

By Hand & Eye

The Sydney Woodturners Guild

Vol. 6/92

December 1992

This issue...

Make a flexible
sanding disc

Turn a winged
piece

TAFE test

Review of Mike
Darlow's video

and more...





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GEORGE HATFIELD AT LIDCOMBE MEETING

The meeting will be held on Friday 27-11-92 in the cafeteria at Lidcombe TAFE, East St, Lidcombe. Be there at 5.30 for a 6pm start. George will demonstrate a jig which allows turnings to be fluted and reeded. It will be a hands on meeting so members will have an opportunity to do some turning.

NB NEW SECRETARY

Please send Guild correspondence to our new secretary, **Don Dixon**, of 146 News Rd, Werombi 2570. Don's phone number is 046 53 1317. Membership applications should go to our treasurer, **Tom Bartie**, of 29 Woolgoolga St, Balgowlah 2093.

TOYS TOYS TOYS

The **President's Choice** for November is a toy or any other item you care to show. Members are invited to donate toys to "Black Santa" who will pass them on to aboriginal kids who would otherwise look forward to a bleak Christmas. The toys do not have to be turned. Some members intend to make several toys and if the rest of us bring at least one toy we will have a terrific collection to offer.



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Sydney Woodturners' Guild

1992-1993 Committee

President	Arthur Ball	477 3683
Vice-President	Frank Bollins	53 9401
Secretary	Don Dixon	046 53 1317
Treasurer	Tom Bartie	948 5598
Regional Representatives		
Bankstown -	Derek Burton	604 2408
Upper North Shore -	Lindsay Skinner	489 6432
Western and Blue Mountains -	Col Herbert	047 73 8139
Eastern -	Jim Dorbis	399 3068
Southern -	Bill Parkes	522 9798

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The Secretary
146 News Rd
Werombi 2570

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The Editor
87 St Johns Road
BLAXLAND 2774

Librarian Editor

Simon Priem	637 4494
Ernie Newman	047 39 1248

Regional Convenors

Western and Blue Mountains	Malcolm Clark	622 6120
Bankstown	George Edwards	772 3419
Southern	Joe Defina	587 6286
Upper North Shore	Arthur Ball	477 3683
Eastern	Jim Dorbis	399 3068

All articles, sketches and views welcomed.

Contributions may be edited to save space.

• If possible contributions should be **typed** •

• Drawings can be reduced and should be in **black ink** •

• Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Guild •

• Material must be in within two weeks of the Lidcombe meeting •

<i>Guild lathe and accessories available to members only for \$20 per month</i>
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Membership subscriptions are \$25 annually

THE GOOD AND BAD SIDES OF WOODTURNING CLUBS

Arthur Ball

I RECENTLY read an article in the September/October "Woodturner" written by Alan Lacer, the President of the American Association of Woodturners. The subject was what makes woodturning associations succeed or fail. It would appear from his summation that by and large our Guild falls within his pattern of successful organisation, planning and activities.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS HE WARNS AGAINST:

One person did too much (either by default or choice). The group lost the identity of its purpose. Lack of follow through (promises not reality). Relying on what it has done in the past, not what it is doing now.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE POSITIVE ASPECTS HE PRAISES :

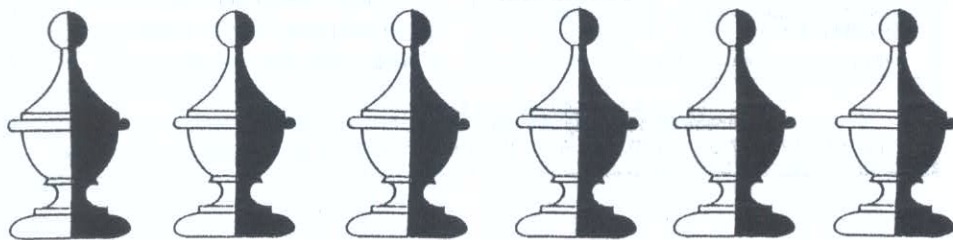
Field trips to work shops, factories, galleries and the like. Trips to other woodturning clubs. Public demonstra-

tions and displays of craft. A newsletter with meaningful items and tips. A library of books and videos.

Alan Lacer was speaking on behalf of a national association and as such some of his comments were not applicable to our Guild. However, in reviewing our activities in the past and the evident interest shown by members at Lidcombe T.A.F.E. and regional meetings coupled with our membership increase, we must be doing something right.

In finishing I quote his last paragraphs: "Are turning organisations really necessary? No, turning does not die as a craft because a national or local group folds - the craft has the potential of becoming richer because of their existence if they produce meaningful results.

Individuals will continue to benefit in critical ways, the least of which may be to shave years off trial and error learning. One thing is clear for each group. No matter what the organisation's success level has been, it must always beware the siren's song of success and the status quo - it must keep maturing and building on its successes."



QUIZ

Answers page 20

Ernie Newman

1/ How many cubic metres of timber would be required for a set of ten verandah posts 100 mm x 100 mm x 3 m? Assume that there is no wastage.

2/ Name two holding devices which could be used when turning a small goblet?

3/ What style of English furniture

spanned 1558 to 1603, typically featured a large bulbous section in the centre of turnings, ornate carving and the use of oak?

4/ What advantage do cast iron lathes have over steel lathes?

5/ The great wheel lathe was powered by the turner's assistant who rotated a flywheel, often over two metres in diameter, by turning a crank handle. Does it date from the twelfth, fourteenth or sixteenth century?

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NEW COMMITTEE FORMAT

At the AGM a new style committee featuring regional representation was adopted. It comprises newly elected president Arthur Ball, vice president Frank Bollins, secretary Don Dixon, treasurer Tom Bartie and regional representatives Derek Burton (Bankstown), Lindsay Skinner (Upper North Shore), Col Herbert (Western and Blue Mountains), Jim Dorbis (Eastern) and Bill Parkes (Southern). As well as involving more people, the new committee format should provide those members who belong to the regional groups with a better opportunity to have their views heard.

The new regional conveners are Malcolm Clark (Western and Blue Mountains), George Edwards (Bankstown), Joe Defina (Southern), Arthur Ball (Upper North Shore) and Jim Dorbis (Eastern). See page 2 for phone numbers.

PRESIDENTS AND TREASURER REPORT TO AGM

Arthur Ball and Frank Bollins collaborated to present a glowing annual report. It highlighted our recent growth (currently 390 members), our public turning demonstrations at the Wood and Home Shows and Trend, the craft courses run early this year, Mannie Burnham's introductory classes, our newsletter, our expanding library, the high attendance at regional and Lidcombe meetings, enjoyable visits to other clubs and factories, the new com-

mittee format and the hard work of people such as Gloria Egan, George Hatfield and our committee. Tom Bartie, our treasurer, reports that we are solvent and had a surplus of just over \$2000 at 30-6-92.

TOYS FOR CHARITY

Each Christmas guild members donate hand made toys to charity. This year the toys go to "Black Santa" to pass on to aboriginal children who would otherwise receive few Christmas gifts. If you wish to participate hand the toys on to your regional convener or bring them along to the November 27th Lidcombe meeting.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

Last December we included a list of over one hundred turned gift ideas for all ages. One member keeps a blown up photocopy of the list in the workshop. It's protected in a plastic sleeve and always handy when inspiration fails. For those who haven't got a copy here are a few suggestions for turned children's presents: dolls and doll's accessories (furniture, vases, bowls, rolling pins, etc, should be about one twelfth scale), tops (throwing, string and finger spinning), skipping rope handles, mobiles, sets of bobs, pull along toys, baseball and softball bats.

WOMEN TURNERS

You are very welcome at all guild meetings and are also invited to contact Kaye Paton on 047 512 483 if you wish

to meet with other women turners.

WOODTURNING DEMONSTRATION

John Ewart, Eric Hines and David Revitt will demonstrate woodturning and grinding at The Woodturning Centre, 6 Roger St, Brookvale from 9am to 3pm on Sunday December 6th. John says that a wide range of articles will be turned out of a variety of timbers and will be finished with some new products.

THANK YOU

To all our newsletter advertisers. Your

generous financial support keeps our expenses down and this helps keep membership fees to a minimum.

STROKE REHABILITATION

Frank Bollins showed some turned sets of noughts and crosses during the president's choice segment at the last Lidcombe meeting. He had been asked to make them by a hospital as they are ideal to assist victims of strokes to develop better physical co-ordination and to revive logic skills. Frank proposed that members make sets to donate to hospitals. What a great idea!



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BETWEEN CENTRE TEST

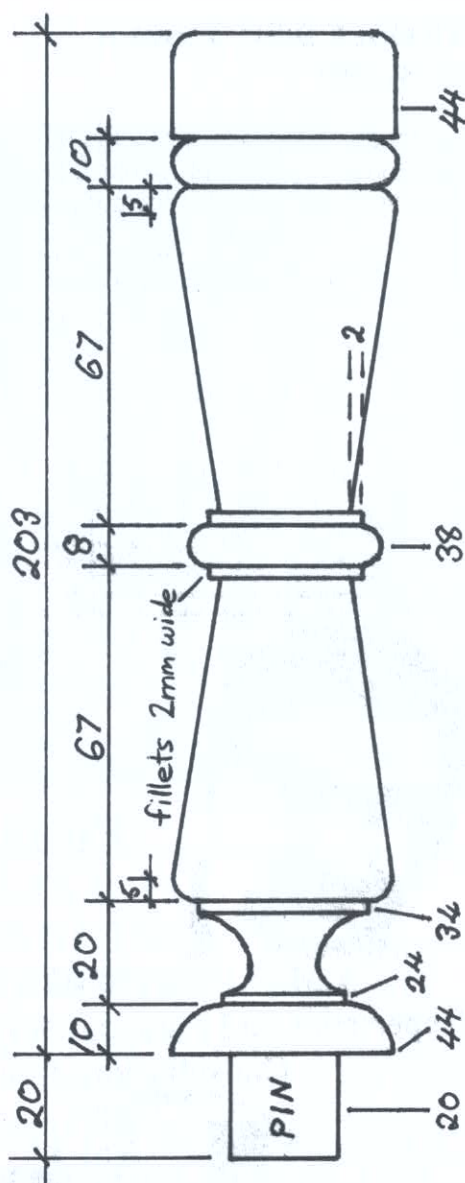
Extract From The TAFE Trade Certificate Course

THE FIRST year of the trade course at Lidcombe TAFE is devoted to between centre turning. In stage two the students move on to cupchuck and faceplate work while in the last year they progress to more difficult exercises including a standard lamp which they design themselves and often to an item of furniture.

The curriculum includes drawing, theory and practical work at every phase, in fact, detailed drawings and pencil gauges are made before jobs are turned.

The diagram opposite (drawn by Allan Game) is a copy of a test given when he was in stage one of the course. The students were required to construct pencil gauges and turn four spindles to the drawing within three hours. Marks were awarded for accuracy of shape and dimensions and for finish to the sanded stage (no lacquer was applied).

Any readers who care to have a go at this exercise may find it helpful to work with a full scale drawing (enlarge by 50% with a photocopier).



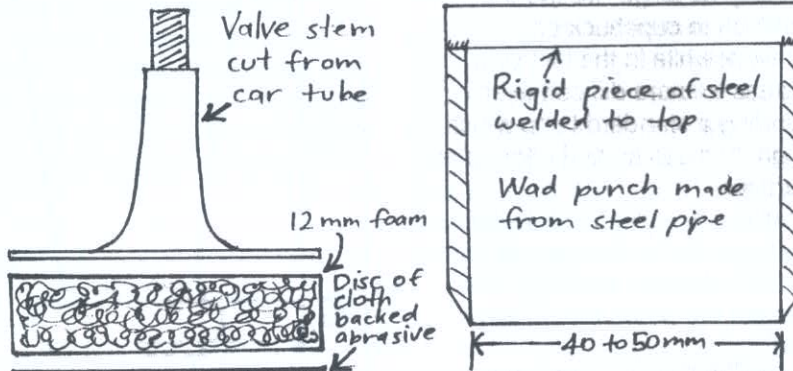
Tips and Techniques

FLEXIBLE DISC SANDER

Bob Wybrew

This sander is made from a car tube valve and is used with an electric drill to sand the inside of bowls. The abrasive,

foam and inner tube are all cut out with the wad punch shown below. It is important that, when cut, they sit on the end grain of a hard block of wood placed on a solid base. They are glued together.



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TOOL RACK

Allan Game's tool rack allows shavings to pass through and also "catches"

tools which are bumped. He suggests that for safety the tools should lean away from the turner at a greater angle



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Jim Dorbis

MATERIALS

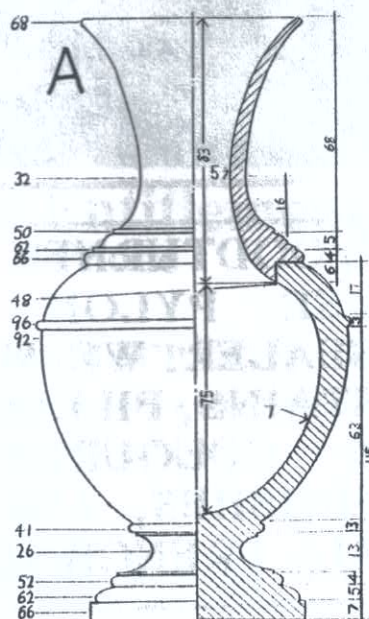
- A)** 2 pieces of rough sawn timber 100 mm square x 180 mm long.
- B)** A template (fig. B) for the inside of the base. This will help create a wall of uniform thickness. Glue to thin plywood and cut along perimeter.
- C)** A pencil gauge for the outside of the base (fig. C) and for the outside of the top part (fig. D). The paper should be glued to pieces of thin ply which should be notched at the marked points.

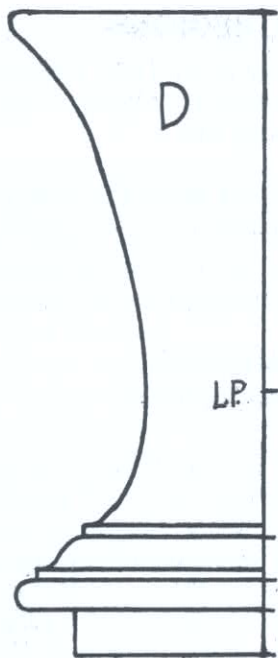
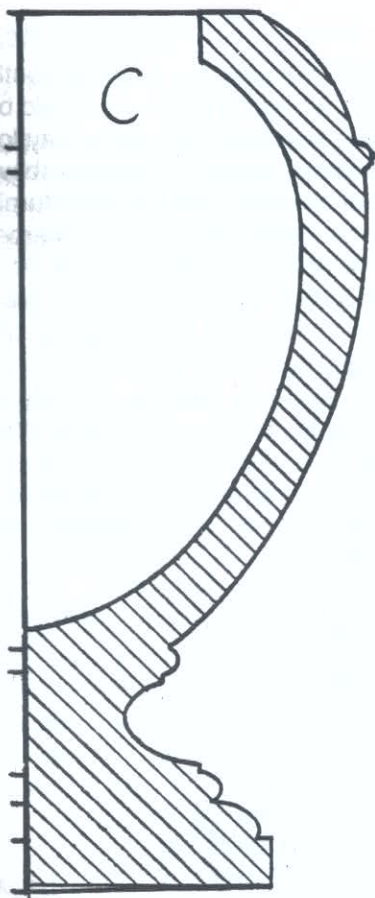
- 1) Fit a piece of wood to the cup chuck.
- 2) True it to diameter plus 1 mm.
- 3) Hollow the inside with a detail gouge and a scraper using the template (B) to achieve accuracy.
- 4) Turn the outside to detail making use of the pencil gauge (C).
- 5) Re-check all sizes, sand and part off.

NB undercut the base.

- 1) Fit the second piece of wood to the cup chuck.
- 2) Mark the **TRUE CENTRE** with the **LONG** point of a skew chisel.
- 3) Fit a Jacobs Chuck on the tailstock

10) Finish off shaping inside and outside according to measurements on the drawing and sand.





Photocopy and glue to plywood for pencil gauges.

ALL REGIONS

Please contact your regional conveners for further information. They are listed on page two.

UPPER NORTH SHORE

A MEETING will be held on 20-11, probably at 12 Maranta St Hornsby but ring the convener to confirm.

SOUTHERN

Neville McIntyre

THE Southern Districts group held an enjoyable "hands-on" day at the home of Jim Tilley of Illawong on 5th September. There were thirty-one members

present including two from the South Coast. Demonstrations were held by Mannie Burnham (the proper way to grind tools), Bruce Leadbeatter (bowl turning), Clarrie Snell (finishing turning) and Max Nicholas (chainsaw sharpening). Frank Bollins showed how he silver solders parts cut from a power hacksaw onto mild steel shafts to make scrapers.

At the formal meeting, after the sausage sizzle, Frank welcomed all and thanked Jim and Rosemary for their hospitality. The next meeting will be held on 12-12 at 191 Parraweena Rd Miranda.

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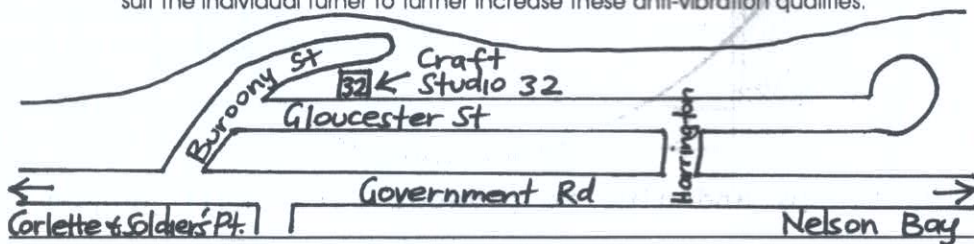


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BANKSTOWN

Gwyn Joseph

A DARK and dismal windswept evening could not discourage 23 guild members (plus one chaperone) from attending the region's Sefton High School meeting. And what a truly instructive lecture was laid on by one of our leading lights, the one and only Simon Priem.

Ever innovative Simon described balustrade and newell post manufacture and how he overcame problems, both dimensional and "blooper" (with accompanying bleeps), to achieve the desired result.

Cup chuck turning was another highlight, with a goblet being the result of Mr George Edward's (apostrophe man strikes again) expertise. If anybody is missing a river red gum post from their fence a certain saw doctor has turned a vase from it.

Dick Thomas spoke on a camphor laurel urn he had "rotated" on his lathe as well as donating a box of timber samples to add to the Guild collection.

The meeting unwound with tea, coffee, biscuits and nuts. Sid Rose showed another of his many talents by cracking several jokes which could be described as "rough cut" if not "close to the grain". A meeting will be held at Sefton High School on 9-12. Meetings will be held at Menai High School on 17-11 and Sefton High on 17-2-93.

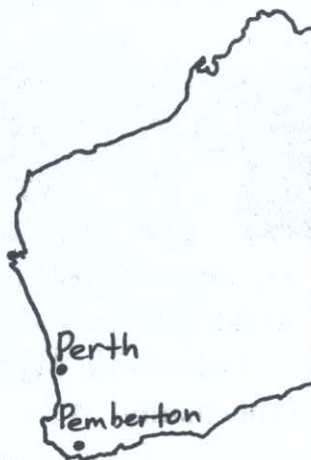
OUTER WESTERN AND BLUE MOUNTAINS

Eric Baker

SEPTEMBER 20th saw a group of nineteen people enjoying the hospitality of Bob and Thelma Farmer who put off going on holiday on the Saturday just to host the meeting. Thank you Bob and Thelma for your kindness.

Malcolm Clark, back from his trip to W.A., confirmed the friendliness, hospitality and skill of the West Australian woodturners (we will ignore some of the offerings shown in some of the tourist centres). Like all visitors to the exhibition centre at Pemberton, Malcolm was impressed with the beautifully crafted furniture and turnings available. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had such a centre available in New South Wales.

The ever productive Anton brought along a variety of turnings. Col Hem-



gings, our miniature (turnings, that is) expert, showed us that he can turn objects large enough to handle without tweezers and complex enough to leave most of us scratching our heads as to the "how". Graham Hoskin showed some very nicely turned fountain pens made from kits now available from Woodfast. These were very attractive and quite different from the normal ball pens. Yours truly brought along his first practice attempt (in pine), of a square edged bowl to successfully show what you shouldn't do. A segment from one of the two new videos on woodturning by Mike Darlow was shown. This was on cup chucking and the subject was treated by Mike in his usual very thorough fashion.

The highlight of our October 25th meeting at St. Clair was a first rate display of "show and tell" items including a beautiful bangle made from spalted horse chestnut by Keith Clements and a selection of bark edged

bowls and slender crab apple "flowers" from Doug Midgely.

On the technical side Bill Heller demonstrated a method of holding split turnings with conduit and Anton Gollner showed us a range of heavy scrapers he had made from old planer blades. He also gave away a pile of Mexican pine, cherry, walnut and river gum. Thanks Anton. The next meeting at St Clair High School will be held on 29-11.

EASTERN

Jim Dorbis

THE rebirth of the region on the 27th of September was well attended with keen new members. A decision was made to meet on the first Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. All present had a go at the lathe and left with plenty of wood to practise on. There is still a lot of ground to cover so on the first Sunday of each month call at Jim's, 55 Darley Road, Randwick, phone 399 3068.



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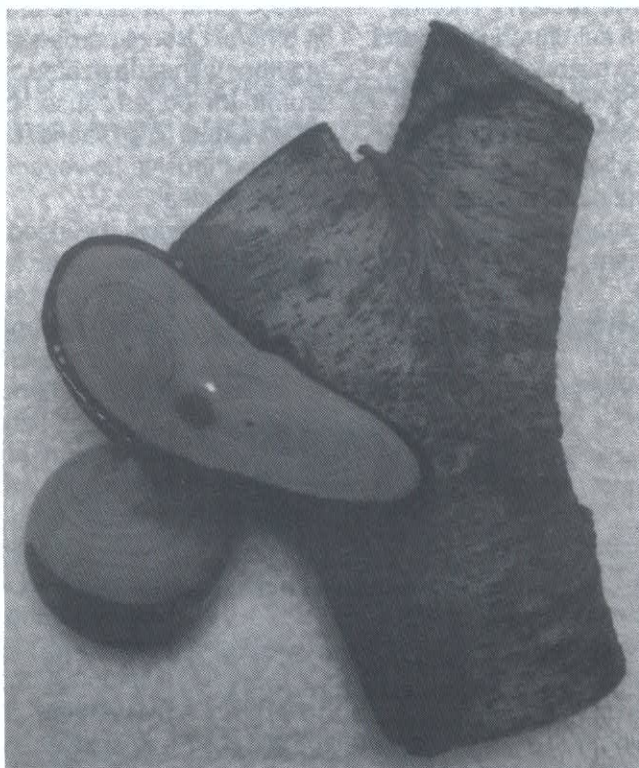
DECORATIVE WINGED PIECE

Keith Clements

A forked blank lends itself to being turned into the winged piece illustrated. The blank was held in a Nova Chuck and, to improve the balance, roughly turned with the tail stock centre in place. The centre was then removed, a hole bored and the top shaped. The under part of the wings was then

shaped. The spinning wings are difficult to see and a thin strip of card was used to locate them, when necessary, for cutting. The base was then completed.

Clean cutting is very desirable as the wings are very difficult to sand on the lathe. The timber used was deodar and it was finished with polyurethane.



MIKE DARLOW'S WOODTURNING VIDEOS REVIEWED

Eric Baker

Mike Darlow's advertisement for these videos reads, "You've read the book. Now see the movie." Well, I've got to tell you that they are not the same - was there ever a movie that truly duplicated the original story? These two tapes cover over seven hours of information and instruction. The first tape starts with a self-introduction and relevant personal history by Mike followed by a modest bit of selling of his book, 'The Practice of Woodturning', which in turn is followed by a very detailed description of the lathe, its construction, desirable features, ancillary equipment, etc. One would assume that Woodfast will be pushing this particular set of videos if they have any sense.

The attention to detail is evident throughout the tapes. One subject not demonstrated, though mentioned in the discussion on lathe tailstocks, is that of long hole boring, which I found slightly

surprising only because the tapes are otherwise so complete. The video doesn't deal with off-axis or split turning

either.

Short of personal instruction from an experienced woodturner with competent teaching ability it is hard to see how any newcomer could get a better introduction to wood turning. That is not to say that many intermediate and experienced woodturners would not benefit from a study of these videos.

The technical production is not beyond criticism. The colour at times gives Mike the pallor of a newly arrived escapee from a European winter whilst at others a Bondi barbecued look together with a dash of fuzziness around the edges caused by bleeding of red tones. The machine noise at times is intrusive however the message is always clear.

In many ways the video is more detailed than Mike's own book and because it is actually happening whilst being explained it is easier to understand. The book and video complement each other.

Whilst there will always be a place for videos dealing with specialised areas of woodturning, when it comes to setting out a complete course on the essentials, these videos, in spite of some minor

criticisms, will be the standard by which others will be judged for some time to come.

**"...these
videos...will
be the stan-
dard by
which others
will be
judged."**

MIKE DARLOW

Author of
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WOODTURNERS AND CABINETMAKERS TIMBERS

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Dogwood, Beefwood, Mulga, Gidgee, Ring Gidgee, Fiddleback Gidgee, Birdseye Gidgee, Black Cypress, Yellow Jacket, Supplejack, Myall, River Coobah, River Redgum, Deadfinish (purpleheart), Bimblebox, Brigalow, Coolibah, Needlewood, Golden Gidgee (to order), Sandalwood, Ring Box, Belah, Waitawhile, Whitewood, Ironwood, Blackbean, Tas Blackwood, Celery Top Pine, Jarrah, Leatherwood, Tas Myrtle, Silky Oak, Silver Ash, Sassafras, Tas Oak, Old Walnut, Vic Ash, Blackheart Sassafras.

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Portrait of a Woodturner

THOMAS DANIEL BARTIE

Jim Dorbis

TOM was born in Denman in the Hunter about 70 years ago and was mainly raised in the country until the time came to find himself a job. What job? It was in 1938 when the depression was still raging. He started at the bottom of the line in engineering until a scholarship enabled him to study to become a professional engineer. Most major power stations in New South Wales carry his fingerprints.

Tom is married with two sons and one grandchild. Even though engineering is his profession, woodturning has always been his great love.

He is happy to have "served" his three years at tech learning woodturning. "A most instructive experience".

He was taught by the three majors in woodturning - George Hatfield, John Ewart and Bernie Axford.

Tom is a foundation member of our Guild and ranks No. 7. He has been our Treasurer for as long as I remember.

He uses a Woodfast lathe and does not boast of becoming the world's best

woodturner. His top achievement would be his spinning wheel in Queensland Walnut and he is justly proud of it. He also excels in miniature turnings out of exotic timbers.

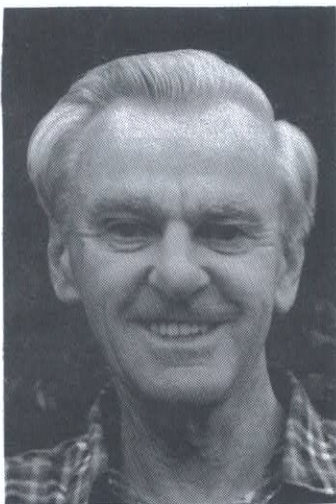
Tom expressed the opinion that is not necessary to keep on increasing Guild membership. He would rather

see more personal contact in smaller groups. This is probably where the future basis of teaching woodturning to our new members lays. He feels however that membership will eventually stabilise at our present numbers.

Tom is a quiet achiever. He can tell you, almost at a glance, the Guild's bank book balance. He probably keeps the account books on his lathe. He

puts his heart into his job. He also seems to put his heart into preventing carrying sawdust into his castle.

If you ever want to get a good laugh from Tom ask him to tell you of his experience with a bandsaw blade. He will turn red in the face. Well .. even engineers are not infallible.



QUIZ ANSWERS

1/ .3 of a cubic metre (10 x .1 x .1 x 3). In practice the posts would be dressed down to 90 mm x 90 mm. At September 1992 prices for oregon the dressed timber would cost approximately \$430.

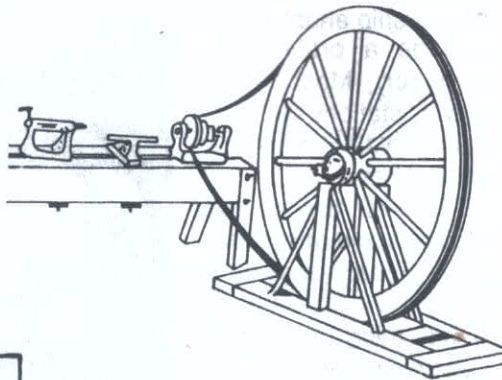
2/ Cupchuck, screwchuck, scroll chuck (engineer's chuck), woodturner's combination chuck (eg, Nova chuck), collet chuck, Jacob's chuck and the swallow (morse tapered opening in the headstock spindle).

3/ Elizabethan. See page 1 of the April 92 newsletter for a diagram.

4/ Cast iron absorbs more vibration.

5/ The earliest illustration of a great wheel lathe was in a book of trades in 1568. Horse and water powered lathes were also first recorded in the sixteenth century (at Nuremburg in Germany).

**GREAT WHEEL
LATHE**



FOR SALE

- Two 85 mm faceplates (1 inch BSF, ie, 10 TPI) to fit Woodfast, Teknatool, etc, \$15 each. One screw cupchuck (same thread) \$40. Ring Eric Baker on 671 2829.
- Heavy duty headstock, tailstock and toolstock \$100 all up. A 300 mm centre height tailstock \$100. Ring Ken Cooper on 918 6958. Also steady rest.
- Elu Lathe - Motorised - 380 mm diameter and 1000 mm long - 9 speed - spur centre, live cup centre and faceplate - 200 mm tool rest - very good order - \$600 ONO ring 987 4103.

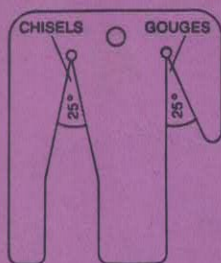
CORRECTION

Tom Bartie pointed out that heat isn't "dragged" away from the cutting edge of a tool during grinding (see question in the August quiz).

Mike Darlow also believes that heat is not moved about mechanically but moves by conduction. He suggests that the reason the tool is presented so that its cutting edge is abraded before the heel is simply a question of visibility. It is easier to see the tool that way.

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Happy New Year*



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