

April, 2010



SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WOODIES GROUP INC.

# Woodchips

## Highlights of March Meeting

Members arrived slowly this morning , a few turning but mostly chatting with the mandatory cuppa in hand. By lunch time there were 24.

Ian Pye commenced the proceedings at 12.30 pm.

Moss Vale Show was a success and sales amounted to \$1100. Fred R managed to do us proud with a third place ribbon, well done Fred!

Peter Herbert joined us at the Moss Vale Show for the day but our member " Jacko " declined to appear!

Peter Brett announced the Wool Show at Robertson will take place on 01.05.10 . This years Canberra WWW Show Planned for the 3rd. 4th and 5th of September.

The Presidents challenge for our next meeting is a deep hollowed item.

Ian gave his treasurers report and we are in the black!!

Membership of our group has risen to 56 .

We are calling for volunteers to assist on 6.4.10, to start to set up our dust extraction system for the hall.

Mike Darlow started his design segment . He carefully outlined the steps needed to reach a good design out-

come .Mike gave us a challenge to come up with our interpretation of three designs . Design a watch stand then a caster followed by a back scratcher . While every one put pen to paper you could hear a pin drop , except for some faint brain scratching noise ( unless they were asleep? ) No they were not , a great variety of designs emerged – some very professional , some very creative ! It appeared that all enjoyed the segment . Mike did a critique on each drawing showing how it could have been improved . Show and Tell was also conducted by Mike . Roger told us a story of the origin of a pair of candle sticks dating back to 1917 . Mike was very complimentary on Ron's excavator , good constructive comments on the other exhibits as well . Ian closed the very well conducted meeting after thanking the cooks .

## What's Happening

24 April	Team Bowl Making
1 May	Black and Coloured Sheep and Wool Show, Robertson
22 May	John Krook, Blue mountains Woodturners, Lattice work and ornamental turning.
18-20 June	Sydney Working With Wood Show. Bus on Sunday 20, G Webb the driver
3-5 September	Canberra Working With Wood Show



2009 Excellence Award, R South

**Show & Tell - March Meeting** Project for March was a pair of matching candlesticks



**Bill Bailey:** Double candle stand in pine



**Bob Miller:** Lidded bowl in golden ash and huon, tiled cheeseboard in Fijian mahogany



**Ian Pye:** Pair of tulip candle holder in Camphor laurel



**John Harris:** Pair of candle sticks in claret ash



**Graeme Webb:** Pair of candle holders in Western Red Cedar



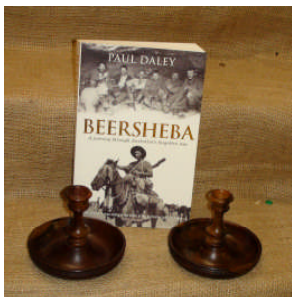
**Jim Powell:** Pair of candle sticks in blue gum



**Peter Brett:** Pair of candle sticks in Huon pine



**Ron South:** Excavator in pine



**Roger Wilson:** Pair of candle sticks



**Ken Sullivan:** Niddy Noddies



**Ken Sullivan:** Multiple candlesticks

**Fred Robjent:** Candlestick with glass cover





## President's Report

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Weather rainy and overcast in London with low temperatures. Even the Brits are complaining about the lack of spring weather.



To-day we strolled down to the end of the street to watch the boat race between Oxford and Cambridge eights on the Thames River. Cambridge were easy winners.

However back to Woodies' stuff. Firstly, congratulations to Fred R for his third prize at the Moss Vale Show, and to everyone else who helped achieve the good results on the stand.

Also a big thank you to Graeme Webb for the beautifully framed photograph of John Page who made a huge contribution to the club. We can now have this with the John Page Award, to remind us of John. I would also like to thank John's widow, Betty, for lending us various photos to select from.

A reminder that the Black and Coloured Sheep Association are holding their annual day in the Robertson Hall on Saturday 1st May. We will be setting up our miraculous canopy, as described by Max, for members who are turning, and of course will have our usual stall of goods for sale. These should be brought to the shed on Friday 30th April. We need people for turning and for manning the stall. This is always a good day out and highly recommended.

The bus to the Sydney Working With Wood Show is booked for Sunday, 20th June. Graeme Webb will be the driver and there is room for 22 more of us so get in early for a seat. Cost of the bus is \$20 per person and entry tickets to the show for the discount price of \$5 will be available to the early birds.

Meanwhile, keep the chips flying,

John.

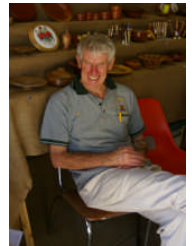
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## Treasurer's Report

We finished the month of March with a balance of \$4,604.91 which is a significant improvement on the results of recent months.

The BBQ at Bunnings on 6 March yielded a profit of \$262 and Moss Vale Show and other commissions brought in \$102.55. Payments included \$134.95 for electricity, plus the catchup of expenses (and income) from the previous month.

With the addition of more Equipment Levies of \$525 and BBQ profit of \$262 the Equipment Fund has increased to \$ 2,153.09 and the balance of general funds stands at \$2,451.82. We will be doing a review of the accounts and the budget at the Committee meeting and will tell you about this on Saturday 24 but it all seems reasonably bright now. Ian



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## Mike's Design Session

On 28 March we had our regular, 4-yearly, design workshop. Mike first introduced the design process, discussed some points on mouldings, and how to set out design drawings. Members were then asked to design a watch stand, a back-scratcher, and a caster. Mike then reviewed the drawings.

What stood out was that those who produced clear, well-finished designs in the workshop were in general those whose own turnings were better designed. A significant proportion of members have yet to master clearly drawing out the design ideas that they generate, not through lack of ability, but because they believe that they can design well while turning.



Action at a recent Friday Workshop meeting.

Garnet doing some deep hollowing and the rest contemplating wood.

Where's the tinnies?



# A Woodturning Woodie in 20 Quick Questions

## Woodturner in question      Lou Sackett

**Place of birth?** I was born at Lewes In Sussex in Old Mother England. I left there and came to Australia in 1966. Rita and I were married On Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, honeymooned on the Sunday and arrived in Sydney on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. We took up residence in Dulwich Hill.

**Now residing?** I retired in 2003 and Rita and I moved from Sydney up to the delightful Southern Highlands to lovely lovely Braemar.

**Occupation now or in previous life?** When I retired I was working in the chemical engineering field. All up, I worked in the chemical industry for a total of 33 years with the three Sydney firms, Maxwell Chemical, ANCO and Ondao-Nalco.

Before making the career change to Chemeng I was a dusty Stonemason. I learnt my trade in London and I was ticketed in London. In the U.K. Stonemasons are allied with Landscape Gardeners. Not all of us work on headstones. My first employment in Australia was as a Slate Mason and a Stone Mason with Slate Industries in North Sydney. I was with them for a total of three years before branching out on my own as a Stone Mason. After three years of self-employment I spent the next two years with Associated Stone Masons and Quarries before moving on to Chemical Engineering.

**Interest in turning began when/how?** My initial introduction to woodturning came while I was at school. I never really had the opportunity to take it up again after leaving school until one day in 2007, I met Bill Dinning at the Men's Shed in Bowral, one thing led to another and here I am. So you see it's all Bill Dinnings fault.

**Have you had any turning tuition?** Yes I have. I spent two weekends with Bill Shean in Bargo.

**Do you have a workshop or area as such?** Sure do. I have a good sized workshop. A 7m x 6m colour bond shed that is insulated and lined and fitted with a dust extraction system.

**Do you have a lathe?** The ubiquitous MC900 that I picked up at the Bowral Toolbox for a very good price, after bit of haggling and a lot of patience.

**What other machinery do you have?** One side of my shed is dedicated to working with metal and the other for working wood. There is a thicknesser, a jointer, sander, pedestal drill welders, air compressor as well as all the other small hand and power tools found in workshops. My benches and all the heavy machinery are mounted on wheels

which makes it very easy for my back.

**Preferred turning tool?**

The Bowl Gouge and the Skew.



**Favourite turning timber?** I don't have a favourite timber as such and I am still trying all the various species I can get. I find that each different timber provides for a different challenge.

**Preferred Finish?** Triple EEE and Shellac. I also prefer the project to be still in one piece when I apply the finish. I seem to have this penchant for turning through the bottoms.

**Has your turning been influenced by anything/body?** Other turners completed work.

**Do you have a preference in turning i.e. bowls spindle etc.?** Bowls. Definitely.

**Do you have a favourite piece that you have made?**

There is no favourite piece as such, however having said that there are some that gave me a lot of satisfaction after turning and if I like a piece I tend to give it away to someone I like.

**What has been your most difficult/intricate/failed piece?** Several early pieces. Like I said earlier, remembering to stop before I reached the chuck.

**Is there any particular aspect of your turning you would like to improve?** Applying the finish.

**Is there any particular project that you wish to accomplish at some time?** Not yet, but I would like to be able to turn well.

**What do you like and/or dislike about woodturning?** The cleaning up.

**Is there a particular benefit you feel you have gained from the craft?** Pleasure and self-satisfaction I get from completing a turning.

**Do you have any other interests apart from woodturning?** Word work in general and gardening.

**Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?**

A: Your heart only good for so many beats, and that it...don't waste on exercise. Everything wear out eventually.

Speeding up heart not make you live longer; it like saying you extend life of car by driving faster. Want to live longer? Take nap.

**Q: Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?**

A: You must grasp logistical efficiency. What does cow eat? Hay and corn. And what are these?

Vegetables. So steak is nothing more than efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system.

Need grain? Eat chicken. Beef also good source of field grass (green leafy vegetable). And pork chop can give you 100% of recommended daily allowance of vegetable product.

**Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?**

A: No, not at all. Wine made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine, that mean they take water out of fruity bit so you get even more of goodness that way. Beer also made of grain. Bottom up!

**Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?**

A: Well, if you have body and you have fat, your ratio one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio two to one, etc.

**Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?**

A: Can't think of single one, sorry. My philosophy is: No pain...good!

**Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?**

A: YOU NOT LISTENING! Food are fried these day in vegetable oil. In fact, they permeated by it. How could getting more vegetable be bad for you?!?

**Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?**

A: Definitely not! When you exercise muscle, it get bigger. You should only be doing sit-up if you want bigger stomach.

**Q: Is chocolate bad for me?**

A: Are you crazy?!? HEL-LO-O!! Cocoa bean! Another vegetable! It best feel-good food around!

**Q: Is swimming good for your figure?**

A: If swimming good for your figure, explain whale to me..

Well, I hope this has cleared up any misconceptions you may have had about food and diets.

And remember:

**Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways – Chardonnay in one hand – chocolate in the other – body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO-HOO, what a ride!!"**

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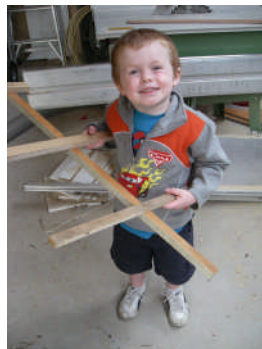
## One of Life's Other Lessons ...by John Harris ....continued from last month

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In his article last month on the junior woodturners that Canberra is currently producing, he failed to provide photographic evidence of the allegations made.

So here they are!

Thomas and William. Junior apprentices and pop's slaves in the workshop.





## 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. I just sent the last few month's worth to go up on the web. So the missing editions should be there.

### Trend Timbers Move

Trend Timbers will be moving:

15 Railway Road North  
Mulgrave NSW 2756

This is one street over from their previous address.

### 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

**February:** 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

As there was no Committee meeting in March, the February John Page and Excellence nominations will appear in next month's Woodchips along with March nominations.

### Excellence Award

May is the last month for pieces to be presented at Show and Tell for the 2009-2010 Excellence Award.

## Tea Gardens Time

We have lift off!!!!

Finally managed to get all the shelves up, the tools unpacked and sorted and up on shelves. The cupboards moved in and refilled with their appropriate contents. Put some lights over the lathe and then jacked the lathe up to get the travelling wheels off, and presto! Shavings began to fly.

I now know what John Harris went through when he moved and found it months before he could do anything. And can imagine a little bit what it is like to crave something, and not able to get it. The few short hours at the local Community Centre on Tuesdays did just not fill the void.

In packing and unpacking, I discover long lost never completed jobs. Some of which were stopped because I could see that they were not worth finishing. So my aim over the next few months is to resurrect every one of those lost jobs and do something with them, including adding to Crispie's firewood bin if necessary.

Regards Bill