

WOODTURNERS' NEWS



(WOODTURNERS GUILD OF N.S.W.)

By hand and Eye

Newsletter No. 5/87

October 1987

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NEXT MEETING :

FRIDAY, 16th October, 1987
Guest Speaker : Jack Annett
Walkers Power Tools
Useful home power tools

Editorial

The hardest thing associated with the editing of a magazine is preparing the Editorial. I know just how a minister feels when preparing a sermon. All I can say is thank goodness I don't have to do it every week and it does not have to be long winded.

Of course, some of you will no doubt say "why bother with an editorial" and there are times when I agree whole heartedly. In general, however, I have enjoyed the opportunity to say something to all members and, at times, pose controversial questions in the hope of getting a response. The response to many of the questions posed to date have gone unanswered but one can be hopeful.

Unfortunately I could not, because of a prior commitment, make the trip to Dungog. From the sound of things I missed a really enjoyable weekend - there was something for everybody. The forest was I understand truly magnificent and the timber obtained well worth the trip. Many tales will be told about the weekend and the sight of a certain person charging through the bush after a runaway burl will, undoubtedly, go down in the history of the Guild. Thanks to those involved.

Thanks are also due to those that have recently sent me articles for the newsletter. These are very valuable to me and will be appearing in future issues. One small request for those of you considering an article. Please make sure any drawings that accompany your text can be reproduced on a photocopier. Black is best - pencil the worst. I certainly don't mind going over drawings but the risk of error creeps in. Keep up the good work - our magazine is widely read. Max Nicholas' article on Rustins was reproduced in the Queensland Society's magazine.

If you are not sure what to write for "News" just think about some of the little things you do naturally and take for granted. Many of our new turners will derive great benefit from hints that you can give. Sharing is what it is all about. It is something that the Guild can be proud of - having so many knowledgeable turners willing to pass on helpful hints. You have no excuses now. No more of this "I must get around to it". You have all got one. I gave it to you last issue!

I look forward to hearing from you

Fees are due now !

If you have not already done so, please complete the renewal form and hand it in at the next meeting together with your membership fees for 87/88 (\$15.00).

President's Column

Dungog Revisited

For the third time, Guild members and their wives made a return visit to the Dungog area.

Twenty-two members and their wives spent a most enjoyable weekend either loading up car boots or utilities with logs provided by the Forestry Commission or enjoying the beautiful bush surrounds of the Chichester State Forest.

After spending the Saturday afternoon watching the log sawing expertise of Mike Thompson, District Forester, as he reduced large logs of cedar, white birch and corkwood into transportable sizes, the party assembled at the Vacy Hotel for the evening meal.

A less than satisfactory meal failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the group. A detailed lecture by Mike on Forest Management brought many educated and questioning responses from his audience.

Sunday was another day to be remembered. A coach tour into the Chichester Forest, again with a commentary from Mike was indeed a pleasant experience as we viewed the lush scenery of the Dungog area.

At a number of stops during the progress of the trip, Mike gave detailed explanations of a multitude of aspects of forest life and management.

After a well prepared barbeque lunch, members of the group were entertained by Bob Sargent, Forestry Commission Ranger, as he proceeded to release a massive blue gum burl from an equally massive blue gum log that had decided to topple over some years ago.

After a chain saw resharpening exercise, the task was ultimately completed and handed over to George Hatfield who is determined to make something by way of a large bowl from the burl.

However, his anticipated turning exercise was almost aborted as the burl took off down the hillside and cavorted across the road into the gully on the far side of the road. Nature, however, took pity on George and Bob by ensuring that the tangled undergrowth stopped the progress of the burl before it proceeded too far into the gully.

Altogether, an enjoyable weekend made more delightful by glorious Spring weather.

My personal thanks to Joan and Neil Jones for their organising of the Dungog end of the trip. My thanks to Joan Bollins for her capable handling of the food - cups, plates, etc. for the morning tea and barbeque; thanks to Barbara Burnham for her valuable assistance in the food supply; Ken Gray for his handling of the finances and to all those who hopped in to make the "nosh up" on Sunday such a success and to Mike Thompson and Bob Sargent for their valued assistance over the weekend.

Acting on the recommendation of Mike Thompson, moves are already under way for a similar visit to the Tumut area to study and learn about the Radiata forests of that area.

What else is in store for members in the near future? .

*A "hands-on" day at Colo High School on Saturday, November 7, details of which will be given by our Mike Walsh and Mannie Burnham at the next Guild meeting.

*A proposed visit to an L.C.I. Chemical Complex to see the process of the manufacture of Polyethelene Glycol (P.E.G. for short). This visit is being arranged by Bob Antrobus and you will be asked to signify your intention to attend at the next meeting.

*And, subject to sufficient interest, an organised tour over one of our largest Power Stations in the early part of 1988. This is an experience that our wives can join in.

*An afternoon in the wood machining workshop to be arranged by Mannie Burnham at a date to be fixed, plus a number of other forms of activity.

A good year ahead, but in the meantime Keep the lathes turning

Frank Bollins

Highlights of August Meeting

A well attended and enjoyable meeting with lots of participation, some excellent President's Choice and a most interesting talk. More of that later.

First a welcome to the new members at the meeting - David Hipsley; Stan Fabian; Jim Rockwell; Brian Wickens. Remember to make all new members welcome at our meetings.

The President's Choice was "anything" and there was an interesting display of turned articles. A magnificent burl bowl; a table lamp with lead-light shade; a long urn - hollowed in segments first then glued together; a Victorian baby rattle; lidded bowls and goblets. Well done to everybody who took part.

Never let it be said that guild meetings are without variety - Don Dickson made sure of that with a demonstration of the "Diablo". A very old toy, which needs a great deal of skill to master, the "diablo" will probably make an appearance in many childrens' Christmas stockings this year (see later article in "News").

The Promotions Committee has been busily working in the background an a number of activities are planned. A visit to Colo High School - a swap shop - a visit to the Woodturning Centre. Details will be released as the plans are finalised.

Those of you that could not make the last meeting missed a very interesting talk by Barry Cooperwaite of Carborundam Abrasives. The Company which has been in Australia since 1957 has been Australian owned since 1984. Barry told us of the way ginding wheels are made. A most complex process involving - weighing and mixing of ingredients - moulding and pressing - firing (at 2350 degrees) - balance and speed testing.

Barry indicated that, with an immense range of wheels available, it is most important to obtain the correct wheel for the intended use. One very important tip. NEVER use turps to clean wheels or sharpening stones as it attacks the bond - use ammonia. Thanks, Barry, for a most informative talk

Eastern Region Meeting

Our meeting was held on Tuesday, August 11, and our small attendance was compensated for by the quality of this meeting.

Firstly, every member was given about 15 minutes to demonstrate his/her turning ability. Then, for coffee time, we went indoors to watch a Video Cassette of our learned woodturner, John Ewart (and his assistants) demonstrating one of his pet lathes, the Teknatool.

Back again at the workshop for further turnings and the meeting ended by 11p.m. Jim was almost asleep on the lathe.

We realise that on these cold nights it is indeed an effort to make a hop towards our meeting, but it's well worth the effort to be amongst close friends exchanging views on anything and everything to do with woodturning.

Our next meeting will be (as usual) on the second Tuesday in October.

Tuesday, October 13, 1987

Visit to Norton Abrasives

Monday, August 17 saw a team of twelve Guild members participate in an organised tour of the Norton Abrasive factory at Lidcombe.

After the lecture at a recent Guild meeting on the manufacture and explanation on the grit and banding of grinding wheels, it was indeed an eye-opener to see the actual manufacturing process, not only of the wheel, but of abrasive papers.

It was interesting to learn that the manufacture and testing of the wheels of varying sizes is still a very labour intensive process.

As to abrasive papers, the massive output caused expressions of amazement from our group. "Where does it all go to?" was the cry, as we viewed the vast storage areas of quite large rolls of abrasives of varying quality of grit size.

Our thanks to Norton for their hospitality and the gift of a small slip stone and booklets on abrasives and especially to Mike Hancock and Barry Schou who conducted our tour.

At the conclusion of the visit Frank Bollins presented a small gift of a framed tile to each of the guides.

Visit to Wattyl

Fourteen Guild members were recently taken on a conducted tour of the Wattyl factory at Blacktown. All fourteen came away much wiser as to what goes into, and the processes that produce, the end product, i.e. a wide variety of Wattyl paint coatings and finishes.

Apart from learning of the various processes that Wattyl products go through, we came away with the knowledge that the Wattyl Company is now the largest all Australian-owned paint manufacturing company.

The guild members were appreciative of the hospitality extended by Wattyl, especially Ray Bennett and Geoff Stark, who completed the visit by showing a video on the Wattyl Company. Our thanks to Wattyl for an interesting afternoon.



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SILKY OAK.

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President's Choice

October Meeting : A goblet preferably turned from timber obtained during the Dungog visit. If you did not go to Dungog a goblet turned from any timber source will be OK.

December Meeting : A turned Christmas Gift. (What about we all make a simple toy and donate it to a worthy cause like the Smith Family - let's discuss it at the October Meeting - Ed)

Regional Meetings

There is no information to hand about the northern or southern regional meetings although I am sure that they are alive and well. Would the host on each evening ensure that someone takes some notes about the meeting and, most importantly the details of the NEXT meeting. Members cannot attend if they don't know where and when the meetings are held.

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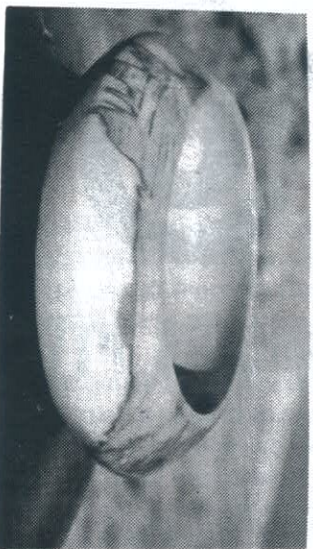
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TELEX NO. AA71927

Another Pin Chuck

This pin chuck is quite an effective design and easy to use. I first saw one in George Hatfield's office some years ago. A Guild member had brought it to a meeting for inspection.

The chuck, as the sketch shows, is a simple design and is very positive in operation. I have machined quite large pieces of timber very much out of balance and the chuck performed well. I must point out, however, that my lathe is set up in such a way that it is a very simple matter for me to reduce revs to suit the job in hand.

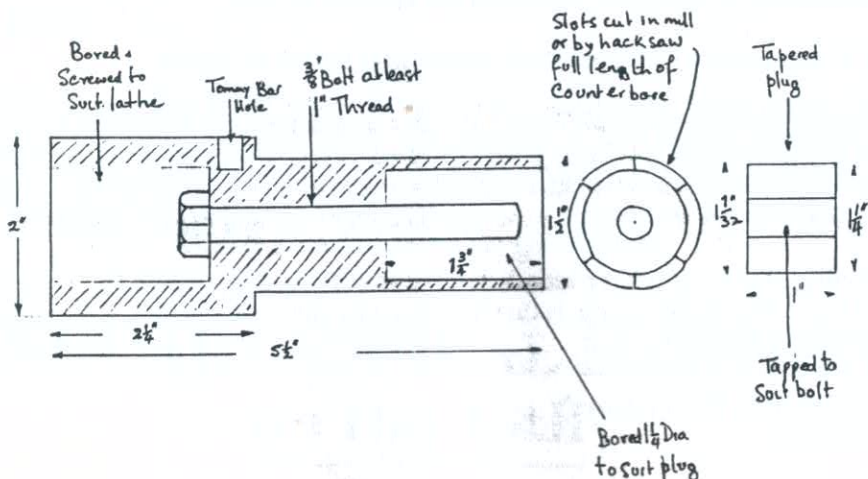
The timber is bored under a drill to the size of the stem of the chuck which is then inserted in the hole. By tightening the bolt in the head of the chuck, the tapered plug is drawn up, thus expanding the fingers in the stem of the chuck. The grip is very positive. To remove the timber from the chuck it is necessary to take the chuck off the lathe, slacken the bolt and tap it into the chuck, thus freeing the tapered plug. The chuck can then be removed from the job.

The lathe for which this chuck was made has a nose thread of $1\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter and 7 threads per inch and the dimensions shown in the sketch are those which were used on this particular item.

There is no reason why the design could not be adapted for other lathes. It would be necessary for lathes with smaller nose threads to use a correspondingly smaller bolt.

Enjoyable and successful turning to all.

Archie Cooke



Correspondence

The Editor
Woodturners' News

Dear Sir

Following our recent visit to, and guided tour of, the Norton Abrasives Works (which was most interesting and informative and thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated), I think our President should be commended for his forethought in taking along token gifts in the form of turned wall plaques.

The gifts were given to the two tour guides in appreciation of their pleasant and obliging talks throughout the tour. Both guides were noticeably surprised and appreciate of the gesture.

On behalf of those of our members who attended, I would like to say a very big "Thank You Frank" for your thoughtfulness.

G. Evans (member No. 51)

The Editor
Woodturners' News

Dear Sir

One thing that I would like to see happening at the meetings of our Guild is to nominate ATA GLANCE about three or four members present to comment on the work displayed.

Elaborating on the above, comments can be made on, say:

a) Presentation b) Originality c) Selection of timber d) Finish

The members selected (I REPEAT) at a glance, don't have to be experts as most likely the people that will one day comment on the articles displayed (e.g. at exhibitions and shows) will not be experts either. The advantages of these comments advocated above are that they will make eager woodturners better ones and experts better still.

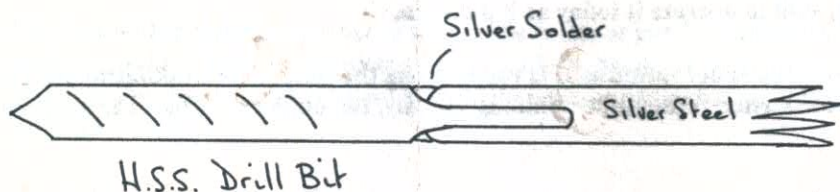
We all gather every second month to learn something and constructive criticism does not hurt. The disadvantage is that it will cost us about twenty or so minutes longer in the Theory Room.

"Chew it over, Woodturners"
Jim Dorbis

Long Hole Boring

With shell augers now difficult and expensive to obtain, I recently approached a firm of Toolmakers, who have helped me before, for assistance.

To my surprise they produced a $5/16$ " diameter tool 1 metre long which they had made for a special metalworking project. This was loaned to me while a $3/8$ " diameter tool was made. The $5/16$ " diameter has proved very successful and I am sure the $3/8$ " will be of even greater help.



The trick is to use a new HSS Twist Drill turned as shown in the sketch below and fitted to a length of Bohler Silver Steel, one end of which is first drilled and then bored to suit the modified drill bit.

I'm sure the success of this tool lies in the use of Silver Steel in lieu of, say, Bright Bar. The Silver Steel is not only very straight but it has a feature of being much more rigid than other steels.

When completed, the drill and Silver Steel are silver soldered together.

Neil Jones

N.B. Gospel according to George H. It is essential to accurately "centre" start of hole with a skew, otherwise even a shell auger will "run out". I found out the "hard way". Be warned, start the hole in the centre. Any bouncing - STOP and centre properly.

Make a real effort to get to the

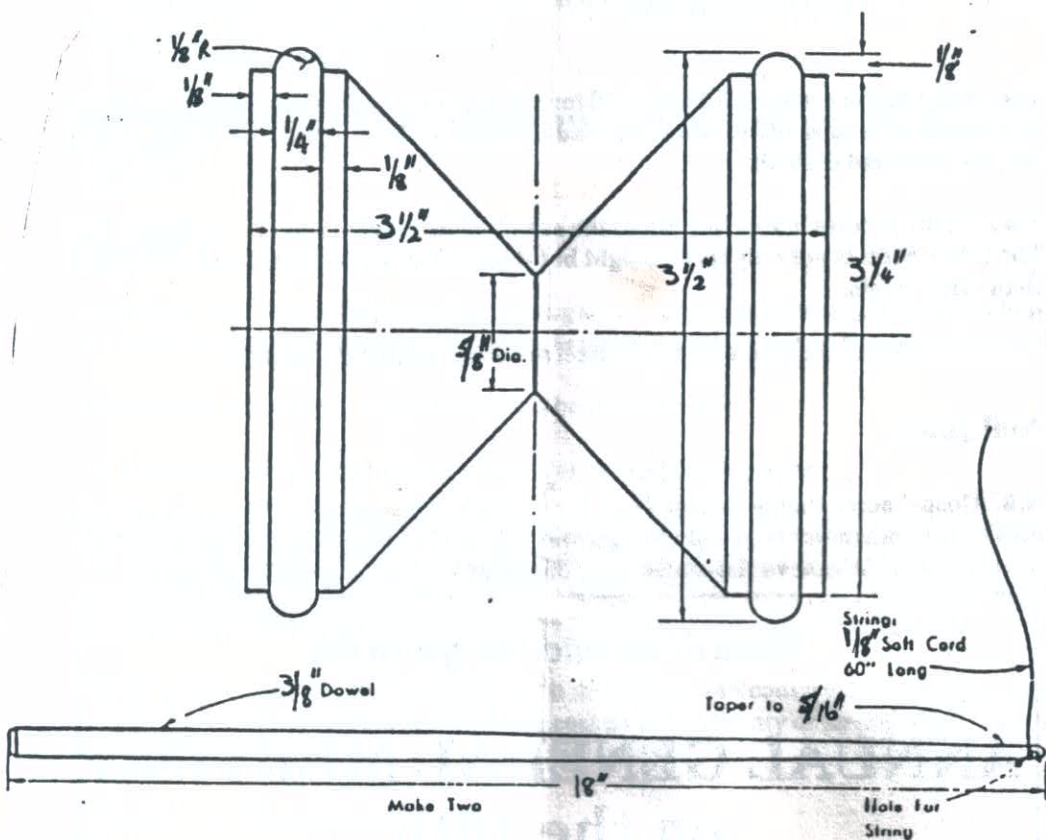
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
on the 16th

The Diablo

Don Dickson surprised and delighted us all with a very proficient demonstration of the "diablo". The diablo is a very old toy and one seen for the first time by many Guild members at the August Meeting. From comments appearing in the newsletter of the Woodturners Society of Queensland the diablo has been the subject of much discussion and it is from that newsletter the diagram below has been reproduced.

This fascinating toy probably originated in China a long time ago. It was very popular in France and England in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It requires just as much skill to operate it today as it did then.

To start the spool spinning it is rolled along the floor by manipulating the two sticks with the string. When it is spinning rapidly, the object is to toss the spool in the air



and catch it on the string. This sounds simple but it takes a great deal of practice. The diablo is a type of "Yo-Yo".

The diablo is an ideal one-evening project. It is made from maple, or some other hardwood, and turned on the lathe. Be sure to make it accurately so that it balances perfectly on the string and therefore runs smoothly.

The sticks are 5/8" dowells 18" long and tapered to 5/16" at the ends. The string is 1/8" soft cord knotted through the holes in the ends of the sticks.

Don has added some comments to the article to assist you in making and playing with the diablo. First he suggests you leave off the beads on each end of the spool. Next, as a perfectly balance spool is vital, do recommends that you test for balance on a knife edge.

The sticks and string are, Don feels, too long. He recommends sticks 15" long and the string 48" long as the make playing with the diablo a little easier. The string should be made of cotton as it is better for friction and should be approximately 1mm thick (Apologies to those confused by both metrics and imperial measurements - Ed).

Pulley and Belt Speeds

Have you ever wondered how to calculate the speed of your lathe (or any other belt driven machine)?? The following may be of interest.

1. Revolutions per minute - RPM

Motor speed in RPM
times
Diameter of motor pulley
divided by
Diameter of driven pulley

2. Feet per minute - FPM (for belt sanders and the like)

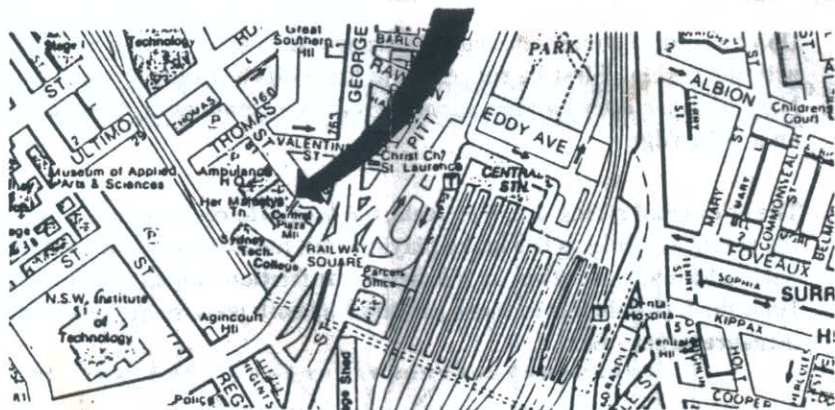
Diameter of wheel
times
RPM (as calculated above)
times

0.262 (for metrics use 0.00133 instead of 0.0262)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday October 16th, 1987 5:30 pm

Woodturning School
Sydney Technical College
Bijou Lane, Haymarket
(Near Her Majesty's Theatre)



All the positions on the committee of the Guild will be declared vacant. Nominations to fill the various positions on the committee for the 1987/88 year will be called from the floor.

If you feel that you can put something back into the Guild now is the time to do just that. Special qualifications are NOT needed, just an interest in Guild activities and a wish to make the Guild even better than it is now. Don't be shy - let someone know that you are interested in participating.

As well as the official business of the meeting there will be the usual President's Choice and a guest speaker. Our speaker is Mr Jack Annett from Walkers Power Tools at Granville. Jack will be discussing a number of power hand tools which would be useful in the home workshop - routers, drills, sanders etc.