

Highlights of October Meeting



SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WOODIES GROUP INC.

Woodchips

October saw an interesting meeting with three of our members giving of their expertise, two of them for the first time as demonstrators.



Ian Pye took us through his methods, tools and acquisition methods in making his lamps. He makes a point of whenever he is at garage sales, of checking out the cheap lamps for sale so that he can recover the mechanisms at the right price.

Jim Powell showed us how he makes his fancy little toothpick holders. I owe an apology to Jim as I did not take a photo of his demo. He was really happy to sit down at the end of what was a stressful little session for him. But very happy having done it. Well done Jim!

Then Ron South took over and showed how he makes the pistons and the sleeves for the hydraulic mechanisms

of his models. Quite tiny and delicate as you can see on the left.



And then Ron went on the conduct Show and Tell for his first time. And he has now booked himself a regular spot doing that as his style was great. A word of praise for every piece and also a word of what might lift the piece. Well done Ron!!



Finally, I think it time we publicly thank Judy Powell, Jim's wife, for her consistently excellent afternoon teas.

What's Happening

- 28 November Peter Brett – Pyrography
Guild Bi-Monthly Meeting will be held at Southern Highlands
- 12 December Christmas Meeting. Hands On. Christmas Decorations
- 18 December Last Friday workshop 2009
- 8 January First Friday workshop 2010
- 23 January Hands On Day –
President's Challenge is 'Turned Picture Frame'
John Crisp will demonstrate how on Friday 15th Jan.
- 24 February Darrell Smith, Wrought Iron and Woodturning
- 27 March Mike Darlow, Design Workshop and Exercise



2009 Excellence Award, R South

Show & Tell - September Meeting

Project for September was either a lamp or a candle



Ian Pye: Lamp-silky oak,
ladle & spatula-huon



Ron South: Goblets-huon



Roger Wilson: Goblet-

Bill Dinning: Goblets-radiata



Fred Robjent: Clock-huon, goblet-
Dead Finish



Jim Powell: Goblet-
radiata



Sam McGrath: Potporri bowl-



Les Bell: Box-Huon pine



John Harris: Lidded bowl-ginko biloba, platter—camphor



Bob Miller: Box-
jacaranda



John Harris: Hollow form-Black Heart Sassafras, Bowl-red gum and paint



Bill Shean: Lidded Bowls-myrtle and huon, Aust Cedar, Walnut and Huon

Bruce Everett: Bowl-corkwood & paint



Bruce Everett: Plat-
ter-rimu & paint,
Square Bowl-rimu &
paint, tubes-Tassie
oak & paint



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President's Report

The Arts Trail week-end lived up to expectations. Our takings were a little bit down on last year, but we generally thought it was a worthwhile event. Visitors seemed reluctant to buy the more expensive items, but the smaller things sold quite well.



Many thanks to everyone who contributed with items for sale and with help getting ready and on the actual days. A good time was had by all.

I'd like to thank Mike Darlow for resuming his 10 minute talks and demonstra-

tions since returning from overseas. Reactions from members are positive, so keep up the good work Mike!

Things are winding down now for the end of the year and our December meeting will be our Christmas gathering held on December 12th, at Charlton Hall.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas Season, and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010 with lots of good wood-turning and companionship with fellow Woodies!!!

Keep the chips flying,
John.

Treasurer's Report

Ordinary income for the month of October (excluding membership) was \$351 and ordinary expenditure (excluding a float for the Arts Trail Weekend) was \$243.30 making this quite an ordinary month with a surplus of \$116.70 even after buying our new whiteboard for \$99

Balance at end of October was \$2,684.19 including the Equipment Fund of \$1,253.74. We are still expecting \$165 of Grant Money from Council



Art Trail—2009 Bill Shean

As John mentioned in his President's report, the arts Trail has come and gone again.

We had a great weekend with lots of members on hand to either talk to potential buyers, demonstrate our craft or look after the money and the stock.

Bruce Everett patiently sprayed all and sundry with his air brush throughout the weekend. He ended up selling his pyrography tool to Jim Powell and Bruce then went out and made another one using a car battery charger.



A Woodturning Woodie in Twenty Quick Questions

Woodturner in question Desmond Kennard

Place of birth? I was born in London, not far from the Regent's Park Zoo. I left UK in August 1947, traveling to Australia by flying boat, taking 8½ days before we finally landed at Rose Bay, Sydney.

Now residing? I now live at Hill Top with my wife Pat, our youngest son (single and available for export) and lots and lots of ducks.

Occupation now or in previous life? I spent three years learning to be a Vet at the University of Sydney, without success. I then became a jackaroo working in the Far West of NSW and in SW Queensland. Apart from a few years working in various jobs and studying Applied Psychology at the University of NSW, I then went to Canberra, working in university administration, initially at the Canberra University College and then through Federal Government legislation within the Australian National University (total 10 years).

I was then appointed as the first Assistant Registrar (Student Administration) at La Trobe University in Victoria (7 years). We started La Trobe from scratch, with the excitement of taking a dream to reality. I also established the uni advisory services (health, housing, counselling, careers and the student loan fund. In my spare time, I founded the University Union and am currently recorded as the No 1 Life Member.

In 1973, I moved on from universities into museums, becoming the full-time Director of the Sovereign Hill Gold mining Township for 10 years. With my family, I then moved to Sydney to join the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, working on the temporary exhibition program, the Powerhouse Museum Stage 1, the Mint, the Hyde Park Barracks and some of the initial planning for upgrading Sydney Observatory.

From 1985-88, I was given leave to work for the Australian Bicentennial Authority as the Director of the Australian Bicentennial Exhibition, which toured Australia, including Tasmania, during 1988. From 1989 I spent a few years in private enterprise, followed by an appointment as the CEO at the Sydney Maritime Museum for around 2 years, before I then decided that there was a better life in the Southern Highlands rather than fighting the Darling harbor Authority.

I then became self-employed as a museum and heritage consultant, initially for the former State Rail and more recently for local government. This is very much an occasional activity.

Interest in turning began when/how? My interest in woodturning began with an evening woodworking course at Canberra High School, but access to the lathe was restricted, because the teacher was not confident that he could provide adequate supervision.

Have you had any turning tuition? Yes, I had some basic tuition at Canberra High and while I was in Victoria at evening classes at Banyule High School. My wife and I took a two-day course with Gordon Stokes at Bath, England, later I spent several months with McD (Mac) Knowles who I believe was an early member of the Sydney Woodturners Guild. I've also received much help from Bill Shean over a long period.

Do you have a workshop or area as such? Yes, I have what should be a spacious workshop that has very little workspace, because of my tendency to keep 60 years or so of souvenirs, maps, LPs, papers I have written and the inevitable junk. After all you never know when you might need something!

Do you have a lathe? Yes, we have two lathes: a Durden Wood Working Lathe that I bought new when we were in Ballarat and a Woodfast, I bought essentially for my wife. We also own a metal lathe.

What other machinery do you have? All the usual electric and hand tools that you see (and hopefully are able to find) in a normal workshop plus an air filtration unit that I highly recommend for all woodies. I also have a Chinese bandsaw, which has been nothing, but trouble. Stop me sometime and I'll tell you all about it.

Preferred turning tool? I like the small bowl gouge with a long handle.

Favourite turning timber? I am partial to cedar.

Preferred Finish? Whatever I can find. Whatever is nice and handy.

Has your turning been influenced by anything/body? I would say Mike Darlow's books have been a strong influence, but Bill Shean has set me on the right path in handling tools.

Do you have a preference in turning i.e. bowls spindle etc.? I love turning bowls.

Do you have a favourite piece that you have made? In Melbourne I turned an eighteen-inch lamp light base from Oregon. My evening class teacher then showed me how to use a blow torch on it, cleaning it with a wire brush to produce a Spanish finish. Very groovy!

What has been your most difficult/intricate/failed piece? Too many, however I think that I would say my attempts to make lidded boxes.

Is there any particular aspect of your turning you would like to improve? Spindle turning and also simply finding more time to spend at the lathe.

Is there any particular project that you wish to accomplish at some time? A grandfather clock.

What do you like and/or dislike about woodturning? Dust and what it does to my nasal passages.

Is there a particular benefit you feel you have gained from the craft? An opportunity for being creative and developing a design.

Do you have any other interests apart from woodturning? I am into watercolor painting, gardening, script-writing, reading, acting and of course articles on various aspects of museum operations.



Show and Tell ...cont



Les Bell: Vase—apple & pear, Box—Pallet timber, Platter—Black Heart Sassafras, Box—pallet timber, goblet—BH Sas—



Max Donato: Box—Kwila & Apple insert

Bill Bailey: Cherry

Peter Brett: Casuarina

John Crisp: Camphor laurel



John Harris: Bowl – Blackbutt & Blackwood

Bruce Everett: Platter—She oak & paint



Ron South: Paddle steamer—Huon Pine

Arts Trail ... cont

I burnt out a router doing my router indexed work and also went out and bought a replacement. To which Bruce the Versatile made a variable speed unit better than the router's inbuilt controller.



Our range of goods was much wider than last year, but we still got asked for items we did not have—honey dippers being one. We need to work on our range and in particular at the lower price end to encourage more sales.

There was time for a discussion of the world's problems which Jim and Byron resolved to solve on the weekend.

We also had a number of the public interested in joining.

So a successful weekend overall!



John Page Award

This month we once again make the annual John Page Award to one of our members.

But what is the John Page Award? And what is it for? What does it recognise?

John Page was not quite one of our founding members, he came along a few months after the Southern Highlands region was formed and very soon became our president. A position which he held until his untimely death in 2003. He was responsible for our getting Charlton Hall, he was the organiser of our two woodshows, he was a real organiser and manger of our club and well and truly made us what we are today.

But John's greatest attribute was that he was prepared to try anything. And try every thing.

So when we had a guest demonstrator show us some new technique or tool or both, John was always ready to try that technique. The month after the demonstrator was here, John would have at Show and Tell his attempts to make whatever it was the demonstrator showed us. He would bring in all his attempts, from the outright failure through to the one that worked. He had a go at every thing.

When he died quite suddenly at the beginning of 2003, the Committee decided that we wanted to have an ongoing memorial in his name. A number of different themes were discussed— best turner, best piece, etc etc. But finally we settled on John's 'have a go' attribute as that quality that we wanted remembered and acknowledged.

We asked Betty, John's wife, if we could have one of his tools, the Bruce Leadbetter parting tool , to use in his memorial shield. It was a tool he cursed but kept using, he was determined that one day he would conquer it.

So the John Page Award recognises the member who consistently throughout the year steps outside their comfort zone and tries some new technique. We do not look for perfection or even success, we look for the turner who is trying something new. At each Committee Meeting, each member of the Committee has a single vote to apply to someone who exhibited at the previous meeting. If any Committee member believes that there was nothing that warrants a vote, then can withhold their vote. But generally we look for some work that has appeared which is a clear indication of attempting some new style or skill etc. Showing a fancy bit of timber does not win any points, only what you do with it.

At year end, following the September meeting, the votes for the whole year are tallied and the member with the most votes is awarded the John Page Award for a year of consistently trying to push themselves in their woodturning world.

By definition, it tends to be our newer members who are nominated each month rather than our more established turners. And it was for this latter group that 2 years ago we created the Excellence Award, to acknowledge the best piece of the year.

But the John Page Award is about trying. And more trying. And then going back and having another go. Or having succeeded, then taken on a different challenge.

Those of you who never met John, missed one of life's gentlemen. A person who made others better and richer by his presence and his effort.

Hope this helps every one to better understand the Award and it's significance to the Group. Bill Shean



**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: Roger Wilson, 48 623 175

Secretary: Peter Brett, 48 713 104

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.

Pay when ordering.

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.

Library

Check it out.

Jimmy Clewes DVDs bought at the Show.

Book, videos and DVDs.

Small fee for a month's viewing or reading.

**Presidents Challenge
2010**

January: Turned picture frame

January: Bowl with 3 feet

March: Pr duplicate candlesticks

April: Deep hollowed vessel

May: Bowl with "??"

June: Reassembled wall hanging

July: Cutting board

August: Cup, saucer and tea spoon

September: Dinner plate

October: Turned toy or game

November: Ernie Newman Doll

December: Christmas Ornaments

These are the projects for the theme of Show & Tell for each of the 2010 meetings. This should also produce a range of items in the Excellence Award.

John Page & Excellence Awards

John Page Awards Nominations

October

Roger Wilson 1 nomination

Bill Bailey 1 nomination

Jim Powell 1 nomination

Les Bell 2 nominations

Sam McGrath 1 nomination

Max Donato 1 nomination

Excellence Award Nominations

October

Bruce Everett Platter in she oak and airbrushed

Bruce Everett Tubes in tassie oak and airbrushed

John Harris Lidded bowl in ginko biloba

Ron South Paddle steamer in huon pine