby McIlwain – well what can I say a total of 29 items as listed:-

(Item, wood, finish, components)

Tea Service:

- 1 Teapot, jacaranda, estapol, 5
- 2 Cup & saucer, jacaranda, estapol, 3
- 2 Cup & saucer, azalea, estapol, 3
- 1 Jug, jacaranda, estapol, 2
- 1 sugar bowl & spoon, azalea, estapol, 3
- 1 Cookie barrel, red gum, estapol, 2
- 1 Tray with handles, jacaranda, 1
- 3 Cookies, Tas. Oak/red gum, n/f, 9
- 1 Cake platter, jacaranda, estapol, 1
- 1 Pie, jacaranda, shellac, 2
- 2 Plates, camphor laurel, shellac, 2
- 1 Cake slice, Tas. Oak, n/f, 1
- 1 Cake fork, melaleuca, shellac
- 1 cake knife, melaleuca, shellac, 1
- 1 Round tray, jacaranda, shellac, 1

Wine Service:

- 1 Wine bottle, bloodwood, shellac, 1
- 2 Wine glasses, melaleuca, shellac, 2
- 1 Round tray, English oak, shellac, 1
- 1 Goblet tree 20mm high, jacaranda, shellac, 5
- 1 Goblet (60x1mm) c/w captive ring and stand, camphor laurel, shellac, 3
- 1 Offset crank/captive rings, camphor laurel, shellac, 6
- 1 Offset crankshaft, c/w 5 captive rings, melaleuca, shellac, 6
- 1 Goblet with captive ring, bone, n/f (Small print for small items)

MARCH 21

Bring your tools as this will be a hands on day. **Theme for show & tell will be Vases / Lamps.**

Please fill out the green slip so this person knows who did what.

APRIL 18

David Laird & Tom Cattell will be demonstrating oval turning. **Theme for show & tell will be Off Centre Turning.**

MAY 16

Bring your tools as this will be a hands on day. **Theme for show & tell will be something under 50mm.**

JUNE 20

Swap meet. **Theme for show & tell will be a Gavel.**

JULY 18

Bring your tools as this will be a hands on day. **Theme for show & tell will be Spoons / Ladles**

AUGUST 15 - OUR AGM

Bruce Leadbeatter will be demonstrating. **Theme for show & tell will be Laminated / Segmented Turnings**

Past Demonstrations:

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

February 11- 15

Stitches & Craft Show at Rosehill Racecourse.

Again we demonstrated at this show. To summarise the five days, everything went well. I must compliment the show organisers, they certainly do a professional job and the actual show is well worth seeing. We managed to man our stall with a group of people every day and three ladies turned up on Friday. To do this we are pulling on the resources of only about 30 active members, for five days in a row. So lets give ourselves a pat on the back. Bloody good effort.

The public was fairly impressed by our efforts judging by the interest shown and the amount of enquiries received about learning woodturning. Special thanks to Larry, for the hand out pamphlets, they are very professional.

We had a reasonable display of our work and on Sunday Larry brought along some of his work, which almost doubled the size.

It would be nice to have a more comprehensive coverage of our work. Rohan suggested that we have a display board showing the stages of construction of Pens. Then somebody on the lathe actually turning a pen and doing the final assembly. We then offer the finished product to the people for a \$10 to \$15 donation into the tin. Great Idea, but again, somebody has to do the hard yards, and organise and run the show. We would need a lot more room for the display. Anyhow this is something to think about. A special thanks to Bob for getting all the gear to and from the venue.

Alan Phelps

Future Demonstrations:

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

March 20
Cancer Day For
Life, to Kings
Oval, see
Alan more
information.

March, 27 & 28

Dutch Festival, Dunheved Circuit, Dunheved. This has been a regular event for our region. Setup on Friday 26th.

June 19-20, 26-27 July 3-4

We have been asked to participate with the Peninsula Region at Auburn Mega Mart once again. Display items for sale are required. Please note that all items should be of a good quality. It is expected that if you wish to sell items that you attend at least one of the days and help with the stand. For more details please see Bill Swindail.

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 - \$10.00 per 250 ml. Bottle.

Scrapers & Parting Tools

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

The Story of Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

Once upon a time there were four men named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. But Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it. But Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about it, because it was

Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, and Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody and Nobody did the job that Anybody could have done in the first place.

AT LAST REPORT, THESE FOUR MEN WERE STILL ARGUING AND THE JOB THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO DO STILL WASN'T DONE.

George Wells

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 Monday or Thursday nights please see:

Bill Swindail.

WOODTURN 2004

Brochures are now available at the desk as you enter the hall. This has been a great event in the past.

Wood Finishing By Alan Phelps

This article is continued from last month's newsletter-

The mid 50's was the end of the era of Australian Red Cedar being used as a fit out timber. I did some work with this wood and even up to today I feel that Cedar was one of the most beautiful timbers, great to look at and easy to work with plus beautiful to sand and

polish. Occasionally a very old car would come in that was being retired and we used to strip every bit of cedar out of it for foreign orders. Most of the cars were finished in hard Queensland Maple, one of the best Aust. Cabinet timbers ever, and is now almost unavailable. Again a beautiful timber to work with and sands up beautifully especially if the grain had what is known as Fiddle Back figuring, absolutely beautiful. We also used a lot of Silky Oak, mildly difficult to work and sand, but when finished looks great. Other timbers used in carriage work was Coachwood, probably my favorite, Tallow wood, Mountain Ash, Brush Box all sorts of Aust. Hardwoods. In some of the older carriages the structural framing was made from Indian Teak, which was supposed to be the finest teak in the world. Where possible we used to pinch this for foreign orders. Anyhow, back to finishing. There was always a thin film of varnish and rubbish left in the pores of the timber, so we used to scrape this off first, mostly with metal cabinet scrapers which was a small rectangular piece of tool steel 150 x 50 and about 2mm thick. This was sharpened to a square edge, which was then turned into a burred edge by stroking along the edge with a hardened steel rod, and it finished up with a burr similar to a Woodturners scraper. We also had a special scraper called a file scraper. These were made by our Blacksmiths from old large files. They used to anneal them, then put a 90 Deg, bend in the end about 50 mm back so they were an L shape. These were then sharpened again in a similar manner to our turning

scrapers with a burr. They were then dragged along with the grain to give a very fine scraping cutting action to remove a very fine shaving of wood. I still have a couple of them and I say they are still the best wood scrapers ever, even with our modern day technology.

We started sanding, generally with hand held wood blocks about 125 x 75 faced with cork. We started with 80 grit garnet paper to get rid of most of the marks, progressed up thru 100 grit and finished with the approx. equivalent of 120 grit. Now in those days there was no modern day abrasives. The 80 grit was garnet paper that was OK but the other two grades were glass paper called Fine 2 and Fine 1. This was terrible stuff to use, it didn't last long and didn't cut very well and required a lot of elbow grease to get a good result.

After we finished the painters would move in. They would fill the grain with a brown wood filler, rub it in by hand with cotton waste and then finally rub off with the same. This gave a good semi stained filled grain to varnish. Now these blokes were top tradesmen, they could do a hand brushed finish that looked like a spray job, no faults, brush marks or dust spots. Now the varnish was the old resin based type and was called body varnish, made by the painters in the paint shop, as was the filler. The railways were self sufficient and made most of their own paints. Clear Polyurethanes did not start to come in till much later.

When I first started wood turning I thought I knew a lot about finishing, as per usual I was wrong.

To be continued next month.

Some Quotes

“The need to produce a great work of art makes it hard to produce any art at all.”

Julia Cameron

“Inspiration may be a form of super consciousness, or perhaps of subconsciousness – I wouldn't know. But I am sure it is the antithesis of self-consciousness.”

Aaron Copland

**NOTHING DIES HARDER
THAN A BAD IDEA.**

Anna Dawes

Please remember than **NO** one 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 show & tell along with that days theme. I would like to keep these project items on display for a couple of months, so bring them in as you finish them (you will get them back). This months project supplied by Anna Dawes.

Larry

News

Breony Delforce is getting married, and moving to Scotland with her husband. Our best wishes go with you. Good luck and good turning.