

Highlights of April Meeting



SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WOODIES GROUP INC.

Woodchips

This meeting was a week earlier than our norm to accommodate Anzac Day which was our normal meeting date.

We had a special guest all day in Jean, John Harris's mother who was there to keep an eye on your Sam the grandson. The Harris's effectively had three generations there at the one time. Not bad for a bunch of Woodturners, although Jean seemed a little anxious about trying some deep hollowing.



We also had an unusual demonstration for one of our meetings, three knitters happily involved in knitting and oblivious to all other activity.

We had our normal social morning, with some turning, some coffee and some words of wisdom solving all the problems of the world, followed by lunch and the official part of the meeting.

The demonstration section of the meeting involved John Harris and myself doing some deep hollowing and showing how a few slightly different tools are used.



I concentrated on end grain type hollowing, while John did some deep bowl hollowing. Between us we showed the various Kel MacNaughton hollowing systems, the Sorby armbrace and a few homegrown adaptations.

Between us, we also managed to get a few



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What's Happening

- 23 May Jack Butler, Peninsula Region
- 6-7 June Central Tilba Regional Exhibition of Woodwork
- 19-21 June Sydney Working With Wood Show
- 27 June Hands On - Team Scoop Making
- 18 July **Third Saturday, not 4th.** Richard Raffan.
- 3 August Opening of our 'Treasures in Timber' Exhibition at the Moss Vale Council Chambers. Runs until 28 August.
- 22 August Hands-on Day - **Turn it, Bash it, Scrape It, Paint It, Surface Decoration Day.**
- 12-14 September Down Under Turnaround, Phillip Island
- May Meeting Last Show & Tell for inclusion in 2009 Excellence Award



2008 Excellence Award, J Harris

Show & Tell - April Meeting by Ian Pye. Project for April—Hollow Form



Max Donato: vase in firewood



Ian Pye: Hat Stand in Sally Wattle and Cedar



John Crisp: Vase in Huon



Graeme Webb: Hollow form in Macrocarpa & Box in Rose sheoak



John Powell: Blackwood



Peter Herbert: Wait and see in silky oak and a top by Bonnie Klein



Peter Herbert: Bowl in silky oak, 3 vases done with Andrew Gittoes



Bill Shean: Box in myrtle



Bill Shean: Hollow form in Huon and Padauk, hollow forms in huon, Hollow Form in Huon and Rosewood, Hanging ornament in Zebrano and ebony, Vase in Banksia nut



Bill Shean: Square bowl in huon.



Ken Sullivan: Tembleurs, broken and complete



President's Report

The April meeting proved to be very interesting with the terrible two, Bill Shean and John Harris, showing us how to do hollow forms, and what happens when a lump of wood flies off the lathe. At least it didn't go flying through a large window as a piece of mine did, proving very expensive!! Crispie and Bill also know about pieces imbedded in the ceiling, so all be very aware that these things happen, no doubt due to Max's friend Murphy.

Ian Pye did an excellent job conducting Show and Tell, with some very good pieces on display. I feel that we are doing a good job in raising the standard of work in the items we are producing.

The stall at the Polocrosse Quad Challenge was certainly affected by the freezing winds and rain.

It was a marvelous chance to practice setting up and dismantling the Woodies' canopy, the display stands and items for sale. In between these exercises we did sell a handful of items. Still, it did get our name out there and hopefully we will be back there next time in better weather. To those members who braved the elements to help, your efforts are much appreciated.

Finally I would like to welcome Joyce Crisp, Chrispie's wife, who has been made an honorary member of our group in recognition of her contribution to our raffle each month and the work she has put into organizing and maintaining the equipment for the Bunning's BBQs. A big thank you, Joyce, for all your help and keeping Crispie in order.



Keep the chips flying, John.

Treasurer's Report



For Wood Chips, One can only say that April was a routine month which ended with our balance at \$3,514.61. This sounds rather good but it does include the Equipment Fund now at \$1,197.04 and \$495 which we are holding partly for the Richard Raffan Day and partly in

membership fees which have to go to the Guild. Thus our core balance is \$1,822.57.

The Treasurer will try not to spend it all while he is away enjoying the charms of Merry England.

See you in June..we are due back 19 June but I won't be going to the SWWW Show this year.

Show & Tellcont



Ken Sullivan: Trembleur



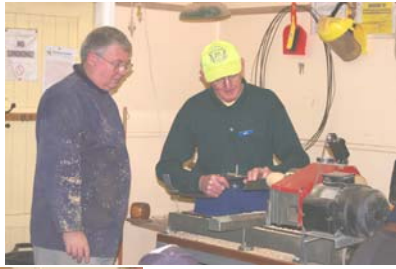
John Harris: 'Sea Crust' in Red Cedar, 2 Coolibah Burl bowls.



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members up and trying the various tools and techniques.

Most seemed a little overwhelmed by the



Sorby armbrace to start with, but soon discovered how delicate a cut it can make and how controllable it is. Per-

haps the Club might like to investigate purchase of one.

Overall, it seemed a successful and entertaining event



from John and my perspectives.



Bill S.

Polocrosse, Bong Bong Races, 19 April by Bill Shean

We were invited to attend this function while at the Black & White Sheep Assoc. day at Robertson.

According to Peter Herbert, the highlight of the day was the wind, the rain and Freddy R's movements in and out of the wine tasting tent.

A few hardy members turned up to set up our display and because Freddy R turned up a little later than the others, he had to pay \$10 to get in the gate.



Chainsaw Artist

Freddy S sent me these photos of a chainsaw artist in the US. Quite spectacular.



Sue and Fred's Trip to New Zealand

Fred and Sue decided to go to New Zealand to visit Ian and Lynley. We checked our passports for validity. Fred's passport had run out 9 months previously . Sue's is ok at this stage. Let's go to the passport office and have Fred's renewed over the counter. We decided to phone first and were told "no can do-It takes ten days or special express service which cost \$85 more. "Passports can be renewed if not more than 12 months overdue ,this costs \$208 but if a new passport is needed then it will cost \$316 .We completed the application form on the net, downloaded it and took it to the Post Office. The Post Office employee with large camera in hand places Fred in front of a screen and says "look into the camera and DO NOT SMILE". Pay money and wait twelve days for the passport to eventually arrive. .Fred found a suitable return airfare with lastminute.com , he booked it . Scanned further down the page and noted the block printed message "Passports must have at least six months validity or you will not be allowed to board. That's Ok thinks Fred I have a new passport. Sue checks hers again, shock horror only three months to go. We phone the NZ Embassy ,they reply laughing" Don't worry it's Ok "We decide to check the airline to be sure -their reply - If it's ok with the embassy then it's ok with the airline both LAN and AIR NZ said this but last minute.com ,who had been emailed over the weekend before the phone calls were made to the NZ Embassy still said " No six months availability, no boarding . "So back to the embassy, they again said, "It's ok by New Zealand if you are an Australian citizen travelling on an Australian passport no problems !" Can I have that in writing ? " "No you don't need it "

Booked Thrifty Car rental for Auckland either Toyota Corolla or Nissan Pulsar..Requested an e-mail to print out and take with us. They agreed to send it.Next day still no e-mail. Phoned Thrifty only to find it was incorrectly addressed by them .It arrived soon after.

Organised travel insurance with MBF as we always do. Asked them if it was ok to download and fax to them because we only had four days left. We were advised that's ok but because Fred was above 70 a doctor's report was essential. We visited our doctor and obtained a printed record. We then faxed 14 pages to MBF. Next day no confirmation had arrived. We phoned MBF and were told they must have the original signed papers before processing can be done and it then takes 10 days. We thanked them and hung up. We found Diabetes Australia more helpful. They promised to e-mail forms instantly, none arrived . Phoned them and learned that our e-mail address had been lost we re advised our e-mail address. We thought just in case it all goes wrong again we'll check with NRMA travel insurance . We told them of our dilemma. The lady responded by saying "we'll fix it and we'll contact you between 12.30 and 1.30 pm to day. We are still waiting on their call .

E-mail from D.A. arrived. Sue completed the forms and returned them . Received the official forms by e-mail and found that Mr and Mrs. were in front of our names incorrectly. We phoned the lady, she said she will correct the forms and return them to us . Received a new e-mail and noticed that date of birth was incorrectly placed between us . We phoned her again and she apologised profusely and said it will be resent correctly . They arrived ok this time .We printed the form and signed it . Fred went to Friday Wood Turners meeting and when he returned he found Sue very distressed , she was trying to fax the completed form but it would not go through. She had phoned the lady and asked her to check her fax machine , she did and said it was ok but still it would not accept our transmission. Fred told Sue to go and have a cup of tea while he had a go as time was fast running out. Fred phoned again and this time a gentleman answered while he was telling him of our predicament the gent had turned his fax machine of and on again and then said "re send your fax and tell me when you are sending it" .When Fred said "Go" he turned his machine off and on again and the transmission

was successful. The evening had arrived and Sue had almost stopped wanting to jump of the roof and had a large scotch instead. We left home at five thirty the next morning . During the time of our fun with the booking process we were advised of three different times to check in at the Airport, one at two hours , one at two and a half hours and one at three hours before boarding. We left home with plenty of time to spare and arrived at the airport with no problems , we were amazed . At boarding check in again no problems , hurray !!! Arrived in Auckland and went to pick up our pre booked rental car . Thrifty counter lady said those cars are not available we'll need to upgrade to a Camry . Computer said no Camry available . Upgrade to a Toyota Aurion, yes available ,will you accept it ? I said at what cost ? She replied the boss will not be happy with me but I'll give it to you at no extra charge . We thought the spell is finally broken when we were told that Thrifty had an NRMA special discount deal on and we got it for \$ 30 per day plus insurance . We took off and travelled over 2000 km all over the North Island seeing some spectacular scenery on the way . We struck another problem in Wellington where we managed to get lost a couple of times because the car did not have a street directory in it .We saw some parts of Wellington we would not have seen otherwise .We managed to find our way through to Paekakariki arriving earlier than anticipated to be found by Ian who happened to be home at that time because he had been to the dentist..Ian made us very welcome . We spent the next day ,Saturday, exploring Wellington .The Cable Car was a novelty and the view from top of the city was fantastic. Ian went to watch NZ and India play cricket .After lunch we met up with Lynley at Te Papa to see the Monet exhibition which we had missed in Sydney .Sue and Lynley loved it .Fred is still a bit non committal ! Lynley went home to prepare dinner and we then moved on to view an absolutely Giant Squid on display really,really big about 450 kg . Ian collected us at Te Papa and returned us home for a most enjoyable dinner. While at Ian and Lynleys place we decided to leave a bit earlier than originally planned to give ourselves plenty of time for some sight seeing and to arrive at the airport on Tuesday. We left on Sunday before lunch. Ian drove us up Paekakariki Hill for a most magnificent view of the surrounding area.This hill is very steep and winding to drive up but it's worthwhile for the great view along the coast line and across to Kapiti Island and of Paekakariki itself, a view second to none . Ian and Lynley drove north with us for a short time . We visited the lagoon where Clem used to play as a child with his grandfather. This is a very pretty but windswept place and very peaceful . We had lunch near Lindale the honey farm. The Powells went south to Wellington Airport to meet with their daughter Lara arriving from England.We continued to travel north along the very windy west coast road and as we were driving down a narrow fully shaded section through a large dip we noticed some workmen manoeuvring a large truck at the opposite side of this narrow section .While keeping an eye on this truck we proceeded through and suddenly heard an almighty bang !!! Fred thought we had lost our front wheels and pulled up 50 m further. After checking all over the car for damage we were delighted to not find any damage at all . A car coming up behind us stopped and told us we had run over a ladder that had fallen onto the road from the truck . Fred thought it must have been an aluminium ladder and it had totally collapsed. Is Murphy still with us ??? On a positive note on our way to Auckland Airport we visited a most interesting Wood Turning centre at the Lindale Centre at Paraparaumu. This is a teaching and sales wood craft centre .Some of the work displayed was truly cont p6

d was truly magnificent and a lot made from Kauri .
The following morning we continued north passing Mt Egmont on the way .A truly beautiful volcano sitting high above the landscape looking rather like Mt Fuji . Later that Monday afternoon we made a discovery of what turned out to be a big highlight of the trip especially for Sue. We were almost at our destination for Monday evening when we found a sign to "THE KIWI HOUSE" at Otorahanga. A quick turn off to the Kiwi house found us to be too late for that day . We then decided that we would afford ourselves the time on Tuesday morning to double back.Well worth the trip.While the photos are not very clear because one can't use flash in a nocturnal house and even special ISO settings didn't compensate for the darkness the actual sighting of the two Kiwis was just great. Sue has achieved one of her life ambitions to see a live Kiwi. One was a Spotted Kiwi,the other a Brown Kiwi . At this point we realised that our decision to leave on Sunday rather than Monday morning was a very good decision because otherwise we would not had the time and pleasure of seeing the Kiwis. We would also have missed the Tuataras and Keas who shared the bird park with the Kiwis.Next we headed straight to the Auckland Airport,to after a small detour through almost central Auckland, catch our five o'clock flight home . We arrived at Auckland Airport , checked in and had a late lunch and waited to board the plane , and waited , and waited ,,,,, The boarding sign went from 40 minutes, changing every five minutes, down to 5 minutes to go but no gate advisory sign indicated at which gate we would be boarding . Went to Air NZ counter and were advised gate two is it. An announcement told

us that our plane had landed late and would take some time to clean and re-provision and then we could board. About 50 minutes after boarding should have commenced a delay of a mechanical nature was announced . After a further 15 minutes another delay was announced . A crack had been found next to the rear door and it would only take 15 minutes to repair but the paperwork would take some time. A further 15 minutes we were told that the flight was now cancelled and that we would be taken to the Crown Plaza Hotel for the night and that pick up would be at four am for a return trip to the airport. Dinner will be served at nine pm. On arrival at the hotel we were advised that a smorgasbord would be served in the main dining area . At 9.20 pm it was available . We were up at 3.30 am and at 4 am taken to the airport to go through all that customs check in again and were airborne in what appeared to be a shiny almost new aircraft at seven am . Nothing could go wrong now ?????? Arrived at Sydney Airport on time, landed and stopped on the runway . The Captain announced that a plane was still in our berth but it would only take a few minutes. After fifteen minutes he repeated that message . After another twenty minutes we actually docked !!! We had nothing to declare except for a small jar of honey and the young lady at customs stamped our landing card and we were ushered though an express exit, no bag checks at all . Finally arrived home at 1 pm a day late .
We trust Murphy has gone on a very extended holiday beyond the black stump !!

Excellence Award, 2009

June is the judging month for the Excellence Award for 2009

As you know, the Excellence Award is based on the items presented at the meetings since July 2008 up to this May meeting.

Following each monthly meeting, the Committee reviews all pieces shown at Show and Tell and considers whether a piece has that something 'extra'. Has it shown a level of quality of completion, or design or execution which lifts it above our normal submissions. If it does in the eyes of anyone of the Committee, that piece is nominated for the Excellence Award.

All items nominated by the Committee for inclusion in the competition will be returned to the June meeting. At which time, all members present have an opportunity to nominate their preferred pieces.

This year, all members present will be able to vote on their three preferred pieces. You will not have to vote which is the best of those three, just nominate the 'best 3' of those shown at the meeting.

Whichever piece receives the most votes, will be deemed to be the winner.

If a draw occurs, the drawn pieces will be redisplayed and a further vote taken as to which of the drawn pieces you wish to nominate as the winner. Again, the most votes determine the winner.

The winner of the 2009 Excellence Award will be announced at the opening of our 'Treasures in Timber' exhibition in the Moss Vale Council Chambers on the 3rd of August. All items from the Excellence Award will be displayed for the whole of August in the Display Case in the Council Chambers. The Mayor will be opening our exhibition on the afternoon of 3rd August and at the same time will make the presentation of the Award for 2009.

All members are invited to the opening and award presentation.

If you wish to have any of your pieces displayed in the Display Case, you may do so. It is not limited to the Excellence Award pieces. Please bring them to the July monthly meeting and leave with John Powell who will arrange for them to get to the Council.

A Woodturning Woodie in Twenty Quick Question

Woodturner in question.....Jim Powell

Place of birth? I was born at Parkes in New South Wales but did not stay there long. We moved to Sydney when I was about four years old.

Now residing? I now live in Bowral in Emily Circuit with my wife Judith.

Occupation now or in previous life? Most of my working life was in the Auto Accessories engineering field. I managed an electro-plating factory for Foster and Parkinson at Yenora in Sydney. I was with them for over twenty years. We made bumper bars and other shiny things for cars. I went straight into the industry from school working initially for Fallshaw Brothers at Bankstown. I also had some time as a deckhand on the Sydney ferries. That was a great job. Never tired of the view.

Interest in turning began when/how? My interest in turning began after I retired. I walked into the Bunnings store at Campbelltown one day and saw a wood lathe. Being at loose ends at home and generally getting under Jude's feet she said why don't you try woodturning. I told the salesman to wrap it up and I took it home there and then

Have you had any turning tuition? No I've had no tuition. Only what I had from the club.

Do you have a workshop or area as such? Yep. I share the garage with the car. If it rains the car stays inside and I twiddle my thumbs.

Do you have a lathe? As I said earlier, I bought a lathe from Bunnings. It is an MC900. A Jepson.

What other machinery do you have? The usual woodie things. A table saw, router table, bench drill, belt sander and all the other small electrical tools one tends to collect.

Preferred turning tool? No real preference. I find all of them good to use.



Favourite turning timber?

No favourite type. Whatever I can lay my hands on.

Preferred Finish? Triple EEE and Shella wax.

Has your turning been influenced by anything/body? If anything or anybody it would be the club members and their work.

Do you have a preference in turning i.e. bowls spindle etc.? No, I have a go at them all.

Do you have a favourite piece that you have made? Not really. Maybe the captive rings on the goblets or the paddlepop stick pens.

What has been your most difficult/intricate/failed piece? Just about everything.

Is there any particular aspect of your turning you would like to improve? All of it.

Is there any particular project that you wish to accomplish at some time? No.

What do you like and/or dislike about woodturning? Sanding. I dislike sanding.

Is there a particular benefit you feel you have gained from the craft? Relaxation.

Do you have any other interests apart from woodturning? Nope. Although sex does come to mind.

Welcome to new member Katie Locke

Katie saw us at Moss Vale Show and came along a few Fridays ago and joined. She has done some woodturning at a furniture design course in 2001 that she was doing in Launceston. But nothing since.

As you can see, she is now well into it.

So make her welcome next time you see her.





**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS
WOODIES GROUP INC.**

Meetings:

4th Sat each month, 10.00am –
4.30pm

Every Friday, 9.30am-12.30pm

President: John Powell , 48 712 714

Vice-Pres: Peter Herbert, 48 894 009

Secretary: John Harris, 62 582 701

Treasurer: Ian Pye, 48 623 750

Guild Rep: Fred Schffarczyk, 48 894 316

**Mail : PO Box 336
Mittagong NSW 2575**

We're on the web
Sydneywoodturners.com.au

Club Shirts, Jumpers, Jackets

See John Harris. You can have logo made which you sew onto your own shirt, or he can organize a shirt or jacket or jumper.

Library

Check it out.

Book, videos and DVDs.

Small fee for a month's viewing.

Old Editions of Woodchips.

Did you know that our Woodchips can be found in full colour on the Guild's website.

From May 2006 to current date. Check it out.

Equipment

We now have a 'dremel' kit and a pyrography machine. Both available for borrowing.

Cost is that you add something to one of the kits, eg a burr or sanding mandrel, or something.

**Presidents Challenge
2009**

January: Plate or platter

February: Gavel

March: Inlay, colour, texture

April: Trembleur, hollow form

May: Lidded bowl

June: Sphere or scoop

July: Letter opener, knife

August: Lamp, candlestick

September: Segmented work

October: Goblets

November: Pens

December: Christmas Ornaments

These are the projects for the theme of Show & Tell for each of the 2009 meetings. This should also produce a range of items in the Excellence Award.

John Page & Excellence Awards

John Page Awards Nominations for March were:

Ken Sullivan: 3 nominations

John Crisp: 2 Nominations

Max Donato: 1 nomination

Excellence Award Nominations for March were:

John Harris: 'Sea Grass' in Aust Red Cedar

Ken Sullivan: Dark trembleur

Ken Sullivan: Light trembleur with cup on tip

Graeme Webb: Hollow form in metrocarpa