

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983.

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2019.

A big welcome to all members for a 'double-demo-day' with a short demonstration from Colin Hunter followed by a full demonstration from Lindsay.

Earlier this month the Shed's Christmas Party was held with a good representation of Shed members including a handful of turners enjoying the night and with Russ Pinch winning the raffle, the Christmas Lunch for members will be on Wednesday 11 December from noon at Pennant Hills Pub, John Gillespie gained Member of the Month for his work and control of the Batmobiles production for Christmas charity toys – congratulations John.

Lindsay opened the meeting talking about general woodturning items then on to Show & tell. Elwyn showed a number of bowls; two bowls from a 380 mm (15 inch) diameter by 75 mm (3



inches) blank cut from a 20+ years old plank of grevillea robusta from which he first cut a smaller blank and bowl (with a bowlsaver) followed by a huge flat bottomed

70 mm sided bowl/platter. This larger 'bowl' was well finished resulting in a beautiful turning. He also showed a couple of pine oval bowls with some interesting grain waves and a rustic dark-gum burl high-sided bowl.

Phil showed a pleasant conical and broad flanged bowl of good colour and finish.



Rusty showed a tea candle holder turned from unknown wood polished to give a dark wood finish plus a number of well made acrylic pens.

Colin followed with a quick demonstration of turning wet wood prompted by the wood drying discussion last month.

Briefly, Colin had obtained wood from a recently felled Australian cedar tree and turned a number of medium sized bowls etc some of which he subjected to microwave drying treatment; meanwhile John Edwards also obtained some of this wood and ran similar tests on a couple of rough-turned bowls.



Additionally Colin showed quick turning of a couple of wet cedar bowls etc using a 12 mm bowl gouge at a faster speed due to the 'softer' wet wood while talking about tear-outs, wall thickness, warping, rechucking after microwaving and wet sanding.

John spoke of microwaving his rough turned wet cedar; Bowl #1, original weight 446 gm and after 30 minutes at defrost setting the weight reduced to 368 gm, Bowl #2, 374 and 307 gm, about a 20% reduction of moisture with further treatment and turning to follow.....and report.

Brian's Information Exchange was short with only one of his items discussed, a recently purchased router trimming bit at \$3.80 again ex China.

Keith brought in a number of 25 mm diameter clear plastic threaded pill boxes for donation to members to store small and valuable items.

Lindsay commenced his demonstration of *Platter Design and Turning* with a review of just what is possible and something grand to work-on with platter making.

The platter line-up started with a simple bread board then through a variety of turned examples, and ideas, as shown in the photos below, with each one described with regard to its



special turning and features.

Craft and second hand shops are good for finding solid items to fix to/into the platter. Doilies and stencils etc as spray templates are useful as is gold spray paint and air-brushing with acrylic paints or a Retouch brand paint sprayer all from SuperCheap auto shops.



Starting today's demonstration Lindsay selected a 350 mm diameter x 35 mm thick radiata pine blank recycled from an old table. The blank was spotted with a number of pre drilled holes as



well as a centre hole to suit a Glazer screw-thread to hold it in the chuck while turning the base. Bring up the tailstock as a precaution as the diameter of the blank is very large.

The base was turned using a 12 mm bowl gouge to form a 100-120 mm base with an ogee reducing the thickness as it progressed to the edge of the platter. The aim is to get the thickness of the platter in the 'wings' to about 8 mm. Mark to centre of the base and a pencil line circle one mm greater than the diameter of the disposable chuck's diameter for later concentric chucking; sand and finish.

Check the design and reverse the platter using the marked centre point and the circle to locate a hot melt glue chuck exactly for turning the upper side of the platter. Apply hot glue to 4 areas/points 90 degrees apart at the outer surface of the wooden disposable chuck and apply to the platter allowing say 30 plus minutes for the glue to harden. Clamp the disposable glue chuck into the jaws of a scroll chuck, check for symmetry and commence turning the upper side of the bowl using the 12 mm gouge to give a continuous curve from the edge to the centre with the latter about 10 to 15 mm below the circumference. Turn a bead around the edge and check that the surface of the turning is uniform throughout then sand both to say 180 grit.

But what are the holes (see photo above) through the platter for?



Remove the platter from the lathe and place the prepared template onto the platter and arrange for the best fit. The template drawn on the commercial tracing paper was of a smaller leaf of a monstera deliciosa plant. Tape the template to the platter and copy the design of the



leaf onto the wood using a 2B pencil marking the areas which have to be cut out, and where the holes need enlarging etc.



These 'holes' are known as 'leaf fenestrations' and are present in all monstera leaves.

Sadly this is where time ran out for the day. The band sawing or scroll sawing away of the voids will have to wait until next year, as will the sanding and finishing of the surfaces of the platter.

(The plan is to cut away the voids and shape the fenestrations then sand as required to give a fine/smooth surface suitable for air brushing the top (see a photo of the trial platter at this stage) a with a number of coats of green acrylic while the base is taped to stop colour spray or seepage through to the base surface.

Clean up the paint and any other areas on either side and spray both sides with a finishing coat of satin lacquer or similar and the platter is complete).

Thanks Lindsay for an excellent demonstration of a unique platter design, turning and carving, to produce a very acceptable product. We very much look forward to the platter's completion in the new year.



This was our last formal meeting for 2019, our next Saturday meeting is 11 February 2020.

Till then a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.