

BY HAND AND EYE

The official newsletter of the Sydney Woodturners Guild Inc.

July 2010

Close off dates for articles for September
BH & E will be Friday 10th September 2010 Edited by Scott Rollo

HEADLINES

Timber & Working with Wood
Show 2010

Andrew Gittoes - pro turner-
and the art of the zen turner...

Ernie Newman and the use of Axes
as Skew chisels in woodturning!!!

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**Views expressed by contributors are
not necessarily those of the guild**

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The Working With Wood show this year was quite successful, though numbers through the gate were down a bit. Chris Dunn did another great job in organising demonstrators, volunteers and the stand, and we received good interest from the public. We had 4 lathes going for most of the 3 days and members also sold quite a few items. The \$5 discounted tickets were taken up by many members, though getting them to everyone in time was a challenge.

Congratulations to the Guild turners who won a number of prizes in the Woodturning section of the show but also to all those who submitted an entry. The entries from our members were of a very high quality and their display in the show is a good promotion of our craft.

There is an article coming on the "Train the Trainer" course that was recently held. Proper training of new members is obviously a key activity of all Affiliated Associations and is needed to meet our safety obligations, encourage new members to stay on and for them to enjoy woodturning. The course was attended by members from 4 Affiliated Associations and Bob (Santa) Hodge did a great job in showing people how to become better teachers. With Bob's assistance, the Guild is looking at building up a training course outline which would then be available to all the Affiliated Associations to use if they wished.

The Guild has decided that Woodturn will not be held this year, but will be held in 2011. There are a number of factors in this decision including lack of a suitable venue and insufficient expressions of interest from our members in attending. Running Woodturn is a large commitment for the Guild and will require significant planning and involvement from members.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, questions or complaints for the Guild, don't forget that the best way of telling the Committee is through your Association's Guild Representative.

Safe Turning.

Bill Black

Editorial Comment - Scott Rollo

Did you get to the Timber and working with wood show this year? It was definitely a smaller affair than the previous years. That is, the exhibition part. The competition was keenly contested with a very high standard of both turned items and also the thoughts behind each item.

There were items that were diverse in nature, but to be honest, nothing of real "out of the box" thinking. When I say nothing that is not entirely true...there were bowls of course, some very large hollow vessels and several, well - donuts(?)...there is no other way to describe them. These donuts were made by Jose Jalife and Sam Shakouri and these are segmented works that embodies the typical high standard work that Sam turns out...these donuts are intricate beyond belief and I am not even close to guessing how they are put together...maybe Sam and Jose will let me in on the secret and I can tell you all in the BH & E. He had several entries in the competition. Problem number one for judges....

There was another turner with multiple entries of a similar, but infinitely more complex nature. Jose Jalife is like Sam, a master in all things segmented. One of the items on the Sydney Woodturners Guild (SWG) exhibition was a very tall massively intricate 1200 pieces hollow vessel (vase like) that reportedly took Jose 5 hours a day for two solid weeks to make and turn...crazy stuff!!! But like I said a few issues ago, you don't have to be insane to do segmented turning....but it helps....Issue number two for judges...

I am keen myself to give this more adventurous/extreme form of turning a go as many turners I talk to are...but unless you've got hours to spend on it I am not sure where you find the time to do it....I guess you've just got to make that time....but as an art form, segmented turning has its fair share of detractors. Traditionalists will say that segmented turning is more like jigsaw puzzles for grown ups and there is 10 times more assembly than actual turning....Truth be known its probably 20 or 30 times more assembly and cutting than turning. I think it definitely appeals to the ex-engineer and perfectionist who know how critical angles and cut lines are to the success of the finished piece.

There were several large platters and at least one took out a prize for second overall in the competition. It was a bowl with a textured and coloured rim by Tim Skilton, who, for those who don't know, is a professional turner. This caused some consternation amongst several turners who feel that Tim as a pro shouldn't be entering these competitions...But think about this for a minute...doesn't most (every?) turner hope that one day that they will do well enough to sell their turned items? Don't a lot of our gifted turners already sell a fair percentage of the stuff they turn? Just because we call ourselves amateurs - because we do it as a hobby? I do not begrudge a single turner anything that they get when they sell it...but doesn't that at the very least make a lot of turners semi pro? The tables at the SWG are filled with items from turners hoping to sell their wares and turn a profit on their hobby? The fact that there is only a handful of truly professional turners in this country is more a testament to their vision to treat turning not as a hobby, but as a career (and usually from a very early age). So I say, Pro turners (and talented amateurs alike) bring it on - it can only make the standard higher and make the works of the "amateurs" better and strive towards a higher standard...

But these issues must be doubly hard for the judges of the woodturning category at the TWWWS. Imagine trying to judge in the one class - Sams "donuts", platters and bowls from plain to ornate to super-segmented to one off and unique turnings like Ken Dicks "basket" with small, perfectly formed offset turning radials that were flawless. Then there was a turning by another SWG member who made what can only be described as an old fashioned lantern like piece with a huge amount of small perfectly formed cross and down pieces that was beautiful to look at. These two pieces I looked at and was amazed at the quality of work in them as were many other turners viewing them and they did not even rate an honourable mention. There were other pieces that were of a similar vein - excellent pieces and not even a second look...go figure...

This is a problem I see only getting worse with time and one that I feel is ripe for a change. Just as the Easter show has two categories, I believe that maybe we need to standardize our judging for woodturning into several clearly defined categories. Now I am not about to tell everyone how to suck eggs here but it seems to me that there is an increasingly larger amount of segmented works being made for these competitions - whether it's for the public to "ooh" and "aah" over or to possibly sway the judges with how impressively they can glue and assemble a piece.

I think its worthwhile exploring just what it is that the judges are looking for? Is it still about the turning? Should what the material that they are being made from even come into the judging? Finish will always be a big part of the final judgement as will shape and form, but it seems to me that there ought to be a bit more of an even playing field for competitions...maybe a segmented category, an “artistic” or non traditional turned items category...I don’t know nor do I have answers, but I think it is worthwhile thinking about, as at the moment it is at the very least a little unclear and possibly a little ambiguous...

I am not even sure who it is judges the competitions at the TWWWS but I hope that there is at least one or two turners on the panel to point out what good turning is all about and recognizing quality work. Maybe the judges get two or three classes and turnings and get to award some highly commended certificates to those who deserve it.

One of the big issues we have in competitions is getting people to enter at all...with Sam entering three, Jose entering three, that made for about 15% of all entries in the competition!!!

I know that there are amazingly talented turners in all of the guild clubs who never enter competitions...why I do not know...for if it was me doing these great works, I would enter everything knowing that I could win a lot of shows with my works!!!!!!

So it is imperative that as we go to our affiliated meetings after the TWWWS we speak amongst these meetings and find out just why people are not entering them. What it does is give the same few turners who do enter much more chance to win....because you’ve got to be in it to win it!!!

The same message is echoed with the Royal Easter Show...every year there are literally a handful of turners who enter and it is really disappointing to see just how few entries are entered there.

Generally speaking the guild member turners are a proud bunch who are justifiably proud of the work they have made – it just takes some supportive words from fellow members in the form of “that’s good enough to enter into the Eater show” or similar and maybe the turner will consider entering...more likely the same turner will be self-deprecating and say something like “It’s okay but nothing special....” STOP!!!!

Take the time to appreciate it genuinely and shoot down any self doubt the turner might have!!! We have a whole generation of turners who are convinced that nothing they do is worthy of display or critiquing... convince them otherwise and tell them to get off their ass and get it into some competitions.

Rant over...for now...

Special shout out and thanks to Chris Dunn & all who contributed to the success of the Guild’s stand at the TWWWS. Top effort fella’s especially given the effort needed to get it all together. Thanks to go to the turners who demonstrated at the show – without the turning it’s an interesting static display – nothing more.

Remember turning is good. Turn every day!!!

The Timber and working with Wood Show for 2010 has been and gone for another year and it was another memorable year for the Sydney Woodturning Guild.

The exhibition was definitely down on numbers, both from a people through the door and from actual exhibitors, but what they lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm. Walking through the exhibitors they definitely had more time to spend with visitors and from a one on one perspective I really “felt the love” from the suppliers! There were the normal specials available and plenty of turners took advantage of the bargains to be had.

The Sydney Woodturners Guild display was up to its usual high standard with many turners exhibiting and offering items for sale. There was plenty of items sold across the days and several members did very well with some big ticket items on display sold. There were some standout items for sale – Sam Shakouri once again had many of his segmented masterpieces on sale and selling well.



Jose Jalife a member of Bankstown had some amazing hollow vessels for sale. These vase like vessels were reportedly 5 hours a day for two weeks solid in their assembly. We're talking the extreme end of the segmented turning field here...



There were other turners who had some fantastic pieces on show – Tony Ney from Menai springs to mind.



John Cruikshank or “Crooky” as he is known, had one of Bruce Leabeater’s pen lathe’s at the show and was demonstrating pretty much constantly throughout the show. Big thanks to Crooky for his hard work on behalf of the guild. His collection of pens for sale was of a very high standard and quite diverse in their materials – from rare and exotic woods to the latest in acrylics and plastics. I saw plenty of interest in Crookys pens and I hope he did well from them.



On display at the guild stand were some of the pieces from the Easter show who were successful in winning prizes there. These were enquired about and talked about by many people visiting the show, indicating to me that “winners are grinner” and that everyone likes to check out the easter show winners, especially those who didn’t get to the Easter show.





Onto the competition portion of the evening...there were about 40 odd entrants for the competition. There was diversity in the entries and I can say that universally the works were of a very high standard.



Amongst the entries were some absolute gems. Love it or hate it there were some fantastic segmented entries in there – a testament to the patience and skills of the turners who went to the extremes in some cases to enter some amazing turnings.



There were some entries that defied wisdom as to how they were done and the “donuts” fall fairly and squarely in this category. How they were done will hopefully be a feature in the future, as I am sure that all turners are keen to know



There were big platter, big bowls, some very clever segmented bowls and one very clever platter. The platter entered by Kerry Robertson was of a big burl – albeit with some huge inclusions and gaps in the rim. What Kerry cleverly did was make a feature of the biggest inclusion by encapsulating some blue opal chips in like a clear resin type glass that “filled in what was a big natural flaw in the work. Very cleverly done.



Two entries that to me stood out was the “basket” by Ken Dick and the “lantern holder” by John Smith. These two pieces embodied everything most turners look for in a piece – beautifully crisp cuts, attention to detail and in both cases, repeatable execution of many parts to give their works an amazing look in their level of consistency. That they got nothing at all, not even a mention, says volumes for the inconsistencies in the judging criterion, as pretty much every turner I spoke to mentioned both pieces as something they all thought was special. Go figure....



The winner was Ken Vodden and he was fortunate to take out first and third prizes with Tim Skelton taking out second place for his bowl with a dyed and textured rim.

1



2



3



For Sale.....

Hello,

I have some woodturning equipment for sale and wondered if anyone in the Guild is interested.

Have a Teknatool Nova TL 1500 woodturning Lathe with accessories and instructions books.

Henry Turner woodturning tools, gouges, chisels, scraper and parting tool in a box.

Small box of timber blanks

\$900 the lot or offers.

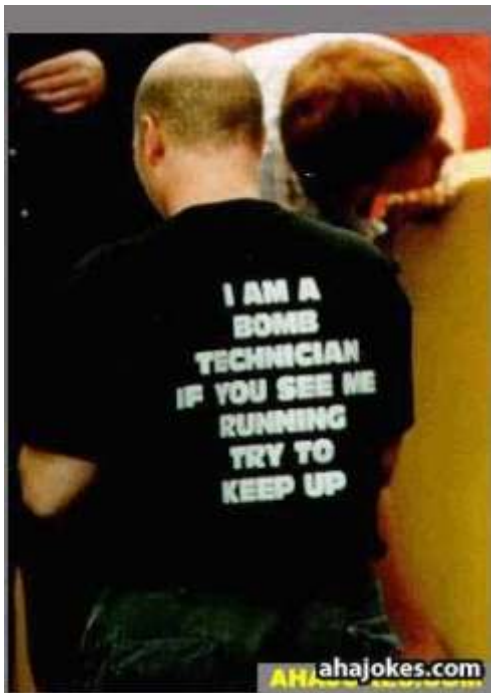
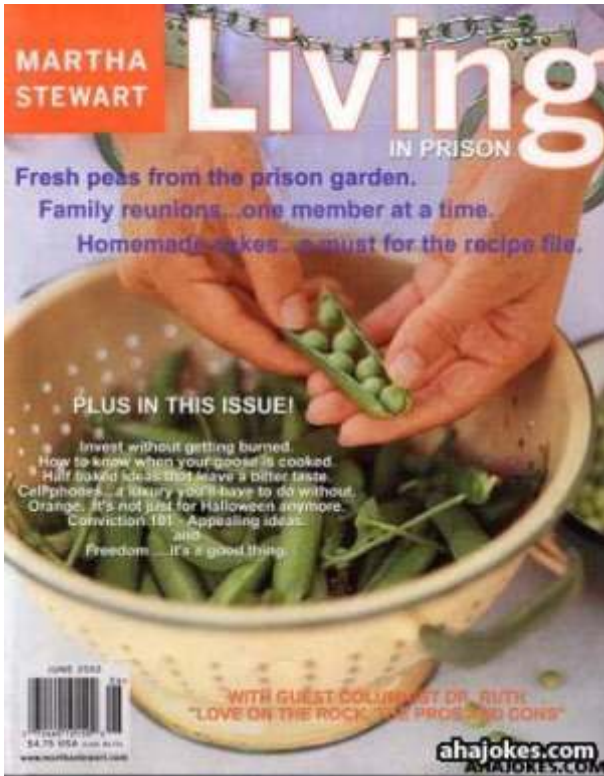
Triton Mark 3 Workcentre on stand and wheels with manuals

\$100 or offer.

Both have had very little use.

Tony Pitcher
Baulkham Hills
9639-6639

Thank you.



Andrew Gittoes is a professional turner who is a true professional – in the true sense of the word, he makes his living purely from turning. That makes him a pretty rare beast in this country at least. He has works in galleries all over Australia and overseas and has plenty of people ready to stand up and say what a super, top notch, rip-snorting turner he is!

So with that in mind I was fortunate enough to spend some time with Andrew, along with other members of Southern Region Woodturners at the three day celebration known colloquially as as “Gittoe-fest”!!!

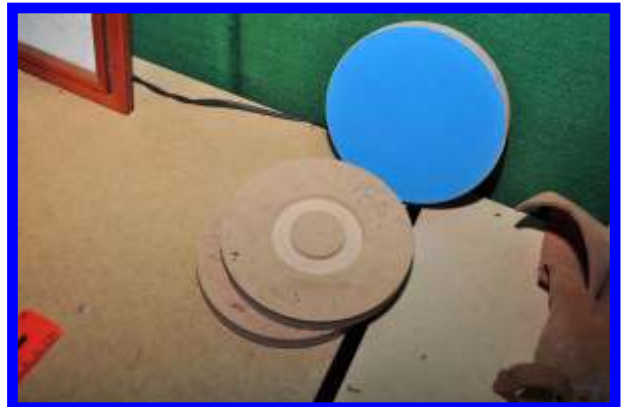
It was a simple format – Friday was a hands on session for 8 lucky turners who, for a reasonable premium, got one on one tutorial time with Andrew. The members I spoke to said he is an excellent teacher well worth the admission price. Saturday and Sunday was Andrew in demonstration mode where he shared in his knowledge and wisdom as a pro turner for a long time. Andrew treats it seriously – he is on the tools every day before 6:30 a.m. and on the tools till 3:30 when he picks up the kids from school. A dedication to his craft he has worked hard at for over 20 years he is adept at everything you want to be – many things are first nature to him and there is something about Andrew and the great turners (and I’m thinking here of George Hatfield) is that they are super-mega-ultra KINGS of the skew. Being a pro, Andrew is all about speed and one of the items he demo’s is spatulas – more especially the way he turns out hundreds of these things at the lathe. They are a bread and butter item for him – the core of his business that allows him to churn out a product that is to him a cost effective product that then allows him the creative and artistic freedom with the rest of his objects’ d’art.



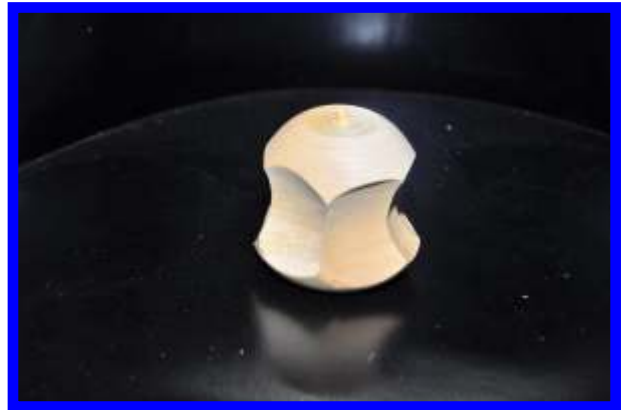
He also did lots of other cutlery items like butter knives and spoons, the odd spurtle and a really gnarly piece of Jarrah which he turned as a small bowl and then used a grinder/disc on the outside to give it some vertical grooves on the outside. This gave what was an ordinary piece of wood some definition and character. He showed us a before and after with some organoil and it did look pretty good.



One little gem of a tip I picked up on – Andrew, as you can probably imagine, does a fair bit of sanding. To this end and to keep costs down, he simply turns a disc of MDF, puts a foot/dovetail in the back to be grabbed by the chuck, glues the various grades of sandpaper on and hey presto, cheap sanding disk.



He also “turned” and shaped some lovely “fruit” which look very lifelike in a wood that carvers use.



Andrew also showed us some “play” things where he rough turns a cylinder and then uses a conically shaped spade bit to decorate with random holes on the cylinder. Variable grouping and variable depth gave it an appearance of being attacked by a family of borers or similar. It was just an expression of interest in turning out something that people “get”. With Andrew being a professional turner he is always striving to find the next big look that captivates the buying public...be that decoration, finish or inventiveness in design. If he lets the grass grow under his feet and stop innovating he will blend in with the other works of other turners.



An item that Andrew displayed was a board or trivet that had several circular, sometimes overlapping inlays of a circular nature. They were most excellent, it was interesting to see how they were done and I don't think a single person in the room didn't think to themselves – “I'm gonna' do that!” Most inventive and the sort of thing that made Andrews time here special.



A pen/pencil holder was also done in very quick time that had a very contemporary feel about it and it gave more than a few turners ideas for Christmas gifts.



Andrew also does a groovy cool business card holder which is turned from a cylinder and then cut to form a very elegant card holder that is far from conventional.



One of the best features of an Andrew Gittoes demo is the interactivity of the show – he encourage question at all times through the show and is happy to replay or do over anything that people want specifically. As a result everyone feels like they get plenty out of a day with him.

I can only speak for myself and to a lesser extent the turners of Southern Region, but a day with Andrew Gittoes was an extremely rewarding way to spend the best part of a day. If your club is looking for a top notch, resourceful and knowledgeable turner for a demonstration you would go a long way to find someone better than Andrew Gittoes.

I, along with quite a lot of guild members travelled to Macarthur Woodturners on the 30th May to attend the Guild bi-Monthly meeting located at Robert Townsend High school in downtown Raby. There were a lot of familiar faces from Southern, Quite a few from every club in the guild in fact. It was great to see so many people from different clubs “representing” their individual clubs – and I am sure the guild committee (of which most were there) would be very pleased with the turnout. I think by my reckoning that there were about 20 guests from other clubs, which is a terrific result for Macarthur.

The meeting was like most of the meetings around the Sydney region started with club business and a show and tell. There were some interesting pieces in the show and tell as is customary with most of the clubs around Sydney. Interesting objects made from interesting woods was the order of the day and instructions as to where to find everything. Fro those who have never been to Macarthur it is located in a high school shop class area with 5 or six different rooms locating different equipment and resources.

Morning tea and biscuits were served and many a story swapped over a cuppa and it always amazes me that there is no inter club rivalry at the bi monthly meetings.

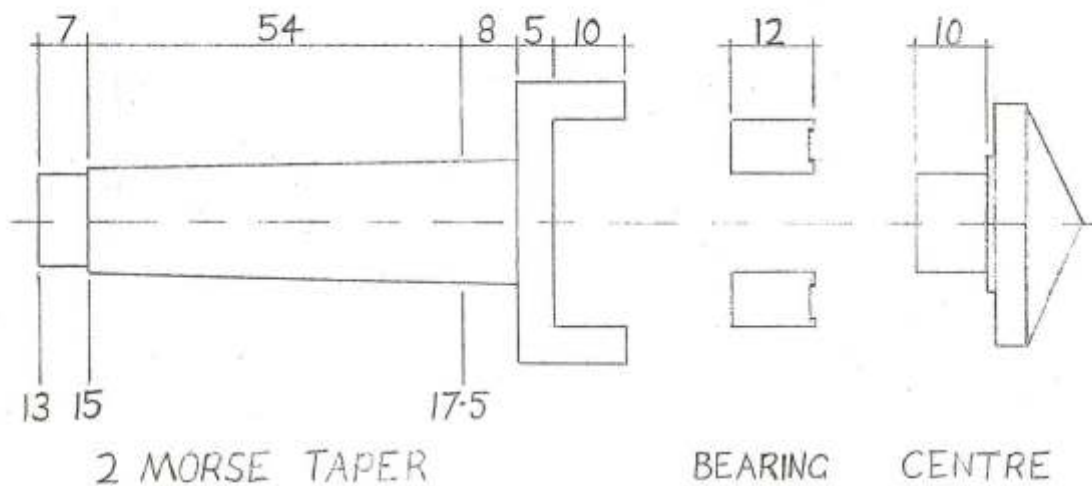
Of course everyone was there for the feature of the afternoon, that of a demonstration by well known Australian turner and guild member Ernie Newman.



Ernie is famous for his demonstration where he makes some interesting objects and entertains the crowd along the way. He turned up in his trademark wooden cap which I am sure is a constant source of questions for him.

This demonstration was no different as Ernie gives instruction with a great sense of humour and self deprecation. Ernie had a protégé who was to share the demonstrating responsibilities this day and Jan Pennell from the Blue Mountains club has been one of several protégés that Ernie has mentored over the past few years.

Ernie started by showing us how to make a Morse tapered live centre out of timber utilizing a readily available bearing. The way he sets it up and explains it, it seems like the easiest thing in the world to make. Watching Ernie do it he really does make it look simple. I'm sure when I go to make my version there will be several rejected versions before I get my one right! It is a great idea that allows the user to replace/have on hand several different cone shapes to suit your requirements for that time.



Ernie Newman

Next Jan proceeded to turn a toy cup and ball from a lump and showed some of the skills that Ernie has taught her over recent years.



Jan then demonstrated Ernie's famous design of a string wound spinning top that is a toy that harks back to a bygone era...no batteries required here!!! And good to see too!!! After completing the top Ernie gives a demonstration by "throwing" the top and watching it spin like....well... a top!!!



Ernie Demonstrated an off axis eccentric turning of a female form which highlighted his skill and gave everyone enough tips along the way to go and try for themselves. Tricky stuff the offset turning!



During the demonstration Ernie shows us that it doesn't take a lot of creative thoughts to turn everyday objects into skew chisels. Then Ernie and Janet give one of the more funny demonstrations where they use a variety of "skew" chisels to turn an object....all at once....5 skew chisels at the same time....hands and skew chisels everywhere! But lets explore the "skews" we are talking about...a sharpened screwdriver, a misshapen lump of metal looped around and tied in a knot with a skew sharpened onto it....an axe, a mattock, a tomahawk, carpenters chisel...dentist tool reprofiled!!! A plane blade, a spokeshave, a drill bit sharpened "just" right... You name is Ernie sharpened it and used it as a skew!!! It was an effective demonstration that anything "can" be used as a skew – not that you would use it everyday, but the principal is there...steel profiled to a skew shape and held on the correct angle will work crudely but effectively.



Ernie spent plenty of time talking about the Skew and its correct use including 5 simple things to remember to use it correctly:

- a) Angle at 45 degrees
- b) Bevel rubs
- c) Cut location on chisel
- d) Hold on hip for stability
- e) Sharp tools

I don't think that anybody who attended the day with Ernie could argue that he is a talented turner who uses his sense of humour to instruct to the crowd and have some laughs along the way. Most people have probably seen Ernie at some point in their turning career, but if you haven't he is well worth doing so, as he is talented, funny and enlightening at the same time. As they say in the movie business – two thumbs up!!!



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Ernie Newman's Woodturners Quiz - The Questions

1. Which of the following species is the hardest: Balsa, Mulga or Camphor Laurel? Which has become a weed in the Sydney region? Which is used in model aeroplane construction?
2. Jack Butler is a former SWG office bearer and committee member. Which club does he attend regularly? Clues: It is one of the larger clubs affiliated to the SWG; it has a clubhouse, it sells a lot of member's work at shopping complexes and it includes another long-time SWG office bearer, Alex Bendeli, among its members.
3. A piece of rough sawn timber, approximately 70mm x 70mm, is to be dressed and squared to 60mm x 60mm by machine, not by hand. What two machines are normally used to complete this process?
4. Is it dangerous to use callipers on the outside of revolving wood, inside a recess on revolving wood, or both?
5. What is the connection between the woodturning and the British surnames, Disher, Dishman and Dishmon?

1. Mulga is much harder than Balsa or Camphor Laurel. Camphor Laurel is a weed in Sydney and Balsa is used in model aeroplane construction.
2. Jack Butler attends the Northern Beaches club.
3. If rough sawn timber is to be dressed and squared by machine, not by hand, then a jointer is needed to plane two touching faces flat and straight and to ensure that they are at right angles to each other. Once this has been done a thicknesser can be used to machine the other two faces.
4. It is dangerous to use callipers inside a recess on revolving wood but not on the outside. It is much safer to stop the lathe before checking internal diameters with callipers. If callipers are used on the outside of a turning with the lathe running, it is important that the sharp points on the callipers are rounded over otherwise the callipers will not rest smoothly against the spinning wood.
5. The surnames, Disher, Dishman and Dishmon, all emerged in the medieval era and refer to the making of dishes or turned measuring vessels. This parallels the surname, Carpenter, which arose out of the trade of carpentry. More British surnames that relate to the making of vessels and their meanings are listed below.
Bowler, Bouller, Boler, Boller, Boaler, Bowl, Boule, Bowles - bowl maker
Bowleress - female bowl maker
Doubler - plate or dish maker
Gobel, Gobell, Goble - cup maker
Hamper - goblet maker
Squiller - dish maker
Vessell, Vesselo - maker of household vessels
Laidler Ladler, Ladel - ladle maker
Quiller - ladle maker.



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How do you work out what your craftwork is worth? How do you price the items you make?

For most of us, that is not a question we ever bother to answer. Most of what we make is for our own use, or is given as a gift (or after about 10 or 15 years of turning, a closet somewhere in our house begins to get rather full). Some of what we do is just “fun” as we try to do something new that we’ve seen, or try to “step-up” to a group challenge, or develop a fresh skill or use a different tool. If it’s also functional or someone likes it, then that’s a bonus. When we are asked by someone for “one of those”, we are likely to just give it as a gift. Or when we are selling at a market stall at the invitation of our local group or the Guild itself, we ask the advice of one of our local “professionals”, or of someone whose work we admire. But that is really just shifting the burden of the question to someone else.

And it’s a hard question to answer, because there are so many factors we have to consider, not the least being trying to evaluate just how badly that person really wants “one of those”. Classical wisdom is that what we make is worth “what the market will bear.” But even that is just shifting the question to another arena: that unknown and fuzzy concept known as “the market”.

For the first 10 years of turning, I did not try to sell anything (mostly because I hate rejection...). Then a friend of ours showed me a Japanese bobbin used in the silk industry in the late 1800’s. I took it out to the garage and made a copy, and then made four more to give as a “Thank you” to the lady, but all out of different woods. Over the course of the next six months, I made 20 or 30 more, modifying the design slightly so that the wood was shown off to the best advantage and experimenting to find the best finish, but trying to maintain the overall “elegance” of the shape. Best Beloved got those for her embroidery threads. Her embroidery friends noticed them and complimented me, so I made some for them (I am always susceptible to flattery). When that got tedious, I worked out by trial and error that about \$3.00 per bobbin was the most that people would pay. It effectively covered the cost of the wood and the electricity, but not my time. Finally, the Embroiders Guild purchasing officer asked me to make 100... but she wanted a special price.

So I started learning how to do a “production run”. In general, I got down to 10 to 15 minutes per bobbin (best ever was six minutes, but the wood was sweet, and I had just sharpened all my tools) with about 20 that could be made in a day before my back gave out. The “special price” ended up at \$2.50 each, which meant that I was earning \$10 to \$15 per hour, not including the cost of the material (which during the production run pretty well wiped me out of off-cuts and cleaned up my garage considerably). And that has been my baseline up to about a year ago. Well below what even our local lawn mowing service charges.

I am not trying to make a living from my woodturning. Those who do will need to match a reasonable price for a “casual professional/consultant”, which is much more than I am willing to charge... but then the reality is that I don’t have “The Name”. I do not think that we, as amateurs, should undercut them (since they train us to improve our skills), so as well as being critical about the quality of what I am willing to offer, I have increased the price of things I make to match the “market” (five categories: “church raffle/car boot sale”, “market stall”, “tourist craft shop”, “quality gallery”, and “museum piece”), the quality and supply of the wood and how long it takes me to make one after I have made 10 or 15. I still don’t charge for my skill (which, I believe, is too variable to price effectively). On the other hand, I don’t pay tax (nor do I get any tax breaks). On the whole, I target \$20 to \$30 per hour, still below that lawn mowing service, but getting closer.

Another “non-professional” friend of mine doubles the cost of the wood, and adds about \$15 per hour, but he sells about 50 times as much as I do (he is fast and very skilled, and has been selling

Another “non-professional” friend of mine doubles the cost of the wood, and adds about \$15 per hour, but he sells about 50 times as much as I do (he is fast and very skilled, and has been selling for a long time. I use “found” wood, while he uses “commercial” wood in almost everything). He earns in a weekend what I earn in a year, and seems to sell everything, while my closet keeps getting more full.

So, what is your work worth? Essentially: what you are willing to ask, and what people are prepared to pay. But remember, it’s going to take a long time and lots of practice (and rejection) to find your personal answer to that question.

The Lathe...

Neil Guthrie

Will had turned a bit in High School
And he’d liked the things he made
So the memory though distant, still felt good
And now a lifetime later
With retirement coming soon
He decided he would like to tum some wood

A wood lathe, that’s the ticket
And not some little job
He would buy the very best that could be found
So he scrolled around in Google
Till he found a wood turn club
And went to have a chat and ask around

They were really very helpful
They came up with several lathes
And none of them was what you would call cheap
But he’d also need a band saw
Don’t skimp on that they said
Remember what you sow is what you reap

Of course they mentioned chisels
A minimum of eight
His mind was doing sums but he was cool
But that’s not all they told him
Chisels need to be kept sharp
And a grinding wheel was one essential tool

The lathe would come with faceplate
But he'd have to buy a chuck
And they said the really good ones don't come cheap
Then one old timer asked him
Have you got a decent shed?
He didn't- and a shed would cost a heap

So he took this information
And he started on his quest
The cost just multiplied with each new day
Some mates helped pour the concrete
Then helped erect the shed
For electricals he knew he'd have to pay

The lathe went in quite smoothly
The band saw followed next
And then he realized he'd need a bench
He built a sturdy cupboard
And the grinder got a stand
But the cost of eight good chisels was a wrench

He bought a dust extractor
And a battery powered mask
Then he bought some nice big blanks of Huon Pine
At last he started turning
And he made a sort of bowl
It wasn't really art but it was fine

So he polished it with oil and wax
And took it off the lathe
Then he bravely took it in to show his wife
She asked how much this bowl had cost
He said \$5000 bucks
And scampered out of there to save his life

Here is a short list of Woodturning sites that will get us started with links to some very useful sites.

If you have any links you would like to contribute send them to guildnewsletter@exetel.com.au

<http://www.sydneymwoodturners.com.au/> our homepage

<http://www.wood-eze.com.au/> Leigh Ferguson's site – sells at Southern maxi days & his own shop

<http://www.trendtimbers.com.au/> large variety of timber, tools, lathes and finishes

<http://anagote.com/> great site for wood

<http://www.carbatec.com.au> one stop shop for most woodworking varieties

<https://www.machineryhouse.com.au/> Hare and Forbes machinery

<http://www.addictivepenkits.com.au/> amazing pen kits with an impressive site

<http://aroundthewoods.com/> excellent site for beginner and advanced turner alike

<http://www.woodturningonline.com/> incredible site with literally hundreds of articles

<http://www.woodturner.org/> The American association of Woodturners

<http://mgorrow.tripod.com/links2.html> mega link to over 500 sites!

<http://www.woodturners.co.uk/> link to most UK based clubs & links

<http://www.laymar-crafts.co.uk/> Huge site with literally hundreds of useful links

<http://www.woodturnersresource.com/> a great resource for the woodturner

<http://www.hiltonhandcraft.com/> a useful site for turners

http://ornamentalturning.net/articles/more_woodturning_magazine.html one stop shop for ornamental turners

<http://www.woodturningdesign.com/> Woodturning magazine site.

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~pwguild/> Mornington Peninsula site in Victoria

<http://www.woodturningvideosplus.com/index.html> very good site by a pro turner

<http://www.bigtreeturnings.com/> Professional turner site from America with some useful stuff

<http://www.rockler.com> Supplier of everything you'll ever need (in US dollars)

<http://www.penturners.org/> American site for the pen turner fraternity – most comprehensive

<http://www.woodworkforums.com> an enormous forum for everything wood and more

<http://www.woodturns.com/resources/woodturning.htm> a useful resource for the turner

<http://yoyospin.com> great site for tutorials and how to videos with focus on craft items

GUILD MEETINGS

Guides Hall, Waldron Rd Chester Hill			
Month	Committee	Bi-Monthly	Time & Cost
February	1	—	—
March	29	21 Western	9 a.m \$6
May	31	30 Macarthur	9:45 a.m \$5
July	26	17 Southern	9 a.m \$6
September	27	19 Nor. Beaches	9 a.m \$6
November AGM	29	27 Stn. Highland	10 a.m \$6
All guild meetings 18:30 till finish President Bill Black 9541 2405			

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

1 Shoplands Rd. Annangrove	
<u>Saturday</u>	
Feb 13	
Mar 13	
Apr 10	
May 8	
Jun 12	
Jul 10	
Aug 14	
Sep 11	
Oct 9	
Nov 13	
Dec Xmas Tea TBA	
Saturdays 1100 - 1630 President Lindsay Skinner 9679 1055	

BANKSTOWN CITY WOODTURNERS INC.

Guides Hall, Waldron Rd Chester Hill	
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>
Feb 6	Feb 9
Mar 6	Mar 9
Apr 3	Apr 13
May 1	May 11
Jun 5	Jun 8
Jul 3	Jul 13
Aug 7	Aug 10
Sep 4	Sep 14
Oct 2	Oct 12
Nov 6	Nov 9
Dec 4	Dec 14
Saturdays 0800 - 1600 Tuesdays 1800 - 2100 President Kevin Santwyck 9644 8366	

MACARTHUR WOODTURNERS INC.

Robert Townson High School Shuttleworth Ave Raby(maxi only)	
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
Feb 28	Feb 10
Mar 28	Mar 10
Apr none	Apr 14
May 1 & 30	May 12
Jun 27	Jun 9
Jul 25	Jul 14
Aug 29	Aug 11
Sep 26	Sep 8
Oct 31	Oct 13
Nov 28	Nov 10
Dec none	Dec 5
Sunday Maxi 0945 - 1500 cost \$5 Wednesday Mini 1100 - 1430 Mini meetings at 48 Engesta Ave Sth Camden President Paul Kruss 9823 8340	

EASTERN REGION WOODTURNERS INC.

Unit 16, 14 Anderson St. Banksmeadow	
<u>Sunday</u>	
Feb 7	
Mar 7	
Apr 11	
May 2	
Jun 6	
Jul 4	
Aug 1	
Sep 5	
Oct 10	
Nov 7	
Dec 5	
Sundays 1000 - 1530 President Graham Tilly 9660 3071	

MENAI REGION WOODTURNERS INC.

Menai High School Gerald Rd. Illawong
Tuesday
Feb 9
Mar 9
Apr 20
May 11
Jun 15
Jul 20
Aug 17
Sep 14
Oct 12
Nov 16
Dec 7
Tuesdays 1800 - 2100 President Bruce Houldin 9542 1087

NORTHERN BEACHES WOODTURNERS INC.

Narrabeen RSL Club Nareen Pde North Narrabeen		
Sunday	Tuesday Workshop	Friday Workshop
Feb 21	2,9,16,23	5,12,19,26
Mar 21	2,9,16,23	5,12,19,26
Apr 18	6,13,20,27	9,16,23,30
May 16	4,11,18,25	7,14,21,28
Jun 27	1,8,15,22,29	2,9,16,23,30
Jul 18	6,13,20,27	2,9,16,23,30
Aug 15	3,10,17,24	6,13,20,27
Sep 19	7,14,21,28	3,10,17,24
Oct 17	5,12,19,26	1,8,15,22,29
Nov 21	2,9,16,23,30	5,12,19,26
Dec 12	7,14,21	3,10,17
Sundays 0900 - 1400 Workshops 0900 - 1200 President Meg Webster 9450 1032		

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WOODIES INC.

Harbison Care Villiage Moss Vale Rd. Burradoo	
Saturday	Friday
Feb 27	5,12,19,26
Mar 27	5,12,19,26
Apr 24	2,16,23,30
May 22	7,14,21,28
Jun 26	4,11,18,25
Jul 24	9,16,23,30
Aug 28	6,13,20,27
Sep 25	3,10,17,24
Oct 23	8,15,22,29
Nov 27	5,12,19,26
Dec 11	3,10,17
Saturdays 1000 - 1630 Wednesday/Friday 0930 - 1230 Pls call for Wed/Fri to confirm meeting President John Powell 4871 2714	

SOUTHERN REGION WOODTURNERS INC.

"Cubbyhouse" Como Road Oyster Bay (opp. Scylla Rd.)							
	Wednes. Mini Day	Wednes. Mini Nite	Workshop Meeting	Saturday Maxi Days	Hours Mini Day	Tue/Wed Toy/Friend ship Day	Special Events
Jan							Bi-Monthly @ Southern
Feb	3	10	15	20	25	23-24	
Mar	3	10	15	20	25	23-24	
Apr	7	14	12	17	22	27-28	
May	5	12	10	15	20	25-26	Oyster Bay Skool Fete
Jun	2	9	15	26**	24	22-23	18,19,20 WWWS
Jul	7	14	12	17 BM	22	27-28	Bi-Monthly @ Southern
Aug	4	11	16	21AGM	26	24-25	Annual General Meeting
Sep	1	8	13	18	23	28-29	
Oct	6	13	11	16	21	26-27	Craft Show
Nov	3	10	15	20	25	23-24	Xmas party Oct. 28th
Dec	1	8	13	18++	-	-	Xmas party @ Cubby Hse
Maxi days Saturday 0900 - 1500 cost \$6 Mini Days both 0900 - 1500 cost \$3 Mini nite 1800 - 2100 cost \$3 Toy/Friendship days 0900 - 1400 no cost President Frank Williams 9587 1396							

WESTERN SYDNEY WOODTURNERS INC.

Twin Gums retreat, Cnr Northcott Road & Dianne Drive Lalor Park				
Sunday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Feb 21	2,9,16,23	3,10,17,24	4,11,18,25	5,12,19,26
Mar 21	2,9,16,23	3,10,17,24	4,11,18,25	5,12,19,26
Apr 18	6,13,20,27	7,14,21,28	1,8,15,22,29	9,16,23,30
May 16	4,11,18,25	5,12,19,26	6,13,20,27	7,14,21,28
Jun 20	1,8,15,22,29	2,9,16,23,30	3,10,17,24	4,11,18,25
Jul 18	6,13,20,27	7,14,21,28	1,8,15,22,29	2,9,16,23,30
Aug 15	3,10,17,24,31	4,11,18,25	5,12,19,26	6,13,20,27
Sep 19	7,14,21,28	1,8,15,22,29	2,9,16,23,30	3,10,17,24
Oct 17	5,12,19,26	6,13,20,27	7,14,21,28	1,8,15,29
Nov 21	2,9,16,23,30	3,10,17,24	4,11,18,25	5,12,19,26
Dec 19	7,14,21	1,8,15,22	2,9,16	3,10,17

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 0930 - 1530
Fridays: 1900 - 2100
President Eddie Catford 9837 3311
Ladies days are held regularly organised by Anna Dawes 9638 6995

IN THE SHOP

WOODTURNING JACKETS \$40 POST \$5
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At our June and July Saturday meetings, (first Saturday every month, 9.00am) our numbers came back up to 29 and 24 respectively, although the cold weather was probably to blame for the lower July attendance.

Some more information and photos were added to our display board, and with a few more contributions, we will have quite a good cross section of our work on show. Bring along some photos of your best/favourite pieces, and let others see what you are doing in your own workshop.

Our show and tell segments have always been well supported, and it is really good to see our newer members bringing along their finished pieces to show others.

Show and tell should not be viewed as a competition, but as a chance to talk (either in private or in public) about the piece, its difficulties, its design, its finish, etc, and also to ask for advice from others if that is what you want. Everyone can learn something from someone else, no matter how long they have been turning.

As you can see from the photos, the work of Bankstown members covers most aspects of woodturning. The photo of the large platter is the finished product, which appeared "part turned" (along with David turning it) in the previous issue of By Hand and Eye. The finished product is 520mm in diameter, about 50mm high, and weighs (from memory) about 7 kgms!! Truly a massive undertaking. Well done, David.

Simon Priem was at our July meeting, and we were pleased to welcome him back.

We also enjoyed the company of Menai member, Judy Hilling, who attended the July meeting as a visitor. We hope you enjoyed your visit, Judy, and next time you come along, some of your Menai fellow members may also like to attend.

Our Saturday meetings are enjoyable, friendly, and you will see a lot of happy faces. Members of all groups affiliated with the Sydney Woodturners Guild Inc., can enjoy the facilities in the same way as they do at their own meetings, and yes, please feel welcome to bring along your lunch, your tools, something to turn, and maybe a piece for Show and Tell, jump on a lathe, and show us what you do.

All the above, with all the tea and coffee you can drink, for \$5.00 for the day!!! We think it is a real bargain, and where else can you get all that for such a low price?!!!

If I can add a little to the information on Spurtles written in the previous issue of By Hand and Eye, the business end of the Spurtle was traditionally turned with a rounded end, which had the same radius as the corner of the bottom of the saucepan so that the porridge did not stick in the corner while being stirred. I guess this means that Spurtles were matched to saucepans.

For what it is worth. Doug Midgley.



Eastern Region was started in 1985-1986 by Jim Dorbis while a student of woodturning at a College of Technical and Further Education. Things were hard in the beginning but at the same time exciting

Eastern Region is the smallest of all the Sydney Woodturners Guild Regions but it is well supported. Most of the members are working and often lack time to devote to their hobby but are emphatic that the eastern region will survive

In the early days of the Region, meetings were held at Jim Dorbis's premises, But recently meetings are being held in various other members workshops which is a good way of seeing other peoples tools and equipment and approach to workshop safety. The members find this approach very practical

Eastern Region is a miniature United Nations with members originating from Sweden, Italy, Egypt, Israel and Malta. Some members even come from Sydney

Eastern Region usually meets on the first Sunday of each month although this sometimes changes to accomodate long week ends and other holiday periods. Details of meeting locations and dates may be got from;

- Graham Tilly (Convenor) 9660 3071
- Stephen Gahan (Guild Representative) 98173083

As we are a Region of the Sydney Woodturners Guild, all Guild members may attend our meetings and local or overseas visitors are especially welcome. We have found that it is easier to learn in a small group then in a large one. Our fees are \$2.00 a meeting.

If you are looking for a new hobby please do come and join us, you'll never regret it.



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HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC NEWSLETTER JUNE/JULY 2010 (Bert Gude)

In the absence of our convenor, Greg Croker welcomed the 25 members who attended today's meeting as well as Ken Cooper from the Northern Beaches Group.

Greg reminded the members of the upcoming WWW Show and that there were still tickets available. Also that the annual Guild dues were due and needed to be paid. He also mentioned that a large Camphor Laurel tree was to be cut down at Chipping Norton and anyone interested should contact Chris Dunn on 9607 0940.

The S & T segment commenced with Ian Raper showing a WIP, a bowl with a large flat rim turned from Claret Ash. The top side of the rim had been carved with a series of connecting diamond shapes (tear drops) and these were raised by the background having been carved away.

Greg Croker had turned a deep straight sided bowl from Camphor Laurel, the bowl would be well suited to hold and display fruit.



Eddy Watts showed a small nicely shaped bowl turned from Jarrah as well as knife handle from Rosewood.

The finish used on both pieces was Organ oil.

Russell Pinch (Brown Beaver) had used Jacaranda to turn a large pepper mill. Russell had applied Shellwax and then sanded with 600 grit paper to get a very nice finish.

Martin Nielsen had turned a small platter from Camphor Laurel. The rim was embossed with a circle of iron filings mixed with blue epoxy and sanded. Martin presented an article on the skew chisel from the latest copy of the Australian Wood Worker that was of interest to the members present. Martin had also turned a square sided lidded box from Camphor Laurel the edges of which had been inlaid with Mahogany timber.



Peter Harding (from Coffs Harbour) had brought in his Rose Engine used for ornamental turning to show the members.

Ken Cooper (today's demonstrator) displayed a turned box with an exterior shape of a six pointed star (a David Springett box with a twist).

Colin Hunter displayed a lidded box turned from recycled timber recovered from an outside decking project.

Our demonstrator Ken Cooper was introduced and then commenced to discuss the topic of grinding and associated tools. Ken made a number of important comments regarding safety as follows:

- Never take off the guards from the grinding wheels when sharpening your tools, as it is possible that a wheel may disintegrate and cause you a major injury.
- Also before mounting a new wheel check it by lightly taping it with a hammer, if you get a nice even tone then the wheel can be used. However if the ring sound is dull this could indicate that there is an internal crack and the wheel should be taken back to the point of sale and exchanged.



Numbers on the side of the Wheel: what these mean, for example 38A80H8VBE

- "38" means it is a wheel made from aluminium oxide
- "A" means that it is an abrasive wheel
- "80" represents the grit size

- "H" indicates the bond strength; this can range from A (soft) to Z (hard).
- "8" represents the structure of the grit making up the wheel, ranges from 1 to 12.
- "V" this is a vitrified wheel.
- "BE" these are manufacturer's specifications.

An 80 grit wheel is ideal for wood turners to use to sharpen their tools.

After an enjoyable BBQ lunch, Ken continued his demonstration and covered a number of points.

Colour of Wheels: There are various coloured wheels available, the Pink indicates that it is made with Chrome Oxide, the Blue wheel is made with Cobalt and the Green wheel is made from Silicon Carbide.

Size of Wheel: An 8 " wheel gives a better grind when used; the 6" wheel gives a hooky shape on the grind.

Maximum speed of the Wheel: A wheel should have a higher speed rating than that of the grinder. You should always check that this is the case when replacing wheels.

New Wheels: Before a new wheel is installed on the grinder, turn on the grinder to check that there are no vibrations and that it is running true. If there are vibrations one may need to check the mountings of the grinder itself. Any vibrations in the grinder will be magnified when using the grinding wheel and will result in a poor grind.

Dressing of Wheels: Star wheels work well but takeoff a large amount of wheel. Ken uses a diamond dresser which is applied by trailing the edge along the wheel at about 15 degrees below the centre of the wheel. A sharp wheel will always sharpen the tool better.

Felt Wheels: These are used for stropping the tools and must be used in the trailing position. These wheels are used in conjunction with honing compound which must only be applied when the grinder is stationary.

Jigs: Ken displayed a set of jigs (one for each turning tool) these jigs contained two pins which were placed on the side of the grinding wheel and the extended section or tail of the jig rested on the tool rest which was then adjusted to fully support the tail of the jig and then tightened. This provides the correct angle for the specific tool to be presented to the grinding wheel when being sharpened. These jigs enabled the user to quickly set up the tool rest to the correct angle in every instance and recreate the same angle of grind for each tool. *(I am sure a number of the members will be making these jigs. Ed)*

Oil Stones: Over time an oilstone will have a hollow eroded into the face of the stone. To flatten the face, use fine sand and a small amount of kerosene on a piece of thick glass sheet and rub the hollowed face of the stone to flatten the face. Similarly the base of a timber plane can be fettled or flattened in the same manner.



When not in use, keep stones and slip stones in a container with a sponge insert in a mixture of kerosene and oil.

Water Stones: These are normally finer and softer than oil stones. Care needs to be taken as they wear quicker with use and care needs to be taken that they don't hollow on the face. The hollow in water stones can be remedied by rubbing two water stones together face to face.

Cabinet Scrapers: These are small rectangular pieces of steel, normally of 35 – 40 Rockwell strength. The longer edge of the scraper can be sharpened by moving a Mill file square to and along the edge. When the edge is square and by applying a burnishing steel rolls over the edge a burr is created.

This is what cuts or scrapes off the timber of the item being finished.

Some difficult items to sharpen: Drill bits can be presented to the grinding wheel and then lifted up to be sharpened. For router bits use a fine diamond stone to touch up the cutting edge and for a Forstner bit apply the diamond stone only to the flat or cutting side of the bit.



Thanks to our demonstrator Ken Cooper for a very informative meeting.

Keep Turning.

Vale:

Henry (Harry) Edwin Rossitor QC AO, a member of the Hornsby Woodturners Group and a dear friend who enjoyed the company of woodturners. Passed away on Wednesday 23 June 2010 aged 87 years. He turned many bowls, platters and lidded boxes and now has turned his lathe off for the last time. He will be remembered and sadly missed by all his woodturning friends.

We are one of the affiliated incorporated organisations that that comprise the Sydney Woodturners Guild Inc.

As a region, of moderate size, we concentrate on giving the members that attend our monthly meetings 'hands-on' tuition and advice.

Our Aims

- To create an environment where new and existing members can receive informal, personal and 'hands-on' woodturning tuition.
- To provide a venue where members can discuss all woodturning issues.
- To provide demonstrations, presentations and advice as and when members require.

Workshop

The workshop has 5 Woodfast lathes, complete with tools, various chucks and faceplates. This equipment is supplemented with the region's Teknatool Comet lathe, which has its own tools and accessories.

What we do

Members are encouraged to bring timber and tools and, under guidance if required, work on their projects.

The region supplies timber and tools for those members who do not yet have their own.

Visitors, even those of you just mildly curious, and members from other regions are more than welcome to come along to any of our meetings.

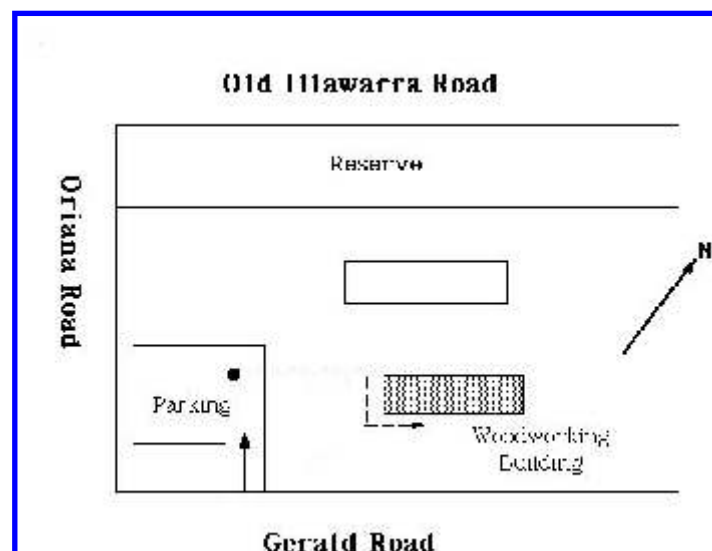
You will enjoy the company, make new friends and be encouraged to ask plenty of questions.

Meeting are held monthly on Tuesdays at 6 pm.

Verify specific meeting dates by contacting President, Bruce Houldin on 9541 4050

Our meetings are held in the woodworking workshop of the Menai High School.

Entry to the parking area is from Gerald Road, Illawong. (See map below)





Owen Holden made a neat truck which was destined for a grandson in Holland. Experimenting with offset turning he made a car which subsequently became a ute.



Gordon McKenzie made a nice green catapillar – very lifelike.

Janet Austin has been experimenting with dolls and made a great effort with this Japanese Kokeshi doll



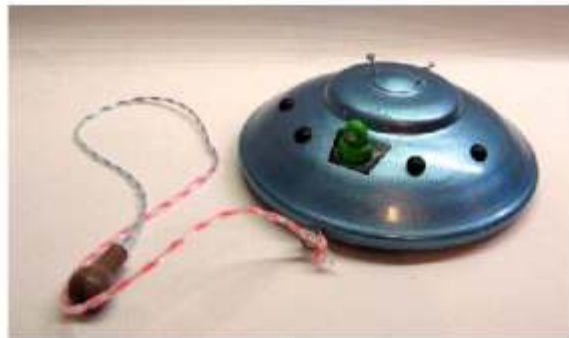
Norm McArthur showed a captive ring rattle –could be a dummy as well?



Anne Keogh produced a great Red Barron bi plane complete with a pilot wearing a scarf, a nifty helicopter and some well turned wooden balls for a checkers game – well done Anne.



Rob Morton had a very well balanced spinning top



Jack Buttler's flying saucer on wheels started out as a bowl



Barry Child showed us a well made carousel



Aaron showed a sample of one of the oldest toys . He said that the yo yo (as above) is supposed to be the second oldest toy known.

Other items for show and Tell were:-



Gary Cox - A set of pens turned from 40,000 year old petrified red gum, and a set of bowls from various timbers.



Janet Austin - decorated dish

Rob Morton - unfinished spice grinder from Privet and Bamboo



Show & Tell - May Meeting Project for May was a bowl with ?



Fred Robjert: Cryptomania bowl



Bill Bailey: Strawberry serving bowl, thrya occidentalis



Roger Wilson: Bowl with bark, English oak



Fred Robjert: Sirai pen



Bob Miller: Pot Bowl, camphor laurel (note the personal brand)



Jim Powell: Tooth pick box, huon pine



Graeme Webb: Bowl, Alaskan cedar, Clock in Tassie blackwood



Max Donato: Bowl with nothing, pin oak

Andrew Gittoes Demonstration

Date: 28 August 10.00am to 3.00 pm

Cost: \$25, includes monthly fee

Lots of ideas on how to create, decorate, design and extend your turning

Wood-eze

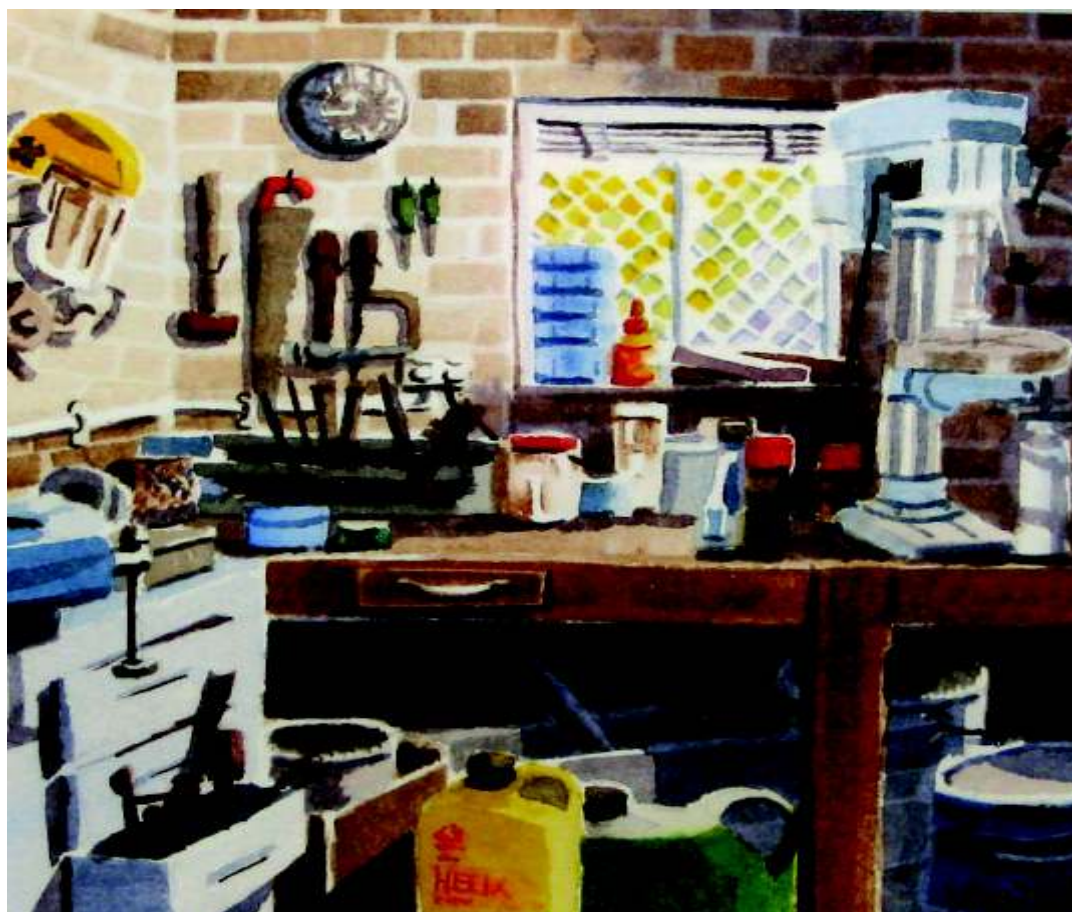
WOODTURNING SUPPLIES

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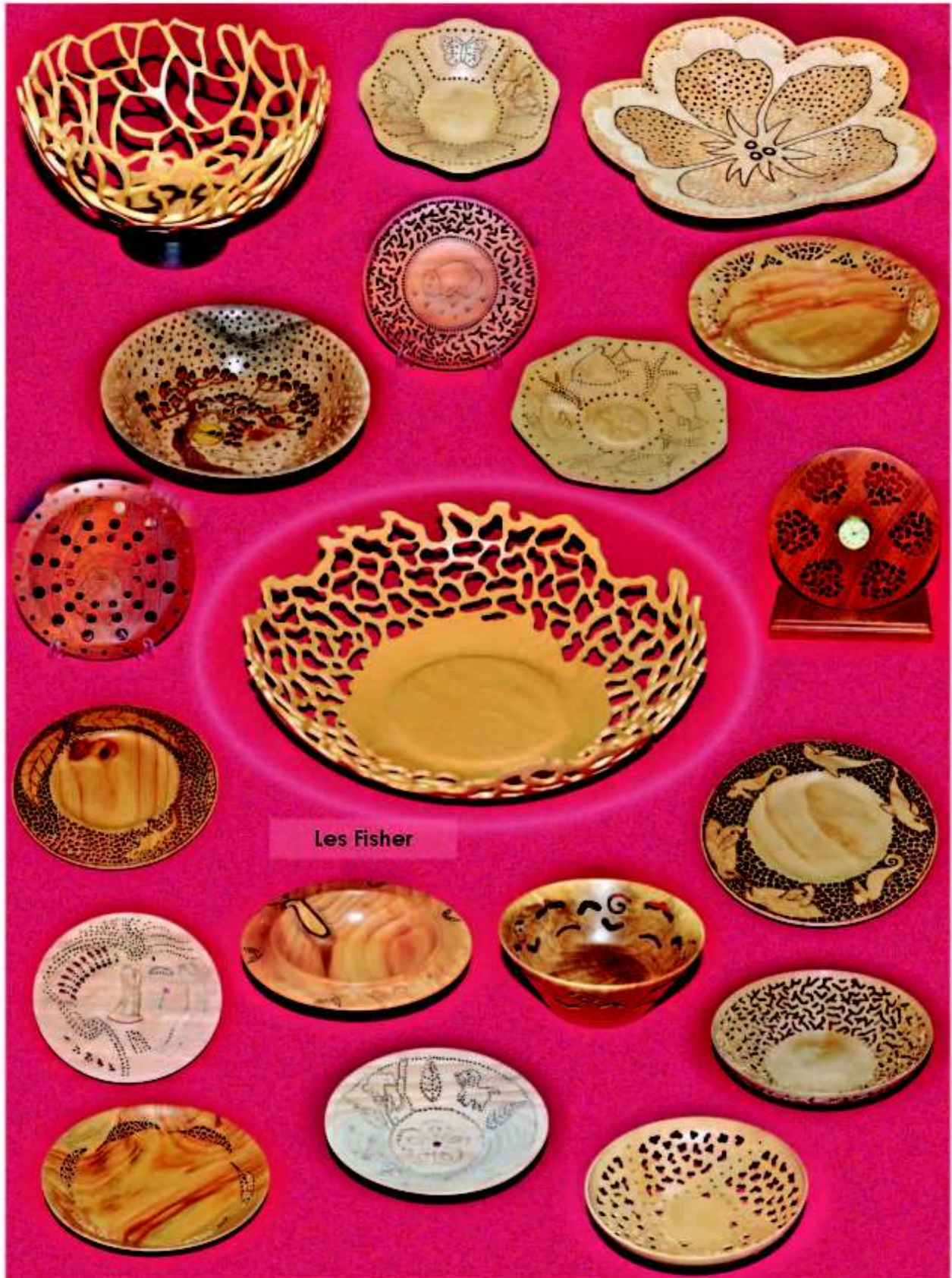
THE WORKSHOP

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2008 - 2009 CATALOGUE

Show and Tell - Thin Turnings with Perforations



Show & Tell 21st March



Steve Hitchcock and his burl bowl.



Dom Vaticano presented a ship's wheel.



Ken Vodden shows some fine laminated work.



George Wells with a lampshade cake stand



George Wells
Cake stand.



Steve Hitchcock
Plate and bowl.



Steve Hitchcock
Rosewood Plate



Steve Hitchcock
Nut bowl; banksia



Dom Vaticano ship's
wheel.
Euro beech and olive.



Dom Vaticano bowl.
Pencil pine. Estapol.



Dom Vaticano bowl.
Pencil pine. Estapol



Ray Smith wedgetail eagle.
Intarsia; various woods.



Graham Dawes
Offset chuck.



Ken Vodden.
Laminated bowl.



Ken Vodden.
Laminated bowl



Syd Churchward. Tops
and Baseball bats.

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All submissions will be gratefully accepted. Original photos will be returned but we prefer soft copies if available. Please submit articles in PDF, Word or text files.