

# HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983

## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

The day started with a welcome to 19 members including 5 from the Shed to our March Saturday meeting featuring a demonstration by Elwyn Muller of *An Introduction to Router Spiral Spindle Turning*.

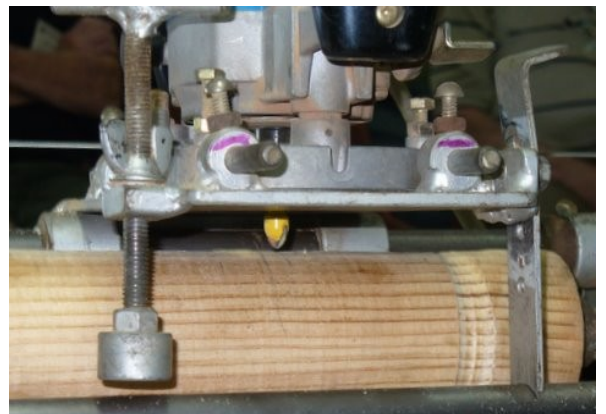
Firstly brief notes on housekeeping and general items. The new mini-lathe (Hafco 14V) is now in usage however its reversing feature remains to be made inoperative ASAP for safety reasons also the mini-Comet lathe is to be retained in the Shed, the possible supply of suitable (wet) wood from a local arborist to be perused, the sale of 400 honey dippers was completed and it could be that sales will again approach 800 this year, an additional woodturning supervisor is required to nominate for assistance on Saturdays and this Christmas' items for charity have been advised as Batmobiles and smaller turned jewellery boxes.

The pre lunch session was devoted to Elwyn's demonstration which started with the background and explanation of the unit.

The spindle router, is assumed to have been 'home' constructed in the 'sixties', and stored in the Shed since its donation some years ago. During this extended time it has collected dust and rust meaning that considerable 'refurbishment and repair' was necessary prior to any experimental use.

The major operational controls were explained:

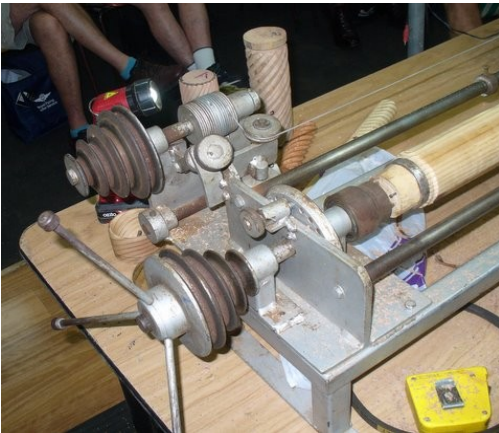
- the mechanism turning the cylindrical blank is linked via a variable speed pulley system to draw the router table along the blank to achieve a spiral cut from the router blade,
- the variable speed pulleys are necessary to achieve a range of cutting pitches; where the pulleys are disconnected, and only the blank is turned, a cut will be



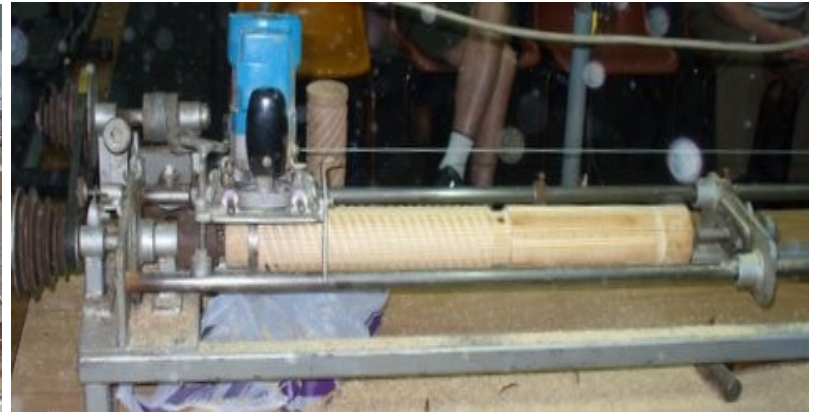


made around the blank, conversely if the blank remains stationary and the draw wire pulley only is turned a longitudinal cut will be obtained along the blank,

- the draw wire needs to be in tension at all times to ensure cutting consistency,

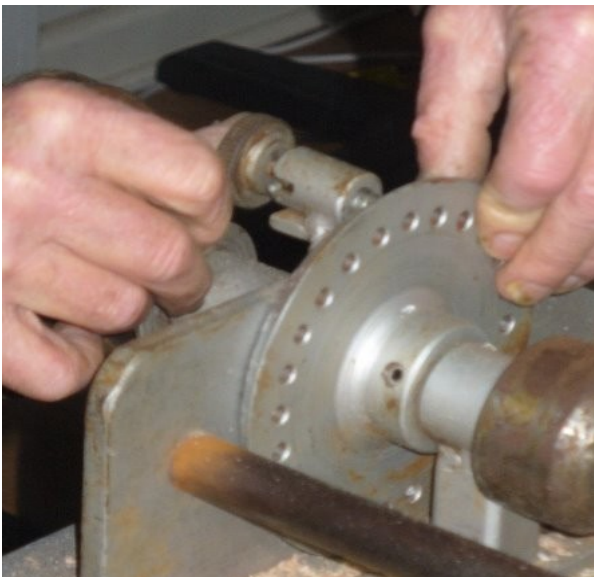


- the indexing plate is required to set the angular distance between between each spiral,



- the depth of cut is set by the router plunge setting and/or an adjustable 'out-rigger' set into the router table which runs along a pipe parallel to the axis of the blank; multiple passes may be necessary,
- router blade profiles will vary the results obtained,
- head and tail stocks are required similar to those for wood lathes.

Examples of previous work were shown and discussed followed by a number of





demonstrations of the machine producing spirals on various woods with interesting effect. The woods' finish is dependent upon the wood type and the cutter, with most spirals produced required relatively simple sanding for a standard finish. The demonstration finished with 3 or 4 members producing their own spiral turnings and many attendees reviewing the machine at close quarters discussing as a group the aspects and future of this form of woodwork.

After lunch John Edwards ran Show & Tell.



Colin showed an unfinished large camphor laurel bowl which he 'carved' using an angle grinder with a specialised disc cutter. Running at 12,000 rpm plus, much care is needed when using this system. Also shown were the two pens on the left of the picture both with good grain evident.



John presented his two Polaris pens in acrylic both nicely finished.



Rusty also showed a Polaris pen out of purple acrylic which also was nicely finish.

Phil brought in his finished ironwood mallet. Good looking and just waiting for a couple of coats of oil to be complete.

Elwyn showed a well turned and finished eucalyptus bowl 290 mm diameter and 90 mm high. The finish was not recorded but gave a great result.



Keith day showed a 'Rubic Cube cylindrical box' made some time ago. Well made, and get the letters combination correct to

view the inside! Also shown was a small Australian cedar box. Robert showed a Solomon Island pine small bowl. Turned some time ago the bowl was well finished.

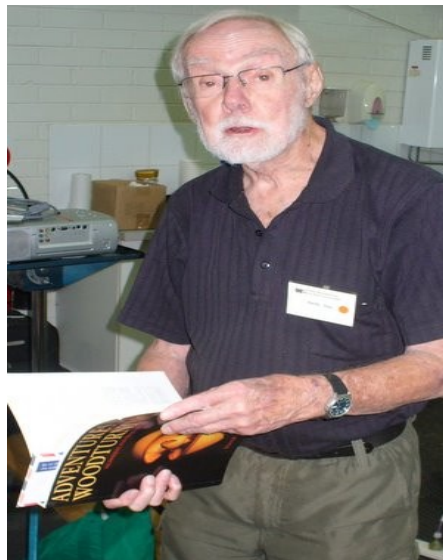
Lloyd showed a distressed small trunk approximately 500 mm by 250 mm recently made and modified with a slot in the domed lid and a security lock. Made to accept cards and cash gifts at his son's coming wedding it stirred quite some interest. Great.



Information Exchange was quick and informal.

Keith promoted the book *Adventures in Woodturning* recommending it to all turners particularly if looking for a challenge. Robert showed two compound aluminium hot-melt face plates. Both ex VCR units

(with annulus) were fitted with a removable wood centring device fitting into the annulus also with a number 2 morse taper, so that when the hot-melt set, the blank can be directly fitted into the headstock for turning.



Colin showed a bottle of Gun-stock finishing oil which he is testing/considering as a substitute for the orthodox finishing oils.



Thanks Elwyn, an interesting introduction to spiral router wood turning for both woodworkers and woodturners. We certainly noted all the fundamentals using this machine too.

For readers who would like to view contemporary spiral turning and equipment check-out youtube under the heading *Spiral Spindle Turning with a Router* for all the latest machinery. There is 'plenty' to view on this subject as well as related techniques to satisfy and up-date your knowledge of this subject.

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