

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016

After the welcome to all, and the apologies, the meeting begun with the update of housekeeping, namely; the Wednesdays wood/blank cutting and clean up was completed, Thursday woodturning and carving continues OK, the Working With Wood Show is running from Friday 24/6 to Sunday 26/6 inclusive, the Shed's Friday night monthly meetings will be trialled for three month on Friday's at noon, the dust extractor planning continues, the North Shore Community Fair still requires more turned items for sale or exhibition plus some stall carers, finally the new turning trainers/supervisors will need to collect their keys and start a (Saturday) roster ASAP.

Information Exchange began with Brian showing a pack of three rasps some suitable for barley twist stems for fancy spoons etc at \$11.50, a 'dove-tail square' ex eBay for \$13.66 and a set of Phillips screw bits for \$8, all post paid. John



Markham showed a number of Sorby scrapers and discussed their superior performance possibilities.

Show & Tell was supported by only a few turnings.

Rusty's bowl ex our bowl saver last month showed some grain colour and a well finished knot feature.



Elwyn brought an oval burl bowl about 200 mm major diameter well turned from unknown wood and well finished with spray lacquer.

Tim turned two small pens from pine and oregon timber with drawn faces plus hats.

John Edwards showed a 'rifle' pen made from sassafras wood.



Our demonstrator for today was member Brian Hawkins who showed the turning of various types of pens. Brian commenced with some discussion, don't purchase mini chisels as these are really not strong enough, consider the pen type you want to specialise with. Slim Line gold plated pen mechanisms can be purchased for about \$2.50 but can wear quickly and often chrome finished pens are a better prospect provided the wood matches.

Brian demonstrated the preparation for a Long Wood Clip Pen.

Blank selection is vital to obtain good results. The selected woods, say 20 mm square, need to not only have good grain showing but need to have the ability to turn and sand well to give a good smooth and attractive surface without breaks, cracks or tear out etc. Wood should be physically hard to be utilitarian. Some turners recommend that for best results the grain should be 15 degrees 'off parallel' to the pen.

Where repetition pen turning is envisaged a simple jig can be made to get a consistently correct blank length. Ensure that the saw cuts are square and as thin as possible so as to have grain continuity along the whole pen and use pen jaws in the chuck to obtain a



centred hole and good concentric turning of the body. Drill on the lathe at 500 RPM maximum using a centre bit first and with the tool rest as a steadier for the main drill in this case 3/8" diameter. Take care with centring the hole cutting as bad off-centre turning can result in exposure of the brass centre tube.

Acrylic blanks and part-acrylic blanks (those made from wood strengthened or filled with epoxy) are handled in much the same manner with the possible addition of colouring the brass tube if its 'golden' colour affects the translucent acrylic colour.

Once the blank is cut and drilled the metal body is cleaned and glued (epoxy) into the still square blank and allowed to set before cleaning the ends of the tubes and woods to the exact length required.



The specific mandrel is loaded with the blanks, tightened and turned to the required diameter finishing the shaping with a sharp skew. Sanding of pens is particularly important and 'Abranet' style abrasive was used running down to 600 grit before changing to 'Micromesh' working from 1,500 to 12,000 grit. This treatment should give almost a glass finish and ready for the application of CA glue.

Before application of the CA glue wipe the turning with quality papertowling cut with scissors to 125 x 125 mm to completely remove and dust, then with a fresh square apply the first CA coat and polish with the paper once the glue has all but soaked into the wood. Repeat 3 or 4 times until all the grain is filled and the finish is very glossy.



Once the CA glue has dried and has an hard finish polish with a fine abrasive wax, in this case Renaissance Wax, which should result in an ultra gloss appearance.

All that remains is to assemble the pen which can be done on the lathe compressing with the tail stock or with a smaller vice. Brian used a compressing mechanism with pads on the head and tail stocks equipped with a small coin (US dime) to facilitate this action. Don't wind in too briskly or the pen mechanism may bend.



So there is your first pen; thanks Brian we should all be experts now. Well done.