

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983.

NEWSLETTER MAY 2019.

Our May meeting commenced with a welcome to 17 attendees including a particular welcome to Steve Attard and new Shed member Cameron. Steve had returned to discuss and show us his finished turned items from our last meeting.

First housekeeping was discussed; Branka Hedges' demonstration of her acrylic designs for turned pens at Western Sydney Wood turners on Sunday 19 May, members' Winter Lunch on Wednesday 26 June at Pennant Hills Pub, the Working with Wood Show has morphed into the Timber, Tools and Artisans Show on Friday to Sunday 7-9 June at Rosehill Racecourse, thanks to those who worked at the Shed's recent Bunnings BBQ fund raiser and also to Lloyd for working on our projection system to now show YouTube (turning) videos via USB stick, (see later details).

Today's meeting was busy and varied. After a chat from Lindsay he introduced Steve to discuss his finished bowls. The photos show it all - excellent and much appreciated by all present. Additionally Steve talked about many of the turning requirements and techniques



to obtain his finished high quality. Also reviewed were methods of optimising resin usage and choices to minimise costs and the

yellowing of some resins over time.

Steve followed by reviewing Show & Tell which was 'tiny' with only two items on the table.

First was Rusty's pin-oak wood bowl with a rim embellished with orange acrylic flat paint to good affect. Finished in Glow (shellac based polish) the grain and paint were effectively highlighted.

Lastly Elwyn showed a larger poplar thin sided, part spalted, deep bowl yet to have its final finish applied. Talk was that this



wood was American cottonwood grown originally for match sticks and now somewhat redundant. This wood is believed to be from a plantation just north of Sydney and contains some trees with useful diameters and very suitable for producing attractive 'blonde' bowls.

Information Exchange was run by Brian, and advise was that he had been busy clearing out his workshop in addition to his usual purchases.

The first item was ex Bang Good, 300 x 10 mm diameter very strong and patterned



carbon fibre tubing useful for gluing over the standard brass tubing used for pens. Being black this tubing is useful where lighter colour-

ed acrylic is the body of the pen. \$5.36 each post paid ex China.

Now the clean out: Brian showed a pair of similar candle snuffers from Australian cedar and snakewood. We all know what A. cedar looks like, but for most of us our first live viewing of snakewood was memorable as it showed wonderful complex dark brown grain with a high gloss.

Shown next was an American Bradawl kit for which Brian had turned a neat blackwood handle with a modified design to exclude its considerable number of borer/flight holes.

In 2000 Brian purchased a multi-purpose pen which was secreted in the rear of a drawer until now. This pen contained in its top, replacement graphite pencil leads, ball-point refills, a small craft knife and a set of two screwdrivers.

Lastly Brian showed some of the pen blanks received in a raffle type swap that he received via his membership of the International Association of Pen Turners (USA based). 'Molten Bronze' and 'Earth's Core' acrylic blanks were most notable.

John Gillespie then spoke and gave a brief demonstration of the fabrication of his Bat Car originally designed and made for his grandson and now to be made as Christmas charity gifts from the Shed.

John has provided comprehensive plans and text, which have been circulated. If you would like a copy of these please request it at greg.crocker@exemail.com.au meanwhile here is an outline.

Using the dimensions shown on the plans and photos elsewhere.

Cut two lengths of dressed timber 70 x 35 x 300 mm long and PVA glue together, using printing paper between to allow later splitting, and clamp until dry.

Turn the blank between centres to form the bodies of the two cars.

Split the turning along the paper interface with a 25 mm chisel and clean-up.

At 90 degrees to the glue joint drill a 10 mm centre hole through each turned blank.

On a bandsaw, cut a 10 mm wide slot from the rear of the turning to the 10 mm hole.

Prepare the fins from 9 mm ply using 25 mm drill and a bandsaw as per the plans.

Glue a 70 x 20 x 300 mm length of similar timber to the base and when dry drill holes for



the axles.

Cut away the ends and the surplus sides to match the turned body.

Shape chassis at front and rear.

Glue the fin into the 10 mm wide slot.

Turn the rear jet cowling and glue and screw in place.

Fill any voids with 'bog,' sand and paint as required.

Fit the 45 mm diameter wheels after painting then fix the logos.



Programmed next was the YouTube video by an Australian? 'Guil-The Bearded Woodturner' published in July 2018, on *Black Box Burl Glass River Bowl* which shows turning of burl slices and resin from start to finish to form a nice composite bowl. Possibly also a great starting application of resins for all woodturners?

This video is well worth watching and certainly as a follow-up from Steve's recent demonstration. Poor Guil seems to have laryngitis and really struggles-on to complete a good presentation with a smile.

Pertinent comments were; hot melt glue the burl wood to the base to prevent their possible floatation in the resin before it sets, organise the blanks and the surrounding dams to minimise resin usage (and cost) by using rounded burl peripheries and, if using clear resin choose one which will not yellow with age. The cost of a pressure pot is about \$160. Also Tungsten carbide cutters seem to work well on both resin and the burl.

To view this video go to <https://youtu.be/7RuNmJaYAJY>



and should you like to see more on this subject type into YouTube *resin and woodturning* for a good selection of resin usage.

This was the first attempt to record and show a video ex the web on our projection system by way of a USB stick copy. By all counts it was most popular, better than watching at home, and alone, as questions and interest points were debated and shared. Particularly well received were the comments and answers from Steve. This video was recorded in 720 HD allowing the projector to produce a superior picture and focus than most of the (older) DVD's screened, and from our camera. We may now consider linking to the local source web and/or using a mobile phone as a hot spot for future YouTube video presentations.

After lunch John Edwards demonstrated turning of *Small Ornamental Oval Bowls*.

Starting with half a roughed down cylinder say 150 mm long and 45 mm radius John used a screw holding the blank to the chuck. Spacers were necessary as the screw cannot be set deeply or its hole will impinge onto the bowl's surface. The blank wood was camphor laurel.

First turn the centre of the base forming a spigot to match the minimum internal diameter of the Vicmarc chuck which is 34 mm. This will allow the turning to be reversed and



chucked without damaging the spigot which will form the base of the bowl. Care is needed here to ensure the turning's diameter is not smaller than the chuck's. Possibly 35 mm might be the best pick!



Next using a sharp 12 mm bowl gouge carefully and turn away the wood around the spigot removing more of the wood as the gouge is moved away from the centre leaving the wings

at both extremities about 6 mm thick as well as forming an attractive curve. Use light cuts and beware of the spinning wings.

Sand and finish the areas close to the centre which cannot be accessed once the turning is reversed on the chuck.

Grip the reversed bowl such that the jaws do not mark the turning, bringing up the tailstock as security and turn away the face of the bowl. Again, light cuts particularly at the extremities, and begin to form the required oval shape of the bowl while removing the straight edge at the end of the wings.

Plan to make the bowl wall thickness about 8 mm maximum at the centre and 5 to 6 mm at the end of the wings. At this stage stop the lathe and hand sand away any splintered edges of the bowl to achieve the above thickness and the oval shape.

For a small bowl the wall thickness may be considered excessive but as the picture shows the walls with their flattened edges are a major feature of this type of bowl.



Sand the turning back and front and finish with your preferred compound and the bowl is complete and quite eye catching.

To finish the day, Elwyn spoke and showed the progress made on the Shed's Copy Lathe fitting. Like the 'Spiraliser' this unit had been left undisturbed for some time and required a degree of 'TLC' before usage. Elwyn has just got the copy function working while attached to one of the Nova lathes and using a pointed scraper as the cutting tool.

While results are preliminary at this time, it is planned to further improve its performance and run a couple of turnings on the copier which will be recorded on video to demonstrate the unit's capability and method of operation.



The included photos will give some idea of the unit's operation and potential.



A fully day for all present with 6 items presented. Our thanks to Steve, Brian, John Gillespie, Lloyd, John Edwards and Elwyn for a great achievement.

Our next Saturday meeting is on 8th June.