



January 2007

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 24th February
10 am
At Charlton Hall.**

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



Don and Bess Akrigg

DIARY DATES.

At Southern Highlands

- 27 January 2007** Routing on the Lathe - John Crisp, Peter Herbert, Bill Shean
- 24 February** Lindsay Skinner-Colour, Pattern and Texture.
- 9-11 March** Moss Vale Show
- 24 March** Hands On Day
- 23 June** Guiliano Marcelongelo

Other

- 9-11 March 2007** Wagga Wagga Turnabout
Contact: Larry Sloan, 02 6926 1536
- 21 April 2007** Blue Mountains Club challenge

**Equipment Levy - \$25
Due January 27th
See Ian Pye**

December Meeting

Our Christmas meeting started with 20 members present and then another a little later.

This was to be Don and Bess Acrigg's last meeting, as it is getting harder and harder for them to get to our meetings. As a little thanks for all their fine work, our convenor John Powell, presented them with a small gift, a plant. Don and Bess are shown on the cover. When the Southern Highlands was formed, it was a relatively short time later that Don offered his shed as a home for the Region. When I moved down from the Western Blue Mountains Region, it was in Don's shed that I first became a member of the Region. Many an interesting and enjoyable meeting was held there.

We owe Don and Bess a thanks for giving us a home that we never repay. Thank you Don and Bess!!

Treasurer Ian Pye advised that our funds were currently at \$2,647 at the end of November. We are in a healthy financial state. The Equipment Levy is due in January, this will fund additional expenditure on equipment, more likely a variable speed unit in 2007.

Representative John Crisp gave his report, he had attended a Guild Committee on 27th November and an AGM on the same night. Between the October, November and AGM meetings, we now have 7 Regions that have applied to become affiliated organisations to the Sydney Woodturner's Guild.

Library, Pat Kennard has volunteered to take over from Lofty as librarian. Pam Harris will assist Pat. Our thanks to both for taking on the role. And our thanks to Lofty for his years as the custodian of our library.

Tuesday workshop: these have now restarted. Number are still lower than Friday's group. Cost is \$1 to attend. A hand-on day where you can play on the lathe with others around to help.

Friday workshops: these have also restarted. Yesterday, 26 January, we had quite a large group of 11 people. Previous week as 8. So it is growing to the point where we now have to roster the lathes. Who ever gets there last waits until a lathe is free. But coffee is on all the time.

Main Activity

December was spinning top day. We had some interesting styles, some interesting results and some interesting fun. I took some heavy casuarinas and made one, John Harris left his tools and timber at home so he borrowed both from me.

When it came to top spin off, all the others that had been made from lighter timbers seemed to run out of steam at 45 seconds, but John's and mine seemed to give it another minute.

John Harris won the spin-off by 5 seconds.

All up, we had a fun day. My only comment would be that too many did not have a try.



Moss Vale Show

March 9-11.

We need people to man the lathes, seel goods, talk to the public.

We need goods for display and sale. Each piece should be marked with your name and the price.

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.

TURN-FEST KOORALBYN

2007

A WOODTURNING SYMPOSIUM WITH OVER 90 LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS
CONDUCTED BY THE WORLDS BEST WOODTURNING & CARVING
PROFESSIONALS!

FEATURING!

CHRISTIAN DELHON. FRANCE MIKE MAHONEY. AMERICA
ANDI WOLFE. AMERICA TERRY SCOTT. NEW ZEALAND
TONY HANSEN. QLD DON POWELL. QLD
NEIL SCOBIE. NSW LINDSAY DUNN. NSW
VIC WOOD. VIC STEPHEN HUGHES. VIC
LIZ SCOBIE. NSW KEN WRAIGHT. VIC
TERRY MARTIN. QLD

A FULLY CATERED WEEKEND WITH ALL YOUR MEALS AND
ACCOMODATION ON SITE.

LOCATION

HELD AT THE KOORALBYN VALLEY RESORT SITUATED IN THE BEAUTIFUL
BEAUDESERT SHIRE COUNTY SIDE.
THIS LOCATION OFFERS CONFERENCE AND ACCOMODATION FACILITIES IN A BUSH
SETTING!

ACCOMODATION!

AVAILABLE ON SITE IN A RANGE OF LEVELS, **NOT** INCLUDED IN YOUR
REGISTRATION FEE (LIMITED UNPOWERED CARAVAN SITES AVAILABLE)
*4 STAR RESORT HOTEL ROOMS TO SUMMIT ROOMS AVAILABLE, SPECIAL RATES
APPLY.

DATE!

30th, 31st of March & 1st of April 2007

COST! \$280-00 Inc GST REGISTRATION ONLY

FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!

ATTENDENCE BY REGISTRATION ONLY!

Portrait of a Woodturner

Fred Schffarczwyk has appeared in the latest edition of By Hand & Eye as the 'portrait', ie a look at various members and their history and approach to woodturning.



Committee News

Your local committee met on Monday 22 January. Current funds are \$2,640.81 of which \$576.10 is designated Equipment Fund.

Committee

Convener	John Powell	02 48 712 714
Guild Rep	John Crisp	02 48 839 596
Treasurer,	Ian Pye	02 48 623 750
Committee Member.	John Harris	02 48 721 006
Committee Member.	Peter Herbert	02 48 894 009
Editor	Bill Shean	sheans@bigpond.net.au 02 46 843 146

Show and Tell was conducted by John Harris

The object of Show and Tell had been to bring as many pieces as still existed from all that each member had made during 2007. As you can see from the photographs, we certainly had a large display.

John decided to comment on only selected works as we had seen most of them before. Members who displayed work were:

Fred Schaffarczyk

Max Donato

Ian Pye

John Rossiter

John Crisp

Peter Herbert

Bill Shean

James Powell

John Harris

Don Grenchalgh



Microwave Seasoning of Wood

- First the disclaimer: This process has worked for some but I can assume no responsibility for how it works for you. And as a suggestion, do not start with a \$100 burl but rather try out some "junk" wood that you do not care that much for — you may even be surprised.
- Second as an alternative to the technique described below: Some microwaves have a "Sure Simmer" setting which essentially allows you to keep the item in the oven at the boiling point for a set period of time. If you have and use this setting then the bag technique below is obsolete. Simply simmer the item for as long as required to drive off all the moisture. 3/4 inch thick wood requires about 15 minutes simmer time in my microwave. To keep the moisture level high place the wood in a plastic bag that has a few holes either pierced or just do not tie too tightly.

Here is the technique for "older" microwaves:

1. Weigh the wood and record the weight. (This is optional but a good thing to do initially as it will give you an idea of how much moisture is being driven off.)
2. Seal the wood inside a plastic bag. A ziploc bag works well. This also keeps the microwave oven clean.
3. Place wood (which is inside a bag) in the microwave. Set microwave at full power and the timer for two minutes.
4. Turn on the microwave. Watch the bag. When it starts to blow up (fill with steam but not "go bang"), turn off the microwave. This is a good temperature indicator. If the wood is heated too long steam will be generated inside the fibres and strange effects occur such as hidden fissures.
5. Remove the bag and wood from the microwave. Open the bag and remove the wood from the bag. The wood should be hot. Cover the wood with a paper towel and allow to stand for 5 minutes. Dry the inside of the bag.
6. Seal the wood inside the plastic bag again (If you want to place some paper towel in the bag use dry paper towel).
7. Place wood (which is inside the bag) in the microwave. Set microwave at full power and the timer for two minutes.
8. Turn on the microwave. Watch the bag. When it starts to blow up turn off the microwave. Note how long it took to heat to "steam generation". For small pieces about 50 seconds.
9. Remove the bag and wood from the microwave. Open the bag and remove the wood from the bag. The wood should be hot. Allow the covered wood to stand for 5 minutes (Do not allow the wood to cool down too much). Dry the inside of the bag.
10. Now you have an idea of how long to heat the wood after a five minute cool down. If you weighed the wood this is when you should reweigh it and see how much moisture you have lost. Note the new weight. Note: When there is no longer a significant weight loss you will have dried the wood sufficiently. Over drying the wood does not harm the wood but it does waste electricity and the wood will take on moisture from the ambient air once it is allowed to rest.
11. Reheat the wood every five minutes for the time you established in step 8 until there is no significant weight loss OR until the wood "feels" dry after the five minute rest. You no longer need to place the wood in the bag except to keep the oven clean and humidity high. Some woods leave a distinct odour which may not go with your reheated Kraft Dinner. But wrapping the wood in paper will keep humidity high too.

Remember that the wood needs to be kept hot while it loses moisture and moisture removal should be kept slow by keeping the wood in a relatively moist environment. (Use the pierced bag technique described above or paper wrapping.)

Thin pieces may only have to be heated three times while thicker pieces will need several sessions in the microwave. The number of sessions depends more on the thickness of the wood than on the overall weight. Large thin pieces dry just as fast as small thin pieces. However the larger pieces will need slightly longer sessions in the oven as determined by the bag inflating with steam.



This picture shows the difference between two pieces that started out the same size and shape. The one on the right was microwave dried. Both from a walnut branch - a hard wood to dry without checking.

Source: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/3jdw8/microwavedrying.htm>