

# HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983

## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016

A smaller group was present and welcomed to our April meeting and as well the chance to pick-up a bargain in our regular Autumn Raffle: five apologies were received and recorded.

Notes and housekeeping were, more honey dippers please, Gulio Marcolongo's workshop and demo at Western Sydney 16 and 17/4 respectively, Trend's Open Days are 15 and 16/4, one additional camera/projection volunteer still required, some membership payments remain outstanding – please see John Markham ASAP, Simon's triumph at the Royal Agricultural Show, the Bowl Saver has been modified to suit the Leady lathe and should be our next Saturday demonstration, Thursday woodturning and woodcarving continues with 12 starters at our most recent meeting, and pyrography classes have recommenced at The Shed monthly on the third Saturday – see John for more details.



Wood blank preparation and culling will commence on Wednesday 27/4 with about 4 members equipped with a couple of electric chainsaws and log holders and 3 members band sawing and re racking the wood. It is anticipated that this operation will take some months working every second Wednesday. Offcuts and culls will be available for firewood.

There was no Information Exchange as such other than a discussion on Richard Raffan's recent demonstration at East Maitland which was, as expected, excellent. Richard was emphatic about scrapers and now considers these as 'worthy tools' for woodturning but continues to harbour great reservations for CA glue due to (what he has found) is its breakdown on turnings at about 10 years of age. Low viscosity five minute epoxy is his recommendation.

Show & Tell commenced with Ian's three presentations, a square winged shallow bowl from nicely figured (fiddle-back Tasmanian Oak?) eucalyptus wood which was very interesting, a tall vase from Juniper pine with a scalloped rim and some carving around the upper sections and thirdly a large pyrographic plate of a kookaburra feeding its young.

Bob showed a 125 mm mango wood bowl with a pleasing patterned light and dark feature, he also showed an 'art piece turning' from the Lone Pine seedling wood (Aleppo pine) on an Australian cedar base.



Keith Day showed one of his latest carvings which took three months to carve from Huon pine...excellent. (Keith mentioned that he uses a small bamboo stick with a sphere on the end to rub over (burnish) and remove any minor carving tool marks).

Bert has won an unenviable commission to turn about 20 wool skein holders as per the attached photos. The photos show a commercial turning ex mango but the wood type is



not important as long as the Knitting Ladies' Group likes it.

Elwyn showed a 130 x 100 mm appealing



oval bowl from camphor laurel including a burn around the circumference which he advised is not an easy job on an oval turning, also presented was a box of mid tan coloured wood with a number of turned coloured flowers on the lid.



The raffle was introduced next and was thankfully somewhat subdued due to the fewer members present. The profit is yet to be advised.

The day's demonstration was by our convenor Lindsay and was the development and turning of a table lamp, base and stem.

After some general background on the fundamentals of the project, (namely wood selection, stem turning between centres, and the base from separate woodstock but the same variety and hopefully of similar colour and grain etc), some examples of table lamps were shown and discussed. Electrical details were explained as well as methods of threading the cord.



Choose wood for the lamp stem about 80 - 120 mm diameter and say 300 mm long and bore a hole 10 mm wide halfway through from each end. Try to centre these holes as deviation from the centre may mean that the cord will not easily pass the holes' join or



worse when turning the chisel breaks through into the off centre drilled hole! Softer woods are of course best for this turning. Jacaranda, hoop pine, camphor laurel, claret ash and possibly poplar are suitable local woods.

Once the holes are bored turn a couple of plugs to tightly fit between (and into) the wood and both stocks. Rough down the wood then use a combination of a skew and a detail gouge turn the selected design finishing each end to ensure straight edges before sanding etc. Remove the plugs and at the top of the stem drill a short hole to suit the brass screwed bush associated with the switch fitting, screw and epoxy into position.

For the lamp base a similar wood can be turned round at say 130 – 150 mm diameter (or the bottom of the base can be left square) with some complementary beads etc turned for



the stem to be attached. Check both sub assemblies for compatibility and pleasing design and correct before proceeding, if necessary. Drill holes in the base to allow for the cord to exit the stem and the side of the base as per the plan. Sand and polish or spray the base as for the stem and then thread the cord through the yet to be joined sub units. Ensure a sturdy fit between the stem and the base allowing 20 mm plus spigot length and fix with 5 minute epoxy or PVA glue.

Where the stem and the base is turned from one piece of timber select say 140 x 180 mm or greater diameter and follow the outline as for the stem above, ie as for the urn in the adjacent photo. There are many possible designs available to copy.

Fit the electricals to each end of the cord with great care and the lamp base is complete. The shade is now able to be fitted and the lamp placed into service.

For homework let's make a table lamp. If you need a long borer come to the Shed on a Thursday to use the long drill for the stem of the lamp.

An interesting and very practical demonstration, thanks yet again Lindsay.

Next Saturday meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016.