

# HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983.

## eNEWSLETTER MARCH 2021.

Welcome to our first meeting for a year in person with a fair roll-up to celebrate the easing of Covid rules. Separated seating and some other requirements however remain in force. Formalised bookings for Shed attendance are no longer required as from Monday 29 March.

Apologies were received from Lindsay who is still unwell and from two other members; also we welcomed new Shed member Mark Restuccia, and Shed member Lou Coenen. Good to see Rusty and hear that his wife has recovered from her prolonged health problem, and see Keith smiling again.

To start this meeting a presentation was made on our behalf to Elwyn and his wife Coral for their 'provision and patience' hosting our 8 recent ZOOM meetings from their house and (his) workshop.



Honey dippers are still required and better quality blanks are available from the Shed: thanks to Colin, John Edwards, Elwyn and Geoff Young for their most recent dipper productions. Ian continues working on; the lathe layout, lifting one Nova 3000 to a more suitable height, while plans are in hand to construct lightweight mesh safety screens between the larger lathes, testing some LED flood lamps for turning suitability and thinking about a possible second mezzanine floor to be added on the Shed's western wall. Please help to keep the lathes and adjacent areas as tidy as possible and report any mechanical problems to Ian or John Edwards for attention. Colin has completed a number of small jewellery boxes as examples for charity Christmas gifts.



To day's demonstrator is Brian Hawkins on the subject *Turning of the Female Form* a 180 mm tall lady incorporating off-centre turning of the body, with turned limbs, a hat and completed with a cute umbrella. The head is characterised by a sphere attached to the body via a short glued spigot.



To commence Brian showed a lady previously turned and constructed reviewing and discussing the turning of the limbs, from Huon pine and are partially reticulated, and the turning of the parasol before commencing off-set turning of the body. The body was turned from a darker wood in contrast to the remainder of the turning.

The blank for the body was turned between centres to a cylinder somewhat greater, say 15 mm greater in diameter, to allow for the off-set turning of the bodice and the bustle. Sand to 320 grit. For the off-set turning mark a diameter at each end in the same plane and punch holes for the bodice above the centres at each end and for the bustle below the centres at each end. All off-set centres are punched 6.3 mm off-centre and on the marked diameter line. This means that the

(protruding) bodice and bustle are at 180 degrees opposed front and back. Off-set turning should be at approximately 500 rpm.

Mark out the blank for the body, the bust, the bustle and the skirt length then commence off-set turning of the bodice/bust at one centre 6.3 mm 'above' the cylinder centre and at the foot of the skirt on the centre. This allows the bust to be accentuated and the upper back to be reduced while the bottom of the skirt is virtually unaffected.

Turn using a detail gouge to form the desired upper body dimensions mainly on this axis; sand the



areas where the off-set turning has been made to 320 grit. Set the blank to both centres and tidy up the body melding the off-set turning into the design and reduce the waist before changing the upper centre to the off-centre hole 6.3 mm below the centre: leave the other end on the mid centre. This is used to reduce the back and allow the skirt to be then turned over the bustle without removing too much wood at the waist as well as a the remainder of the full length skirt. Sand to 320 melding in the off-set and central turnings to give a continuous flow.

It was noted that during the off-set turning of the body Brian's constant attention, skill and turning was directed to



the development of the figure and shape of the body. Off-set turning allows the lady's body to be shaped 'as desired.'

Finish the body with oil or shellac based products before adding the arms and head. As the skirt is full length no feet are needed!



Brian had turned the head as a sphere and the arms previously and partially finished except where

Super Glue was used to attach these to the body mainly around the neck and shoulders. The arms are positioned and glued to hold the umbrella shaft and the book in her left hand. The hat is attached with CA glue also.

The hat and umbrella were turned with the blanks held in a chuck in the normal manner and again finished with oil or shellac etc prior to attachment. The umbrella shaft was made from an oiled round shish kebab stick.

Finally the base of the completed turning as levelled on a linisher to give the appropriate posture and a classy stylistic lady with parasol.

Brian has offered a YouTube for us to view to get additional ideas for our own female model when turned however, this turning demonstration by Carl Jacobson does not make use of the subtleties of and scope available with off-set turning. The address is <https://youtu.be/PqPbODY7bZ4> and is in-part a good view.

Show & Tell followed with a selection of items displayed.



Elwyn showed a number of items, a medium camphor laurel bowl with the outside beaded using a detail gouge, then a couple of Tassie Oak platters, the larger about 18 inches in diameter and formed by joining two irregular planks of wood. All three items were well finished with lacquer.

An interesting selection of work-in-progress from Mark Restuccia,

including an array of part turned complex spindle spinners, some off-set work on the lathe and a couple of items produced by inside-out turning.



Colin showed 3 nice jewellery boxes turned as examples of boxes suitable for young girls charity Christmas gifts. Also shown was a computer printed washer replacement for pepper grinders to prevent shaft ware.



To finish the day John Edwards and Elwyn followed-on from last month giving a rundown on slow speed wet chisel grinder



sharpening, including a brief comparison between Tormek, Triton and Tiger wet grinders and some of their jigs. The Shed owns the Triton sharpener and as the jigs are all 'essentially interchangeable' this unit could be up-graded and supplement the Sorby ProEdge sharpener.



Our thanks to Brian for his demonstration of the 'female form' and the intricacies of this turning: a great turning challenge and well done. Thanks also to John and Elwyn for their briefing of wet sharpening.

Good to see the members in person and demonstrating at the Mens Shed again. Stay Safe!

Our next meeting will be live at the Shed on Saturday 10 April from 10 am.

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For further interest or to join-in woodturning go to [www.hornsbymensshed.org.au](http://www.hornsbymensshed.org.au)