

WOODTURNERS' NEWS

(Woodturners' Guild of N.S.W.)



By hand and eye

Newsletter No. 6/86

November 1986

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Next Meeting :

Friday 28th November 1986

Guest :

David Arnall speaking about his
Two Pack Polyurethane Finish

Editorial

As the new Editor it is appropriate that I start this, my first magazine, with a few comments as to the way I would like to approach my new job and the sort of things I would like to see in the magazine.

Before making any comments it would be remiss of me not to thank Ken Gray for his three years as the previous editor. I'm not sure that I will last as long but I know that Ken's knowledge is there should it be required. Thanks Ken.

Now as to the future of the magazine. As those of you that were present at the AGM heard, I have taken on the role of Editor with the proviso that should my business activities become more onerous than at present I will have to relinquish the job. I do not see my task as being one of writing the whole magazine but rather one of "editing" the various articles received from the members. You will readily see from this remark that without those articles there will be no magazine.

It is really up to you to ensure that there are sufficient articles to make our publication a really informative, "newsy" and eagerly awaited magazine. I am happy to assist any member in something together so don't feel that you have to be a "Shakespeare" to put an article in your magazine.

There will, I hope, be a few lines from me each issue. In addition and starting with this issue there will be a "President's Column". As well as briefly reporting on the meeting immediately prior to publication there will be details of the regional meetings and coming events.

We have a large number of very skillful people amongst our members and I propose to introduce them to you by way of a brief profile in the magazine. To start the ball rolling I have included an article on our new President Frank Bollins.

Articles provided by members will I hope fill most of the magazine but if space permits I would like to reproduce hints and tips gleaned from other sources. With a bit of luck (and with input from you) our magazine will be the source of "hints and tips" for other publications in the future.

I hope you can see that I have in mind producing a magazine that will be of real value to all our members. To make sure that I will be following a course of action that is acceptable to you, the readers, I have included in this issue a questionnaire seeking your input as to the content of our magazine.

Please do not ignore my request for assistance. Tell me what you want to see in the magazine to make it more enjoyable for you.

That's enough from me for this issue.

Good Turning

Important

Important

Annual fees are now overdue and should be paid as quickly as possible.

President's Column

Not because "a new broom sweeps clean" but because I believe that a "President's Column" is an excellent medium for bring the general affairs of the Guild to the membership. I therefore propose to present a "President's Column in each issue of our Guild Bulletin.

Having said that, what's news.

Firstly the Annual General Meeting has been held and in accordance with the Rules a new committee has been elected.

Tom Bartie Guild President for the past 12 months declined nomination for a further term. In his place I was elected as President for the next 12 months.

Bob Hentschel was elected as Vice President, Alan Reay continues as Secretary as does Treasurer Bob Howarth. Ken Gray after three very strenuous years as Editor of the Guild Bulletin declined nomination and David Hutt was elected in his place.

Apart from the above officers, the new Committee Members are as follows: Tom Bartie, Ken Gray, George Hatfield, Paul Gregson, Tony Buxey and Gloria Egan.

Bernie Axford and John Ewart declined nomination because of personal commitments.

Gloria Egan has the honour of being the first woman elected onto our Committee, this clearly indicates that wood turning is not the sole preserve of the male.

To Tom Bartie, John Ewart, Bernie Axford and Ken Gray, many thanks for your personal contribution during the formative years of the Guild.

Special thanks are extended to Ken Gray as Editor of the Bulletin for the past three years. Due to his initiative and hard work, the Bulletin has become an effective medium for the presentation of Guild activity.

Before the Annual General Meeting the Committee gave thought to a necessary expansion of Guild activity.

A Sub-Committee has been appointed to draw up plans for a more varied and extensive programme of interest and activity for Guild members.

The ongoing results of this Sub-Committee's activities and proposals will be presented in future issues of the Bulletin.

May the lathes keep on turning,

Frank Bollins.

Highlights of the last meeting - 3rd October 1987

The Annual General Meeting of the Guild resulted in the election of a new committee details of which have been mentioned elsewhere. There was the usual discussion surrounding A.G.M.'s but Frank Bollins showed his experience in skillfully and successfully chairing the meeting. The Annual Report appears elsewhere in this issue.

As his last Presidential Duty, Tom Bartie made a presentation to Mike Reid the 1985 Apprentice of the Year who was unable to be at the last meeting. Mike not only receives then Guild prizes but also one from the Furniture Manufacturers Guild of N.S.W..

Show and Tell

Jim Dorbis is obviously very proud of his woodturning smock. Made to his design, Jim may be seen sporting his "creation" at the Tech on Tuesdays. Jim assures us that the absence of woodchips down the neck does not spoil his enjoyment of turning

No "show and tell" would be complete without something from Max Nicholas. This time Max wanted help in identifying the timber he had used. Unfortunately Max went home none the wiser despite several helpful suggestions.

Exploiting the square shape of timber blanks was Ken Gray's theme. Part of a series, Ken showed how he had taken advantage of the corners rather than rounding them off. Very interesting and food for thought.

Chainsaw Cutting Edges

A most informative talk from Phelan Thomson of the Pacific Tool Company. Not only did Phelan know his chainsaws but he also had a most fantastic case with seemingly no bottom. As part of his talk Phelan brought a large selection of display items which he pulled out of his case rather like a magician producing rabbits from a hat. Amongst the items was a section from what must be the largest chainsaw in existence.

If members were unaware of the complexities of chainsaw before the meeting they went home very well informed as to the correct cutting edge for various situations including "stone cutting".

Phelan's talk is very well supplemented by an article by Paul Gregson appearing later in this issue.

MEETING DATES - 1987

6TH FEBRUARY	3RD APRIL	5TH JUNE
7TH AUGUST	16TH OCTOBER	4TH DECEMBER

REGIONAL MEETINGS

SOUTH SIDE MEETING

Despite a cold wet afternoon the South Side group had an entertaining B.B.Q. at Edna and George Luster's home.

Apart from looking around George's meticulously laid out workshop and his wide range of woodworking machinery, we were able to see Bruce Leadbeater's latest turning device (a dust extractor using the lathe's power source) in operation.

Bruce also obliged with a demonstration of bowl turning (including miniatures for the kids) on the lathe he designed. Hopefully (for Bruce) this lathe will be going into production in the near future.

The highlight of the day was the opportunity for members to see Edna Luster's amazing doll collection. The magnificent display which occupies three rooms must be seen to be believed. There are dolls from all over the world, antique dolls, large and small mechanically operated dolls and a carousel.

Many of the dolls were made and clothed by Edna. George's skills were also evident in many of the display items that created an imaginative setting for the doll collection.

NORTH SIDE MEETING

A smaller gathering than usual at Bob Hentschell's enjoyed the informality of these regional meetings. After the mandatory "sticky beak" at the host's workshop discussion centred around member's problems and helpful hints.

Bob showed an unusual oval shaped bowl turned from a small diameter log and then presented all those present with a small piece of timber. The task is to make something from the piece by next meeting. Some imaginative items will be turned if the suggestions made at the meeting are any guide.

TIMBER TIMBER



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Don has contacted the guild to advise that he has available stocks of Silky Oak, Cedar, Rosewood, Satin Ash and Paper Bark with Queensland Maple, Walnut, Canary Ash and other species arriving soon.

Anyone wishing to purchase any of these timbers should contact Don direct.

Frank Bollins - a profile

Guild President, Frank Bollins, first became hooked on woodturning through his job as Organiser of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union.

One of his responsibilities was to encourage apprentice Metal Spinners to enrol into the Woodturning Course as part of their trade training. Through this he first met George Sutton and George Hatfield who, once discovering an interest in woodturning, encouraged Frank himself to enrol for the course.

Having a basic lathe, adapted from a metal turning lathe made by his father, he was able to pursue his hobby in his home workshop. In that period, the 1960's, lathes and turning tools were hard to come by.

Frank has not limited his turning to bowl turning and small between centre pieces, he has attempted to relate his turning to practical items of furniture. His work includes tables, lampstands, items for the kitchen and a balustrade for a front verandah.

A few years ago he was also able to indulge in a lifetime ambition by taking up a course in wood carving. In a limited way he has been able to relate his carving activity to turning and hopes to do more in the future.

Before retiring in 1983, Frank spent twelve years as the State President of the Metal Workers' Unions. On his retirement he expressed the view that he never wanted to "Chair" another meeting, but old habits die hard and he now finds himself President of the Guild.

Frank now thinks that he has served his apprenticeship to retirement and is looking forward to spending more of his leisure time devoted to his two major interests, wood carving and especially woodturning.



The last meeting of the Guild enthusiastically endorsed a proposal for a Christmas get-together.

George and Edna Luster have most kindly agreed to their home surrounds as a venue for the day. There is more than adequate room for the kids to entertain themselves to enable the "oldies" to celebrate a year of Guild activity.

EVERYONE WELCOME - B.Y.O. EVERYTHING

It will also give Guild members and their families the opportunity to view the wonderful collection of dolls and memorabilia that Edna and George have created over many years. The Committee has decided that a donation of \$1.00 per adult should be made. The money collected will be donated to a charity that Edna supports (this year it is the cotton wool babies fund).

(Continued on the next page)



The Committee also suggests a "show and tell" display, so bring something along that will encourage your wife to encourage you to make.

Make it early - spend the day on:-

SUNDAY, 14TH DECEMBER

George and Edna Luster

Lot 34 Bells Line of Road

KURMOND

4th turn on left after lights at North Richmond on Bells Line of Road.

Phone: 045 73-1140

(Watch for the "Wood Turners" Sign.)

VISIT TO MIKE DARLOW'S WORKSHOP

Saturday afternoon, September 29, for the 30 Guild members who accepted Mike's invitation to visit his workshop, was both entertaining and educational.

Despite the quantity of woodchips flying from the four operating lathes, it was not a "dry as dust" talk session.

(Continued on page 10)

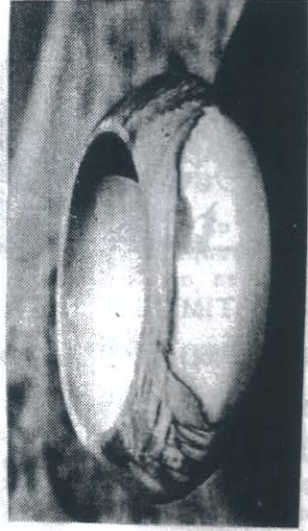


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An open invitation was extended to all to try their hand and what experience it was for those who fronted up to the massive lathe trundling large sized Jarrah Burr. The intriguing thing about this exercise was despite the proportions of the lathe and the bowl being turned, ordinary sized bowl gouges were used - for a finishing cut the narrow fluted gouge which is a feature of Mike's finishing technique, was used.

To observe the calm confidence and competence of the three apprentices who gave up their Saturday afternoon served to emphasise the effective teaching methods of both Darlow and the Sydney Tech.

Each of the three performed different tasks - Penny Dawber, a first apprentice, produced lace bobbins of delicate proportions; Chris Mitchell demonstrated the mass production methods used in turning wooden banisters while Robert Campbell gave demonstrations on between-centre spindle turning.

To add icing to the afternoon tea, Mike gave an entertaining talk on various aspects of woodturning and his general philosophy towards the craft.

He gave some practical commonsense advice on how to price a turned article particularly a bowl. He warned against underpricing, even though the article turned may not have been turned by one dependant on woodturning for living. In moving a vote of thanks to Mike, Penny, Chris, and Robert, President Frank Bollins expressed the Guild Members' appreciation at being able not only to see but to experience a "hands on" situation of the lathe in Mike's turnery.

He stated that to see the machines and to operate them gave a dimension to Mike's text book "The Practice of Woodturning".

Before the afternoon concluded, Mike gave a demonstration on turning a bowl on a semi-automatic lathe.

All in all, an entertaining broadening of our knowledge.

Guest Speaker - Next Meeting

Mr David Arnall has agreed to attend our next meeting to demonstrate Two Pack Polyurethane clear timber finish he has developed.

The demonstration was requested by a number of members who were at Queensland Woodturners Seminar and were most impressed by the quality of finish, the ease of application and the almost totally clear nature of the finish.

It should be an extremely interesting demonstration. David will have the product available for sale on the night and will advise us of the price then.

CHAINSaws AND THE WEEKEND LUMBERJACK

Some mysteries of the chainsaw should have been unlocked for members at the A.G.M. with the lecture on the cutting end of the tool.

Purchasers of the chainsaw have to decide on just what they are likely to cut before outlaying good money. A small petrol or electric model may be O.K. for prunings but make heavy work of the neighbour's giant camphor laurel. Equally as irrational would be a large capacity 36" or 42" pro. unit dusted off occasionally to prune the apple tree. The novice might find that the cash will get better interest in the bank while renting a unit is considered as required. I am afraid the answer to these questions can only be answered by you know who! However don't despair, a reputable dealer will cautiously advise you in respect of the motor and help select the cutting edge for you.

For cutting your own lumber you will need a cross cut chain and a ripping chain for long logs. If you are going to take lumberjacking seriously as an art form, you should look at the milling attachments - these take the guesswork and backache out of ripping into flitches or boards. There are quite a variety of mills on the market so here again seek out good advice.

Let us now assume you have parted with your money on the Extra Super Economy Pro model XYZ and yonder tree is shaking in its roots (not to be confused with a wind (up) shake) - stop for a while and check the machine:

- (1) Have plenty of chain oil (marketed as chain oil); a lot is used and is cheaper than a seized chain - check the reservoir often during operation until automatic time gauging is achieved by memory bank.
- (2) Have you soaked the chain in oil before putting it on (after you have unravelled its coils)?
- (3) Familiarise yourself with correct cold chain tension.
- (4) You must be shown how to sharpen - books are useless - a hand file in an appropriate holder is satisfactory and fast - particularly on site where sharpening is carried out often during the operation. The chain must be kept sharp not just sharpened when blunt.
- (5) Keep the sprocket nose oiled - holes are provided each side of the bar and marked "oil".
- (6) After use and refiling, the depth gauges must be done - use the correct depth gauge tool.
- (7) Let the chain do the cutting - too much downward pressure wears chains and burns bars. Reverse the bar (top to bottom, that is) occasionally to distribute wear and clean out bar groove and oiling holes frequently.

(Continued on page 13)



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(8) Don't overload the motor by trying to force or cut beyond the limit of the saw - a fully buried bar has considerable lateral forces which will result in worn chains, motors and bank balances. Always cut your log so that the kerf will open from the top to avoid jamming. Undercutting first is advisable. Use steel wedges - the necessity for this is usually obvious, especially during ripping.

The chainsaw is only as dangerous as the driver, but ear and eye protection is to be advised. The tool will give good service if the basic requirements are met, such as chain oil in reservoir, chain tension, sharpness and correct profile of the teeth. The result of an inadequate fuel supply is obvious.

Fuel mixtures have taken a new leaning (no pun intended). I am using lean mix with special oil - it gives a "no black smoke" look, easy starting, higher engine revs and less cylinder wear. I shall respond verbally to queries (can we use that word these days?) on fuel mixtures.

Paul Gregson.

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MOBILCER - M

Some people have been asking about the availability of "Mobilcer - M". It is understood that some other groups are under the impression it is no longer available.

Those of you with cracking timber don't despair. This paraffin-based jelly, used to slow down the drying out of green timber, is, Bruce Leadbeater advises, available from :

FOSROC - NONPORITE

76-80 Helen Street

SEFTON 2162

Telephone 644 7788



OBITUARY

It is with sadness we report the death of one of the Guild members.

Very vocal in the cause of craft woodturning Sid Bennett (Member No. 88) will be missed. It must have been very pleasing for Sid to see the craft course at the Tech established and to be able to participate in the course for which he fought long and hard.

Our condolences to Sid's family.



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THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR YOUR LETTERS
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The Editor
Woodturner's News

"OF WOOD AND MEN"

It is interesting to refer to a manual for woodwork teachers by Ricks (18) which contains some thoughtful phrases.

Training skills owe their origins to the Swede, Slojd. Salomon, an exponee of Slojd, states his master's scheme was three-fold:-

- (1) Mental: Quicken the intelligence, stimulate the perceptive faculties
- (2) Moral: Encourage and strengthen habits of diligence, perseverance, love of order, neatness, self-reliance and a respect for honest labour (Slojd Australia needs you !!)
- (3) Manual: Develop activity of body, dexterity of hand and accuracy of eye.

As an extension of the Swede, Ricks sets out his principles as:-

- (1) Drawing must be the fundamental basis ..., all work must be executed to exact measurement.
- (2) The material selected must be such as will facilitate neat and accurate workmanship ... good work cannot be done with unsuitable or poor tools and materials.
- (3) The pupil must acquire an intelligent knowledge of the various woods which he works.
- (4) Failure should be followed by another exercise of the same kind.

"Drawing is a form of written language in which lines take the place of letters and words". drawing is the clearest and shortest of languages common to all nations. Without drawing, exact and intelligent handwork is scarcely possible - it cultivates habits of accurate observation and close attention; it develops habits of order, neatness and perseverance, it trains the sense of form and proportion and it provides scope for the imagination and opportunity for the exercise of the inventive powers.

Perhaps I should conclude with one philosophy by which I live:-

"The man who has never made a mistake has never made anything"

Paul Gregson

Annual General Meeting - 1985/86

President's Message

Our immediate past president in his message for the year 1984-85 expressed the wish that the new president and committee would be given the same support and assistance as he and his committee had received over the first two years of the Guild's existence. His wish has been realised and I wish to thank all members of the committee and of the Guild for the part they have played in achieving another successful year. We are fortunate to have a leavening of members who are enthusiastic and willing to do something positive to stir-up and enthuse those others of us who do not possess these attributes.

Our special thanks must go to four members of the committee who do all the background work necessary to keep things going. These are our Secretary Alan Reay whose services are in constant demand, our Technical Adviser George Hatfield who looks after the technical aspects of the Guild and somehow manages to provide us with speakers and demonstrators who are experts in various fields of interest to woodturners. Then our Newsletter Editor, Ken Gray who does such a fine job of producing our magazine and fourthly our Treasurer, Bob Howarth who looks after our money and keeps our books balanced.

I think some of the highlights of our year's activities must include the establishment of regional groups where members and friends meet for informal discussions, displays, demonstrations and so on at members' homes. There are two groups active at the moment, the South side and the North Eastern groups. Members who have attended these meetings have found them stimulating and interesting with all kinds of items being brought up for discussion. Most problems thrown into the ring are solved by this discussion and advice from the members. I strongly advise members who have not yet done so to attend one of these group meetings or form new groups because you will enjoy them and gain a lot from them.

Other highlights must include the lectures and demonstrations on bowl turning by Mike Darlow and Bruce Leadbeater - both acknowledged experts in this field and each with his own preference and techniques. Then we have had talks and demonstrations by Paul Gregson on various methods of finishing and presenting our work with emphasis on the traditional methods and the use of natural organic materials.

In conclusion I ask all members to help achieve another successful year by supporting the President and Committee with feedback on the running of the Guild and any ideas they have for improvements.

Tom Bartie

President 1985-86

The Committee 1986-1987

President:	Frank BOLLINS	53 9401 (H)	
V. President	Bob HENTSCHEL	419 7154	
Secretary:	Allen REAY	772 2681 (H)	
Treasurer:	Bob HOWARTH	412 2043 (H)	
Editor:	David HUTT	939 1695 (H)	
Committee:	Tom BARTIE	94 5598 (H)	
	Tony BUKEY	798 8895 (H)	660 6112 (W)
	Gloria EGAN		
	Ken GRAY	451 5715 (H)	
	Paul GREGSON	684 4274 (H)	
	George HATFIELD	888 1939 (H)	217 3205 (W)



STOP PRESS STOP PRESS



1987 ROYAL EASTER SHOW

There are a number of sections in this year's Royal Easter Show for Woodturners but you must be quick as entries have to be in the hands of the Royal Agriculture Society by 21st November 1986

Details may be obtained from :-

The R.A.S.

The Woodturning Centre

Alan Reay (Guild Secretary)



Preliminary Announcement



3rd National Wood Conference - Canberra A.C.T.

27 november - 3 december 1987

More details later - full details with the Editor for those who cannot wait