

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016

This meeting was busy with our 2016 AGM, The Spring Raffle and an afternoon working on a large wet jacaranda crotch. 18 members including new attendees Bill Hart and Peter Mcpherson were particularly welcomed. John Markham and Lloyd Thomas were apologies.

After the welcome the housekeeping was mentioned; Thursdays at the Shed, the need for more trainers and a day roster for the turning trainers ASAP, items for the Cumberland Fair at the end of the month, the Nova 3000 lathe will be rebuilt with a variable speed 2 HP motor at a cost of \$800 plus, the Shed's web improvement is virtually at final draft stage, about \$500 is being spent buying a new chuck and much minor equipment, some members' fees remain outstanding, dust collection progresses and questions regarding a (woodturners') Christmas Dinner get-together were aired.

After a quick joke about 'Hillary and Bill' Brian stepped up to run Information Exchange. Brian's items were all from the web; diamond grinding wheel dressers two for \$9.76, a set of 5 x 150 mm stainless rules \$3.17, 4" dia. hard felt buffing pad \$5.36, 100 x 80-3,000 grit range of 25 mm diameter Velcro sanding pads for \$7.06 and finally 5 x diamond files for \$6.50. Note that all these prices include postage!

Colin Hunter showed his recently purchased router tool for dovetailed boxes ex China for \$27.

Next Lindsay opened Show & Tell with Keith day's stool well turned and finished from NZ black pine made for a family member.

Colin showed a couple of boxes made using his Giffkins Jig the larger from macadamia



wood, which had oxidised? to a grey/fawn colour, with a nicely grain camphor laurel lid. Also shown was an incomplete square box from Huon Pine and Tasmanian blackwood.



Both boxes were finished to advantage with multiple coats of Danish Oil.



Elwyn had turned a wet oval eucalyptus bowl which lost a knot on drying. Another oval bowl showed was of white cedar which the brushed lacquer finish enhanced the wood's grain colours.

John Edwards showed a medallion 'stand' for a neighbour's son's for service in Afghanistan. The wood is unknown but finished well with Triple E and Shellwax Glow.

Russ had turned an old blank of Queensland maple which was finished with Glow to give a rich dark colour not shown by currently available/younger Queensland maple blanks.

About 11:30 the AGM commenced and finished 11 minutes later. The results were:

Convenor/President	Lindsay Skinner
Vice President	Burt Gude
Secretary	Greg Croker
Treasurer	Brian Hawkins.
Committee.	
Shed Liaison Member	John Markham
Members	John Edwards and Russ Pinch.
Public Officer	Lloyd Thomas.

There was no business to discuss.

During lunch The Spring Raffle tickets were sold and immediately after the raffle was run resulting in a profit of about \$60. Thanks members.

For the day's demonstration Elwyn offered to turn a large wet crotch of jacaranda part of The Shed stock he had sawn into blanks recently. The crotch was far too big to fit his and our lathe so it was cut in half. His plan was to run a workshop on all aspects of wet turning a 'difficult' and wet blank.

After a good discussion between Elwyn and the members on how to do it, the turning commenced with care being taken to keep hands well away from the spinning wings. The tail stock was brought up to the blank for safety and stability. Refer to the photos.



Turn to give a uniform surface on the bowl base and (up to) the wing extremities. Because of balance instability the speed was set at the lowest possible, say 300 RPM. Retain the bark where necessary (use CA glue if the bark loosens) to obtain the desired shape and a larger turning, utilising the full blank size. Note that when working with a wet blank the finish does not need to be too fine as warping on drying will necessitate significant re-

turning, hence a larger gouge 5/8" is suitable. Turn a suitable spigot on the base, and now the outside of the turning is completed, back off the tail stock and reverse the blank. Ensure a secure fitting of the blank's spigot in the chuck and prepare to turn the top of the blank.



The plan was to finish with the wood thickness at 20–25 mm minimum. Bring up the tail stock to stabilise the turning and turn at a moderate speed. Set the circumference of the bowl and form a large rim say 8-10 mm in 'diameter' around the circumference of the bowl then turn the wings to give a flat surface to the extremities. Again retain the bark if required with CA glue. Turn out the bowl, and in this case beware of the two broken screws embedded in the wood turning. Turn down each side of the known position of the screws using a parting tool until the metal is detected. Chisel away the ring of wood around the screw ends and remove the screws with pliers.



Continue turning until a uniform curve matching the external shape is achieved and once finished remove the tail stock and turn away the spigot to complete the internal surface of the bowl.

Check the turning and clean-up where necessary and consider the next step in this process. What is next?

Does the turning get wrapped in shavings and plastic, end-sealer painted all over, Gladwaped, placed in a black Garbag with a small hole in th bottom corner and hung on the washing line in the sun until virtually dry or as recommended roughly sanded at 80 grit paper and 'sealed' with a dilute solution of shellac (50:50 dilution with methylated spirits) and stored in a cool place for some months until dry?



A great demonstration/workshop with lots of interest and discussion involving many members, so thanks Elwyn, and Lindsey who advised and assisted Elwyn, for showing us how to deal with wet wood. Good Show.

Now all we have to do is wait for the final results; will as it should, emerge from the darkness and shavings and turn perfectly or could there be a couple of cracks?

Only time will tell. Let's follow up each month.