

WOODTURNERS NEWS

(WOODTURNERS GUILD OF N.S.W.)



By hand and eye

Newsletter No. 3/88

April 1988

CONTENTS

Editorial	2
President's Column	3
Regional meetings	4
Some thoughts	7
Woodturning Down Under	8
Royal Easter Show	10
Proposed Visits	11
A Clamping System	13
Correspondence I	14
A.G.M.	15
President's Choice - June	15
The Gadget Man	16

All enquiries to: Frank Bollins - President
Telephone 53 9401

All Correspondence to: The Secretary
Woodturners Guild of N.S.W.
21 Woodburn Avenue
PANANIA 2213

All Newsletter Article to: The Editor
Woodturners News
5 Southern Cross Way
ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS 2100

NEXT MEETING

3rd June 1988
Tom Bartie - Lace Bobbins
Neil Jones, George Hatfield
and Bruce Leadbeater on
Long Hole Boring

EDITORIAL

First a big thank you to all those who have helped with this issue. I was really short of material but several people have come to my rescue. I know I have nagged you mercilessly over the last year or so but none of you have any excuses. You can't even say you haven't got around to it. I gave you all a "Round Tuit" last year. So come on members put pen to paper.

There is a lot of talent in the Guild and you will feel so much better for sharing your knowledge. The little things you take for granted could save other members, particularly the newer ones, hours of heartache and anguish. Don't forget the cash award for the best article.

Enough nagging. Thanks are also due to Bob McPherson. I mentioned in passing that the committee were preparing some information leaflets which would be made available at Guild functions, exhibitions and the like to anyone interested in joining the Guild. I indicated that I was investigating the purchase of suitable stands made of perspex. Before the week was over Bob had made and delivered to me 6 perspex stands. Thanks Bob, the stands and leaflets will really help in promoting the Guild.

Whilst on the subject of Guild functions - Richard Clarke of Trend Timbers is arranging another demonstration day on Saturday 4th June 1988 featuring turning, timber and tools. Richard has generously invited the Guild to attend, conduct turning demonstrations, display a selection of turned articles and promote the Guild. A lathe and a set of chisels is being provided by John Ewart's Woodturning Centre which will be represented on the demonstration day by that well known and highly skilled Guild member Mike Reid.

All members are welcome to participate in the turning demonstrations or simply attend. Anyone prepared to assist individually or through a sub-group should make arrangements through the conveners of the regional meetings.

Frank Bollins and Allen Reay are the contact points for any further information as they are co-ordinating the project. We look forward to hearing from members and receiving full support for this excellent event. You will not only be supporting one of the Guild's regular advertisers but also promoting the Guild and its high standard of turning.

The next meeting (3rd June) looks like a most interesting one. Tom Bartie, well known for his attention to detail will be talking about and, we hope, showing how to make lace bobbins. Neil Jones, in a recent "News" article (issue 5/87), created a controversy regarding the use of Twist drills for long hole boring. It is hoped that Neil will be with us to join with George Hatfield and Bruce Leadbeater in a debate about long hole boring.

NEW MEMBERS

At the last meeting four new members joined the Guild. Welcome to June McKimmie of Palm Beach, Ted Beard of Northbridge, Ron Dick of Cronulla and Raymond Lovelock of Padstow Heights. We look forward to seeing you at future general and regional meetings.

PRESIDENTS COLUMN

A chance remark by a guide at Old Government House

"What a pity that here are no tradesmen capable of producing such beautiful furniture as you see here"

- led me to put pen to paper on this unfortunately incorrect viewpoint.

A Guild member present carefully explained to the guide that her opinion was erroneous and that there were many examples of contemporary craftsmanship available to disprove her theory.

In the field of mass produced furniture there is little or no opportunity for individual expression. Here it is either the employer or the machine - or both - that determines the quality of the end product as far as design and finish are concerned.

This is not to say that all modern furniture is "rubbish" as some will aver. A walk around a quality furniture shop will quickly dispel such an opinion. A study of many of the pieces displayed will show that they are indeed good quality products even though they may be mass produced by semi-skilled labour.

In this area it is not possible to compare the individual qualities of ability between tradesmen of yesteryear and those of today because of the submergence of the individual abilities in the course of mass production. It is possible to make real comparisons between the "old" craftsman and the present growing band of individual producers of quality articles by visiting the increasing number of exhibitions and displays of modern craftsmanship.

Two such exhibitions recently held in the Sydney region serve as examples.

The 1987 Opera House exhibition of the Woodworker's Group of N.S.W. showed beyond doubt that the standard of woodcraft in Australia is extremely high and compares favourably on a world-wide basis in terms of design, execution and finish.

The second exhibition, one which displayed the work of Pru Shaw, was recently held at Lane Cove. Pru Shaw is a product of the Canberra School of Art and is a member of the Woodcraft Group of the A.C.T. and, to my mind, her work is superb. Pru's design concepts are equally matched by her quality of execution and finish. A truly memorable experience to view her work.

Coming much closer to home - let's look at woodturners. Our leading turners are comparable with any of the overseas turners. There is not one example of antique turning or expression of contemporary design that the growing number of present day turners cannot match.

Finally, on an overall comparison, the standards of quality of the Queen Victoria Building, the restoration of Parliament House and the other historical places of interest and, of course, many of our modern concepts - the National Gallery, the High Court, the new Federal parliament House - are glowing examples of quality being encouraged and paid for. Craft ability of a high standard is certainly evident in Australia.

So without being overly boastful or conceited let's not perpetuate the illusion that there are no capable craftspeople in Australia today who can match the products and concepts of yesteryear.

Having said that - let's get on with the raising of our own levels of skill and artistry by
Keeping the lathes turning.

Frank Bollins

President's Choice for the August meeting of the Guild

A Serving Platter - turned with oil finish.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Eastern Region

Because of the most unpleasant weather our meeting was poor in attendance. But - all the same - decisions were made.

What a lovely feeling it is to decide to help sick and unfortunate human beings - amongst the children. We are proud that **ALL OF US** got behind the proposed scheme to help the Prince of Wales' Hospital's requirements for occupational therapy patients.

Eastern Region members and woodturners from other groups who are keen to help please contact Jim Dorbis for information. If you cannot offer turnings, please make a donation of pieces of timber. Your help will be appreciated (by the way - Trend Timbers offered some offcuts to this end - thank you Richard). We also **URGENTLY** need toys for children. Christmas is a long way away - **WE NEED THEM NOW!!!**

The next meeting will be on the second Monday of June. We hope to see you on the 13th June 1988 at 7.00 pm.

55 Darley Road
Randwick
Telephone 399 3068

AND BRING YOUR OFFERINGS WITH YOU

Jim Dorbis

Southern Region

The Southern region's bi-monthly meeting was held on the night of 15th March at Jack Hungerford's home in Bexley. It was very pleasing to see so many members present as well as several visitors who intend to join the Guild. Welcome to you all - especially Jill Hudson who will make a pleasant companion for our Gloria.

The main business of the night was finalising the future dates and venues for the remainder of the year (listed at the end of this report).

Our president, Frank Bollins, gave an interesting and enlightening explanation of the benefits of "incorporation" as it could affect the Guild. Secretary, Allen Reay, brought along several bowls to show and discuss the excellent results he obtains by spraying with "Mirror-tone".

Also on display, by host Jack Hungerford, were quite a few toys he has already made which would be suitable for our "Toy Pool" for distribution to children's organisations - No grass grows under Jack's feet !!

Unfortunately plans for suitable toys have not been made available to members yet but don't let this stop you. The project for our next meeting on 17th May is at least one toy from each member towards the "Toy Pool".

Then came the most interesting part of the evening - the "customary exodus" to Jack's well appointed workshop. Jack explained and displayed the various stages of preparing and assembling the many segments of and the finishing of segmented bowls. All Jack's finished bowls are magnificent "Object's D'Art". He certainly is a past master of this facet of woodturning.

We then inspected Jack's large stock-pile of turning timbers - blanks, planks and logs of all description!!

The evening concluded with an equally impressive supper provided by Jack's good wife, Dot. Those present couldn't decide which was the most enjoyable - Jack's workshop or Dot's table. If a second vote had been taken I think Dot would have just sneaked in the winner (on a double vote by G.L.).

Dates and venues of future meetings of Southern Region

19th July 1988	George Evans
20th September 1988	Les Noble
15th November 1988	Mannie Burnham

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17th May 1988 at Frank Bollin's home
65 Waterside Parade
Peakhurst
Telephone 53 9401

Don't forget to telephone the host of the evening if you intend to attend. Courtesy only costs a telephone call.

George Evans

Northern Region

The regular meeting was held at Mac-Knowles home at 7.30 pm on 4th March 1988 with a normal attendance of a dozen members.

The pre-set project for the evening was a platter and a very varied and interesting array of platters were presented for inspection. This was followed by a dissertation by each member as to the method of construction; the timber used and the finish, all of which proving very beneficial particularly to the newer members who can learn a lot from the older more

EXOTIC TIMBER SPECIALISTS

Stocks available for prompt delivery anywhere in Australia

American Oak
Blackbean
Blackwood
Ebony
Huon Pine
Ghana Hydua
Japanese Oak
Jelutong
Japanese Elm

Kauri
Lignum Vitae
Maple
Merbau
Mahogany Brazilian
Myrtle
Nyatoh
Pau Martin
Palisanda

Sugar Pine
Tawa
Taun
Tallowwood
Teak
Western Red Cedar
Walnut — American
— Peruvian
— African
— Queensland

Stock of Brazilian Mahogany Lining Boards

Plus large stocks of Tasmanian Oak, Victorian Ash and Radiata Pine

Trade Services: Kiln drying • Machining • Treatment — CCA — VACSOL

MATHEWS TIMBER PTY LTD

125 Rooks Road, Vermont, Victoria 3133. Tel: 874 1666 (8 lines) Telex: Timmat 32655.
Branch & Warehouse: 16-18 Smithfield Road, Smithfield, Sydney. Tel: (02) 604 2017.

experience members. We missed the company of two of regular members, Tom Bartie and David Hutt. Bring a note next time fellas.

Members had also been asked to bring ideas for toy production to support a local charity. These also proved interesting and we were even treated to a demonstration on Mac's lathe by Max Nicholas of how to make a "Rap Spinning Top". If you don't know what that is - ask Max next time you see him!!!

The project for the next meeting by the way is a "mushroom" or series of mushrooms. We are looking forward to seeing some creative thinking on this one chaps.

As a reminder (put it in your diary straight away so you don't forget it), the **next meeting** of the Northern region is **Friday 6th May 1988** at 7.30 pm with Ken Gray's home.

31 Adams Street
French's Forest
Telephone 451 5715

In the meantime "Good Turning"

Mac Knowles

A NEW REGION BEING ESTABLISHED - THE UPPER NORTH SHORE

Arthur Ball is starting the ball rolling with a meeting to be held at his home on Friday 13th May 1988 at 7.30 pm.

This venue should prove popular for those who find the other regional meetings a little too far distant from Hornsby and surrounding suburbs. Arthur has a new lathe he would like to show off - he may even have the designer there too!!

Don't forget - **13th May 1988** - 7.30 pm
Arthur Ball
12 Maranta Street
Hornsby
Telephone 477 3683

Please ring Arthur if you are going to attend.

REGIONAL MEETINGS - Some thoughts

The concept of regional meetings is involving an ever increasing number of Guild members in organised activity in addition to our regular bi-monthly meetings. Apart from the growing number of members attending the established regional meetings at least another two are in the process of being formed (see above - Hornsby area).

An obvious spin-off from these meetings is the interchange of ideas and technical assistance as a result of visits by members to other Guild member's homes.

I have had three or four such experiences which should be mentioned.

The first two relate to that very practical and experienced member, Clarrie Snell. On the first occasion Clarrie visited my home to initiate me into the secrets of operating my newly acquired compressor and spray outfit. At the end of the day I think - I hope - that I was at least more aware that the use of the spray gun requires both technical advice and practical demonstration. I received both from Clarrie!

The second visit, which arose from a South-side regional meeting, was devoted to a demonstration of Clarrie's bangle turning techniques and the various chucking devices that he has developed and which he displayed at our last meeting. Result - I am now in the bangle turning mode with heavy demand from daughters, grand-daughters and wife for a supply of these attractive adornments.

Bob Antrobus arranged to call on me to help straighten out a few bowl turning problems. Result - on his return home Bob managed a catch on the rim of his first practice bowl but was very proud of his second effort. Not only did we both learn from our days toil but Bob was able to give me some very sound advice on improving my band saw dust extractor which was written about in the last newsletter. More of this in the next edition of "News".

Finally a visit to the home of Allen Reay added to my limited spray painting technique especially as far as final finishing is concerned.

So, let's have more of these home visits where we can share our knowledge and experiences on a more personal basis.

Frank Bollins

BI-CENTENNIARY OF WOODTURNING DOWN-UNDER

The Queensland Woodturners Society have advised that they still have a number of vacancies for anyone who may be interested in attending the workshops to be held on 1st - 4th July. For more information please contact the convener Neil Derrington (telephone (07) 275 7277).

ROYAL EASTER SHOW - ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

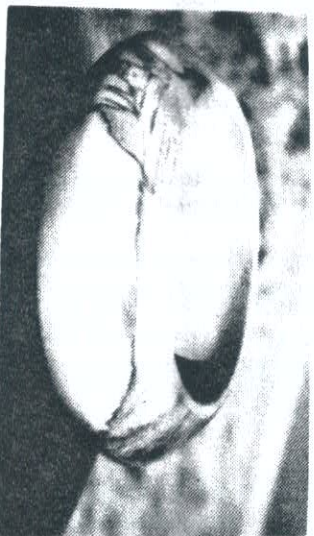
Well the annual exhibition of arts and crafts has been and gone with Guild members being the major exhibitors as well as being highly successful when the final awards were handed out. It appears that President Frank's words of encouragement for members to accept the challenge of participating in this form of open competition were taken seriously from the number and quality of articles entered in the exhibition. The following Guild members entered articles:

Frank Bollins, Tony Buxey, Jim Dorbis, Ron Gray, Theo Kennis, Chris Medlicott, A. Member, Max Nicholas, Anton Petersen, Clarrie Snell, Ian Taylor and Mike Walsh

Guild members gave an excellent account of their skills in the final presentation of awards with Tony Buxey gaining second and A. Member third place in the spindle turning section. Frank Bollins was awarded first and Ron Gray second place in the face plate section. Frank was also

THE WOODTURNING CENTRE

6 ROGER STREET, BROOKVALE, N.S.W. 2100
Telephone (02) 938 6699



*WE ARE NOW STOCKING EXOTIC
SPECIES OF TIMBER IN BLANKS
SUITABLE FOR THE WOODTURNER.

Woodturning Specialists

awarded second place in the not elsewhere specified section as well as first place for being the most successful exhibitor. Well done to all members who won prizes and to those who submitted unsuccessful entries, may you have more success next year.

Tony's entry was a lidded bowl with three ornate legs. It was turned from Queensland walnut, a Jarrah burl and silver ash veneer. The manufacture schedule was - design Monday - turn and finish Tuesday - enter in Show Wednesday.

A. Member's article was a candlestick turned from a piece of plum tree to a shape similar to that which featured in the Australian Woodworker complete with integrated drip bowl.

Frank's bowl was about 12" (oops sorry 300mm) in diameter turned from a piece of pine with a small curved rim and a decorative base and spray finished with Mirotone lacquer.

A thin walled rosewood bowl having an inlay in the shape of the Bi-centennial logo was submitted by Ron Gray. The logo was made from huon pine and silver ash and Ron had to obtain written permission from the Bi-centennial authority to ensure the exact shape and proportions had been maintained. This part of the exercise made the actual turning seem comparatively simple.

Frank has an interesting story to tell about the candlestick(s) he entered in the spindle section. As Frank was completing the second of a pair of candlesticks fate took over the chisel and the result was an unwanted cut in the finished surface. Not deterred, Frank removed the damaged section with the skill of a surgeon, glued another piece in its place and then re-turned and polished the candlestick prior to heading off to the RAS to enter the pair in the exhibition.

The RAS officials told Frank that they would not accept the pair of candlesticks and he could enter only one of them. There must be a moral in this story somewhere.

Allen Reay

The story was even more annoying when it was learned that the winning entry was a chess set - 32 pieces (????)

PROPOSED VISITS

PARKER FURNITURE

Arrangements have been made with Parker Furniture for Guild members to visit their factory at Seven Hills.

Parker are a well known manufacturer of high quality furniture using sophisticated methods and machinery. The inspection will be of great interest for those able to attend.

An invitation list will be circulated at the next Guild meeting on 3rd June. The group will be limited to 15 so it will be a case of first in best dressed.

For details of the visit see page 11.

(Parker Visit continued)

Wednesday 8th June 1988 - 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Parker furniture
45 Powers Road
Seven Hills
Telephone 624 1133

Meet in factory car park **no later than 12.45 pm.**

PAUL BOSMAN VISIT

A reminder to those who put their name on the list for a visit to Paul Bosman's factory on Saturday 30th April 1988 at 1.00 pm.

Paul is a french polisher - spray painter who will demonstrate spray painting techniques.

Details again:

Saturday 30th April 1988 - 1.00 pm
Allied Enterprises
20 Upward Street
Leichhardt
Telephone 560 4280

For further information ring:

Mannie Burnham 217 3605 (work) 773 4924 (home)
Frank Bollins 53 9401

BOTANICAL GARDENS VISIT

Committee member, Ian Taylor, has been working hard to organise a visit to the Royal Botanical Gardens. Ian will be providing more information in the near future to determine the best and most suitable time for a Guild visit.

FOR SALE

Member Allan Smith has some Australian Red Cedar for Sale. Ideal for woodturners, bowl makers, carvers and cabinet makers. Beautifully figured dark red chunks and pieces from the roots, buttresses and large limbs of a 200 year old tree. End sections up to 15" by 12"; lengths to 6ft.; some dry but mostly unseasoned. Allan is asking \$2.50 per super foot.

You can see the cedar during office hours at Allan C. Smith Constructions Pty Ltd, 16 Loyalty Road, North Rocks

Telephone 630 0211 (Business hours) 634 3741 (After hours)

**PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR
FINANCIAL GOALS**

**IF YOU HAVE \$1000 OR MORE TO
INVEST YOU NEED PROFESSIONAL ADVICE**

TAX MINIMISATION - SUPERANNUATION

LUMP-SUM INVESTMENT

LUMP-SUM E.T.P.'S

OR

SIMPLY MAKING YOUR MONEY

WORK HARDER

40 Years' financial experience can be yours simply by phoning a fellow woodturner



Everyone calls him "Mac"

Consultations and submissions FREE to Guild members.

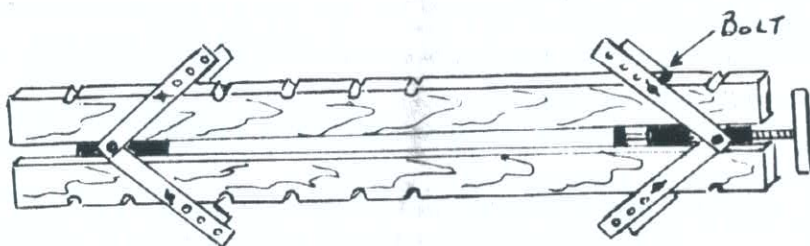
Telephone for an appointment

Mac Knowles
O.A.M. F.A.S.A. A.I.P.A.

449 2520

A CLAMPING SYSTEM

Reading an American tool catalogue I was impressed by an illustration of a clamping system for joining two or more boards together for, say, a table top. So I set about with some steel to duplicate, as best I could, the system. I made **three** pairs at the same time improving the versatility of the clamp by way of adjustment for various thicknesses of timber.



As you will see from the illustration, the clamps comprise of two metal components and two pieces of 3" X 2" dressed timber. The timber is slotted along the outer edges to accommodate the bolts locating the clamps at the desired width.

These clamps have a dual action - not only clamping the boards together but also having an upward and downward clamping action thus eliminating that common upward bowing that occurs. I shall bring a pair of these clamps to the next meeting as I find it difficult to both illustrate and explain. **Seeing is believing.**

Arthur Ball

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear David

On a recent trip to the north of the state I happened to be talking to a local resident and he told me about an old "bush woodturners" trick to keep the bark on wood. To back his story up he produced several items, all of which had the bark intact.

The trick, he said knowingly, is to **BOIL the WOOD!**

Can anyone confirm this story? Any old oversized pots would be most welcome.

Bryan Wickens

(Correspondence continued)

Dear David

A LITTLE (FRUSTRATING) EXPERIENCE

When it was announced, last year at a Guild meeting, that the Royal Agricultural Society (Arts and Crafts Division) were accepting entries for woodturned articles my mind went immediately to work

And why not? It was to be our "Bicentennial Year" and the R.A.S. was advertising the "Bicentennial Royal Easter Show". As a decent and proud Aussie citizen and a keen woodturner I decided to find a subject (up to my IQ standard) to fit the above theme.

To cut the story short - I decided on a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) flying from outer space to come and wish Australia a happy birthday.

Off to the drawing board, calculator on hand to work out the amount of materials - hand in the pocket - petrol in the tank - purchase the necessary timber, glue paint, etc. After a few days on the lathe I was the proud creator of a UFO - a article fit to be displayed for its originality, at least that's what most of my critics told me.

I carried the creation to the Showground and I waited anxiously for the Show to open.

To my utmost surprise, a neighbour who visited the Show telephoned me to announce that the UFO was NOT on display. Unable to visit the Show for health reasons I telephoned the person in charge of the Arts and Crafts Division to be told that my article was not displayed because of a lack of space. Without rancour I asked for a refund of my entrance fee (pittance indeed) which they refused. Instead I was promised a Commemoration Medal (which I had paid for).

WAS ALL THAT EFFORT WORTH IT? YOU BE THE JUDGES!

Jim Dorbis

It may not have been worth the effort Jim, but we can't wait to see the bi-centennial UFO - Ed



ANAGOTE LFB

TURNING TIMBERS IN STOCK CURRENTLY
INCLUDE RED CEDAR, ROSEWOOD, KAURI,
HUON PINE, SHE-OAK, TAS. MYRTLE.
BLACKWOOD, RED SIRIS, QLD. WALNUT,
QLD. MAPLE, WHITE CEDAR & FISHTAIL
SILKY OAK.

PHONE: (02) 660 1382

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

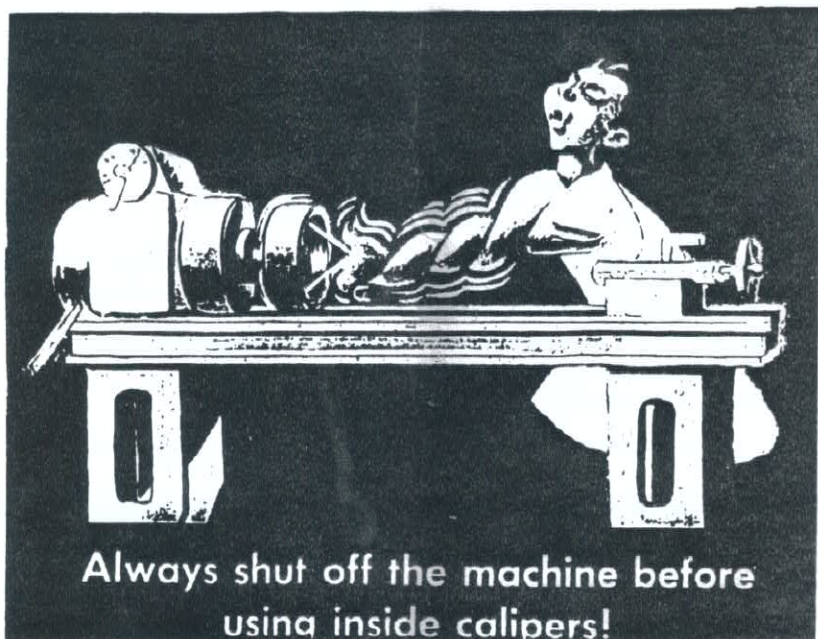
Members should keep their ears to the ground as your committee is attempting to secure the services of a well known special guest speaker for the Annual General Meeting of the Guild to be held on 14th October 1988. This speaker has a series of well structured lectures which will benefit all turners

No names at this stage but the person concerned is a Guild member, woodturner *extraordinaire*, author, designer, creator, TV performer, etc. who, at times, has been described as being a trifle controversial.

That's enough clues for now but make sure you don't miss the AGM.

President's Choice - June Meeting

"Something **new** - something old"



CLARRIE THE GADGET MAN

There is an old adage which states that "*necessity is the mother of invention*" this saying took on a new meaning at the last general meeting after Clarrie Snell produced, from what appeared to be a bottomless carryall, an endless array of jigs, gadgets, tools and other turning aids that he had developed over the past week. These aids were used to produce an extremely large range of very attractive ladies bangles which are usually only turned using expensive commercial machinery.

The gadgets ranged from holding devices that were used to secure the timber in the lathe from its first cut to the final turning operation to an extremely simple but never-the-less ingenious device to keep the turners fingers clean during the application of the finishing coats of lacquer.

I will not attempt to describe the devices as I feel only the creator could really do them justice. How about "Ed" having a persuasive word in Clarrie's ear to produce a really interesting article for next month's "News".

Anyhow as the article stated at the beginning, Clarrie has certainly demonstrated that necessity IS the mother of invention but one wonders if CS could possibly be the FATHER.

Allen Reay

MAX HOSKINS

With great regret and sadness we announce the loss of our friend Max Hoskins who passed away on 1st April 1988. Max was a gentleman and a keen woodturner - a member of the Guild - always ready to learn, help and offer his services to the Eastern regional group. A week before he passed away his son had made him a grandfather.

To his wife, Shirley, to his son and daughter - our sincere condolences.

Thanks to Jim Dorbis for the above note