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SYDNEY WOODTURNERS GUILD INC.

"To promote the craft of hand woodturning"
committee 1989-1990

President: Frank Bollins 539401
Vice-President: Arthur Ball 4773683
Secretary: Mannie Burnham 7734924
Treasurer: Tom Bartie 945598

Committee Members:
Ted Edwards 6216581
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Stuart Dednam 5250286
(Souther Region)

Editor: David Hipsley 4517505
Librarian: Simon Prien 6374494

Next General Meeting

Friday 16th February at Woodturning Section
5.30 p.m. Sydney Technical College
Bijou Lane
ULTIMO (Behind Her Majesty's
Theatre).

All Correspondence to The Secretary
4/33 Bernard Road
PADSTOW HEIGHTS 2211

All Contributions to the Newsletter to
The Editor
10 Curragundi Avenue
BELROSE 2085

Contributions to Newsletter

- * All articles, sketches, views welcomed,
 - * Maximum size of written material:
One printed page (about 400-450 words).
 - * Yes, we can reduce drawings.
 - * Views expressed by contributors not necessarily
those of the Guild.
-

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Towards the end of last year while preparing a talk on technological change in the sheet metal industry I indulged in a mind wandering exercise and began to contemplate changes that have taken place in woodturning in the period since mechanical power took over.

As with all or most other manufacturing processes, automation and the computer programmed machine has intruded into the mass production field of woodturning. Evidence of this is readily seen in the extensive array of pre-packaged stair rails, curtain rod finials etc., in the local hardware stores.

But it's not this aspect of turning that I wish to talk about, more the bits and pieces associated with hand turning and the evergrowing range of finishing materials that are now flooding the market.

Basically, there has been little or no change in the fundamental design of the hand woodturning lathe. Apart from modifications such as the short bed or bowl lathe and a wide variety of structural materials, the hand lathe is pretty much as it was in yesteryear with the possible exception of the reversible head stock to allow outboard turning and the cam-lock tail stock and tool rest holder.

The overhead belt powered machine has given way to the individual electric motor powered machine with the increasing use of the mechanical or electronic variable speed attachment.

With chucking devices, tools and finishes, it's a different story.

There is an ever increasing range of multi-purpose chucks, each claiming to be the ultimate for bowl or hollow turning.

There has always been a great deal of contention about grinding angles and whether a tool should be honed or not, but now we are confronted with an astonishing range of tools, each claiming to have superior qualities.

With gouges, not only angle of grind, but depth of flute and outside shape are areas of contention and selling points.

To make life easier for the user of the skew chisel - or so it is claimed, we now have the Oval skew chisel, and so it goes on and on and on - a never ending stream of new ideas and not so new ideas to entice those who can't resist the appeal of a new gadget or tool for turning activity.

The same applies to finishes. Almost every week one reads of a new finish - oh so easy to apply and so much better than any other. Even wax - one of the oldest known finishes for wood is not exempt from claims of new discovery and a quick wax finish that shines like glass.

All of these innovations have a price tag attached which in many instances for economic reasons encourages the woodturner to develop a new idea or adapting an old idea to a new requireme

It is in this area that I find most exciting. Sit down and talk to any turner, visit a workshop - attend a Guild meeting and you will see and hear about a multitude of turning ideas that are designed to meet a particular turning or finishing problem. In this regard wood turning must surely be one of the most innovati of all craft activities.

Our Regional Groups are a continuing avenue for this exchange of ideas and skills, so, let us make 1990 a year of continued development of the Groups into other localities.

In the meantime - "Keep the lathes turning".

FRANK BOLLINS.

PRESIDENTS CHOICE

FEBRUARY MEETING

OUR LOGO

(DETAIL IN MAY '89 NEWSLETTER)

SOUTH GROUP MEETING

Jack and Dot Hungerford's
53 Preddys Road
BEXLEY.

7.30 p.m. Tuesday, 27th February.

Bring along your WORST TURNING
or BLOOPER.
Don't be shy.

Courtesy call to our hosts, please.
506772

GENERAL MEETING DATES FOR 1990

Please note changes for April and October.

16th February
27th April (Not 20th)
15th June
10th August
12th October (AGM) (Not 5th)
30th November

at

Sydney Technical College
Woodturning Section
Bijou Lane (Behind Her Majesty's theatre)
ULTIMO

5 p.m. for 5.30 p.m. start.

UNFINANCIAL
MEANS
NO NEWSLETTER
(Check with Treasurer)

OUR EDITOR
NEEDS MORE
ARTICLES, BITS
AND PIECES,
SKETCHES.

SOUTHERN REGION REPORT

Thanks to the efforts of Jack Hungerford and Bruce Leadbeater in rounding up lathe parts the Southern Region "hands on" day on Saturday, 15th November, 1989 was a great success, with a total of 22 names in the attendance book, including Nelson Rundle from New Zealand, brought along by Stuart Dednam.

With three lathes turning, our novice turners, under the watchful eyes of Jack Hungerford spindle turning, Bruce Leadbeater bowls and George Luster spindle, soon had the chips flying while President Frank was also kept busy on the grinder.

The weather was kind to us as one lathe was in the open.

At lunch time we were given a short break for a sausage sizzle prepared for us by Peter and Robert.

The day concluded about 4 p.m. and I would like to thank all who came along to help make it the good day it was.

JOHN MILDWATER.

SOUTHERN REGION

HANDS ON DAY.

DATE: 17th MARCH

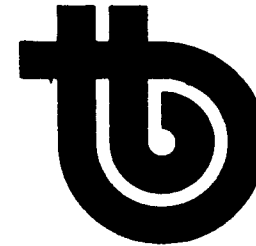
PLACE: JACK HUNGERFORD

TIME: 9.00 - 3.30

LUNCH: B.B.Q. SUPPLIED

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SECRETARY'S COLUMN

Happy New Year's Turning - Everyone!

Here are some aspects of proposed activities for this year, from our committee:

- (1) To have 3 "hands on" and 3 lecture/demonstrations for our 6 central meetings. (Dates elsewhere). The first "hands on" is in our Feb. 16th meeting (usual place, Sydney Tech. Turning Section) with George Hatfield our much travelled Turning Teacher leading off a band of helpers. In our "hands on" nights, we hope to provide activity for both beginners and the more experienced members. Items to cover include, making a start on the lathe, handling the skew chisel, bowl turning, chucking, home made device deep boring, sharpening, spindle turning, finishing.
- (2) The lecture/demonstration night at our next meeting in April, will be Paul Gregson, Guild member and professional furniture restorer, polisher, turner. His night will be "Turning On a Top Finish". A further similar type night will have Laurens Otto, professional carver (he was demonstrating at Trend Timber last time) on "Enhancing Turning with Carvings".
- (3) Our visits away are planned for Narooma hosted by Local Forestry Commission and Coonabarrabran (again!) hosted by Town Council Tourist Centre. We may also consider a return to Dungog (when were we there last in 198?).
- (4) Then of course there are our Regional Groups activities. And not forgetting the goodly numbers of members entering the Royal Easter Show Turning Section.
- (5) So it's another busy and enjoyable turning year coming up. But, please, let the Committee have your ideas of how we all can benefit even more from our Guild's activities.

See you on February 16th.

MANNIE BURNHAM.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

After listening to George Hatfield relate his experiences as Craftsman in residence at the Nedlands College of Advanced Education, the December Guild meeting decided to invite George as our Guest Speaker for the February General Meeting.

George will speak on turning tools, grinding angles for both the various types of gouges, skew chisels and scrapers.

At the completion of the talk - a hands on session will take place in the workshop. George and others will give guidance on the practical application of the tools mentioned. All lathes in the workshop will be manned, so roll up with your queries or turning problems.

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE - APRIL GENERAL MEETING

A turned piece of your own choice - a bowl - candlestick
- kitchen or tableware - whatever. Bring a piece along.

NORTHERN REGION NEWS

Our first meeting for 1990 took place at Nevelle May's on 26th January with six members attending.

Discussion took place on a variety of subjects including bowl finishing, turning button like discs, and the usual show and tell session.

After our chat we adjourned to Neville's impressive workshop to view several jigs that he had made up and a few general questions about wood machine.

Dates for our 1990 meetings are:

9th MARCH 90 - BERNIE MAKEWELL

*141 PRINCE ALFRED PDE
NEWPORT PH: 918 6784*

11TH MAY 90

13TH JULY 90

14TH SEPT. 90

9TH NOV. 90

UPPER NORTH REGION

Our December meeting was small in numbers attendance being nine, this is normal at this time of the year as everything seems to be on at the same time, however our show and tell still held sway such as a segmented bowl in pine which had been treated with a new product Penatrol (free samples as advertised in the Australian Woodworker). It claims to prevent the normal yellowing of the pine. Incidentally we have been promised a visit by their Rep at our February meeting for a demo of their other products.

We welcomed Col Herbert from the Western group, and he enjoyed the night - we're always pleased to see visitors. Then to the workshop to prove that you don't necessarily require expensive chucks to enable one to turn vases, bowls, etc, just a face plate and pineboard.

Then the usual supper which as always becomes a mini bedlam of voices from all corners of the room.

February meetingas the 3rd Friday clashes with the Sydney General Meeting our regional meeting will be held on Friday, 23rd February - 7.30 P.M. at Arthur Ball's place 12 Maranta St, Hornsby. 477 3683 . Phone your host.

THE WOODTURNING CENTRE

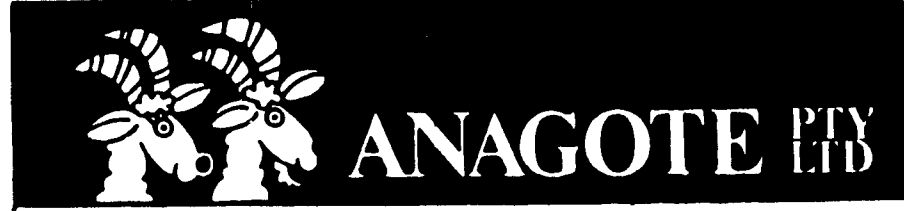
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GUILD PICNIC

Yes, despite the unfavourable weather conditions prior to the 10th December, thirteen members arrived at the Eureka Clearing and proceeded to enjoy themselves.

It was a lazy day. Most of the energy was devoted to eating and talking.

Despite the small attendance an attractive display of turned articles became the centre of discussion followed by an exchange of opinions and advice on various aspects of turning related to the items on display.

Hopefully we could have such a gathering at least once a year, not necessarily at Christmas time. What do you think?

THANKS NEIL

The request for ideas on "what to do", "where to go" brought a ready response from Neil Jones.

Neil's proposal for a return visit to Dungog to view a new and very modern timber milling and treatment plant that has replaced the Glulam factory which the Guild members had previously visited sounds like a good idea.

This proposal will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

SIMON PRIEM
HAS BEAUT
READING IN
OUR LIBRARY.

ANNUAL DUES
ARE
\$15.00

TOOL AND MACHINERY SALE

The contents of the late Bill Rynberk's workshop will be sold at a Mini Auction on the 24th February at 19 Mahratta Avenue, Wahroonga.

Inspection from 9.30 a.m., sale commences 10 a.m.
Items include Woodturning Lathe

Hafco 14" bandsaw

Linisher

Durden Junior Universal Saw - Jointer
and many more handtools etc.

Enquiries: Arthur Ball 477 3683.

FOR SALE

(1) Makita Portable Belt Sander: 850w.
Had 3 hours work. Excellent condition.
New \$236.
Take \$175.

(2) Toolmac Grinder (double-end, bench model).
Works O.K. 8" (200mm).
New \$150. Take \$65.
For both items contact
Mannie. 773 4924.

(1) 6" jointer (planing machine) 42" Table, Cast frame.
½ H.P. Single phase. \$230.
(2) 15" planer (Thickneser) on stand. \$490.
(3) Pedestal Drill. ½" chuck. \$120.
(4) 250ml. bottles reinforced PVA glue.
Paul. 875 4790 (phone - day).

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Jelutong	Pau Marfin	— Peruvian
Japanese Elm	Palisanda	— African
		— Queensland

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TASIE, TIMBER AND TURNING

Recently Barbara and I did a run down to the "Apple" Isle. Rubbish! Never saw a decent apple there, worse than here! However, one thing at least stuck out - Tasdemons are geared up for the tourist dollar from the "mainlanders" (No, not Australians, they are Aussies too!) with loads of turned articles. Turnings were EVERYWHERE, maybe in the butcher shops as well. Goodness knows how many are turners down there, but there seems an awful lot. And we also discovered that the "mainlanders" have door problems, because one of the most popular souvenirs was the wedged wooden doorstep.

But, of course, we did see some excellent woodwork and turnings, particularly in the galleries e.g. a beaut, "Design Centre" in Launceston. And we met that most professional and entertaining turner, John Stil, (Kingston) who demonstrated for us roughing a block to a cylinder using an ordinary axe, and smoothed off with a common garden spade!

There being no rainforests of the types we're familiar with in N.S.W. and Queensland (rain and heat) those kind of trees/timber are not available i.e. cedar, coachwood, rosewood etc. There are other timbers that are very beautiful used for furniture, turning, carving, and of course some eucalypts.

These are the most popular there

There are the familiar "Tasie Oaks" which come from three eucalypts - Mountain Ash, Alpine Ash, Messmate.

Myrtle Beech (Nothofagus C.) fine, even smooth texture, light red to red brown colour, straight or wavy grain, works well. Similar to our coachwood.

Blackwood (Acacia m.) Light brown, often black streaks, straight coarse even slightly open grain, works well, takes high polish.

Southern Sassafras (Atherosperma m.) Nearly white or grey to light brown, often black heartwood, fairly dense; straight, fine smooth even grain. Works easily and cleanly; beaut for turning.

Huon Pine (Dacrydium f.) Light straw changes to dull yellow after long exposure. Light fine, even grain. Sometimes "birds eye" figure. Easily worked. Takes high polish.

Celery Top Pine (Phyllocladus a.) White to pale straw colour, straight even fine grain. Growth rings conspicuous. For a softwood a little harder to work.

Some Places of Interest

We ferried up the Gordon River (West Coast) and saw those magnificent forests of Huon, Myrtle, Celery, Leatherwood but practically no eucalypts, saved by the conservation struggles in early '80's.

Another unique spot was the Field National Park where there were these huge Eucalyptus regnans (kuling Eucalypts) (Tas. Oak) Absolute giants, the tallest flowering plant in the world reaching to over 110 M. (350 ft).

At Swansea (East Coast) we visited a working Tan Bark Mill, that operated from 1880's-1960's, closed, but now in good renovated order. It processed Blackwattle bark (remember our trip to the Pilliga?) for tanning skins, furs, fishermen's nets, sea vessel ropes and did export.

MANNIE BURNHAM.

TREND TIMBERS.

Saturday 17th

FEBRUARY

OPEN DAY

We will be there!

"HANDS ON"

NIGHT

February 16th

George Hatfield Leading

WESTERN REGION

The January meeting of the Outer Western and Blue Mountains Section, was held at Bob and Thelma Farmer's residence, Mount Riverview on Sunday, 14th January, 1990.

The meeting was opened by Ted at 1.40 p.m., a discussion on future meeting dates and the hands on day, to be held at George Luster's residence on Sunday, 14th March, 1990, created interest to all members, after discussion. It was decided to alter meeting times to 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., a complete hands on day, with discussion of approximately one hour during the lunch break, members to B.Y.O. lunch. We hope to provide three lathes to help improve the members expertise, in woodturning and the grinding of tools.

After the discussion a letter of thanks from the Salvation Army was read by Ernie to the members who made the toys for the destitute children at Christmas.

The members who contributed to the "Show and Tell" sector were Bob Farmer, Ted, Ken and Jerry, who described their success and failures. An excellent effort and a great contribution from these members: it is here we learn by listening to each other's successes and failures; and recommendations of constructive criticism, which creates an interesting talking point.

At approximately 2.15 p.m. we adjourned to Bob's workshop where Ernie demonstrated his expertise in cutting coves and beads, many members took the opportunity to practise, under Ernie's supervision and subsequently gained more experience. I hope they went home to practise as I believe that is important after a short lesson, that will be continued next meeting.

Col Herbert assisted in a practical demonstration of how to turn a Cabriole leg, creating a great interest. Discussions about problems and various aspects of woodturning and experiences occurred in various corners of Bob's workshop, thus showing a social and friendly atmosphere, that is appearing in our group. Keep it up, fellows. I noticed George was encouraging members by his expert advice.

Many thanks to Bob and Thelma for the use of their residence, Bob and Col for the use of their lathes.

The next meeting will be held at George Luster's residence, (hands on day) Lot 34 Bells Line of Road Kiermond on Sunday 14th March, 1990 (turn fourth corner after lights North Richmond). All welcome.

I enclose further dates for future meetings.

Sunday May 20th, 1990.
Sunday July 8th, 1990.
Sunday Sept 9th, 1990.
Sunday Nov 11th, 1990.
Sunday Jan 13th, 1991.
Sunday Mar 10th, 1991.
Sunday May 19th, 1991.

MALCOLM CLARK.

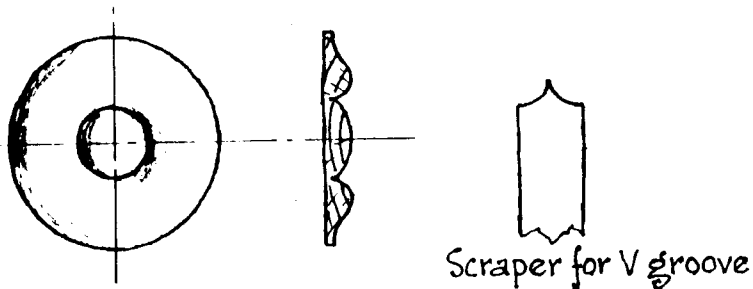
TURNING PATERAE

If you are involved in the restoration of antique furniture (or do turning for someone who is), a fairly common job is the making of paterae which are small button-like discs used as decoration on the crest boards of book cases, cabinets, etc. They are commonly about 40 mm diameter and about 4mm thick with the grain running across the face. A typical shape is shown below.

The main problem in their making is holding them in the lathe for turning. After trying different methods I have settled on the following way which is very satisfactory:-

From a strip of timber of the correct thickness, saw out the required number of discs a few mm oversize in diameter. Mount a piece of timber in the cup chuck to project a couple of centimetres, square off the end dead flat with the skew chisel and turn to a diameter of about 1mm less than the finished diameter of the disc. Cover the end with a piece of double sided cloth tape and press on one of the discs which is then held quite securely. All the turning is done with a small detail gouge but a sharp pointed scraper is best for the deep V groove.

The finished disc can be carefully levered off the tape with a sharp chisel but be careful where you place the chisel to avoid splitting the disc. The one piece of tape will serve to hold about six discs.



A WOODTURNER'S HOLIDAY

Holidays, you little beauty! Let's head up north. Rain forests, there must be turners amongst all of that great turning timber. We've got a unit at Port Macquarie and sure enough as we enter the Port on the left is a building with a sign up front "Craft Centre", inside a couple of lathes complete with turners hard at it. Surprisingly, there isn't a woodturner's group. However, they did hold a successful exhibition that weekend. We found some quality work at a craft shop, "The Wool Shed", however at a larger more prominent turnery we came across, no doubt well designed turnings which I consider toffee apple finish water and washing proof, but not to my liking.

A very enjoyable and interesting couple of hours was spent at "Sea Acres" which is south of the Port on the Ocean Drive just past Flynn's Beach. It is a unique rain forest now under the control of the Forestry Commission where firstly we viewed a static display showing the results of the break up of Gondwana that is the similarities in the flora and fauna with South America and South Africa then to a theatre showing various Aussie Rain Forests followed by an escorted tour by a volunteer ranger atop an elevated walkway through the Rain Forest for about a kilometer - I can highly recommend a visit.

Wouldn't you know, in the same unit as us we came upon another woodturner, Ken Chater from the Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society Inc and so after the usual workshop talk he told me of the most unlikely place you would expect to obtain wood which was a sand and gravel company in Rocks Ferry Road, Wauchope where sure enough the Manager, David Hayes, showed us two large buildings full of white cedar, red cedar, rose wood, coach wood, camphor laurel, etc all sizes up to three feet wide. David also a turner as well as a restorer of vintage cars gave us a most enjoyable couple of hours.

Then to Walcha to a pal of mine Doug McKean another woodie who complete with his four wheel drive and box trailer took us to a property at Nowendoc where we loaded up with logs of coach wood, walnut and plum cherry. At this stage the car was becoming heavily laden and I had to sort out my priorities, either send Wal, my wife home by train, tie her to the roof rack or leave some of that glorious wood behind! Decisions, decisions!

Well home again, the plum cherry complete with lichen attached turned well.

Hope we've given you some pointers for your next trip north.

ARTHUR AND WAL BALL.