

The Sydney Woodturners' Guild

# By Hand & Eye

Vol. 2/92

April/May 1992

***This  
issue...***

American Letter

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Period Furniture

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Turn a Wobbleboard

***and more...***



# MIKE DARLOW

Author of  
"THE PRACTICE OF WOODTURNING"

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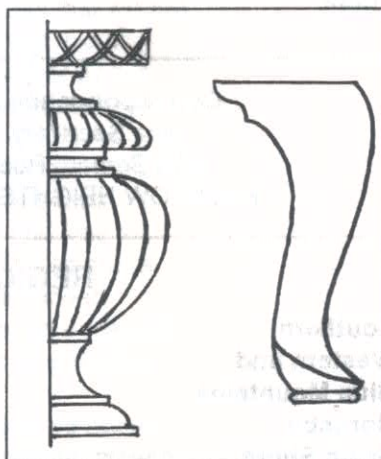
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### CORRECTION

The drawing of an Elizabethan style leg in the last issue was incorrect so another example has been included (below left). Apologies to George Hatfield and TAFE for the error. A better example of the cabriole leg from the Queen Anne period has also been included (below right).



### LIDCOMBE MEETING

Apart from electing our next president we will be trying out a more spacious room at the April 10th meeting. Last time over 100 turned up so we will be moving to the cafeteria which is about 50 metres east of the woodturning theory room. This is still in the grounds of Lidcombe TAFE but closer to the East St side. Be there at 5.30 for a 6pm start.

### PRESIDENT'S CHOICE FOR NEXT MEETING

A turned wooden appliance for the kitchen. As this is my last President's choice, let's have a big response.



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## **Sydney Woodturners' Guild**

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<b>President</b>	Frank Bollins .....	53 9401
<b>Vice-President</b>	Arthur Ball .....	477 3683
<b>Secretary</b>	Mannie Burnham .....	773 4924
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Bartie .....	948 5598
<b>Committee Members</b>		
	George Edwards .....	773 3419
	Jim Dorbis .....	339 3068
	Bruce Leadbeater .....	718 5395
	Stuart Debnam .....	525 0286
	Malcolm Clark .....	622 6120
	Col Herbert .....	047 73 8139
<b>Librarian</b>	Simon Priem .....	637 4494
<b>Editor</b>	Ernie Newman .....	047 39 1248

---

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

**Newsletter Contributions to:**  
The Editor  
87 St Johns Road  
BLAXLAND 2774

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### **REGIONAL CONVENERS**

<b>Southern</b>	Stuart Debnam .....	525 0286
<b>Western and</b>	Malcolm Clark .....	622 6120
<b>Blue Mountains</b>	Col Herbert .....	047 73 8139
<b>Hornsby</b>	Arthur Ball .....	477 3683
<b>North Shore</b>	Tom Bartie .....	948 5598
<b>Eastern</b>	Jim Dorbis .....	399 3068
<b>Bankstown</b>	George Edwards .....	772 3419

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**All articles, sketches and views welcomed.**

Contributions may be edited to fit available space.

If possible, contributions should be typed, but we gladly accept an contribution.

**\*\* Yes, we can reduce drawings \*\***

**\*\* Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Guild \*\***

Material must be received within two weeks of the Lidcombe meeting.

Membership subscriptions are \$20 annually.

This publication was typeset by Word Power Document Services, 2 Hemmings  
Street Penrith, phone (047) 31 2320, fax (047) 21 5473.

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*As I have indicated on a number of occasions that I would be resigning from the President's position in the early part of 1992, I will be submitting my formal resignation at the April General Meeting.*

This has not been an easy decision for me to arrive at as I have enjoyed my 5-1/2 years stint as Guild President, particularly my self appointed task of writing the "President's Column".

However, I now feel that it is appropriate for me to vacate the position and allow another Guild member to be elected to the position of President. My very deep thanks go to all those who have helped to make my tenure of office an interesting and rewarding experience.

And so, as a consequence, this will be my last "President's Column", and in writing it, without wanting to appear to be too sentimental I would like to

say a few words about the Guild and its ever increasing membership.

In pursuit of the Guild Objectives, we have collectively been able to bring together in a worthwhile and friendly manner a substantial group of like minded people who are able to share their knowledge and abilities in a most co-operative way.

In so doing I feel that we are playing an essential role in contemporary society by not only keeping alive for future generations the wonderful craft of hand wood turning and finishing, but we are also contributing in a real way to social dialogue and co-operation between like minded groups of people, an essential part of the fabric of everyday life.

I never cease to be appreciative of the continued growth in the skills of our membership, which, by and large, is the end result of our collective effort.

My recent participation in the Trend Open Day very forcibly brought home to me the role of

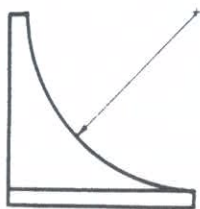




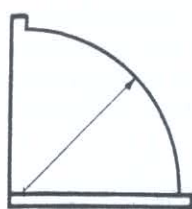
## QUIZ (Answers p 20)

Ernie Newman

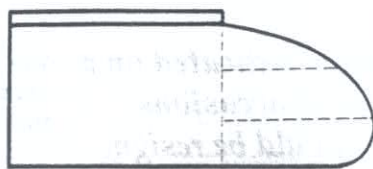
1. How can the dust which clogs a sanding disc be quickly removed?
2. Scrapers are often not honed but used straight from the grindstone. When is it most important to hone them, with very hard, or very soft, timbers?
3. Sydney blue gum, tallowwood, huon pine and teak are all naturally oily except for one, which one?
4. What is a dead tailstock centre?
5. When is a dead tailstock centre preferred over a revolving tailstock centre?



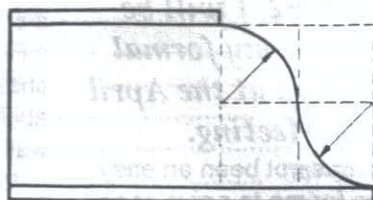
Cavetto



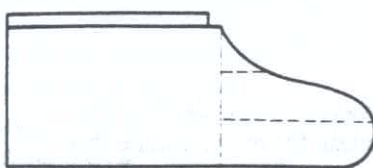
Ovolo



Thumb Mould



Cyma Reversa  
Roman



Lamb's Tongue

## President's Message Continued

TAFE in this ever expanding interest in woodturning and the growth in the skill levels.

Most, if not all, of the highly skilled young professional turners who turn at Trend are the products of TAFE courses and of the expert tuition of George Hatfield, John Ewart and Bernie Axford.

The very obvious ability of these young people and the forthcoming manner in which they share their expertise and knowledge makes a visit to Trend very much worthwhile.

Everyone of us who participates at

Trend, if we are able to find the time to drag ourselves away from our display, learn much from watching these young pro's and in turn are able to pass on that knowledge to others.

So that's it. I offer my full support and assistance to who ever may be elected as our new President and, once again, thanks to all of you for having me.

In the meantime, "Keep those lathes turning". I will.

**Frank Bollins President**

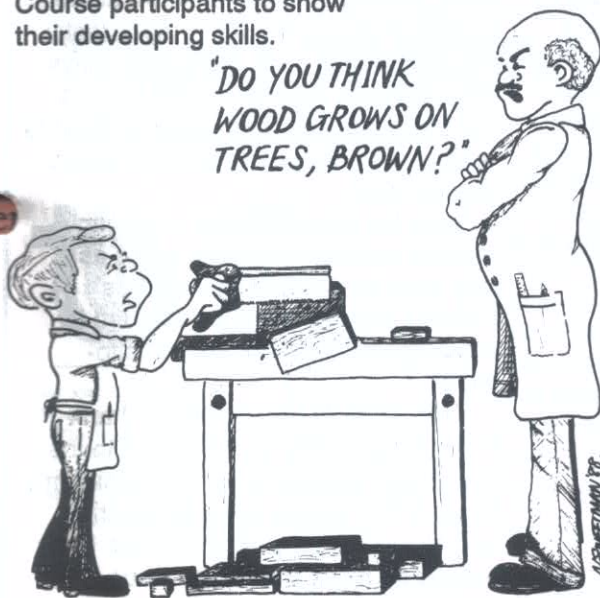
## **TREND OPEN DAY AND ROTARY**

The faces of the Rotarians who provided lunches at Trend were happy when Frank Bollins presented them with a total of \$108.00, the proceeds of the sales of turned shopping bag carriers and turned articles from our ever popular demonstrator, Jim Dorbis.

The Guild decided that instead of our usual practice of giving our demonstration pieces away, we should sell them as a donation to the various charitable causes undertaken by the Windsor Rotary Club.

The turning of the bag carriers also presented an opportunity for two of our Craft Course participants to show their developing skills.

*"DO YOU THINK  
WOOD GROWS ON  
TREES, BROWN?"*



## **DONATIONS TO GUILD**

Thanks to George Stalker who gave the Guild over \$600 worth of books and magazines.

Steven Hogbin's innovative book "Woodturning" was also recently donated to our library.

Thanks to Phillip McNabb who gives the newsletter a professional touch and provides some of his services for nothing.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies to Denis Balcombe from DavDen Machinery, Box Rd, Miranda and to David Hocking. Denis, not David, donated the half inch HSS Henry Taylor scraper we referred to in the last issue. It was raffled and \$87 was raised for the guild. Thanks Denis. We appreciate your generosity.

## **THANKS TREVOR**

Trevor Carrick, after using our lathe for a month and consultation with Mannie Burnham, made some very worthwhile improvements to our lathe, especially in the guard over the belt and motor suspension. A splendid initiative on his part.

As always the lathe is available for any member who either has no lathe or wishes to

Cartoon courtesy  
Woodworking International



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## **Letters to the Editor**

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### **In answer to "DES LANE", Letters to the Editor, February/ March.**

Keith Rowley in "Woodturning ... A Foundation Course", Book No. 26 in our Library, writes - "Rustins Plastic Coating is absolutely ideal for drinking vessels, etc ... it produces a tough mirror like finish that is heat and solvent resistant, etc ...".

I can personally certify the above as I use Rustins Plastic almost exclusively for my egg cups, goblets, bowls, etc. I have never had a complaint. It is harder to apply than other finishes but in the long run it is worth the extra effort.

*Jim Dorbis*

We have not received a reply to Len's letter, also in the last issue, where he asks how a hammer handle can be turned. Can any reader help?

---

### **News in Brief Continued**

put a Teknatool lathe through its paces before making a purchase.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CRAFT COURSE**

A member who has been out of work for a long time recently enrolled in one of the Guild craft courses. He realised that he might be eligible for financial assistance on the basis that he was undertaking job training so he approached the CES.

Initially they resisted the idea but eventually agreed that he had a point and paid his fees for the course.

### **WOMEN WOODTURNERS**

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

### **SHARP OBSERVER SPOTS ANACHRONISM**

Keen eyed outgoing president, Frank Bollins, noticed that the diagram of the motor head lathe, on page 17 of the last issue, positioned the live centre at the headstock end of the lathe. Apparently this terminology goes back to the days when tailstock centres did not revolve and were termed "dead centres". Driving centres did revolve and so were called "live centres".

With the introduction of revolving tailstock centres confusion arose as they were also called "live centres". Perhaps ambiguity can be avoided by dropping the term "live centre" altogether.

Editor's Note I would like to thank Frank for his many contributions to the newsletter, especially for the President's Page. It has always been informative and has attracted a lot of interest. I believe he never missed an issue.



## Out And About

*We received the following letter, dated 22-2-92, from the president of The American Association of Woodturners, Alan Lacer. The address for reply is 667 Harriet Ave. Shoreview, MN 55126.*

Enclosed is information regarding local woodturning chapters in the United States. There has been some serious interest over here in establishing a relationship between local groups in various countries - rather than simply between

national groups. The purpose would be to exchange newsletters, correspondence, wood and perhaps even visitors when members travelled abroad. Nothing really very formal about all of this, simply if your group had an interest we would suggest you identify one or two groups in the U.S. and strike up the relationship.

I have also included a copy of the American Woodturner and several applications regarding membership in the A.A.W.

I hope this material proves helpful in bringing the woodturning world a little closer together.

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## ***Chips from the Secretary***

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### ***Well, things are off to a great 1992 for we turners!***

But first, and regrettably, our President, Frank Bollins, is retiring from that position at our next general meeting. However Frank assures us he's not "retiring" to do nothing but will be active in other Guild fields.

Apart from very easy but efficient chairing of meetings he's been, among other things, the mainspring in organising our visits away to far flung places, all of which were beaut and well organised. Of course he's a keen turner, carver and all. Thanks a lot Frank.

Nominations are now open for a new President to be elected at our next general meeting, April 10th. Yes proxies are accepted.

We will be participating in the "Working With Wood Show" at the Showground Friday 24-26 July and also "The Home Show", Darling Harbour (our 4th attendance), August 15-23.

More details as we get closer.

Our two Craft Courses at Lidcombe TAFE are well on the way and doing very well thanks to Ernie and Bernie (no, not a singing duo!).

Oberon Arts Council is also running a "Woodcraft Exhibition", Friday 25-27 September with displays and competi-

tions. If you're interested contact me.

Happy to see a National Carvers Association just formed. If you're interested contact Frank Deutsch, 7 Buckley Street, Stratford, Vic, 3862.

The American Association of Woodturners sent us a beaut letter (printed elsewhere), plus a list of their 42 State branch addresses.

Anyone can be in contact so why not be in it. Details from me.

We received a big 'thanks' from Salvos Care Line for all those terrific toys members made, bringing lots of joy to the 'hard done by' kids.

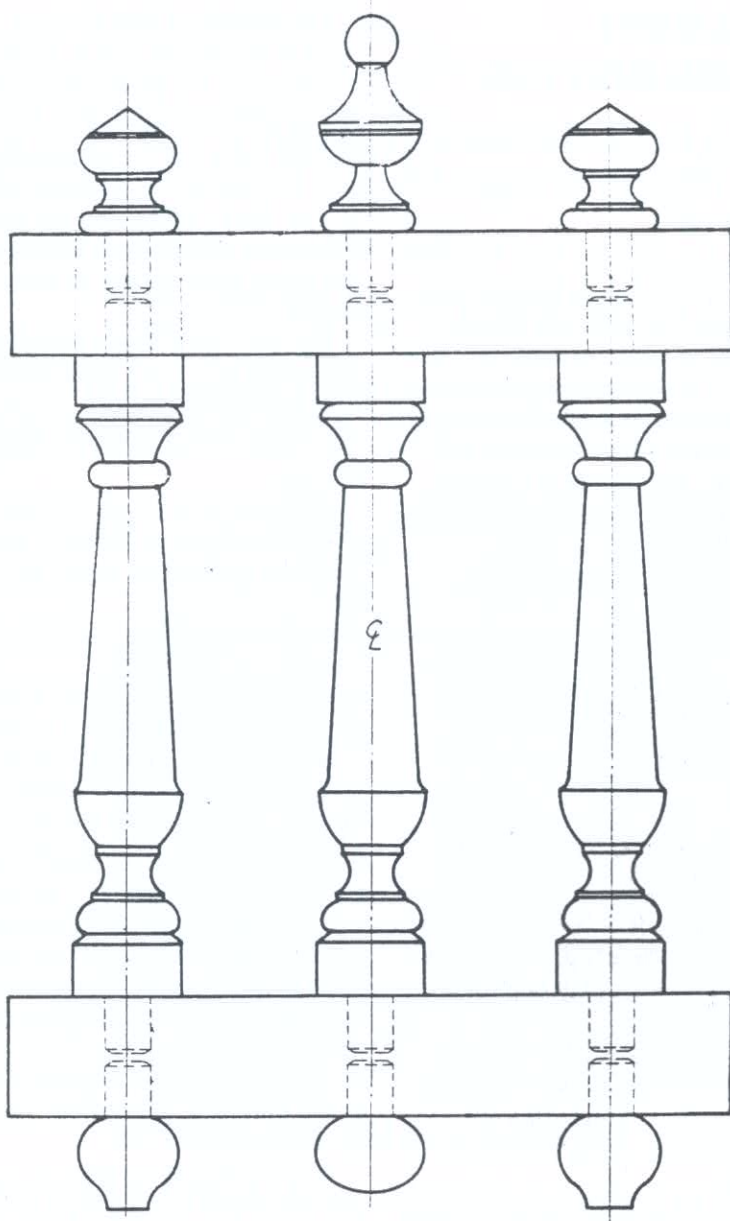
We aim to set up a Region in the general Campbelltown area, so if you're interested see me or any Committee member.

Bankstown Region have extended their activities now to monthly and alternating between Sefton High School and Menai High School. Contact George Edwards for details.

Finally, I close on a very sad note. I refer to the loss of a foundation member and former Vice President, Bert Britton. I introduced Bert to woodturning when I was teaching "Homecraft Woodwork" courses at St. George Tech. in the 1970's. Our deepest sympathy to the family.

*Mannie Burnham*





## OBITUARY -

### VALE ALBERT CLIFFORD BRITTON

*Written by Don J. Dickson  
(Member No. 137) as suggested  
by Jim Dorbis*

Bert was a foundation Vice President of our guild, badge No. 4, he made his last landing on Thursday the 6th of February after a long illness.

Born 1915 in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney he trained as a jeweller and had his own business when he joined the RAAF in 1941. He trained in Canada and was a bomber pilot with the RAF in England and Italy.

Like all good pilots he flew with

Butlers, ANA and finally Ansett when he retired some 17 years ago.

On retirement Bert became interested in woodwork and in particular, woodturning. He started the trade course with George Sutton and George Hatfield but a TAFE cutback around 1981 threatened his position in the course. Bert's enterprise led him into an indentured woodturning apprenticeship and came back 'legally' to finish the course.

For the past 6 years since my retirement Bert and I enjoyed every Tuesday woodturning for charity. He also drove every Friday for Meals On Wheels.

Bert was one of nature's gentlemen and in the words of Rudyard Kipling, "You're a better man than I am Gunga Din".

## BOOK REVIEW

*Frank Bollins*

*"A Foundation Course" by  
Keith Rowley.*

This is an excellent book, well written and presented in clearly defined chapters with a plentiful display of photos and diagrams.

The author takes you through the various stages and aspects of turning, displaying methods and tools very similar to practices widely used in New South Wales.

He has developed six laws and rules of woodturning relating to safety, tool

control and quality of finish to which he consistently refers in each chapter.

In addition to his descriptive explanations and photos on the various types of turning, many jigs and fixtures are described in detail, especially his tool grinding jig for skews and gouges.

His emphasis on developing skills for copy turning is supported by presenting three projects, each of which requires skills learnt from the previous project. An excellent idea.

His concluding paragraph on safety in the workshop is essential reading for all woodturners.

It is a valuable addition to our library and could well occupy a place on our own private book shelves.



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### **SPRITE OR SMALL CHILD?**

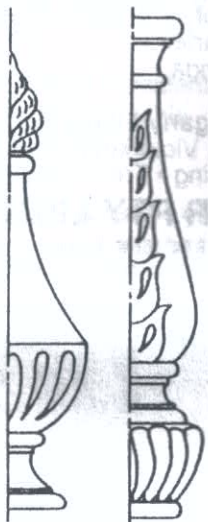
*Even with a magic wand, Anna Newman, four, had to stretch to ignite the candles on these one meter candlesticks.*

# TRADITIONAL ENGLISH DESIGNS FOR FURNITURE LEGS

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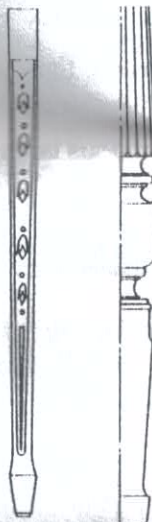
## CHIPPENDALE 1749-1779

Typical features -  
cabriole leg and  
ball and claw foot  
which sometimes  
had a carved  
shell - mainly ma-  
hogany.



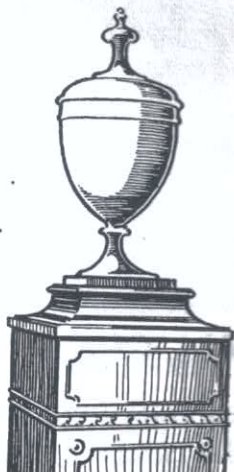
## HEPPLEWHITE 1770-1790

Typical features -  
mostly straight  
lines, little turn-  
ing, legs square  
and tapered with  
splayed feet -  
mainly mahogany  
and satinwood.



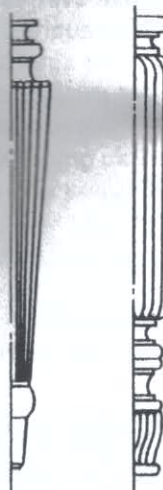
## BROTHERS ADAM 1762- 1792

Typical features -  
the same as Hep-  
plewhite but with  
the use of the  
Grecian urn  
shape - mainly  
mahogany and  
satinwood.



## SHERATON 1790-1806

Typical features -  
The same as  
Hepplewhite but  
with more turn-  
ings and the use  
of reeds or flutes  
- mainly mahog-  
any and satin-  
wood.





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## CRUCIBLE PARTICLE METALLURGY

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*Neil Jones (See Neil's ad in this issue)*

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### C.P.M. STEELS

Production of High Speed Steel by Particle Metallurgy Techniques is the most recent and most significant exciting development in the field of cutting tools since the introduction of cemented carbides.

Production of C.P.M. steels begins with fine particles of steel called micro ingots resulting from pouring molten pre-alloyed steel through a High Pressure Gas Jet. These particles freeze instantly, eliminating the chance for carbide segregation to occur.

The particles are screened for even size then contained in a cylinder and subjected to Hot isostatic compaction. Instantaneous compaction under gas pressure ensures that carbide distribution is uniform throughout the entire ingot. It must be emphasised C.P.M. is not a sintered powder - metal product and that it does not use a binder. It attains 100% density during compaction. So, what do these steels offer the Woodturner?

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3. A very fine grain structure which not only leaves a superior finish on the tool, but, when combined with improved grindability, means a fine grit grinding wheel can be used. For our C.P.M. Tools we recommend a 60 Grit Wheel. A much better choice is 32A 60 Grit but unfortunately 32A is not freely available in this country.

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# Your turn...

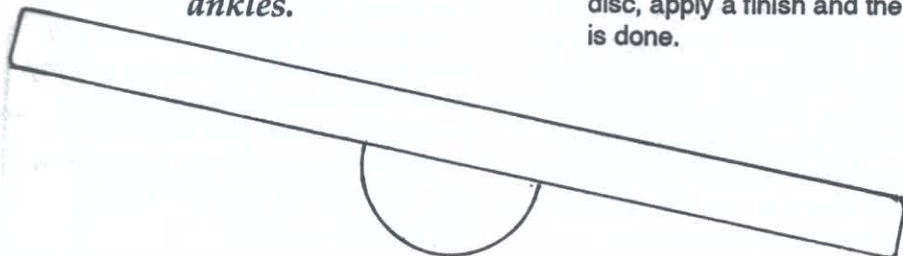
## WOBBLEBOARD

Ernie Newman

*This is a fairly simple faceplate job but it should provide a lot of fun for a young child. The idea is to stand on the flat side of the board and keep it from wobbling. I have made a few for local pre-schools and they have been well received. Physiotherapists also recommend them for those who need to strengthen weak ankles.*

Turn a disc about 300 mm in diameter and about 20 mm thick. The disc can be mounted safely on a faceplate with single screw projecting from the centre. Almost any material will do, even chipboard, but remember to round the edges for the safety of young users.

Turn a round blank, about 60 mm in diameter and 30 mm thick, to a hemisphere. The shape is not really important. The blank can also be mounted on a single screw faceplate. Any moderately hard timber will do. Glue the flat side of the hemisphere to the centre of the disc, apply a finish and the job is done.



### ALL REGIONS

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

### HORNSBY

Meetings will be held on 24-4, 29-5, 26-6, 31-7, 28-8, 25-9, 16-10 and 20-11. The venue is usually 12 Maranta St Hornsby but ring to confirm.

### EASTERN

Meetings are held on an ad hoc and informal basis.

### SOUTHERN DISTRICTS GROUP

*Neville McIntyre*

The first 'hands-on' day for this year was held at the home of Jack Hungerford on the 25th January. Though it was early in the year and during the holiday period, there was a good attendance of about 30 persons. Our thanks to Jack for the 'loan' of his backyard.

Demonstrations were given by Clarrie Snell (vacuum attachment), Bruce Leadbeatter (bowl turning) and Jack Hungerford (segmented bowls). Bruce attacked a lump of wood with a chainsaw and so we witnessed all the action from 'lump' to a roughly turned bowl. A discussion was then held as to how to dry the roughly turned bowl. Topics covered included (i) microwaving; (ii) in sawdust, and (iii) allowing it to season without any assistance.

During the official part of the meeting Mannie Burnham and Frank Bollins gave us an outline of the outings and dates that are proposed (some are not confirmed) for the ensuing year. It seems that if all comes to fruition then we are going to be busy.

If members of other clubs wish to attend one of our 'hands-on' days they would be very welcome. They take place between 9am and 3pm. Dates for this year are: 16-5 at 29 Prospect Rd Carlton, 18-7 at 13 Belair Ave. Caringbah, 5-9 at 5 Wilbung Rd Illawong and 12-12 at 191 Parraweena Rd Miranda.

### BANKSTOWN REGION

*Gwyn Joseph*

At the Bankstown Region meeting held at Sefton High School on 12th February, our first regional meeting of the year, a total of seventeen members attended. We discussed an offer from Menai High School regarding the use of their woodcraft workshop for the members of the Guild. Several points of view were aired but it was felt by the members present that no decision could be taken at this meeting due to the absence of the other 21 members of our group. (Editor's note - A decision was made to use Menai High at a later date.)

A hands-on evening followed with lathe techniques demonstrate by Troy Carter and others. George Edwards instructed on lathe tool sharpening freehand leading several members to ask, "Why can't I do that?" George made it look so easy.



## Regional News Continued

The evening ended with the usual tea-coffee and biscuits, and we look forward to our next happy hands-on meeting on 15th April, 1992, at Sefton High School. Further Sefton meetings will be held on 17-6, 26-8, 21-10 and 9-12. Menai meetings will be held on 19-5, 21-7, 22-9 and 17-11.

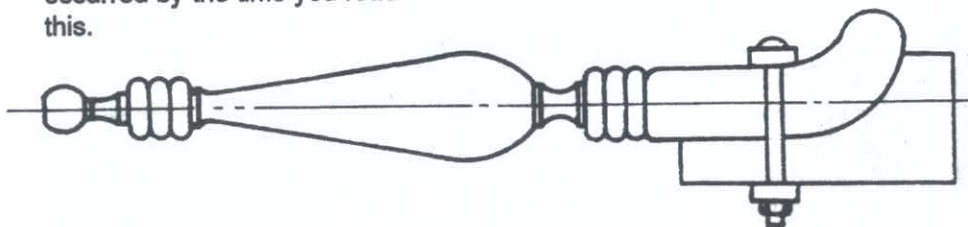
### OUTER WESTERN AND BLUE MOUNTAINS REGION

*Eric Baker*

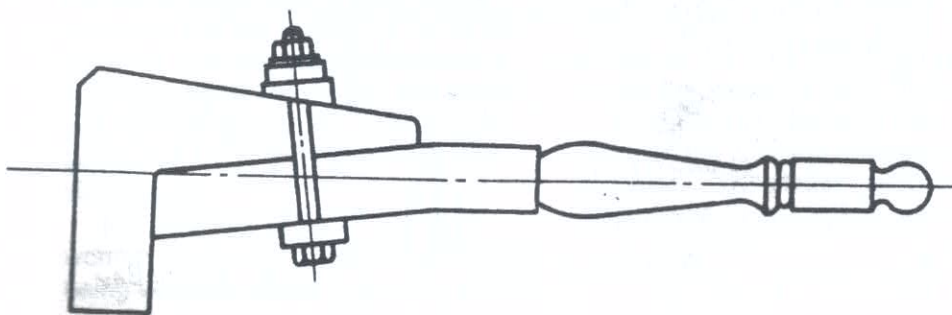
So much has happened since the last report and will have occurred by the time you read this.

Our first meeting of 1992, in January, was hosted by Don and Margaret Dixon at Werombi where we had an interesting and varied day (some even found getting there interesting).

In the show and tell segment Margaret exhibited a beautiful toothpick holder based on George Luster's design. Anton showed some outside platters (he's working down to some that fit onto a table). Simon showed us how to turn spheres ... using an Allen Key and ingenuity. Thank you Don and Margaret for your hospitality.



### METHOD OF HOLDING BENT CHAIR LEGS



## Regional News Continued

At our St. Clair meeting held February 24th, we were thrown out of kilter as we had no power for half the day. Fortunately, Bruce Leadbeatter managed to get some power from a light socket to demonstrate his new revolving head lathe, which, apart from being in itself interesting, kept the day moving along. The request for more show and tell exhibits has obtained some response but we are still looking for more. Our next meetings will be on 12th April at St. Clair and 3rd May at Malcolm Clark's home, 62 Tallawong Avenue,

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

**PS:** Would you please check your tools if you attended Col Herbert's place in November. Col is missing a screw chuck and Simon is missing 1-1/4" and 1/2" HSS chisels. Thanks.

**Editor's Note.** Malcolm Clark, one of the western group's convenors, has patiently pointed out that his phone number has again been printed incorrectly. It is 02 622 6120. Sorry Malcolm.

## LATHES - TOOLS - ACCESSORIES

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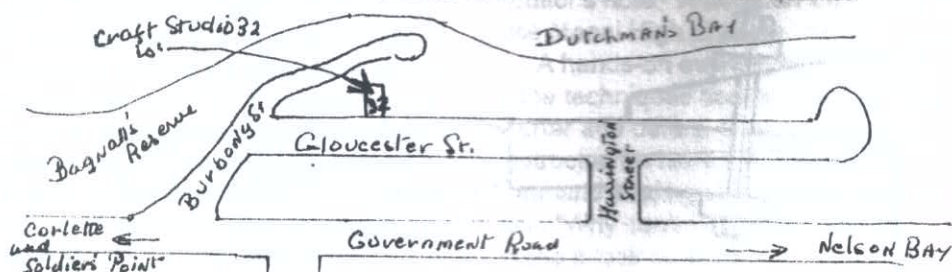
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## PORTRAIT OF A WOODTURNER — MARGARET DIXON

*Jim Dorbis*

*MARGARET and her husband Don are both interested in woodturning. That's where the arguments start in the family. They have a girl and a boy who presumably bring order to the household. It's all about who's going to use the lathe first and to the cleaning afterwards.*

Margaret is under 50 years old, and started clerical work at 15 in a furniture factory, following in her father's and grandfather's footsteps.

Although she has completed the 18 week Craft Turning Course at Sydney Tech. Margaret does not boast about her prowess in woodturning, except for her deep love of it and her wish to reach a stage where she could start to sell her turnings and win a prize at the Camden Show.

She likes to watch George Hatfield turning and admires the works of Simon Priem and Barry Black (take a bow). When reminded that her husband's name had not been included she diplomatically side stepped by saying that she prefers thin turnings (fine work), and oil finish as against Don's high gloss and massive objects.

Margaret would like to see more women involved in woodturning without being emphatic about it. But she seems



*Margaret Dixon*

determined to go it alone if need be and make a name for herself.

When the conversation spilled over to the future of the Guild, Margaret got very sentimental about the friendship, help and encouragement given to her and all the new members of the Guild by the old ones. She is happy the way things are.

Besides woodturning, Margaret has other hobbies, such as sewing, knitting and gardening but if Don gives her a chance at the lathe she would probably forego the above for more turning.

From now on Margaret over 250 woodturners will be following your progress ... and please get ready to demonstrate at the coming shows.

## ***The Last Word***

### **QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. By lightly dragging a piece of rubber against it for a few seconds while it is spinning. An old rubber shoe sole will do.
2. Very soft timbers.
3. Sydney blue gum is not oily. Because the others are oily they may be difficult to laminate. If they are to be turned after gluing caution is advisable as the bond may be weak.
4. A non revolving tailstock centre. It should be lubricated occasionally with wax (candle wax is fine) otherwise friction may cause the timber to char. It may even work loose and fly out of the lathe.
5. When cutting right down to the tailstock centre. A revolving centre is much more likely to damage the point of the tool than a stationary centre.

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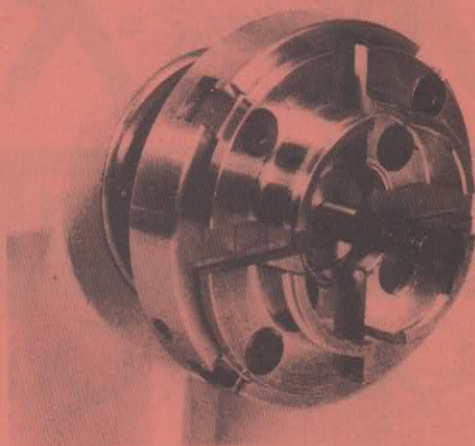
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