

# WestTurn News

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

Issue 62, November 2004.

Western & Blue Mountains Region

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## Regional Committee 2004:

**Convenor:** Alan Phelps  
9631 6381

**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](mailto:susanjoanb@msn.com) or give to a committee member who will pass them on to me.

**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 **7th December**.

## Committees Report:

The committee agreed that this years Christmas party will be subsidised by members only paying \$5.00 per head and the Region would pay the rest.

Please remember that the committee minutes + the Guild minutes are posted on the notice board each month.

## 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.

## OCTOBER 17th

Theme for show & tell was a **Bowl on a Pedestal. Col Herbert conducted show & tell.**

**John Malysiak;** had a bowl on a pedestal made from Australian red cedar with a finish of sprayed estapol.

**Hermann Schmidt:** had several items, two large weed pots made from mill offcuts he had obtained one finished with friction polish and the other with oil, a bowl made from beech with a myrtle rim finished with friction polish, a fruit bowl on a pedestal made from rosewood and finished with friction polish. Herman also had the fruit (wooden), which he had purchased from the Cairns woodturners. Another well done for a relative beginner in woodturning,

**Des Page:** had a two items on display one being a bowl on a pedestal made from walnut and camphor laurel the other being a cake stand again made from walnut and camphor laurel and both finished with EEE friction polish.

**Graham Murray:** had a pedestal bowl made from silky oak and finished with EEE and friction polish.

**Mike Harvey;** had a flour grader man copied from a plastic flour grader man made from pine but as yet not finished. Mike was talking about this man so I asked him to bring it in and show me. It doesn't matter where you get the ideas from as long as you explore new things in turning. Well-done Mike.

**Alan Phelps:** had quit a few items on display: a platter, a pedestal platter and a raised platter all made from Sydney blue gum, a silky oak bowl on a pedestal, several candle stick lamps made from cedar and several candle stick holders made from pine but stained and all finished with friction polish.

**George Wells:** had a pedestal bowl made from silky oak and hand painted Christmas theme and a painted black rim finished with clear estapol.

**Bob Jarvis:** had a bowl on a pedestal made from silky oak, tallow wood, cyprus pine and an unknown pine finished with a clear lacquer.

**Larry Bailey:** had a laminated bowl on a pedestal made from jarrah and finished with friction polish.

**Barry Logan:** had a pine pedestal platter finished with friction polish. Again well done for one of our newer members.

**Sid Churchward:** had two items, one being a bowl on a pedestal made from silky oak and the other a pot pourri bowl made from Queensland maple both finished with friction polish.

**Gerhard Bijl:** had a ladle he has he has been experimenting with made from pine. It was about 300mm long with a lot of hand carved finish. Well done and keep experimenting.

### **NOVEMBER 21st**

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

### **DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>**

This will be our Christmas party. The cost will be \$5.00 per head (members & their visitors). All

monies to be paid by 5<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Past Demonstrations:**

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

#### **Nil to report.**

### **Future Demonstrations:**

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

**Auburn Mega Mall** – 4 & 5 December, and 18, & 19 December (Weekend only). Remember that top quality goods are required for sale and display.

### **Demonstration by Col Herbert, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October.**

Well Col had everybody laughing and guessing when he opened his demonstration by saying that he was not a turner but a machinist. Col used the tekna-tool 1500 on the floor rather than the 3000 on the stage as Col wanted people to see at close range what he was doing. This worked out fine.

Col was demonstrating cabriole legs, which he brought several samples and a jewellery box with cabriole legs (small at about 15mm tall). Ted Edwards was assisting with gluing the wings on as Col finished a leg. He made it seem so easy when in his early days Col had to turn several dozen (forget the figure Col mentioned) in a day. His energy at the lathe was amazing, with timber spinning, shavings flying and questions in abundance, Col just took it all in his stride. Stopping if you had a question that needed you to see what the chisel was doing.

Col then progressed to the bandsaw where he demonstrated how to cut some of the wings while attached to the legs and then

back to the bench where he started to shape some with a spoke shave.

All in all a very good day and for those who could not attend the video will be available and there are some samples of legs finished on the day in the hall. Thanks also to Ted for helping Col with his demonstration.

Larry



### **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.

**Bowl Gouge** - \$35.00

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

### **FRUIT WOODS CAN BE SWEET.**

Article from Australian Woodworker Nov/Dec 87. The Timber Page. By Maurice Passmore.

In the quest for something unusual, many woodturners cast their eyes around their everyday environment and must wonder if the wood from fruit trees is worth a try.

With some obvious exceptions (Mango, for example) these trees all suffer from two major defects.

The first is that they are only found in small sizes and the second that they can be very prone to splitting.

While little can be done about the first, there are some ways of reducing the second:

- a) Letting the tree dry out intact, roots and all. This involves digging (or preferably pulling) the tree out of the ground especially at a time when it is half dead anyhow.
- b) Letting the wood season underwater in, say, a dam or even a swimming pool.

All logs have natural stresses built up in them and this approach allows these stresses to be at least partially relieved before cutting.

It is interesting to note that the outer layers or rings of a tree are slightly shorter than those at the centre. This means that some very large tension stresses are set up within the trunk of every tree. This is the fundamental cause of the 'spring' seen when logs are sawn.

Whilst the following is not intended as a complete list, it is a guide to some of the more common fruit tree woods that have been found to be good to work. If you decide to give any of these a try, it is recommended that that the article (turning) is fully finished immediately so as to ensure that it is thoroughly sealed.

**Apple:** The wood is rather bland, with little feature, but the pale colour may be desirable. Unfortunately, it is often faulty and probably not worth the effort.

**Apricot:** The wood is soft and the trees commonly suffer from fungal attack. The colour, however, is particularly good, becoming darker with the age of the tree from orange to dark brown.

**Avocado:** Tropical fruit trees are usually available in larger sizes, which is a big help. The light creamy brown colour of the avocado is attractive and the "oak like" grain is a useful feature, which can be utilised.

**Cherry:** Well known for making pipes and small items, this is one of the more desirable woods. The best colour is to be found in the roots, however so get the whole tree if possible.

Splitting is always a problem, but the rich colour and grain make it worthwhile.

**Fig:** The wood is white and very soft. Stick to eating the fruit.

**Lemon:** Most citrus tree woods are similar. Lemon is quite pale; the wood has a close texture with a waxy feel and, being easy to work, is well worth a try.

**Mango:** Never let the opportunity of obtaining wood from a Mango tree pass by. The colour varies from pale cream, in the younger wood, to grey brown in the more mature. But it is the grain pattern, which is its main feature, and there is a slight ripple that can be enhanced also.

**Mulberry:** The yellow mustard wood with distinct stripes make this a desirable log to collect.

**Olive:** One of the best woods available, being stable and good to work. Pale, with many unusual features and colours, it is, unfortunately, hard to find especially in the larger sizes where the wood becomes almost black in places.

**Orange:** Similar to all citrus, with the colour resembling that of Sassafras.

**Peach:** The wood is soft and mostly faulty, being similar to Apricot to work. There are some interesting colours varying from orange brown to a rich dark brown with solid pieces.

**Pear:** The wood is similar to that of the Apple but larger sizes can be found. In general, it is pale, blond wood, which is easy to work.

**Persimmon:** Whilst uncommon, it is worth a mention, being of the same genus – DIOSPYROS – as the world's ebonies. In fact, the North American Ebony (D.Virginia) is often used as rootstock for this unusual fruit.

**Supplied by Ted Edwards**

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**Hello everyone!!**

Hope these work - finally got some of our wedding pics on to the computer.

Let me know how everything is going - not too much exciting news here....

[breony\\_delforce@hotmail.com](mailto:breony_delforce@hotmail.com)

Talk to you all soon!!

Love,  
Breony.



Speaking of woodwork... getting nothing done at all. The closest I get is buying my woodturning mags every month, but we are looking for a new house, and hopefully we will get a house with a shed. There was a lathe for sale with a few bit and bobs for £150.... thought about buying it, but I know Graeme would have been upset as the only place for it was our living room  
) Worth a try, I thought!!  
So that's all my exciting news - nothing fabulous. Hopefully I will get these photo's on and you will be hearing from me again very soon. Tell all the boys I said hi, and thanks for the pic - liked them very much!! Keep Ted out of trouble.....  
Take care, lots of love,  
Breony.

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### **Blue Mountains Woodturning Challenge**

Saturday April 16 at Blaxland High School (Coughlan Road, Blaxland) 9am to 4pm.

**Exhibition Challenge:** each club to bring work turned by at least three club members (We won this on the first challenge). All work to be turned since the 2003 challenge.

**Hands-on Challenge:** Each club may enter a team of three or more people. Each team will have one hour on the day.

**Individuals:** are welcome to display up to 3 turnings in addition to those on their club's table. (Larry won a prize in this area on the first challenge).

So if you are interested see a committee member and we will organise something.

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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** or **Alan Phelps**.

**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 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.

**Convener**

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### **Christmas Raffle**

George Wells has kindly donated a toolbox. Ticketes are available at a \$1.00 each. Please see Alan Phelps or one of the committee members.