HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2019

Members assembled at 10 am and were welcomed to our April Saturday meeting. Good to see two new woodturners Greg Ghavalas and Len Taylor, and of course Steve Attard demonstrating on *Resins and Colourings with Wood & Burls*.

Very little housekeeping to mention other than the continued need for volunteer projectionists and Saturday training supervisors.

Brian commenced Information Exchange with some purchased acrylic blanks suitable

for specialised pen blanks. Secondly and finally Greg followed 'with an update' on the Manchurian pear branch wood collected late last year: also collected and shown was an actual Manchurian Pear, deep frozen and forgotten until yesterday, but still found to be eatable when sliced open!

Brian went straight on to host Show & Tell.

Elwyn had been very busy again showing 5 plus turnings. Firstly a great oval bowl of

about 270 mm major axis and 75 mm tall from highly figured Juniper pine, and well finished with wax. Next a couple of thin walled eucalyptus bowls showing good grain, colouring and wax finish; plus another Juniper round bowl again showing great colouring and finish. Also shown were 3 small pine boxes turned from blanks ex the Shed's 'spiraliser' which could be modified to become Charity turnings at Christmas.

Phil showed a medium sized bowl for an unknown wood looking very similar to camphor laurel with a good matt finish but without an odour; any ideas as to which wood this could be?

John Edwards, was pleased to present, a neat small bowl resurrected with a well designed and cunning base of contrasting colour (pine wood) fitted to overcome an earlier breakthrough of the original base wood. Well done. A second small bowl from Juniper was colourful and well finished.

Rusty showed a pair of useful Tea Candle holders turned with beads and a matt finish.

Finally Tim showed a couple of (prototype?) Oregon wood spherical tool handles particularly suitable for persons with arthritis. Tim plans to develop this idea further using the 'spiraliser.' See the picture.

Just prior to lunch Steve was formally introduced to members and commenced the demonstration by mixing, colouring and pouring some of the resin so it will be semi-solid by the end of the demonstration.

His recommended resin is AA Fibreglass, a one to one mix of resin and hardener supplied ex Brisbane at $208 for 8 litres (4 + 4 packs A & B). This resin was chosen



due to its near white colour when set, 24 to 48 hours set time, relatively low viscosity, and lower cost of 2.6 cents per ml. Smaller pack sizes are available but at a higher unit cost.

Other resins recommended are MegaPoxy (Neil Turner's favourite), Feast Watson and Pour-On Glass, but these are dearer.

The resin blending was by volume and for colourings a variety can be used, eg powdered food dyes, acrylic paints, instant coffee and crushed/ground ochres etc. Be cautious with colour additions as a little concentrated powder goes a long way so build up to the desired colour via multiple small additions. Pearlescent paint powder (Pearlex Micro-pearl powder) is frequently added to give a lustrous effect.

The resin colours used for the first blank were red and green and poured around the peripheral flange of a bowl. For this exercise 400 mls of resin and 400 mls of hardener were very well mixed then divided equally and one of the colours added to each and well mixed in. When mixing use a Paddle-pop stick or similar incorporating no or as little air as possible. Surplus resin can be poured into moulds for pen blanks etc.


Pour the resin such that the blank's surface can quickly level then checking for and removing all significant air pockets using the pointed end of a shish kebab stick and topping-up as necessary. Then flame with a portable gas burner quickly to remove (and burst?) any superficial air bubbles. This method of bubble removal is normally successful however pressure pots are frequently used placing the whole unit under 60

psi overnight or at least until the resin has partially solidified to reduce/eliminate air bubble significance.

Regarding moulds, for many blanks it will be necessary to form a wall around the blank and seal it so that resin does not leak out or is wasted as in the second blank. Coreflute or PVC sheet ex milk bottles can be wrapped around the wood and glued in

(the temporary) position with hot melt glue and/or Duck Tape, refer to the pics enclosed.

A third blank of laminated beam timber (LBL) about 80 mm thick and 250 mm in diameter was part turned and prepared for another resin mix that was poured into a wide and 6 mm deep 'moat' around the eventual flange which when set will be turned into a laminated bowl incorporating this wide flange of resin embellishment.

After lunch Steve demonstrated the turning of two pre-made blanks of coloured resin, with very small pine cones 'set' within, into bases for very fancy pepper grinders.

In brief, PVC tumblers about 100 mm tall by 55 mm diameter (as close to cylindrical as available) were chosen as the moulds. Some small, mature and dry pine cones are then set in the resin as it is poured into the mould to give optimum viewing potential once the set resin blank is turned and polished.
The AA resin was mixed and tinted as above, one to give a rich red colour and the second a pale green with a pearlescent lustre/glimmer. The pine cones' positions were adjusted and any air bubbles/pockets removed and flamed as above before the billets were placed aside to set.

Where PVC moulds are used the resin blanks should slip out without trouble. Both ends of the blanks will be all but circular so can be fitted directly into a chuck with larger jaws and roughing down commenced. Should either end not be 'chuckable' turn between centres to form a suitable dovetail spigot for chucking.

Commence cautiously ruffing down to a cylinder and when the pine cone wood becomes exposed change to a sharp detail gouge and/or a tungsten-carbide scraper. Measure the diameter to match the grinder's diameter and form (say) a 6 to 8 mm

bead to match the grinder's base and to add beauty. Continue shaping the remainder of the cylinder to give a very slight centre bow in its profile to enhance the appearance.

Drill a 25 mm hole the whole length of the blank using a lubricated Forsner bit, square the end, and finish the tailstock end running through the grits to 320 and

following with EEE Ultrashine to give a 15,000 grit polish and shine.
Reverse and carefully grip the blank in the chuck (use tape protection if necessary) ensuring it is centred. Square the end if required and run through the grits as above to give a matching polish.

Remove the finished resin blank from the chuck and check all is OK and prepare for

the fitting of the (metal) grinder to be screwed from above into predrilled holes to complete the project....Beautiful.

The second green blank was part turned only to show the pine cones and opalescence. It will be finished at a later date in the exact same manner as the red blank to make yet another impressive pepper grinder.

Steve has offered to turn and complete the resin treated blanks and return to our May meeting with these for show and further discussion.

Thanks Steve for your detailed demonstration and discussion into what is a new field for our members, and a most interesting and enticive presentation.