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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May 2010



Every now and again we find a demonstrator who is the very essence of what we love about woodturners. Lewis Harper is one of those people. Warm, generous and full of fun. He did a splendid demonstration on 'Turning his way!' and showed an array of items that he likes to make and sell. Our well attended meeting went on for an extra hour just so we could see the last of his many gadgets in use to finish the project at hand. No one was rushing out the door!!!

There are several events coming up to start thinking about, firstly, of course is the 'Australian Woodturning Exhibition.' By now, hopefully, your projects are well in hand. If not, there is still time to get your entries in. Closing day is Friday, 28th of May 2010. There are categories for everyone's skill level so please, put in an effort and support this prestigious event.

On the 5th of June, Koonung will once again demonstrate at Bunnings, promoting the Guild and selling raffle tickets in support of the Exhibition. It's a good day so come and join your fellow guild members for as little or long as you can manage.

It won't be long before we are making ducks, little men, and other toys for 'John Atkinsons 'Toys for Country Hope' Remember this year there is a competition for the best toy. Come up with your own design! The kids just love to embellish them.

We will be ordering Badges for our new members, so, if you need a new one please let me know. They are \$11.50. And for \$37.50 you can have a Windcheater with our logo to keep you warm at future demonstrations. A list will be on hand at our May meeting. Speaking of lists, if you are interested in opening your workshop to a visit by some of our members please put your name down and the number you can accommodate.

A discussion on some woods and their attributes is the topic of '**Go to Whoa**'. If you have a piece you would like to ask about now is a good time.

Dianna

Gavin Betts will be sharing his knowledge on 'Making Clocks 'on the 22nd of May.

'Good things are not done in a hurry' – German proverb

Don't forget Show and Tell

SHOW and TELL



Show and Tell featured some very well made pieces.

David Coull again showed more work using his indexer to make a bowl from Huon Pine and Red Gum.

John Osborne had a beautiful cheese platter turned from blackwood with a centre circular tile.

Mal Jackson showed his skill with a small jarrah lidded box.

Val Dalsanto has been busy making a tall flowerpot stand, two clocks on stands, and a small bird bust.

Arthur Sankey showed how good David Scott's reject flooring can be made into a small platter as well as a small blackwood nut bowl.

Rick Gilks featured a beautifully made lidded container from blackwood.

Anne Munro showed her versatility with a baby's rattle.

Ray Smith was almost accurate with a four legged Huon Pine lidded container.

David Scott showed grooves cut into a high bowl.

One aspect of woodturning is when people, no matter what their skill level, bring along a piece to show their friends. You can sometimes see a sense of trepidation but also a wonderful sense of achievement that they have created something that they think they can share with someone.

The beaming smile on their faces is joy enough and it doesn't matter that the person has been turning for one day or forty years – it is the same.

The sharing and words, "Would you like to see something that I have recently made?"

DEMONSTRATOR - LEWIS HARPER



Lewis is a turner who enjoys and excels at making small articles, sometimes from pieces of wood that have been foraged, that are not only well made but are readily saleable. These include: tops small and large, spurtles, honey dippers, crochet needles, rolling pins, spinning jigs, knitting nancies, knitting needles and lots of others.

During his demonstrations of making small and large tops and a spurtle he came up with many tips for turners. Here are some of them.

Before starting to turn he checks to see that parts of the lathe are working smoothly. For the bed and tool rest he uses Silber Gleit, a silverglide dry slip and in the chuck a puff of graphite powder.

To make sure a piece will not come out of the chuck he applies pressure with screwdrivers that have had the ends ground off. He thinks the shorter pieces that come with the lathe are likely to elongate the holes of the chuck and do not give enough leverage.

He prefers to use P & N tools with a tool rest as close to the work as possible.

He uses a skew chisel for roughing and for turning coves.

A circular revolving stand holds his tools.

Lewis makes his polish from bees wax and soya bean oil (previously he used grape seed oil) and uses tissues to apply and burnish it.

Lewis always signs his completed articles with an Artline 203 .4mm black pen and adds the date and timber it was made from.

Lewis has made a small tool from a chain saw file to use when making captive rings. He uses this when he has worked as far as possible from both sides of the ring.

He usually works at 3000rpm with all applications.

Lewis has used, and recommends, but not been able to purchase in Victoria a very good quality sand paper called Rhino Red which is made in Portugal.

To spread Super glue he places plastic sheet over his fingers. To fill gaps or cracks in the timber he has several salt shakers filled with different coloured wood powder and shakes this over the glue.

To burn rings around a piece he recommends wire which has been taken from a used tyre and tied around two small pieces of wood at the ends.

He makes Knitting Nancies with four pins on the top as well as larger ones with eight turned pins.

LEWIS HARPER'S TOPS

Lewis makes tops which will spin on the bottom and when nearing their finishing time will turn over and spin on the top of their stem.

In demonstrating how to make these he pointed out some important features:

1. the bottom must be made circular
2. at the base of the stem a deep groove must be turned out
3. the stem should be short
4. the top of the stem must be flat

Lewis makes these in large as well as small sizes but cautions that the large ones can cause damage to children's fingers when the top is at the stage of turning on to the stem and the stem is turning fast parallel to the ground.

WOODWORK INTERNET FORUMS

Lewis mentioned woodturning Forums on the internet. These are sites where people can submit photos and ask for comments from any one on the work. (A little bit like Monday critique sessions). As well as this questions can be asked on any turning problems, tools or machinery.

Anne Munro tells us that the ones run by Ubeaut and Neil Ellis can be reached from the links in the Guild Web Site.

Others can be reached by asking Google < woodturning+forums>

GUILD DEMONSTRATION

The Guild will be demonstrating at Bunnings – Middleborough Road Box Hill South on Saturday 5th June from 10.00am to 3.00pm

Please volunteer at our next meeting.

Because this is also intended to advertise The Australian Woodturning Exhibition it would be helpful to have some exhibition pieces there.

AUSTRALIAN WOODTURNING EXHIBITION

June 2010 18th, 19th 20th at the Waratah Room Whitehorse Centre
Rear Council Chambers 397 Whitehorse Road Nunawading

The closing date for entries is 28th May

Exhibits will be received at the Studio, Whitehorse Centre on Tuesday 15th June from 1.30pm - 8.30pm. Exhibits are not to be delivered to the Whitehorse Centre prior to this date and time.

Exhibits that are unable to be delivered during the above times can be consigned/delivered to:

Storage King, Bulleen

Unit 49 10-12 Manningham Road West

To arrive by close of business Monday 14th June 2010

Koonung members were mentioned among the winners and place getters last year. Can we do the same this year?

Don,t forget that the Guild receives \$1 for every raffle ticket Guild members sell.

THURSDAY GROUP

It is pleasing to welcome several new people wishing to learn woodturning at the Thursday sessions since our Open Day. The six lathes are usually occupied and much fun and fellowship takes place. Our three new chucks have arrived just in time.

Newcomers are encouraged by seeing the work of those more experienced and being shown techniques.

FOR SALE

A 1hp dust extraction system complete with a castor base and equipped with an optional paper filter cartridge (1 micron filtration as compared with 5 micron for the standard needlefelt filter). It has been used for 6 months and is still in as-new condition. Footprint..4520x650x1550mm. Catalogue price for the extractor is \$190 and the 1 micron filter is \$179 so half price would be a bargain,
David has purchased a 2HP model so ALL OFFERS CONSIDERED
Contact David McKittrick 9878 0504

NOVA 3000 TECKNATOOL LATHE Price \$1000 or best offer
Enquiries Stuart Watson 9886 1893

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Contact Sue Leitch 9725 8476