

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983.

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020.

A big welcome and a Happy New Year to all.

This month Lindsay will finish his presentation on *Platter Designs* from our last meeting.

Firstly some catch-up and housekeeping. The Pennant Hills Pub Christmas Informal Lunch was well attended and enjoyed, turned toys for charities for Christmas 2019 were also well



received and we are asked to produce the same number of Batmobiles, pens, tops etc for this year too.

The rush order, for Honey Dippers earlier this month for 'The Hive' was appreciated with all 660 sold and another order of 300 required by mid March!

Other custom-turned requests in-process include, cupboard



handles, gun club trophies and a 1200 mm sauerkraut crusher.

Some wet timber was salvaged from a A. Red Cedar tree and an 'European' Cedar tree



(*cedrela odorata*?) following the recent Sydney storms; some has been cut and/or rough turned and stored to dry. A few pieces of both timbers remain available.

Elwyn has built a prototype stand for the Nova 3000 EMS lathe purchased ex Melbourne over Christmas following Yuval's re-setting of its electronic controller. Thanks to you both. We now need to decide on the suitability and strength of this stand, its final location and its connection to the dust collection system. Cautious usage is recommended until these decisions are 'in place.'

Both replacement finishers are in-place and ready for use; again thanks to Yuval's fitting of additional electronic speed controls.

Simon Begg will demonstrate at the AAW Symposium in Kentucky USA in June 2020.

A couple of new supervisors are needed for Saturday supervision for both woodwork and woodturning.



Information Exchange was run by Greg on this occasion, who had bought a couple of specials ex Aldi. An Air Brush Kit for approximately \$80 with a few paint colours, and a BBQ flexible shaft laser lamp suitable also for lathe work at \$5 each on super-special. Advice was given regarding air brushing for minor spray jobs using ones breath which gives a good result using a technique not dissimilar to an old fashioned fly sprayer. Then followed a discussion of an epoxy with setting accelerated by ultraviolet light as used by dentists and now shown on You Tube for general use.....looks promising.

Lindsay spoke on a couple oil finishers of merit; Livos Oils markets a product which gives a superior finish with supply via its website. The other 'product' recommended is a range of Bio Furniture Oils obtainable from The Eco Shop which is opposite the Bridge View Hotel in Willoughby.

'Find the pub, see the shop and then buy the product!'



Mention was made of the (recommended) application of personal sun screen emulsion to finally polish light coloured wood turnings and prevent their darkening. More details or confirmation is required.

Ian showed a couple of 5/8" bowl gouges, a Henry Taylor and a George Armani. The latter Ian is having problems satisfactorily sharpening on a ProEdge chisel sharpener. The consensus was that grinding wheel sharpening will probably overcome the problem.

Lindsay opened Show & Tell.

Ian showed a number of turnings, firstly an unsealed medium sized bowl turned from a what is believed to be white cypress pine from its colour, smell and slightly greasy feel. Then a large open platter of unknown eucalypt wood with a good glowing dark tan colour and finished with Organ Oil. His final turning was a 180 mm hollow spherical bowl of camphor laurel showing nice grain and a good finish. Ian is keen to complete the bowl by ebonising a layer around the circumference while allowing the grain to show through. Steel wool and vinegar was recommended.

Bob showed a wonderful trio of two platters and a small bowl turned from a large melaleuca burl. Dark coloured, glowing and robust this is a unique group of turnings.



Keith showed three medium sized open bowls turned some time ago and a coolabah burl bowl. All finished well, the cedar bowl embellished with three helical cuts made through the wood, the goncalo alves bowl was finished with a



silver coin of an unknown lady's profile at its base. Thirdly a large conical bowl made of pinus radiata segments, all from the same plank of wood, glued together, turned and then finished. The burl bowl was smallish and well turned showing various



expected colours and features.

Rusty showed a 150 mm diameter light coloured bowl which was nice to look at.

Elwyn had turned a large 350 mm x 100 mm Norfolk Island Pine with thin walls and a pleasing design oiled to give a matt finish, a second bowl was similar but somewhat



smaller; and of course Elwyn included a small oval bowl to complete his showing.

Colin showed 3 bowls turned from various woods, designs and of different sizes made to 'house' and use wools or strings without tangles etc. and most suitable for the ladies.



Finally Tim produced a jig for accurate indexing his lathe turnings as his chuck 'is without' such a facility.

Tim also explained its planning, making and usage.

After lunch Lindsay continued his demonstration of the monstera deliciosa platter's turning and development. See www.hornsbymensshed.org.au and look for the HDWT November 2019 Newsletter to view the initial details of this project.

A short revision first, with a couple of platters carried over to complete the array, showing a tree platter where wood is cut from the platter and the retained wood moved and CA glued to complete the scene, a cedar plate which was highlighted by applications of alkaline and then acid solutions to darken and lighten the wood respectively giving the desired result, and finally a platter/frame containing a glass insert and a neat advertising message which was very successful.

Remembering that the platter was turned from a 330 x 30 mm pine blank, the design was to reduce the weight by concave turnings on the front and back leaving only the central one third of the base to give a stable turning.



The extremities of the turning are reduced to 9 mm and sanded to 320 or as necessary.

Remove the platter from the lathe, place the leaf plan over the platter and mark the holes (fenestrations) and the outline of the leaf voids.

Drill the holes carefully ensuring no rough breakthroughs and sand if any happen to occur, then work to cut out the voids.



Cut the voids carefully with a fine bandsaw blade, a scroll saw or by handsaw again ensuring the cleanest cut on the top and bottom of the platter. Repair any problems and sand both sides as necessary.

Coat the platter with sealer, dry and gently sand again using fine paper to prepare the platter for the final coats of green acrylic paint.

The paint will probably need to be diluted with Flow Medium to reduce the viscosity to suit the unit being used, (say 3 drops per second from a fine dowel). Presumably two paint coats or more will be required.



The choice of spray apparatus is not critical, spray gun, air brush, a ReTouch unit from Super Cheap or even the 'mouth sprayer' mentioned above will give good results.

Sand lightly between coats and seal after the final green coat and the platter will be ready, once dry, for use.

So there it is. A great turning experience resulting in a useful and unique super-platter.



Thanks Lindsay. Great, and now we can all turn our own captivating platter.

The next Saturday meeting will be on 14th March 2020.

For further interest or to join-in woodturning go to www.hornsbymensshed.org.au