



August 2006

WOODCHIPS

Newsletter Of the Southern Highlands Region
of the Sydney Woodturners Guild.

Web site, www.sydneywoodturners.com.au

Patrons: Don & Bess Akrigg.



The Next Meeting Saturday 23rd September 10 am At Charlton Hall.

Let's see every lathe in use from 10.00am until we break for lunch. .

Canberra Working With Wood Show Saturday 9 September BUS TRIP

We have 14 going on the bus. If your name is not down and you want to go, please
add your name to the list. Do it now.
Bus will leave at 8.00am from outside Harbison.

DIARY DATES.

At Southern Highlands

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|--------------|---------------------------|
| 26 August | Hands On Day |
| 23 September | Ernie Newman & AGM |
| 28 October | Local Lads; Jigs & Chucks |
| 25 November | Lindsay Skinner |
| 17 December | Christmas Function |

Other

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 26 - 27 August | Vaughn Richmond Demonstration, Cubbyhouse |
| 8-10 September | Down-Under-Turnaround, Phillip Island |
| 8 - 10 September | Canberra Working With Wood Show |
| 6 - 8 October | Hobart Working With Wood Show |
| 20-22 October | Melbourne working With Wood Show |

July Meeting

This meeting was a meeting with a difference as we had a large group of the Macarthur members accompanied Sam Shakouri who was our demonstrator for the day.

Frank Hicks bought along his mobile store and managed to sell a few things to the group.

As Peter Herbert was away for the weekend, Ian Pye chaired the meeting and opened it following our normal gastronomic delights prepared by John Crisp and the Kitchen Krew. The onions from Brian Freer were a delightful touch.

After covering all the coming events we moved onto the main event which was Sam Shakouri from Macarthur Region. Sam is well known for his segmented balls, globes and footballs. And he came along to show us how he did his pieces.

Sam Shakouri

As I was on the camera, my notes of his demonstration are a little vague.

Sam cuts all his pieces to almost exact size. He creates 'rings' of hexagons with a hole in the centre. Once the hexagons are glued, he pops a pentagon into that hole and it fills the space. Each piece is sanded to meet the shape required on a special sanding jig. As well as sanding the outer shape, Sam has to sand each piece so that it slopes down towards the centre of the ball.



He has spent 4-5 years experimenting with jigs, shapes and methods to achieve the results that he now obtains. That amount of work, frustrating, time consuming, endlessly boring, but continued until he was successful shows a spirit that many of us would envy,

Sam mounts his work on a special section glued onto the 'end's of the ball Iwhich has a hole shaped to suit the drive centre as he finds it tends to slip and he cannot recentre once he starts.

He scrapes the piece working from both sides on two banjos which he switches between as required. He has a few templates which he uses to keep the piece working towards a ball shape. He needs to do this so that the ends do not get too pointed or too flat.

Once he gets to a 'ball' shape, he has to take it off the lathe and finish it using hand tools.

While Sam;s demonstration was short, it was really interesting and quite a lift to all those who saw it.



We have a video of the demonstration and put it onto DVD and it is in the library.



Club Shirts

Supplies of club shirts now available. With club monogram on the pocket, cost is \$39.

Money up front please, cheques acceptable.

See Ian Pye, pay money and place your order.

Mike Darlow

As he has just returned from the US where he was a demonstrator at the American Association of Woodturner's, he gave us an insight into the event.

The AAW conference was held at Louisville, Kentucky. Before going there, he went to Portland, Oregon and San Francisco, California. At each of these locations he had teaching commitments.

Louisville is the geographic centre of woodturning on the east coast. His hotel had 1400 suites and there were 1700 attendees at the Conference. So it is a big thing.

The demonstrations are run like ours, each demo had about 100 attendees with lots of questions and not too many got upset at his comments.

Lots of woodturning shows happening with lots of good work but not much being sold. The theory that you sell well in the US is a bit funny. There seems to be a small group that do well and the rest sell like we do here in the Oz.

He then told us about the baseball bat factory that he went to, where the Louisville Slugger is still made. Each professional baseball player goes through about 80 bats a season, so it is big business.

In general, he thought the work being demonstrated has little to do with woodturning. Lots of segmented work. Lots of carved, painted, cut, massaged work which covers up that it is poor turning.

He also saw lots of lathes we do not see here. Although Vicmarcs are a popular lathe.

He gave us a lot more information than I've put down and we thank him for the talk and the information.

Committee News

Your local committee met Monday 21 August. Current funds are \$2,790.44.

The AGM for the Region will be held at the September meeting. John Harris will stand again as Secretary and Ian Pye as Treasurer. John Powell has volunteered to stand as Convenor.

BUT!!!! We need a Representative. This may be best done by two members who share the job and attend half the meetings each. Their job will be to represent us at Guild Committee meetings. We need this role filled and I've filled it for the last two years and an earlier stint of three years.

So please, can you give us one night every two months to represent us. We will pay \$30 towards the fuel cost of getting to the meeting. But one night every two months if two people share the job.

And we need a committee member to replace John Powell's current role.

If you want any of the above jobs, volunteer.

Committee		
Convenor	Col Martin	02 48 721 419
Guild Rep	Bill Shean	02 46 843 146
Treasurer,	Ian Pye	02 48 623 750
Committee Member.	John Harris	02 48 721 006
Committee Member.	John Powell	02 4871 2714
Editor	Bill Shean	sheans@bigpond.net.au

Representative– I suppose the big news is that you will have received your papers for the meeting to be held on 15 September on the issue of restructure of the Guild.

Please do one of two things, either attend and vote or vote by completing a proxy from. The proxy form was attached to your papers.

October Meeting

The program has this down as ‘the Local Lads-Jigs & chucks’. Peter Herbert, John Harris, John Powell and Bill Shean are all going to show us how to use some unusual piece of kit that they each have.

If any one else has an unusual piece of kit, bring it along and demonstrate how you use it, why it is the right tool for that particular job. Where did you get it?

Show and Tell was conducted by Mike Darlow

Theme was ‘Bowls with Holes’, so we saw some bowls with accidental, deliberate and natural holes in them.

Bill Shean: Pierced through bowl in elm. Mike is equivocal about carved bowls, why do it? Not worth the effort. Camphor laurel bowl with texturing and pyrography . A kauri bowl with carving and colouring called the Hundreds and Thousands bowl. A camphor laurel bowl with a deep foot which Mike thought the foot did not match the bowl shape. Two Terry Baker style carved rectangular shapes, the carving was considered unfinished and rough.



Don Agrigg: Some precision animals.

Sam Shakouri : A world orb. Made in wenge & maple.

Fred Sch: Silky oak bowl, Mike found a lump in it. Hemispherical bowls are boring was Mike’s comment. Candle sticks—3 different varieties. Most are copies of candlesticks made in other materials. Various styles found in each candlestick. Bowl with holes bored in it, then holes coloured.



Max Donato: Pierced through bowl. Cut the legs after drilling the ends. Lovely piece.

Bob Miller: A bowl from unknown timber, needed some sanding

Ian Pye: Pair of legs. Glued bits together to create the size needed. Lots of discussion on these pieces as Mike covered various parts of the job. Raised some heat from a number of members and a range of contra opinions abounded. A bowl which had a hole in it, story of the photographer.



John Harris: Jacaranda green lidded bow. Really moved after he finished it and developed some splits.

