

By hand and eye

Sydney Woodturners Guild (Inc)

formerly "THE WOODTURNERS GUILD OF N.S.W."

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 2/89

MARCH 1989

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Woodturners Guild of N.S.W.
4/33 Bernard Road
Padstow Hts. 2211

All Newsletter Articles To:

The Secretary mark it "Newsletter"

EDITORIAL

Well, we are finally incorporated! We all know the reasons for this and we can all breathe a sigh of relief and a word of praise to Mannie Burnham and Frank Bollins who have worked so hard to achieve this. The process of incorporation, however, made us all, in some way, consider what and who we are. It made us consider what our organisation was and what we got out of it.

One interesting point was the word "Guild". Some thought that it had connotations of being a collection of experts and that it would frighten off learners and those considering the craft. In actual fact "Guild" comes from the Middle Ages and was "an association of people with a common interest" — exactly what we are. Craftsmen who knew their trade were called "Masters" and as there are only a few of these in our "Guild" it is thought that our present name is an appropriate one.

It is also felt that we can benefit from more thought about who we are and what we want from the Guild. From the voting and comments at the meeting it was readily apparent that we wanted: to make no pretences as to our competence; the Guild to grow, and to enjoy the company of persons with a like interest. The present form of meetings appears to be satisfactory, with lectures which are sometimes controversial but always interesting, a pooling of ideas and practical demonstrations but is this sufficient for the future?

As was seen at the last demonstration day at Trend Timbers, there is a lot of interest in woodturning out there in the world. People were clamouring to know more about the Guild and the recruitment was such that we are likely to see the birth of another region. This influx of new members would certainly turn into an avalanche if we were to advertise. In any case, the Guild is growing and this is going to force all of us to face the accompanying problems this poses.

Our meeting room bulges at the seams everytime we have a meeting. cope with more members we will have to seek a new venue. This will probably cost money and that nasty word "Fees" raises its ugly head. Whilst we are on the subject of money, perhaps members should be aware that all Guild officers work voluntarily and receive no payments, the meeting room (for both the Guild and Committee meetings) is given to us at no cost and David Hipsley has used his charm and arranged for Kwik-Kopy printing at North Ryde to print our magazine for free! Expand the membership and we will increase the strain on all these Of course, more members equal more fees, but consider friendships. just the cost of posting the newsletter to you and our affiliated organisations each year and you will realise the financial tightrope Having got that over with, let us consider the form of we walk. meetings.

The lectures and slides are great and it is felt that no one will want to discontinue them. They are interesting and we learn from these, but what about the demonstrations? Speaking personally, I learn a lot from seeing a competent woodturner at work and if explanations are also given, it is a great bonus. How do we cope with these? Maybe the regional meetings will have to take on some of these burdens. Not that I am suggesting George Hatfield, Mike Darlow, Bruce Leadbetter, etc. tour the regions giving demonstrations, but maybe an exchange of expertise between regions, could help. A video camera and screen would also help, but these items cost money and we have already covered this point.

One thing is certain: we will provide what members want at the minimum cost. The question is, what do we want of our Guild? We have a new name. Let us all take the time to think on what we want. Eventually let us discuss this at the meeting, but before this, express your views, in writing, for the newsletter. This allows others to consider your points of view and makes the eventual discussion more meaningful. Come on — lets have your views.

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BRYAN WICKENS



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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Having listened to Michael Gill at our December 1988 meeting and read his letter, first published in the Australian Woodworker and republished in our last Newsletter, I believe the time has arrived when our Guild should develop a policy attitude in relation to the future of the timber industry in Australia.

Since the beginning of 1988 the "Australian Woodworker" has utilised its Forum pages to open up discussion on this vital question. Not surprisingly, the response has been divided, which is reflective of the general public attitude. It is of no small significance that this divided attitude comes from, in the case of the correspondents to the Australian Woodworker, the ranks of dedicated craft woodworkers who have a vital stake in the future of the industry.

Over the past decade in particular, the future of the timber industry and our declining timber resources have become a political football. Conservation and protection of our national heritage in all of its forms has become a consistent election issue, in some instances a contributing factor in the ultimate outcome of the elections.

And yet, we seem no closer to an acceptable solution: the great division remains and, in fact, grows more extreme as major political parties are themselves divided as they seek to pay lip service to the conservationists, and at the same time open up our forests and wilderness areas to the massive extraction, largely for export, of our valuable and, in some instances, irreplaceable timber reserves.

So, where does the Guild stand on this vital question? Do we close our eyes and ears to the media debate and campaigning, hoping that the issue will disappear? Or do we, as an organisation having a stake in the future of our timber resources, set about the task of developing a more informed opinion within the ranks of our membership so that we become an essential part of the 'woodies' organisations that are now in the process of becoming a cohesive voice in this national dilemna.

We have received a further communication from Michael Gill seeking our support - both financial and representative - for the "Woodcraft Guild of Australia", a body of dedicated woodworkers. The major concern of this group is to monitor the management of forestry practices in Australia and to ensure that the timber resources are preserved, sustained and actively developed for the sake of fine woodworkers of today and tomorrow.

The formation of the "Woodcraft Guild of Australia" arose from the Third National Australian Woodworking Conference held in Canberra in December, 1987.

I firmly believe that our Guild should become attached to this group to ensure that our voice is heard in the continuing debate on the future of the timber industry.

I agree with those who say that the prolonged debate over forest conservation has so far ignored the needs of the woodworking community and demonstrated little or no understanding of the role that this community plays in the economic and social life in Australia.

How to go about it? That is the big question.

To ensure that the widest possible opinion is obtained before any final decision is made on this question, I propose that a special discussion evening be held at a time and place to be determined where speakers from all areas of concern within the timber and forestry industry be given the opportunity to express an informed opinion that would assist in formulating a positive Woodturners Guild viewpoint.

Such a proposal would ensure that the Guild participation in the future debate and action would be based on a firm evaluation of the facts surrounding the issue, and would be free from all of the political grandstanding, distortion and emotionalism that presently dominates the issue.

In making this proposal, I am certainly not advocating that our Guild becomes an active participant in either pro or anti-logging activity - there is ample opportunity for individual members to become actively engaged by joining the appropriate organisation. Neither am I saying that we should leave it to the Forestry Commission as it too is an endangered species, subject to the will of Government bureaucrats.

Having read this column would you, as an active and dedicated woodcraft person, express your thoughts on the above proposal, to enable a firm decision to be made to protect the future of our craft by ensuring a continuing supply of quality timber and, at the same time, protecting the national environment.

In the meantime - keep the lathes turning.

FRANK BOLLINS

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE : MARCH MEETING

Something small - something useful, something beautiful.

Bangles - earrings - pendants - pens, or whatever.

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE : JUNE MEETING

EVERYONE BE IN IT!

ANYTHING! - YES, ANY TURNING! BUT DONE LATELY.

LATELY? - WELL - SAY - 1989. OK.

SOUTHSIDE REGIONAL GROUP

Eleven Guild members, including three recently joined-up members, assembled at the home of Clarrie Snell for the initial 1989 meeting of the Group.

After electing Clarrie as the Convenor of the Group and re-electing George Evans as correspondent (he had sent his apology for non-attendance from far-away Lismore), we set about formulating a program of activity for the next few months, which is, in part, as follows:

Saturday - 8th April at the home of Jack Hungerford, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At least 2 lathes, including the Guild lathe, will be in operation and tuition will be given to newcomers to the craft. Bring lunch and timber for turning.

Tuesday - 20th June - home of Frank Bollins

Tuesday - 22nd August - venue to be announced.

Tuesday - 31st October - " " "

Tuesday - 19th December - " "

Specific turned projects will be decided for each evening. For June 20th meeting, a small bowl 150mm dia. is the task.

The Group will also continue to produce toys which will be displayed at each meeting.

George Luster presented pieces of the oldest known Oak tree which had been grown in his area. The tree had fallen and pieces distributed. (See article in Newsletter.)

After general discussion, we all moved into Clarrie's workshop - 3 or 4 at a time At first glance it is somewhat reminiscent of Steptoe and Sons living room - but everything there has a purpose or potential purpose for turning activity.

Thanks Clarrie and daughter for a very appetising supper, especially the port crackling. Bang went my diet.

FRANK BOLLINS (on behalf of George Evans)

UPPER NORTH SHORE REGION

Friday, 20th January, 1989

The Meeting developed into a very rewarding exchange of ideas and problem solving. (A little like our Woodturners Newsletter, filled with interest.)

We had an excellent membership attendance, plus visitors, Arthur Ball and wife, Wal, graciously providing the venue and supper, all of which adds to the warmth of the evening and for this we say "thank you". Arthur, who never misses a trick, placed membership application forms prominently on the table, together with pre-printed name tags, a simple move to make it easy for new people to be involved.

The round table conference environment enabled everyone to contribute.

We discussed a wide variety of timbers used by the Group, together with the pros and cons of working and finishing.

The subject Roy Guthrie was asked to introduce (dust extractors) drew us all into discussion. Roy has written an article (in process of printing) in the "Australian Woodworker" on building a unit of your own. Knowing Roy's 'engineering' detailing, it will be clear and of benefit to help us construct a worthwhile adjunct to our workshop.

We spoke of glue products, chucking procedures, and demonstrated the variety of wood screw applications. This led to the problems a number of us have experienced with a widely sold, popular, woodturners' chuck. The item was taken to pieces and closely examined, thus revealing the poor quality control in its manufacture. This session enabled us all to understand the problems and how to improve our purchase.

Brian Latty raised a question of general interest concerning repairs, resulting in a variety of solutions presented, so that we all gained in the discussion.

SANDING

- Some points to remember:
 Assure that you wipe off the residue of previous sanding there always seems to be that large piece of grit remaining which will scratch, almost defying later removal.
- POLISH PREPARATION This proved to be a subject of which we would like to hear more about at our next meeting do not miss out.
- SAFETY A variety of experiences were aired, with some special attention given to the inadvisable use of P.V.C. pipes in dust extractor systems unless they are adequately earthed.

Arthur Ball drew attention to the need for care in turning timber taken from the fork of a tree, it may have a piece of wire or steel in the growth rings - sure enough his piece did!

A MEMBER'S PROJECT: Don Anslow is embarking upon fitting duel dust extractors to his lathe - we shall hope to hear more about his success next meeting.

NEXT MEETING when - FRIDAY, 3rd MARCH, 1989

where - 12 MARANTA STREET, HORNSBY.

Contact - Arthur Ball, Telephone 477 3683

WE WERE VERY PLEASED WITH -

- * Stewart Dean's lively and humourous presentation of that sticky subject "Adhesives".
- * Mike Darlow's unruffled replies to a barrage of questions and disagreements on his bowls' criticisms.
- * The beaut array of bowls presented.
- * The steady little steam of new members.
- * The members borrowing from our little, but very useful, library.

NORTHERN REGION

The January meeting was held at the home of Mac Knowles. Whilst the attendance was small due to its still being the holiday season, each member brought along a pair of finials, which was the project for the evening, and these were examined and appraised by the members. Then each member contributed some interesting or useful fact he had encountered in his wordworking experience and we all found this most interesting. These included experiences in finishing work, methods of holding very small items for turning, facts gleaned from the numerous woodturners in Tasmania and so on. Altogether a very successful evening!

Project for next meeting: a small lidded trinket box.

Where: MAX NICHOLAS

53 GARDERE AVENUE, SOUTH CURL CURL.

When: 7.30 p.m., FRIDAY, 21st APRIL.

Phone: 939 1591

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Please phone David - 570 8020.

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Scroll Saw, hardly used and complete with blades -

\$200.00.

Please ring Bryan Wickens on 411 2244 (day) or

451 6282 (evening)

REMEMBER 151

MIKE GILL

ON CONSERVATION

& CRAFTIES?

What's Your View?

LET'S HAVE A JIG

We are very

Interested in how

you chuck/fix

things.

TOYS, TOYS

Yes, it's on AGAIN

Next Christmas Appeal.

THE HOME WORKSHOP - A SAFE APPROACH

Unlike production type workshops where Government (all levels) Acts and Regulations are the (external) compelling factors, the home workshop is "run" purely at the whim of the do-it-yourselfers - many of whom have no previous industrial experience in handling the power tools they now possess.

There are apparently no figures available from any Governmental source on home workshop accidents, so we really don't know how serious the situation is: but recently a Brisbane (Q) surgeon stated he personally had recorded 143 power saw accidents in 2 years (Safety Concepts. Sept/85) Translate that to a national area and it would be horrific.

The "Craftie" may be quite ignorant of better safety procedures, often thinking that "safety is common sense mate" or "I'm careful" or "that's (safety) a lotta rubbish". It's always the "other fellow".

Unfortunately such attitudes can only result in hazardous situations occuring, likely as not in "near misses" if not, outright accidents.

I think it is worthwhile to very briefly look at the industrial scene.

Until 1983 in N.S.W. the various Acts (about 26) and Regulations relating to Safety and Health were mainly administered by departments fielding inspectors to police them. It had not stopped the steady increase in accidents and health related disabilities.

A new Act, the "Occupational Health and Safety (and Welfare) Act" was brought in. The emphasis is now more on "self-regulation" by involving both employees and employers in joint workplace committees to develop "preventative measures. This approach is starting to reduce the accident toll.

An important aspect of the new regulations is the emphasis on training of employees and employer representatives, and staff education to be able to <u>identify</u> hazards and recommend "preventative" measures.

I think this need is just as applicable to do-it-yourself workshops as to industrial workshops, i.e. to learn to identify potential hazards and eliminate them. After all, an accident is going to happen irrespective of where you are, home or factory, if insufficient safeguards and incorrect workpractices are in vogue, and doing a "one off" is no more safe than a 100 or 1000 run if the work conditions are hazardous. I would place hazards in 2 categories, though there is overlapping, the immediate and the long range.

MANNIE BURNHAM

... To be continued

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE SHUSH?

During the course of the last couple of Guild meetings, especially when guest speakers have the floor, there has been a noticeable hum of private conversations between members of the audience.

So much so, that at the last meeting when Stewart Dean was speaking, a number of members present complained to me at the conclusion of the meeting and expressed themselves in no uncertain terms that, if someone wishes to converse with a nearby member, they should either leave the room or, better still, bide their time until the meeting has concluded and we are participating in our "supper-discussion period".

To avoid any disruption to a speaker, whether he or she be a Guild member or an invited guest speaker, an appeal is made, "please refrain from an exchange of views with your neighbour", until such time as the speaker has concluded or has invited questions or comment on any particular point raised during the course of the contribution.

Respecting the rights of others will enhance the quality of our meetings.

THE VIEW COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PARTY.

FRANK BOLLINS

YOU DON'T AGREE
WITH MIKE DARLOW?
LET'S HEAR IT
IN OUR PAPER
NOW

Send us your
Story, Sketch
of one of your
Best/Worst Turnings

What's your View on a Name for this Newsletter?

THE PEPPERCORN TREE

It's doubtful that any introduced tree has succeeded in becoming more a part of the Australian rural landscape than the Peppercorn Tree.

Not only has the 'pepper' tree proved ideally adapted to our harsh inland climate in a botanical sense, it also looks in so many ways like a native Australian tree.

with its drooping, wattle-like fronds and gnarled, weathered trunk, it seems entirely at home among the box trees and acacias that pre-dated by millions of years its arrival on the Australian scene.

Other introduced trees like the Radiata Pine and Camphor Laurel have adapted just as happily, botanically, to the Australian environment, but to most of us they still look exotic - indeed, alien.

The Pepper Tree, by comparison, is capable of arousing in us feelings of nostalgia normally reserved for our native eucalypts.

Much of the reason for this nostalgia is that the Pepper Tree for so many country-raised Australians was a part of growing up.

It was the tree that provided shade in the local schoolyard. At home, it was the tree that lined the drive, that shaded the sheepyards, that perhaps supported a swing in the homestead garden.

In the local town, it was the tree that flanked the courthouse steps, shaded the main street and almost invariably provided the only shade in the local saleyards.

As a sort of tribute to the Pepper Tree, we are inviting you, our readers to share with us your own experiences, memories and impressions of this remarkable immigrant.

Write a short essay, or perhaps a poem about what the Pepper Tree means to you. If you like, you can accompany it with a photo (old or new, preferably black and white) or even a drawing.

Like the Jacaranda - another tree that has thrived on Australia's shores - the Pepper Tree is a native of South America.

Its name is derived from the fact that its fruit has at times been dried, ground and used as 'ersatz' pepper.

Originating in Peru, the Pepper Tree is a member of the Schinus family, its correct botanical name being Schinus areira. (Old hands would know it better as Schinus molle, but for reasons best known to botanists, this name has been recently dumped.)

The tree has become distributed over much of the world, particularly in hot, dry areas where its redoubtable drought tolerance has made it a favourite for ornamental and functional plantings.

Its biggest influence has probably been in California, where it is the second most populous exotic tree species after Australia's own Tasmanian Blue Gum.

In fact, at one stage last century it became the target of a determined (but unsuccessful) eradication campaign, when it was feared the Pepper Tree's bark harboured an insect that preyed on the State's all-important orange trees.

No-one knows exactly when, or how, the Pepper Tree arrived in Australia, but experts say evidence points to the likelihood of it having been brought out by Californians during the gold rush of the 1850s.

THANKS DON DICKSON

The Department

No need to apologise to Euclid, Don, your design of a Curved Surface Compass works.

Not only is your design an effective answer to the problem of circle marking on half round logs, but it is also an interesting turning and metalwork exercise. I enjoyed making and using it.

Many thanks,

FRANK BOLLINS

SURFACE COATED ABRASIVES

A Surface coated abrasive is a multi point cutting tool that consists of a recognised abrasive grain bonded to a flexible backing with a suitable bonding agent.



All coated abrasives consist of three basic components. They are a combination of abrasive grains and a flexible or semi-rigid backing bonded together by any adhesive.

Abraisive grains include:

Zirconia Aluminia Flint

Aluminium Oxide Emery Silicon Carbide

Glass Crocus

CARL SEE MARKET

Page Theory

Garnet

The backing can be:

Cloth Paper

Vulcanised Fibre or a combination.

Adhesives are animal hide glues and/or resins.

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST OAK TREE

The seed was brought to Australia by ex British Marine, Edward Powell, who arrived in Australia in 1793. He settled at Strathfield and found that the soil there was no good, so he moved to the Hawkesbury in 1796 on a 60 ha farm he called 'Cornwallis Flats'. It is estimated he planted the Oak seed there between 1796 and 1798.

When blown down by a storm in 1989 the girth measured 12 metres.

GEORGE LUSTER

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

THE SCIENTIFIC NAME OF SOME OF OUR POPULAR TREES

(Courtesy of the N.S.W. Forestry Commission)

Silky oak Sycamore Wattle Queensland maple Black bean White cedar Red ash Blackwood Queensland kauri Reefwood Sassafras Silver quandong Bunya pine Hoop pine Round-leaved gum Turpentine Maiden's blush Slash pine Black wattle Acacia decurrens Rlue gum Heath-leaved banksia Broad-leaved geebung Waratah Christmas bush Wattle Strangler figs Sandpaper fig Illawarra flame tree Bangalow palm

Grevillea Robusta Acer pseudoplatanus Acacia SDD. Flindersia brayleyana Castanospermum australe Meliz azedarach Alphitonia excelsa Acacia melanozylon Agthis robusta Stenocarpus salignus Doryphora sassafras Flaeocarpus grandis Araucaria bidwillii Araucaria cunninghamii Eucalyptus deanei Syncarpia glomulifera Sloanea australis Ceratopetalum apetalum Pinus elliotti Fucalyptus saligna Banksia ericifolia Persoonia spp. Telopea speciosissima Ceratopetalum gummiferum Acacia Ficus species Ficus coronata Bracychiton acerifolius Archontophoenix cunninghamii

QUESTION

I have heard that the use of PVC piping in a dust extracting equipment is dangerous. What is the danger and what measures can be taken to minimise the risks?

BRYAN WICKENS

OPEN DAY AT TREND

I have never before seen so many Woodturners and prospective Woodturners as I did at Trend on our open day. As the saying goes, they seemed to come out of the woodwork, even the Newcastle and Hunter Turners came down by coach.

The three lathes were manned and kept turning by our members - Mannie Burnham, Max Nicholas, Jim Dorbus, Frank Bollins, John Ewart, with Barry Champion, David Kevit and Jack Williams who comes from Dubbo, each of whom were kept busy explaining their particular techniques and methods to the crowds surrounding their lathes. Several opportunities were given for a "hands on". An amusing episode I overheard when one of our demonstrators (who shall remain nameless) was instructing a would-be-turner to hold the tool straight. "Straight I said, Straight ... not like that straight STRATE."

Frank and Mannie were kept busy at the table where various turnings by our members were displayed, answering questions regarding our Guild and, I understand our membership has increased accordingly.

Mosman Woodturning Centre had a large selection of tools, chucks and accessories.

A demonstration of the Arbortech Woodcarver was quite an eye opener and, of course, Trends large variety of exotic timbers.

Tea and coffee was laid on for the day and at lunchtime the barbecue corner was a popular.

The day was more successful than ever and our thanks go to Richard Clark and his staff at Trend for a most enjoyable and rewarding day.

ARTHUR BALL

FROM THE SECRETARY'S PEN

Incorporation is now a fact.
Our name is now:

"SYDNEY WOODTURNERS GUILD INC."

As a result of our participation at Trend Timbers Open Day, we gained new members. Together with existing members, we will set up a Western Regional Group on Tuesday, 7th March.

Classes and instruction for beginners are important matters for our Guild. Our August Meeting and Southern Group's April Meeting are to conduct such activities.

The Guild lathe is now available for beginners or those without a lathe. There is a time limit and a small charge.

John Ewart again makes his workship available for "hands on" activities - Saturday, 22nd July from 12.30 on. Only 20 members required. First in first served.

For further details on any of the above matters, contact me (Mannie Burnham) on 773-4924.

TIMBER

In the timber felling industry the loud call "Timber" signified that a forest tree was about to topple and served as a warning of imminent danger to those present.

In the case of Guild members, the cry "Timber" usually means that a tree has been felled and that it is available either whole or in part to Guild members, on occasions at some small cost.

In this regard, the Woodturners Guild is becoming quite well-known as a likely recipient of unwanted log timber.

On at least four occasions recently I have received calls from people who have just felled or are in the process of felling a tree, questioning whether the Guild is interested in its removal, either free or at some small cost.

The latest such call was from Warren Salkeld, Tree Surgeon at the Royal Botanical Gardens, indicating that he had just felled a large Liquid Amber tree and its trunk, cut into reasonable lengths, was available to the Guild, with a small voluntary donation to the Garden's Social Club.

After a couple of calls to Guild members, with a negative response, I contacted Bruce Leadbetter, who jumped at the opportunity of timber for Teachers' College Industrial Arts students.

Mannie Burnham and myself also availed ourselves of the offer and, upon arrival at the gardens, met Michael Leadbetter and associate ready to load up the logs.

Meeting Warren was a pleasant experience, a young, dedicated conservationist who also has a developing interest in turning, his father owning a lathe.

At our request, he assured us that we will be "first cab in the rank" as far as future trees are concerned, the main condition being that they are removed as soon as possible to avoid any unsightly piles of fallen timber within the Botanical Gardens.

One additional service - Warren provided a low loader to load the logs into our two vehicles.

To ensure a ready response and a wider distribution on future occasions, I suggest that any member who is interested in such log timber, give their names to either Mannie Burnham or myself so that we can arrange a speedy pick-up and distribution of any future log offers.

FRANK BOLLINS

PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS

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