

WestTurn News

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

Issue 60, September 2004.

Western & Blue Mountains Region

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

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

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 **5th October.**

Convenors Report:

Thanks for electing me as convenor. I could not have been taking over at a better time. The region has never been in better shape thanks to my predecessor's and everybody's efforts.

The committee will shortly be working on a program for the year. I cannot see the format changing. Sunday will be our main demonstration day and Wednesday our hands on day. Classes have started again on Monday nights and we are open two Friday nights per month. We propose to start

some hands on classes for specific items to be turned, on a Saturday. These will be for everybody who is interested, not just beginners and novices, but also for experienced turners.

We will still be doing outside demonstrations. We are also organising a Market Day for our wares at Auburn Mega Mall. This will probably be in December, so start making items for sale now and remember that to sell to the public the standard has to be good. If anybody has an idea we can use for our benefit please speak up. Do you know somebody who can demonstrate anything allied to Woodturning or Woodworking, please let me know. A few ideas would be great.

I note that the general atmosphere around the group has improved. Everybody is friendly and helpful plus very relaxed, and that's how it should be. If you have any problems at all see me and we will discuss the situation privately.

Our membership has dropped from around a 100 down to 76. I am not concerned. I feel that around 60 to 90 members is a comfortable number and we have acquired a few new members over the last year. The overall membership in the guild has dropped from around 850 down to around 550. This is quite substantial. I don't

know what the reason is and I am not concerned. Its something you cannot control. At this stage we don't intend to buy any more equipment or lathes but if the need arises we will.

Bill has been restocking, reorganising and expanding the store with all sorts of ancillary items for everybody's benefit. We are currently purchasing more books and tapes for the library.

We now have our new/second hand video system operating OK.

Our newsletter is getting bigger and better all the time.

Plus we have a lot of consumable items for sale.

It looks like that there will be changes in how the Guild is structured. We have endorsed the proposal from the Guild committee in principal but with a few questions to be answered. In time we may become a separate Club completely self-managed. Its mostly up to you guys to what you want. At this stage there is no hurry about making a decision.

Anyhow that's all for now
So keep the bevel rubbing.

Alan Phelps

***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**

AUGUST 15th

**Theme for show & tell was
Laminated / Segmented
Turnings. Larry Bailey
conducted show and tell.**

A little disappointing with only
5 items displayed and 3 from
the one person.

George Wells: had two
camphor laurel candlesticks
(with the bottoms finished),
and finished with estapol. A
segmented bowl made from
pacific maple & cedar finished
in estapol.

Graeme Osborne: had a
square edged bowl of African
Wendge finished with danish
oil. This is Graeme's first item
for show & tell. Well done.

Des Page: had a laminated
bowl/platter made from
building form ply finished in
EEE. As Des explained he had
considerable trouble with tear
out of the grain.

SEPTEMBER 19th

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

OCTOBER 17th

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

NOVEMBER 21st

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

DECEMBER 12th

This will be our Christmas
party.

Past Demonstrations:

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

**Blacktown North Public
School. August 28.**

It was a good day; the weather
was good and sunny. There
were four guys, Toby, Tony,
Bob and Neil. The location we
had was fairly good. It was in a
small grove of trees so it was
lovely and shady all day. We
had a very good display,
mostly items belonging to the
guys and there was a steady
stream of lookers all day.
Unfortunately nobody was
interested in spending any
money, all we sold was about 5
whistles which bought in
\$10.00, which we donated to
the school. We had a lot of
enquiries about becoming
members. Anyhow we finished
about 3pm and all had a good
day.

**St Marys Festival. September
4.**

This is the largest demo I have
been to. Half the main street of
St Marys was closed off and
full of stalls down both sides of
the street. There were
thousands of people coming
thru all day. There was John
M, Big Bob, Neil and Rob one
of our newer members and
myself. We set up around
8.30am; we had one table with
a reasonable display of items. I
feel we must improve on the
quality of items, as the people
seemed very interested in our
work. Unfortunately nobody

was interested in buying, so we ended up at the end of the day with \$2.40 in the donation tin. We had a fair few inquiries about joining the Guild and one inquiry about doing another demo. The day was fairly busy; at one stage we had people about 4 deep watching. We finished about 3pm and we packed up and went home at 4pm.

Alan Phelps

Peninsula Open Day – Sun 12 August

What a great day. The weather was lovely and sunny but with some wind. Well the boys and girls over there put on a good show. Their entertaining facilities are a Club bar that was used for the old Bowling Club, which was ideal for a day like this. Their workshop is a couple of old garages they have refitted out and they have crammed a lot into a small space but the whole area is very workable.

There were various demos all day and Graham & Anna showed their skills. Graham was demonstrating his Pluck a Duck turnings. There was a good display of work. We were very well represented in numbers of members there, as were some of the other Regions. The guys ran a good raffle with a lot of prizes. Their wives did their catering and it looks like they copied our Rohan's style of catering (some may say it was the other way around). We met a lot of members from other Regions in a very amiable and friendly atmosphere. So good day was had by all.

Alan Phelps

Future Demonstrations:

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

Auburn Mega Mall – Date to be confirmed. Hoping for December (Weekend only).

Sunday 15/8/04 Demo Aaron Ehrlich

Aaron arrived early at the hall with all his goodies unloaded & filled a table full. After a cuppa the demo commenced Aaron's opening statement woodturning should be fun, with that he showed us his version of the two tins & String phone made from two goblets, the on to a electronic telephone that had lights that flashed when dialled. His lie detector had everybody intrigued with the help of his friend. Aaron had many more gadgets too many to discuss, it was a very interesting display leaving all talking for the rest of the day.

Many thanks Aaron for the time & display

Graham Murray

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.

PROPERTIES OF SPECIES OF SOME WOODS CONT.

Blackbutt:

A large hardwood growing in abundance in the coastal forests between Bega, New South Wales and Maryborough, Queensland. Heartwood pale brown, but northern material may sometimes have a slight pinkish tinge. Sapwood distinctively paler. Texture medium and even. Grain usually straight. Gum veins common. Main uses are poles, sleepers, flooring and building framework.

Blackbutt, New England:

Large hardwoods of the coastal ranges and tablelands of northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. Heartwood pale brown. Sapwood 25 to 75mm wide and distinctly paler. Very

similar in appearance to Blackbutt. Texture medium and even. Grain usually straight. Used for general construction.

Blackbutt, Western

Australian: other common name – yarri.

A large hardwood of occasional occurrence in the jarrah and karri forests of south-west Western Australia. Heartwood pale yellowish brown. Texture medium coarse and even. Grain commonly interlocked. Used for general construction, sleepers, flooring and panelling.

Wood Finishing **By Alan Phelps**

My favorite finish – Cont.

On larger work such as bowls, which are porous, you may require a second or third coat but be careful with how many coats you put on in one go. It starts to get a bit “gluggy” if it becomes too thick. The polish can be used over sanding sealer but it is better if you don’t. It seems to take over most other finishes but I can’t recommend it.

Any problems with swirl marks can generally be fixed by stopping the lathe and before the job cools down and hardens, rubbing briskly at 90 deg. To the scratches or in a circular motion. Or let the job cool down then use 1000 grit to get rid of the marks and possibly give another coat.

For a semi gloss finish apply the polish as recommended but don’t fuse the polish into the timber with the lubricating

cloth, just use a separate cloth whilst the lathe is spinning.

The hardener can take up to a fortnight to reach its max. hardness. But in the meanwhile you can handle the job quite OK.

The finish is water resistant but not waterproof. Don’t put a bowl in the dishwasher, as the caustic in the detergent will eat through anything. I have given them a rinse in detergent and water and an immediate dry and this seems to be OK. You can wax over this finish at a later date if you wish.

Don’t try to use this finish on rough textured surfaces such as bark left on burls and bowls. You will just end up with a mess. It’s only good on a well-prepared smooth sanded surface.

If you have any questions contact me.

In the meanwhile “Keep the bevel rubbing”.

“Food for Thought” about the future.

On a recent trip to Brisbane, I noticed in the local newspaper, published in a suburb our relatives live, also where we obtained accommodation for a few days, an article about the Redcliff Woodworking Club. I visited about 3 years ago.

They have changed their location; originally in a hall situated in the show grounds, they are now in a old scout hall, on one of the main roads in that district. Twice as large as the Western, and other areas of the Guild. Situated in a position easy to find, as I

noticed it quickly, as we were driven past their venue by a relative the day after we arrived in Redcliff.

One very large room, two smaller ones, one office, kitchen/dinning room area with a verandah in the front of the building. They moved 7 lathes, 2 x 14 inch bandsaws, planner thicknesser and other miscellaneous machinery. Including 5 scroll saws, with plenty of room for more if required. Bench area for carving. Outside timber waiting to be slabbed or cut, they intent to build another shed for the storage of that material and purchase or building of a larger bandsaw.

There were 3 ladies using scroll saws on the day we visited the group, one 86 years old, proving a point it is never too old to learn, her companions were not young.

Yes they had complaints from the locals about noise, it was checked and dismissed by the Council within the required regulations. They use chainsaws.

Three of the lathes were donated by Vicmark, who replaces them when required. Membership is about 150. While some areas in the Guild have halls, a large one for the use of members demonstration, meetings with similar machinery, chainsaws, bandsaws possibly planner thicknesser, one or two annual meetings to include all other woodworking groups is something to think about for the Guild, i.e. federation of all those groups within NSW?

Yes, I understand facilities of that nature in Sydney are expensive. Does it have to be a location in Sydney? There maybe other areas i.e. the highlands etc. To consider, and dialogue with our various government and local council authorities. Ridiculous, will be the various comments from the less positive members, the future of the Guild is in your hands, not mine.

They criticized Columbus, when he said the world was round, not flat, and early scientists help discover our universe. What has happened today, humans have walked on the moon, we travel by car and planes around the world.

This article is written without prejudice to any member, and is my view. Tomorrow may be too late, do it now.

This is not a criticism of the special sub committee now disbanded. They have done their work, now it will be up to all members of the Guild to work together to create a better organisation. This is only a suggestion; others do it why not us.

Malcolm Clark

Quote

I have yet to find the man, however exalted his station, who did not do better work and put forth greater effort under a spirit of approval than under a spirit of criticism.

- *Charles Schwab* -

Shed is the new castle

It is not a man's home that is his castle any more, apparently it is his shed.

Research by Carlton Midstrength has uncovered the fact a man's shed is a great source of pride to him.

The research shows 64 per cent of respondents said they have more say in what goes on in their shed, than in the rest of their home.

Here are some more interesting shed facts:

Only 8 per cent of men actually do repairs in their shed but 73 percent listen to music and 60 per cent drink beer in there.

Almost two thirds have hidden something in their shed ... including one sneaky man that hid his car from his wife for 18 months.

Fourteen per cent have had sex in the "comfort" of the shed and 55 per cent have banned their partner from entering the domain.

Apparently, Queenslanders spend most time in their sheds and drink more beer in there, Victorians are the biggest believers that a shed is for storing tools and more West Australians suffer from "shed envy".

Half of the respondents said their shed was one of their most important possessions.

Supplied by **Ted Edwards**

Article & Pictures of recent Ladies days

The ducks relate to the demo that Graham Dawes gave us on the 'how to'.

Those present felt that he was clear, concise and would not have picked that it was his first

demo. The ducks illustrated were brought along to our next meeting, several unfinished, but it is interesting to see the varied 'finishing' applied after turning. Kaye took her ducks even further and when finished entered them, with her natural-edge burl bowl from our next ladies day, in the woodturning section at the Penrith Show. The group photo was taken at our last day when everyone successfully made a small natural-edge burl bowl.



Anna Dawes

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.
I understand that all tickets have now been sold.

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 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

Vinnie the Viking

As a reminder I noticed in the last issue of By Hand & Eye that the Hornsby Region are now preparing for the challenge. So keep turning those extra or new Vikings. Extra drawings are available from the library.

Larry