HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983.

eNEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020.

August was our fourth demonstration using ZOOM with a total of 16 members involved. All were welcomed and a member discussion quickly ensued about turning, health and the Shed.

Shed attendances on Thursdays with book-ins and Corona Virus requirements went smoothly with hand washing, the 1.5 meter separation and hygiene all being adopted by members. Book-ins and C19 requirements continue and will need to be applied through the coming months. Secretary Brian Hawkins is recovering well from his skin grafting operation. The Shed's scheduled AGM was postponed, as allowed by Fair Trading, to a date within the next 15 months. Three members resigned as supervisors during August hence the call for a couple of members to up-grade to 'supervisor level': if you would like to/can 'up-grade' please advise ASAP: you are needed. Some woodworking machinery was offered to the Shed, including a large/old wood lathe, all for free, most of which will be suitable for reuse after (some extensive) refurbishing. Attached are photos of some new turners.

Again sadly, no Show & Tell, photos or Information Exchange this month.

Our demonstrator for August was Greg Croker who labelled his presentation 'Turning a Feral Platter from (Wet) End Grain Wood' which was inspired by a recent video on YouTube.

Prior to the demo there was a degree of practice and skills development in order to gain knowledge and provide a worthwhile presentation. Elwyn and Colin sourced some 'slices' of dry and recently felled wood for what 'turned-out to be an interesting journey' into the new or rare realm of end grain turning.

Colin provided a number of dry camphor laurel slices about 55 mm thick with an irregular diameter averaging 340 mm (13.5 ins) which together with Elwyn and Greg he turned into thin walled platters.
This wood was not as easily handled as expected with some punky areas, a couple of radial splits here and there, a tendency to warp as well as being somewhat brittle. The brittleness coupled with the large irregular diameter and the necessary slow revs caused two of the three attempts to fail and the third to warp and crack during turning resulting in a large platter with a significant radial crack filled with coloured epoxy and a wide variation of peripheral

platter thickness; range approximately 5 to 11 mm!
See the array of photos for the development of this platter which was finally polished and the base spigot




linished to provide the 'best-fit' base for stability.

Elwyn provided a number of 40 x 300 mm slices of wet Cedar Of Lebanon trunk-wood and again the three members turned a number of trials, some of which cracked and collapsed on the lathes, or cracked soon



after turning. Turning was haphazard and somewhat more difficult than expected due to the end grain. Again the photos showing some of the wet turnings.

Armed with the above and three cameras Greg commenced Zoom demonstrating (assisted as before, with Elwyn and Colin in the workshop) using a wet Cedar slice again about 40 mm maximum thickness and approximately 300 mm in diameter.

The plan was to turn a thin (6 mm or less) walled platter with or without a base spigot and retaining the bark. The platter was to have a slightly sloping inside and the underside similar in slope. The 40 mm slice was attached to a base plate by four 20 mm wood screws with a net penetration of about 12 mm each into the blank. This was considered sufficient attachment even though the wood was end grain and very wet and as well probably bumpy/difficult to turn.




Care was taken turning the underside using a 16 mm gouge producing a 90 mm spigot and as it happened a rather flat profile. The bark remained intact without any CA application and the turned surface was fair but somewhat corrugated which was aligned with the grain in the sapwood while the turned heart wood produced a wet but 'quality' result. Altogether a better than expected result, even though it is expected that on drying cracks and warping will result.



The blank was reversed and attached to a large jawed chuck and checked for square. The inside was turned with greater confidence following the experience with the platter's underside.
As it was planned to remove the spigot, the turning the depth of cut was set by initially turning the centre of the platter taking care with the base thickness while not affect the rigidity of the circumference area of the platter. The removal of bark and wood from the outer areas was achieved using a sharp bowl gouge cutting 'on the point' changing to orthodox turning as the cutting moved towards the centre. Again the heart wood turned nicely, and the sapwood showed the corrugated results.

The finished profile was with a shallow hollow on the top, an almost horizontal finish on the underside and with all the bark retained. At this time the profile, except for the spigot was considered satisfactory and acceptable. Attention was given to reduce/remove the corrugations. Sanding was ineffective and one suggestion was to attempt burnishing with a hard, smooth rounded metal rod. Sadly this proved ineffective also.

After some discussion as to how else to remove the troublesome corrugations it was agreed that this would best be achieved after drying.
Drying was discussed and the platter, dripping wet, was placed in a large plastic bag with a few (generous) handfuls of the wet sapwood turnings to stored in a cool place and allowed to slowly dry over a period of a few months or more. At three weeks since turning no cracks or warping were evident and it seems that some drying had occurred.

So the platter is in limbo, will it or won't it crack and warp? Time will tell and progress will likely be reported each month.

Thanks to Elwyn for the loan of his workshop and lathe yet again, to Colin for the Zoom equipment and transmission and to Lindsay for his advice before and during the demonstration.

PS To view the whole deal regarding feral platter turning it is recommended that you view the initiating You Tube and get the full story and techniques. Hope you like it.
The link is Chad Eamas – End Grain Walnut Bowl with Sapwood https://youtu.be/65IM7mk8-Ys

Our September demonstration will be another ZOOM – more details soon.

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