



**VOL 10/17**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**OCTOBER 2017**

At the September meeting Jim Pagonis revealed the secrets of how he produces such beautiful walking sticks. His demonstration, although brief, was very interesting and well prepared with samples to hand round. No one seemed to mind that the demonstration was so short as it was well prepared and covered all points. Let's hope that the next demonstrator can be as succinct!

Since the demonstration was over so quickly there was enough time remaining to have a discussion



about which direction the members would like the Guild to take. Numerous suggestions were put forward such as having more members demonstrate, having 2 shorter demonstrations at the meetings rather than one long one, having more challenges and projects and visiting member's workshops to glean ideas. An open day was proposed. The committee is now considering having an open day early next year, possibly March. It was also suggested that we no longer have an all day demonstration as the last one was not well attended and we did not seem to sufficient rewards for the effort involved.

Thanks to all of you who helped with our stand at the Whitehorse Spring Festival recently. There were many who helped set up, provided turned items for display or sale, demonstrated their turning prowess and answered the many enquiries we had. Thanks also to those who helped clean up and pack up. It was a great day with perfect weather. There was a lot of interest shown in both our stand and also the Forest Hill Woodturners who were in the stand next to us.

The local community radio, 3WBC FM, was conducting interviews throughout the day. I managed to share an interview spot with Tony from Forrest Hill. The interview was broadcast live from the festival. During the interview Bill, who conducted the interview, realized that there was much more to woodturning than could be covered in 15 minutes and suggested a longer interview might be worth considering and has extended that invitation to us. 3WBC FM has granted us permission to distribute the 3MP download to our members and publish it on our website.

Some amusement was provided at the end of the day when we were cleaning up when one of our members (who will remain nameless) discovered the efficacy of a blower for cleaning a lathe. I became aware that it might be the first time he had used one when I heard a shriek and looked up to see a beautifully clean lathe and a young mother with two children in tow racing across the car park being closely followed by a cloud of dust and shavings.

We are certainly at the busy end of the year with Christmas just around the corner. Next month will be our end of year break up and we will be presenting toys to the Salvation Army and the Eastern Emergency Relief Network. Hand-made toys are much appreciated by both these charities but purchased toys are also welcomed.

To assist with planning the end of year break up meal we will be handing around a couple of sheets this meeting for people to volunteer how they would like to contribute to the meal and what tasks they would like to help out with. There will also be an attendance form to fill in so we will know how many to cater for.

This month the President's Challenge is due. I look forward to seeing all the miniatures, mine included, as it is not yet finished. These will be judged by popular vote with a novice section and an intermediate / advanced section. The winner will be announced at the October meeting with the winner taking home either a new skew chisel or a large bowl blank of Honduras Mahogany. We also have a surprise demonstrator / demonstration lined up. Rumour has it the demonstration is a surprise because the demonstrator is not sure what he will be doing.

Till we see you on the 28<sup>th</sup>, happy turning.

Richard Jardine  
President

#### SEPTEMBER SHOW AND TELL LED BY ALAN THOMPSON



Geoff Easton is working on some Cotoneaster Christmas decorations (or are they finials?). He wants to further refine the shapes to be more delicate.

He has turned two small lidded bowls from Cherry wood – not sure whether the imported, or Australian native, species (no label when he collected from the nature strip!). The latter is an interesting tree, in that it initially parasitises the roots of another tree (often a eucalypt), so is seen in the bush appearing to grow amongst the stems and leaves of its host. Its fruit is inedible (a nut, like an acorn), but the red stem carrying it swells to 5-6mm when ripe (the “cherry”, without a pip), and is edible.



Geoff found the wood to be prone to cracking. All items finished with Danish oil.



Neale Rees started with a Redgum burl, intending it to become a bowl. However, once he started removing wood, he found lots of charcoal from a fire wound which the tree had completely covered over. It is finished with Danish oil.



Richard Jardine turned a natural-edge bowl from a Black Wattle branch. Finish is Aussie oil.



The small vase is Mountain Ash with a glass insert, finished with cedar-coloured traditional wax, then Shellawax over that.

The bowl is Camphor Laurel, with superglue and sawdust to fill the surface, then simply polished with EEE.



Charles Mercer turned two large Tiger Myrtle pendants (not a different species, but a fungal invasion of the wood). The smaller one has additional layers of Silky Oak and Pine. All are finished with superglue, and then polished with EEE.



David Tonkin found this burl had more air in it than he thought. It has a recessed foot in the base, but came off the lathe during turning. Finished with Danish oil.



Frank Larsen's daughter asked him to make this Sassafras egg cup. It is finished with Mont Martre acrylic paint.

The clock's fishing reels are modeled from Redgum and Jarrah on original wooden ones, finished with Danish oil. The lure is carved Balsa.



Val Dalsanto's coffee cup holder can be dismantled when the cup is finished, and the "handle" snaps flat into the ring.



The mini vases (<50mm) are Pine and Pecan woods. The lidded container may be Myrtle. Finished with Wipe-On Poly.

David Caddy's reclaimed Oregon vase (yes, another one!) is modeled on one of Robyn's favourite glass ones. It is finished with several coats of Feast Watson Proofseal, then Antiquax, which gives a very "soft" shine.



Rick Hillier brought in this jig for turning a David Springett twisted box. There is a second Merbau trial piece, clamped at 45° to the lathe axis, in the jig on the right-hand side. He and John Osborne (2) are trying to get the spiral grooves uniform. If they succeed in solving the geometrical and woodturning puzzles, then he wants to make the finished version in Huon Pine.

**SEPTEMBER DEMONSTRATION by JIM PAGONIS**  
**Walking Sticks**



Jim normally makes his walking sticks 900mm long, and each is finally adjusted to suit its new owner by trimming the tip end. However, for his demonstration to the Guild, he used a shorter blank (about 400mm) because it fitted into one of the movable lathes.

He marked out and turned to the same diameters he would normally use, so today's "walking stick" was more of an elongated icecream cone!



One of Jim's favoured woods is fiddleback Blackwood, so his demonstration piece was too. He used a roughing gouge to bring the square blank down to a cylinder approximately 40mm in diameter.



Jim used a parting tool to create a 22mm dowel at the headstock end, 30mm long, which will be glued into the handle. He also cut a 32mm groove just below this to mark the diameter of the thick upper end of the stick, a 24mm groove midway down the stick, and a 15mm groove near the tip – these set the taper of the stick from top to bottom.



He then used a skew chisel to remove nearly all the wood between the three grooves. He is not too concerned with the finish at this stage – fiddleback woods, in particular, are prone to tear-out.



Above is the short demonstration model, and on the right, a full-size one at the same stage.



Jim then sanded the “stick” to its final straight taper, using pieces of sandpaper glued to plywood boards. For real sticks, these boards are 400mm long, making it easy to shape to a very constant taper. He started with 36 grit, then 40, and so on up to 320, by which stage the shape is fully achieved. He will then hand-sand to 700 grit before polishing and coating the stick.

It is possible to buy brass joiner sets to make three-piece walking sticks – ie two joins about 300mm apart. These are screwed into the ends of the wooden segments, and Jim recommends epoxy glue for added security. He also uses epoxy to attach a handle to the dowel turned at the top of the stick.

Another popular addition is a spring-loaded flask in a 17mm hole drilled into the top of the shaft, below a removable handle. He makes the hole by putting the appropriate drill bit in the chuck and resting the shaft on the toolrest set at the right height. Flask kits are available from Carbatec.



Two examples of Jim's sticks. The barley twist is hand carved

**NUNAWADING SRINGFEST**

Her are some picture from Nunawading Springfest on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Members gathered and showed their skills to the crowds and enjoyed the company of each other.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October meeting**
- October demonstrator is a mystery club member
- Presidents October Challenge- turn a miniature. Your item must fit in a 50mm cube. **Two prizes.** Novice and experienced. (see President report for details). Also bring along the special tools you used to create your items.
- November Toys – time to start making your toys for the Salvation Army and EERN due November 25<sup>th</sup>. (yes that is the Christmas breakup already).
- Christmas Luncheon will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November. A list will be passed around at the October meeting for attendance numbers and also the food list. Cost of the lunch same as last year \$15.

Double Take in Wood Exhibition.

Exhibition Dates - 19th October to 11th November 2017

Manningham Art Gallery - Ground Floor, MC2, 687 Doncaster Road,  
Doncaster, Victoria 3108

Gallery Hours - Tuesday - Saturday - 11am - 5pm

## NOTICES

### FEES

The annual fees of \$50 are due and can be paid to our Treasurer Neale at the October meeting, or by direct debit

Account Name	Koonung Woodturners Guild INC
BSB	633 000
Account	109 130 674
Please also	Record your name on the payment, so that I know who it is.

### Australian woodworker November edition.

Koonung woodturning Guild will have an article in the Drumbeat section of the November issue. This is what we have been told.

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To the left is an array of gardening objects turned by members for Di to sell at the Nunawading Gardens 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations at which she will also be doing a woodturning demonstration.