By Hand & Eye

Vol. 3/92

June/July 1992

This issue...

New Guild President

Woodturning Competition

Miniature Turnings

Dubbo Revisited

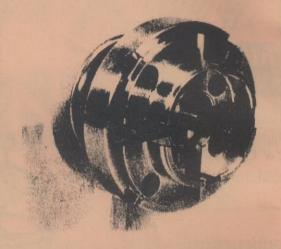
and more...



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Contents

| ı | President's Choice1 |
|---|-----------------------------|
| | President's Page3 |
| | Quiz 4 |
| | Woodie helps Shutterbug4 |
| | News in Brief5 |
| | Chips from Secretary6 |
| | Dubbo Revisited8 |
| | Odds and Ends10 |
| | Tips and Techniques12 |
| | Your Turn |
| | Miniature Spindle Turning14 |
| | Regional Activities16 |
| | Safety18 |
| | Portrait |
| | Roy Guthrie19 |
| | Quiz Answers20 |
| | |

LIDCOMBE MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, 12th June. The venue is the cafeteria, which is about 50 metres east of the woodturning theory room, in the grounds of Lidcombe TAFE. Be there at 5.30 for a 6pm start.

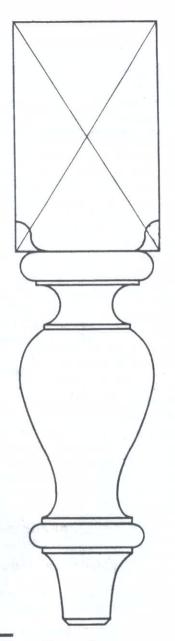
June President's Choice

Any turned article plus drawing. The drawing is to be done first.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our annual fees have been increased to \$25 because costs have been catching up fast. They are due by July 1st.

STOP PRESS - The November President's Choice is an amphora. Detailed drawing in next newsletter.



Promoting the craft of hand woodturning

Sydney Woodturners' Guild

1991-1992 Committee

| President | Arthur Ball | 477 3683 |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|
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| | Malcolm Clark | 622 6120 |
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| Librarian | Simon Priem | 637 4494 |
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| Eastern | Jim Dorbis | 399 3068 |
| Bankstown | George Edwards | 772 3419 |
| | | |

All articles, sketches and views welcomed.

Contributions may be edited to save space.

If possible contributions should be typed but we'll accept anything.

Yes, we can reduce drawings
 Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Guild
 Material must be in within two weeks of the Lidcombe meeting.

Membership subscriptions are \$25 annually

2

President's Page

MY HOW WE'VE GROWN

Arthur Ball

FOLLOWING Frank Bollin's resignation as our president, the casual vacancy clause of our constitution has been invoked, resulting in myself, Arthur Ball, ecoming president until the A.G.M. in October.

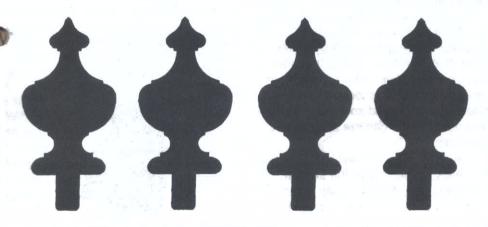
After several years of leadership
Frank has left me a hard act to follow. I
recall our past program of activities at
bi-monthly meetings, for example,
Johno the violin maker, gadget nights,
hands on, guest speakers on many
subjects, etc. There were also visits to
factories and historic homes, however,
the icing on the cake for those who
could make it, were the week-ends
away at Dubbo, Bathurst, Gloucester
and Narooma, to name a few. It makes
one wonder what next. No doubt Frank
will modestly say that these activities
emanated from the suggestions of

members and committee. Regardless, it requires leadership and planning to bring such programs to fruition.

I received a letter from Mr Renouf of the Channel Is. requiring information on Australian designed equipment and tools. As I had previously had a similar request from Germany it makes me realise that our manufacturers, and we, the Guild, must be making a small mark overseas. What with the above, and a membership of about 330, this should be both pleasant and surprising to our foundation members who would not have envisaged such a success.

Now to our June meeting. I shall be in the Northern Territory for a month. This trip has been planned for some time so although I'm a dedicated Guild member I can't miss out on this tour. Do you blame me? Frank, now as Vice President, will keep the seat warm for me.

See you at the August meeting.



QUIZ

Ernie Newman

- 1 What is the "ring" test for grinding wheels?
- 2 If identical decorative objects are turned from Pacific maple and radiata pine the maple usually requires more preparation before finishing (painting). What extra process is necessary?
- 3 What is the purpose of the small locking arm on the top of most tailstocks?
- 4 What is the tallest Australian tree?
- 5 What are plant ons?



Woodie helps shutterbug Phillip McNabb

Some time ago the husband of a friend of mine sadly passed away. Among the various oddments and memorabilia that my friend was sorting through recently was her late husband's old Kodak camera, still in its original box. Would I like to have it? Reluctant at first to accept the gift, I could see that it was going to please her to see the camera owned by a photographer.

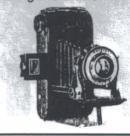
We carefully took the lid off the box, revealing a fifty-year-old masterpiece of precision crafting in what looked like showroom condition. It was the dropfront, bellows style. After promising to give my friend some local landscape photographs I would soon take with it, I hurried off to the camera store to buy some film.

"Sorry, mate – haven't sold that stuff for years." When I tried the smaller, available size, the spool was about 4mm shy of the retaining springs in each side of the camera. Clearly a thick shim was needed but with a recess in one face and a corresponding protrusion on the other. But how...?

A local woodie sprang immediately to mind. He had once replaced a missing pawn in my travelling chess set – a perfect replica of the other quarter-inch-high pieces.

"No problem! We'll need a slightly oily wood for self lubrication. Bring your camera around."

The recesses and lugs had to be 2.1mm in diameter. Fifteen minutes of wielding calipers and chisels produced four matching tallowwood shims of the snuggest fit imaginable, one for each side of the film and take up spools. The fee? Writing this article!



News in Brief

THE AUSTRALIAN WOODTURNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

To be held during the three days of the Sydney Timber And Working With Wood Show, July 24-26, at the Royal Hall of Industries, RAS Showground, Sydney. You can compete on two evels, as an individual, or for your club. This is a "live" competition where a specific item must be produced in a race against the clock. Full details are in the May/June Australian Woodworker.

THE TWO SHOWS

Members are needed to assist at the Wood and Home shows. This basically boils down to being available to chat with the public about woodturning. We also need demonstrators. Give our secretary a ring if you can help out.

FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET?

attitude towards tools made from files after a 30 mm piece snapped off a home made thumbnail scraper. He was using it to clean up inside a bowl. Within a split second the fragment had shattered a glass window pane and Stuart's complacency. He eventually found the piece in the garden. It had cleared the bonnet of the car parked outside.

WOMEN TURNERS

Contact Kaye Paton on 047 512 483 if you wish to meet with other women turners.

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

If any members would like to assist with the newsletter and have desktop publishing facilities please contact the editor.

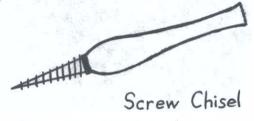
NOW I KNOW

Frank Bollins

Now I know why I've screwed up so many jobs with my skew chisel. Its not a skew, but a SCREW chisel - so says the curriculum of our craft course. It was a typographical error but it sums up the vagaries of the skew chisel. From here on its my screw, not my skew chisel that causes "bloopers".

CENTRAL COAST WOODTURNERS WORKSHOP

Guild members are invited to a workshop to be held on the 18th July at Doyalson. Ring Lawrie Ramsey on 043 82 1222 for details.



Chips from the Secretary

THE NEW location for our general meetings is in the College Canteen and is certainly a much better set up with seating room for everyone.

We also trialed two different voice aid systems to assist at both these meetings and at shows.

As projected, Frank Bollins retired as President and Arthur Ball assumed the position, appointed by the Committee in accordance with Rule 13.(4), of our Constitution. This, of course, left a vice presidency space so this was filled by Frank. Quite a turnabout. Neil Jones spoke in appreciation of Frank's activities over the last 5-1/2 years and the meeting endorsed his remarks by acclamation.

I also gave notice of my intention not to stand for Secretary at the October A.G.M., that time being 4 years in the position. I believe there is need for new ideas and energy, so someone out there, give it some thought!

A metal frame stand to assist a chain saw to accurately and safely "slab" logs was demonstrated to us at Dubbo on our recent visit. We were impressed and the Committee is enquiring further with a view to purchase. The stand would then be loaned out to members for a nominal fee.

I hope members will respond to both the lift-out sheets in this issue. One is



GUILD DISPLAY AT 1991 SYDNEY WOOD SHOW

for subscription renewal - note that this has been increased to \$25.00 as costs are catching up with us fast and the other requests assistance at the two great shows we participate in. Apart from new members gained, it is beaut publicity for us to show many thousands of people that the exciting craft of woodturning is alive and doing very ell. I also find that talking with people about our display items and demonstrating gives me a better understanding of our craft and greater confidence in this very enjoyable pastime.

Well, we (wife Barbara and I), are off (at time of writing), to the "Autumn Festival" in Bright (Northern Victoria) for a couple of weeks to enjoy a small

version of Northern Hemisphere colours from Maples, Ambers, Elms, Chestnuts, Poplars, Oaks and our own Cedars and that's just the background. See you.

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Out and About

DUBBO RE-VISITED

A RETURN visit to Dubbo by a group of 35 members and partners was an outstanding success.

Barry Black, a member of our Guild and well known Dremel demonstrator was the Guest Speaker for the Dubbo Group's Friday night meeting and gave an excellent demonstration of the qualities of the Dremel and its wide range of decorative cutters.

The Dubbo Club had certainly worked hard in preparing a program of activity for the Saturday.

A large Community Hall had been booked for the day. Ample space was available for the extensive display of turned and carved articles and an impressive number of gadgets were both shown and described by their creators.

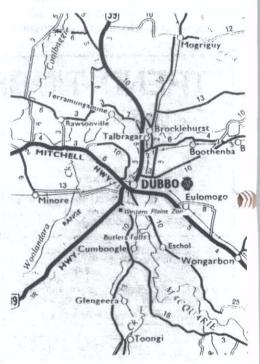
Turning demonstrations were given by both Dubbo and Sydney turners. During the course of the Saturday our partners were guided around the galleries and an historical home.

Lunch was both a novel and rewarding experience. Each of the Dubbo members present provided a cut lunch for a Sydney member and sat with them which led to many discussions on turning. We had a most enjoyable B.B.Q. on the Saturday evening. Before the evening concluded Martin Bellert, Dubbo President, and Frank Bollins each expressed appreciation to all those who had helped to make the

day such a memorable occasion.

Frank concluded by offering billet accommodation to any Dubbo members and patners who might like to visit the Sydney Working with Wood Show in July. A number of our members stayed in Dubbo on the Sunday, visited Dubbo members homes and engaged in further turning activity.

As a gesture of appreciation for a wonderful week-end the Sydney visitors clubbed in and purchased the book "Woodturning - A Foundation Course" by Keith Rowley and donated it to the Dubbo Club's library.



MIKE DARLOW

Marina Official

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editor

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Author of "THE PRACTICE OF WOODTURNING"

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Odds and Ends

Hints on Woodturning

"A Woodie" Courtesy "Turnabout"

MANY a woodworker has wilted before the glaring eye of a partner when laying claim to that area designated by architects and the like as garage and storage area on house plans.

Any woodworker worth his or her salt will immediately strike out the offending words and substitute "My Workshop".

Having made this first step a woodie can then dream of where the magic of their creations can be wrought, amid the smells of timber, wax and stains, where footsteps are cushioned on a carpet of sawdust and shavings decorating the workplace.

Be wary! For it is at this stage that a counter attack can do the most damage. Be prepared to speak of how your children's children will treasure the creative genius of past generations. Now, having consolidated the ownership of the area, one can then proceed to turn the workshop into what one could class as an inviting area.

The walls are best suited to receive jigs or old tools. Make plenty of jigs. Every woodworking book has them featured. Make them even if you don't use them, or understand how they work. They really look great on the walls, as do old tools, especially a bow saw. It is very easy to identify it as a saw, should you take it down. Clamps also look good on walls. Machinery is a must. Never buy a combination ma-

chine – the golden rule is one machine, one job, and two machines help to fill vacant places better than one, while at the same time you can become an expert on two machines not just one. Be flexible. Listen in awe to all machinery sales staff and avidly scan tool catalogues for the best buys. Keep in mind that if you purchase the most expensive, other woodies will "eat their hearts out" – so let them!

Should you have a plan that you do not understand, leave it on the bench and someone may give you the solution. If they should admit that it is one tey don't really understand, a smile as you put it away is worth a thousand words.

Lending tools. Never refuse to lend a fellow woodie a tool, but explain that you will be using it extensively over the next 6 to 8 weeks, but after that ... never complete the sentence.

There is no need to actually work in your workshop. I doubt that any of the skilled artisans who appear in woodworking magazines or videos do, for one never finds the film of dust evident in such photos and films, and it is a known fact that several cuts on a table saw can spread this everywhere, dust extractor or not.

Glues and gluing. Several unusual types scattered around the bench can look impressive to the easily intimidated and if left unopened can last for weeks. Animal glue – never use it. It

On saws and chisels. If they are blunt, say that you loaned them to

someone. Always have one or the other handy when asked for the loan of a tool. It gives you something positive to speak about

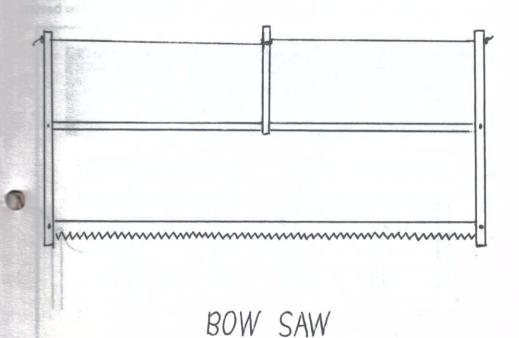
Read old books and mgazines so that you are well-versed on the "good old days". Be sure to read all the woodworking critics and you should be able to knock anything.

Remember, it's your workshop.
Make the best of it. I do.

miliobis:

The party





Tips and Techniques

REFINED FILLETS

EXTRACT FROM THE TAFE TRADE
WOODTURNING CERTIFICATE COURSE

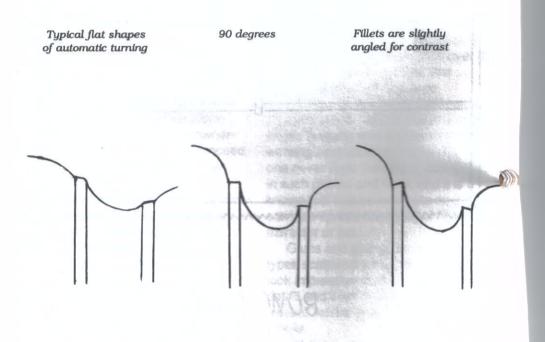
SHARP clean fillets can make a big difference to a turning, much bigger than might be expected from such small detail. The next time you are in a hardware store have a look at the fillets on a turning such as a drawer knob or baluster. These are generally made on automatic lathes and the fillets are usually rounded off during sanding. The knobs look okay till you compare them with those on a piece of quality furniture.

One of the subtle features of top

quality turning is that the fillets have sharp edges. They are also free of any trace of shavings in the corners.

Some turners prefer to keep the fillets at 90 degrees and parallel to the axis of the lathe but possibly an even better effect can be obtained by angling them slightly as in the last diagram. This accentuates the contrast between adjacent shapes.

Whichever type of fillet you prefer it is important to retain the sharp edges during sanding.

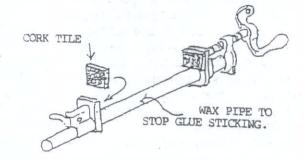


WOTDAYANO?

Courtesy Mid North Coast Woodworkers Newsletter

I FOUND that by gluing two pieces of cork tile to the faces of my cramps and clamps that, not only do they not slip or bruise the wood, but they allow he to nip the work together for adjustment and give a margin for safety when humid weather causes the cramped work to swell.

Should the cork become stuck to the project it is easily removed without damaging the work or the cramp. Especially with bar cramps the cleanliness of the bars is important and by waxing them periodically glue is removed easily.





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

MINIATURE SPINDLE TURNING

Tom Bartie

MOST woodturners will be asked at some time to produce a small turning for use in a toy, doll's house furniture, the small tools used in the needlework or tapestry crafts and so on. These are invariably spindle turnings so I will describe my method for turning lace bobbins which are typical of small turnings - see sketch.

Firstly, the choice of timber. Straight, fine grained hardwood is best. The beauty of fancy grain is not apparent on small sections so don't use fiddleback or twisted grained woods since they are very liable to break. I consider the best woods are African blackwood and the ebonies but they are very expensive and sometimes hard to find. Fortunately many of the Australian woods are very suitable, for example, mulga, Sydney blue gum, rose mahogany, Tasmanian blackwood, Queensland maple and walnut and many of the western district scrub timbers. Also excellent are the various fruitwoods such as lemon, apple, orange, plum,

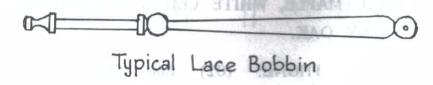
etc. The harder and finer grained the timber the better the finish obtainable.

Next, consider the method of holding the blank in the lathe. The normal prong chuck is much too big unless you use an oversize blank but it is quite easy to make a miniature chuck. Turn a scrap of hardwood to fit the lathe swallow and hammer a small nail into the centre of the chuck. Set the lathe spinning and file the nail to a conical point. Two driving points, also nails, are then driven into the chuck and filed to a chisel point.

An alternative is to make a miniature cup chuck to fit the lathe swallow with a tapered square recess in the free end to accept the square section workpiece.

The best method of all for holding small workpieces is a Jacobs type drill chuck since this gives very secure holding and stiffens up the workpiece considerably which reduces the possibility of chatter and poor surface finish.

Thus if you were going to make, say, 50 bobbins, prepare 50 blanks (plus a couple of spares in case of accidents), 10 mm square by 150 long. Using the square recessed chuck mentioned above, and the tailstock centre, turn



down about 30 mm at the tailstock end to a diameter to suit your drill chuck on each blank. Then substitute the drill chuck for the cup chuck, grip a blank by the turned end, bring up the tail centre and off you go with the turning.

Once the blank has been roughed down to the required diameter (say about 7 mm), begin the detail turning at he tailstock end. Plan for the thinnest. or most delicate, part of the work to be at the headstock end where the rigidity is greatest.

The actual turning is quite straight forward. With sharp tools and fine cuts it is surprising what small work can be done with standard tools but it is convenient to have a very small detail gouge and skew chisel for the finest details, say a 5 mm gouge and 5 mm skew chisel which can be made from old files of suitable size or from small high speed tool bits (readily available from engineers' tool merchants), brazed to mild steel shanks. (Editor's Note: Tools made from files can be dangerous if used inappropriately.)

If the item you are making involves a aceplate turning (say the base for a miniature standard lamp or a platter, etc), this can easily be turned by a method described in our Newsletter for February 1990, using double sided tape to fix the workpiece to a scrap piece secured in the lathe swallow or in a cup

chuck.

GRINDER TIPS FROM GEORGE EDWARDS

WHEN George was an apprentice saw doctor he had an experience that powerfully established his respect for the grinder. George was using the grinder when the metal wheel guard worked loose and slipped on to the wheel. The wheel instantly smashed in two. One piece flew past his left cheek and the other flew past his right cheek. The next time he had to use the grinder he took some time to check that the nuts on the guard were tight.

In addition to the suggestions included in our piece on the grinder in the October 1991 issue George offers

the following safety tips:

Don't store spare wheels on the flat. Keep them on their edges.

- 2 Make sure that the nut which secures the wheel is self tightening.
- Don't remove the paper around the bore. It forms a form of thin washer.
- Never use a wheel that's been dropped. It may have a hidden crack.
- Don't let wheels get damp. The damp section will weigh more and the wheel will be out of balance. It is okay to dip tools in water when arindina.

George will grind tools to the correct shapes for a small fee. His phone number is 773 3419. He has many years experience working as a tool renderer at Lidcombe College of TAFE including grinding the tools in the woodturning section.

Regional News

ALL REGIONS

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

HORNSBY

MEETINGS on 26-6 and 29-7 will be held at Lyndsay Skinner's factory, 1a Carden Ave Wahroonga ph 489 6432. Other meetings will be held on 28-8, 25-9, 16-10 and 20-11, probably at 12 Maranta St Hornsby but ring the convener to confirm.

EASTERN

MEETINGS are held on an ad hoc and informal basis.

BANKSTOWN

Gwyn Joseph

THE TWENTY two members who attended our last meeting at Sefton High saw Mannie Burnham and Sid Rose demonstrating grinding jigs. All members requiring tuition on the several lathes available reaped valued instruction from more experienced craftspeople. Detailed instructions were given on the construction of deep bowls.

The evening ended with our usual "knees up" of tea, coffee and biscuits and a great night was had by all.

Thought for the month - "A skew is as good as a gouge to a sleeping turner."

Meetings will be held at Sefton High

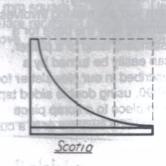
School on 17-6, 26-8, 21-10, and 9-12 and at Menai High School on 21-7, 22-9 and 17-11.

JOTTINGS FROM SOUTH-ERN DISTRICTS

Neville McIntyre

THE SOUTHERN Districts held another hands-on' day at the home of Stan Rowlings on Saturday 14th March. There were 29 members and visitors in attendance and even though rain threatened early, the day became fine and warm. Bruce Leadbeatter gave a demonstration of the 'Bowl Miser', showing that at least one or two extra bowls could be taken from a 6" to 8" block. This concept is thought provoking in the light of the need to avoid wastage when the wood concerned has a pleasant figuration.

Another interesting demonstration was given by Max Stanford when he showed how he had avoided the build-



up of shavings when cutting with his angle.

Stan Rowlings had arranged a visit from a builder from Laurieton to bring some wood pieces from that district in his utility and members took advantage of the reasonable prices to add to their ever growing stack at home waiting for that 'rainy day'.

Joe Defina, acting convener, welcomed the members and visitors and thanked Stan and Vera for the loan of the vard in which we had our sausage sizzle.

Further meetings will be held on 18-7 at 13 Belair Ave Caringbah, on 5-9 at 5 Willbung Rd Illawong and 12-12 at 191 Parraweena Rd Miranda.

OUTER WESTERN & BLUE MOUNTAINS REGION

Malcolm Clark

ON SUNDAY the 12th March fifteen members met at St. Clair High School. Several lathes were operated. Anton ollner, from our group, produced a quality bowl in about 20 minutes. Excellent, especially considering he is a relatively new turner. Keep this up Anton. Perhaps more of us will be able to demonstrate in future.

A new member produced a length of wood and asked how to turn a cabriole leg. Col Herbert produced two - one large and one small.

The 'Show and Tell' segment was the highlight of our meeting and

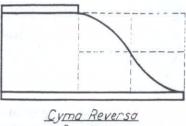
showed that the quality of turning is improving. It is also obvious that new members are gaining excellent results.

A discussion took place on the bulk purchase of "Mobile B", the liquid which prevents cracking in green timber. A bulk quantity will be purchased and sold to our group at a moderate price at a later date.

All members went home determined to improve their turning methods.

Another meeting was held on the 15th of March at Jack Compston's residence at Penrith. A newcomer received guidance from Col Herbert and Simon Priem. After lunch George Luster explained various methods of finishing and showed examples. It was an excellent day despite the lack of attendance. Thank you to all who attended and also to Jack and his wife.

Further St Clair meetings will be held on June 14, August 16, October 25 and November 29.



Grecian

Safety in the Workshop

SAFETY - AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF WOODTURNING

Frank Bollins

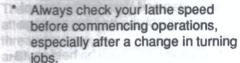
A RECENT copy of the journal of the American Woodturner's Association gave a graphic example of the dangers of face plate turning and the need to check the lathe speed before recommencing operations.

The author of the article wrote that on a previous evening he had been busy turning pens and had operated at maximum lathe speed.

After clean-up operations the following morning and as he was about to leave his workshop, he saw a large blank already fixed to his face plate. Without any further thought (and how many of us do this), he screwed on the face plate and blank, then switched on the lathe.

The next thing he knew after regaining consciousness was that his glasses were shattered, blood was spurting from a severed artery and his face was severely confused. He lived to tell the story, but only just, as he was alone in his home when the accident occurred.

A number of breaches of safe working practice emerge from this anecdote: To avoid them:



When performing face plate turning always stand to the side of the blank when switching on the lathe.

 Wear protective devices - face shield or protective glasses.

* Always examine a blank for checks or other imperfections before fixing it to the face plate.

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Sydney Woodturners' Guild

Portrait of a Woodturner

ROY GUTHRIE Jim Dorbis

I NEVER expected to see a Woodturner blushing when asked his age. We settled at "over 65".

Roy is at least half way to being an introvert. He is dedicated to his wife lita, their two sons and five grandchilen. In his early days he had to have a permit to start work (under 16). He

worked in a Radio shop, then as a fitter/turner etc., before studying engineering. It was shortly before the War when any work was better than no work (any similarity with modern days?).

After a long life in engineering he got the urge to branch off into something different to enhance the life of retirement. This urge was

boosted when he attended a

coodturning seminar at John Ewart's address at Mosman and saw our ever popular George Hatfield demonstrating. That's when he got hooked.

He could combine the challenge of creating something in wood with his insatiable thirst to invent engineering gadgets so he bought a Teknatool and started practising. His work is now very refined. Unless it is 'tip top' he won't show it.

But Roy is acquiring a reputation

more because of his analysis of the problems associated with special woodturning projects and the special tools and gadgets he devises. His numerous articles in the Australian Woodworker testify to this. It is a great pleasure to have a member of his calibre in our Guild.

Roy joined the Guild in 1990. His opinion is that members ought to concentrate on creating excellent

woodturned pieces of art instead of trying to beat the automatic lathes. And the engineering in him again rose to the surface when he mentioned: Design - Balance - Selection of Timber - Finish - all required to create a beautiful object.

Finally, when asked if he is subject to nagging for importing

foreign objects inside the house (sawdust), he stated that he even shakes his underpants to avoid all the trouble.

OOPS!! How wrong was I when I labelled him an introvert.



The Last Word

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 The grinding wheel is held on a rod through the bore and lightly tapped with a soft piece of metal such as brass. It is best to tap it about 25 mm from the rim and not directly above the rod but rather at "ten o'clock". If it doesn't "ring" but makes a dull thudding noise it is likely to have a crack and could explode in use.
- 2 Because maple is open grained, grain filler is commonly applied.
- 3 It stops the tailstock quill vibrating

loose. If it is tightened too hard it will be difficult to quickly tighten the tailstock wheel if the job starts to work loose.

ed thing-Miles Education

- 4 A 98 metre high mountain ash (eucalyptus regnans) in Tasmania is the tallest tree in Australia. It is also the tallest hardwood in the world.
- 5 Plant ons are split turnings which are attached to furniture. They are generally separated and fixed to cabinets, clock cases, etc, as matching decorations.

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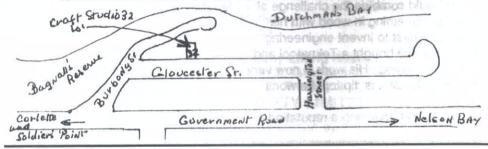
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Sydney Woodturners' Guild

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