

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017

Lindsay Skinner was unable to attend this meeting due to a recent accident affecting his rotor cup; we all wish him a speedy and painless recovery. In his absence Greg welcomed members plus two guests Patrick Berry and Shed member David Manning to the meeting; also a couple of apologies were mentioned.

Greg advised a number of housekeeping details including the North Shore Craft Fair call for turnings for sale, honey dippers again (blanks available), supervisors for the Saturday training roster, and the kind offer from Keith Day to organise a carving competition with a couple of prizes, and a probable offer by Simon Begg to demonstrate for us later this year. John Markham advised that there were three crates of blanks available for distribution, DVD's for loan and a weekday follow-up to his hollowing demonstration today.

Sadly there was no Information Exchange today.

Show & Tell was sparse but with interesting items and run by Greg.

John Edwards stepped up first with two neat bowls nicely made from an unusual wood which he challenged the members to identify. The wood was mid tan, not heavy and showed some birds eye and darker grain plus turned well. The wood was Australian Christmas Bush from a rare large tree, and related to Coachwood but without any of the latter's aroma or renown.



Colin Hunter spoke about his endeavours



with coloured pencils and resin. Colin used silky oak wood, coloured pencils and epoxy to form a blank from which he turned a medium sized lidded box. Also made was a small cup from the remaining pencils and epoxy.



Colin found the coloured compounds in the pencils spread during turning and sanding darkening the wood significantly. As another trial Colin set wood in the epoxy and plans to complete a similar box. About 330 ml of epoxy is required for each lidded box and care needs to be taken to avoid completely the inclusion of air bubbles.

Also shown was a large wet turned jacaranda bowl with thin walls and some bark incorporated. The turning felt all but dry and was part finished with a couple of coats of Danish Oil. CA glue was recommended for stabilisation of the bark.



Bill Hart showed a hand held 'mini-bagpipe'. The mouthpiece was from native guava, the chanter from privet? and the spherical bladder from leather, (rather than the usual cow's bladder) and the unit was impressive. Bill entertained us with a tune which was recorded (video and audio) and hopefully will be attached to a future email.



Brian Hawkins opened the demonstrating on Decal additions to wood turned pens.



Firstly Brian run through his preferred method of preparation of the blank. Turn down the blank after drilling 60 degree groves



into both ends of the blanks so as to fit his 60 degrees head and tail centres into the wood. Turn down the diameter as required leaving a 10 mm square at each end to reduce possible splitting. Drill the requisite diameter hole down the centre, cut to length and glue the brass tube into the wood. Square the ends etc. Sand the bland running down to 12,000 grit using a few coats of CA glue until the surface is glass like and then ready for the decal application.

To prepare the decal, select a picture and copy via a computer. Vary the size after copying prior to printing and print on an Ink Jet printer. Colour decals are easily made



however if the picture contains a lot of white, premium 'paper' needs to be used. The print needs to be sealed using spray on Crylon fixer prior to use. Select the decal and cut from the sheet paying care to achieve a satisfactory (transparent) edging.

Soak the cut-out in water containing a couple of drops of detergent, generally 10 minutes is sufficient to slide the decal from the paper. While the paper is soaking wet the area for the decal placement with the detergent solution to assist with good air free adhesion.



Place the decal onto the wood and 'pat down' using an artists soft brush wet with water. Position the decal to its final place and allow to dry, say overnight or longer then seal with a few coats of CA glue using 12,000 grit after the second and subsequent coats.

Note the address of Brian's decal supplier in Victoria.

A great demonstration showing the ability to add to our turnings via infinite extractions of pictures and/or text from the web, and in colour. Thanks Brian.

For the second demonstration John Markham first spoke about vessel hollowing leading up to a newly released tungsten carbide cutter from Hunter Systems in the USA.

As the introduction the purpose made deep hollowing chisel system designed and built by Harry Jones suitable for his larger vases etc was shown and remarked upon.

Some carbide chisels from Sorby's were shown and briefly trialled together with a couple



of other scraper chisels prior to the Hunter 'state-of-the-art' chisel.

The task was to compare this new chisel for bowl hollowing and turning generally. The wood chosen was a white wood, quite heavy and hard, and believed to be an Australian species related to teak!



The photo of the chisel 'blades' shows an orthodox bowl gouge a scraper and a couple of chisels with the circular cutting rings which were used in the demo.

The circular rings claim the advantage of being positioned on the shaft so as to rub the



bevel (the angle is set from below on the shaft with the Hunter chisel) and presenting the circular cutting 'blade' at an angle which slices, not scrapes, the wood from the blank to achieve a faster and smoother finish, ie start at 240 grit paper? Frequent rotation of the ring



to present a sharp cutting arc is necessary and cutter life is estimated at 25+ times that of HSS (bowl gouges). Replacement cutting rings are about 20 USD.

This wood's hardness posed quite a problem for most of the chisels during roughing down with some catches and bounce but no dig-ins. These scrapers removed wood quickly while requiring a strong control/grip on the chisel giving not such a smooth result.



Usage of the Hunter tool with pull cutting on both the internal and external surfaces of this hard/solid wood blank, which really was 'cranky,' gave better and smoother results due to the bevel rubbing and slice cutting or by the use of a shear cut at an angle of 30 to 45 degrees.

The bowl's internal finish from the chisel was good and sanding starting from 240 grit would be achievable indicating the cutter's practical usefulness. No doubt usage on softer or wet wood would achieve most desirable results.

Thanks John for a good demo, quite a physical presentation which leaves us with some thoughts for the future purchase of our chisels, as well as looking forward to Part II to be run mid-week in the near future.

To see additional details on the Hunter Osprey chisel check out the You Tube on www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfp2kvH6Mo for an 8 minute viewing, or its website on www.hunterwoodturningtool.com
