

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983.

eNEWSLETTER MAY 2021.

A welcome to members and particularly president Lindsay following his health problems. Members were notified of Len Taylor's health and very sadly his death later in the month – see details later. Rusty is recovering from heart problems and hopes to be with us at the June demonstration.

Elwyn and Colin both got *Certificates of Acknowledgement* from MP Matt Keen for their work on Zoom during the lockdown – congratulations; together with John Edwards and Geoff Young we thank them for turning some more honey dippers also. 600 honey dippers were sold on the last day of May (thanks to all members) all but depleting our stocks. Colin is also to be congratulated following his successful nomination as Shed *Member of the Month for May*. Brian's pen turning courses finished and already the 'students' are producing some excellent pens.



All lathes have been in operation on most Thursdays with the newer members progressing well. Thanks, to Ian Raper for gifting turning wood, a set of sharp Forstner drills and a Nova chuck, and to Mark for his R & M on all our chucks. Our larger lathes are being progressively repositioned (and with screens) to be operated more safely and effectively. Trend Timber's Open Weekend was reported upon with emphasis this year on pourable epoxies as well as the expected wood and equipment displays.

Collections of donated tools, a lathe and a lathe copy attachment were picked up by Kevin Wallace. The Australian Red Cedar tree remains standing but with all of the anticipated yield already claimed once the tree is felled, hopefully soon: the tree is dying and is unsafe due to its planting 60+ years ago on shallow earth above a large rock slab.

A request for a significant number of turned nautical navigation miniatures to be used for (map) training is being investigated. If progressed this will be an interesting and worthwhile turning operation/involvement for many members.



Again a call for members to suggest demonstration subjects that they would like or even like to demonstrate – we need your input. The scheduled Informal Winter Lunch is planned for July this year with the date and venue to be advised soon.

President Lindsay spoke to the members and was pleased to be back in person and to demonstrate at our meeting following the improvement in his health and strength. Some interesting stories were told on the subjects above as to how these things were done in the early days of his woodturning and of the Guild. Collecting wood was a passion, the trees were bigger and chainsaws rarer so metal wedges were often used to split wood, and larger stocks of wood were necessary due to longer drying time. Turning demonstrators were plentiful? with many having some brave turning ideas and/or results, as well as annual shows of their work.

Show & Tell was commenced with a couple of photos from Rusty of his recent inside-out turning following the April demonstration.

John Edwards showed his completed laminated chisel handle oiled, and armed with a Jimmy Clewes long fingernail grind of an half inch bowl gouge. Also shown were an unfinished goblet turned well from a light coloured wood which is awaiting a good coating of Wipe-on poly before use, and a turned mug, with handle, again from an unknown wood and awaiting a waterproof coating.

Tim showed a 120 mm diameter bowl with a strong wrap-over wall feature made from an aged wooden fence post, a nicely reclaimed item.



Ian showed a large eucalypt-wood bowl with a number of cracks which had been treated with a complimentary red tinted epoxy filler prior to final turning, sanding and finishing with Ubeaut EEE and Glow.

Mark showed a collection of barley twist cypress wood for woollen spinners. The twists were carved and rasped prior to careful sanding to achieve the desired 'symmetry' and balance before attaching to the spinner rods. Two other complex designs were turned, inside out and otherwise prior to attaching to their spinner rods. The units are approximately 300 mm in length; all well made and finished with CA/Danish wax polish and shown in the adjacent photo.

Also shown was a carving of the St. Johns Ambulance Maltese Cross; white (coloured epoxy) on a black background. Keith showed a couple of turned pink conkerberry items, a small spherical bowl and a round weed pot, both somewhat novel and unusual. Additionally shown was a pair of dark-wood long stemmed weed pots and a taller composite and complex weed pot.



Phil turned a pink gum-wood rolling pin with olive wood handles for his daughter. Turned nicely the handles were a contrast to the rich pink and pronounced fiddle back pattern on the body of the rolling pin. A solid and pleasing turning.

Greg showed the cross grain 240 mm diameter platter turned in a Zoom demonstration last year while only partly dry. Showing little if any warp this European pine platter is now dry and sanded and ready for a coat of finish to preserve its multi ringed appearance. Also shown was a small banksia bowl turned part-dry to check out its complex grain (not unlike silky oak). The 125 mm bowl warped slightly out-of-round during the drying process.



Elwyn showed a number of bowls, large and small but all quite complex. Two (external) conical beaded bowls which presented as a great example of hand beading plus an oval bowl, turned from camphor laurel and the latter ply-wood. A couple of large part finished bowls were shown; made from camphor these could become known as a madonna pair!



Colin brought in some donated blanks of various woods for a quick sale to the members. These were gratefully received and popular.

A short Information Exchange followed.

Brian advised that purchases ex China were slow arriving possibly due to Corona virus. However he had purchased and received a set of 6 long auger drills at \$28.80 post free. Lindsay warned that the auger can quickly pull the drill into the wood and draw it, and the Jacobs chuck, out of the tail stock's Morse taper when used on lathe work.



Following lunch Lindsay outlined his demonstration content which was from basic to complex.

Starting with a blank of native hoop pine he quickly roughed it down with a large gouge 38 mm wide as shown. This gouge is 'high speed' due to its width and therefore suitable for lots of long and heavy cutting. A feature of this chisel was the joint about 70 mm from the cutting edge where the metal change from HSS to a less expensive steel quality. A secondary 'feature' was the handle covered with tennis handle strapping which reduced the jarring normally experienced with heavy roughing. To use the chisel start roughing with the tool at right angles to the blank and move to an angle almost shear cutting to produce a finer finish. Ensure not to scrape as this will give a low/lower quality result.



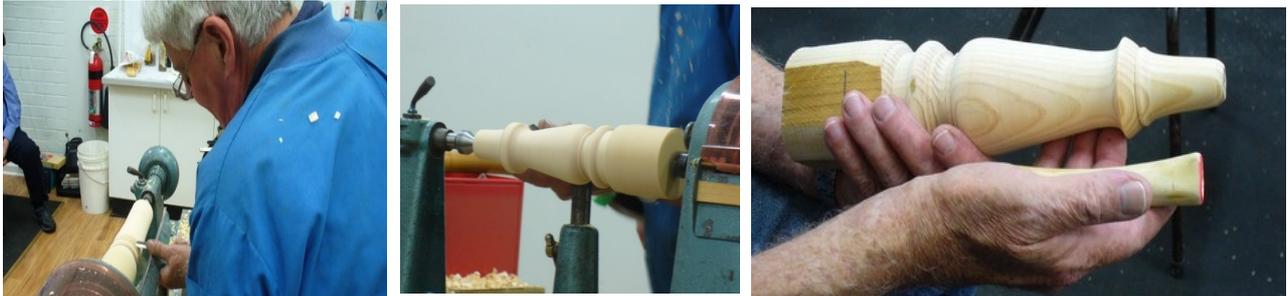
The gouge was demonstrated and certainly sped through the process with some ease, hence the handle tape.

The cylinder was then smoothed using a skew followed by a number of turned beads, coves and

fillets. A worthwhile suggestion was when turning a number of beads and coves etc do all the right hand sides of the beads first then return and turn the left sides as this will give a more consistent result. Remember to cut the fillets at an angle of 15 degrees to improve the look of the turning. Fillets can be turned using a parting tool.

Regarding parting tools. To achieve a clean turned end on the important side of the cut it's recommended that any protruding metal on the inside/important side of the chisel be ground flat thus allowing a clean cut to be made without tear-outs etc on the important side. Aggressive sanding of beads, coves and fillets should be avoided as the small changes that result can affect the contours as well as round the fillets. Using some soft leather behind the sandpaper can reduce this problem but care still needs to be taken.

Resulting from the above a coffee table leg was turned to demonstrate the application of between



centres turning. Here the detail possible with ruffing, detail and parting gouges can be seen and appreciated. To note was the use of the cloth side of sandpaper and/or a (lamb) bone to burnish the turning to a achieve a very fine finish suitable for varnish or other furniture finish.

Practical and quick bowl turning was reviewed and demonstrated. A circular blank of Aust. Red Cedar about 240 x 110 mm was mounted on the lathe using a Glasser screw and a 7 mm hole at the centre of the blank. The bowl's outside was turned with a 50 mm dovetail mortise in the base to accept the chuck jaws once the bowl was reversed to turn the inside. A 16 mm (5/8") bowl gouge was used to shape the outside turning normally and with some shear scraping.

For turning the inside Lindsay demonstrated the quick turning process. This involves starting with



the bowl gouge against the wall and travelling towards the centre 'up-side-down' to the normal turning. This avoids the possibility of catches or dig-ins so that heavy hogging-out of the centre can be achieved. The gouge bevel rubs on the wood above chisel as it cuts towards the bowl centre where it is turned to its side to continue rubbing the bevel. This method certainly is quick and performs well such that members who are unfamiliar with this technique should commence its training and use!

Finally to complete the bowl a 'chuck' was turned from scrap wood to fit the inside of the bowl (say 125 mm in diameter) while being held by a scroll chuck in the headstock. The scrap wood is turned to approximate the curve on the inside of the bowl so that when a tail stock is brought up to the base of the bowl secure compression results sufficient to allow the turning away of the the

wood around the mortice to refine the base. Between this bowl's base and the scrap wood it is necessary to include a couple of rubber cushions to prevent movement of the system. Turn down the bowl base wood leaving only a thin spigot which can be cut away after removal from the lathe.

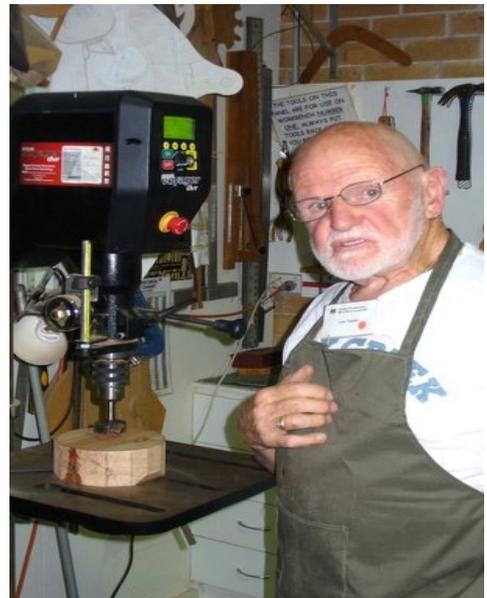
For this demonstration the bowl is 'complete' to be sanded and finished at a later date.

Thanks Lindsay for an up-date and a number of ways of improving turning and output productivity, certainly there are a number of techniques you demonstrated to try and adopt.

Vale.

Len Taylor a member of Hornsby District Woodturners and a dear friend who enjoyed woodturning and the company of woodturners passed away on Sunday 9 May 2021. He turned many bowls, platters and lidded boxes.

Len will be remembered and sadly missed by all his woodturning friends.



Our next Saturday meeting will be on Saturday 12 June from 10 am.