



**VOL 3 09**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**March 09**



I hope everyone managed to pick up a bargain or a highly desirable article or two or three at last month's trip to Woodworking Warehouse. Many members have commented that they get to talk to other members and pick up useful advice simply by discussing products on display. This is how each of us, as woodturners, build up a social network of turners from our own and other guilds with whom we like to discuss ideas.

What will happen at this month's meeting?

A woodturner who has been prominent in promoting exchange of ideas in Woodturning is the very accomplished Cliff Walsh. Cliff is well known for his built up and intriguingly laminated forms of which we may see some but this time he has planned to show how we should approach the turning of a large burl. Those of us who have been personally struck by chunks of wood flying off can hardly wait for this one on March 28 2009 .

Thank you to all those who took part in the Knitting Nancy Special Effort. Our target of 100 has been achieved. [WOW ! ] Before our March meeting they will have been presented to Alkira and their associate organization (see Rick's report). When we found that these folk receive no government funding your Committee was asked by several members to re-consider the proposal for token payment for the Guild. The Committee has decided to donate the 100 Knitting Nancy Project as a goodwill gesture. We have planned to have a "Hand-Over" ceremony. Please bring any leftover bits and pieces of Nancy to the March Meeting even if you have not touched them or if you stuffed them up as they will be used in future Guild activities.

The following meeting in April will feature John Atkinson demonstrating turning of lace bobbins. We have planned that Edna and some ladies will occupy some of the other rooms of Koonung Cottage to show some of the lovely lacework that they do. Members should bring along anyone they know who may be interested in this art form just to have a look. [Even your wife, maybe] More in the next TT

Next Meeting March 28<sup>th</sup> 2009.

See you there. Do not miss this one. T`will be great !

Arthur

**SHOW and TELL Taken by Ian Absolom**

Name	Item	Material
Tom Beswick	Two Pens	Maple Jarrah Beech
Rick Gilks	Salt & Pepper Shakers	Red Gum Huon Pine
Reg Johnson	Natural edge Bowl	
Arthur Sankey	Thin wall object	African Blackwood
Geoff Easton	Two bowls	Camphor Laurel Ash
Val Dalsanto	Trembleur Clock	Red Gum Red Gum
Murray Round	Fountain Pen	Timber - Rustins Hard finish
Ray Smith	Two Bowls Blackwood Pen & Calculator stand	Resin embedded flowers Myrtle resin embedded shell



There was also a large collection of completed Knitting Nancies

## \*Project 2009 Knitting Nancies

We have now made all of the 100 Knitting Nancies and plan to present them on the 26<sup>th</sup> March at the Koonung Cottage at 4 pm. Yes Yes I know it's on Thursday. This is the only time we can get the Leader photographer. The committee has decided to make this a donation which will be distributed by the Diversional Therapy Association to mature aged mentally and physically handicapped people and Alkira will be one of many groups to receive them. Many thanks to members who took components and spent many hours making this a worthwhile community project.

Members are invited to attend on Thursday for a photo opportunity and see our goods off to a good home.

Please call me if you need further info. *Ph 9802 4498*

*Rick Gilks*

## Monday Mutterings

Yes, the Monday group is alive and well. We have been meeting on a Monday night almost since KWTG started over thirteen years ago. The aim is for members to bring along their successes and failures and to have them critiqued by fellow members in a friendly environment. Many members have gained much experience by picking up small tips on how to hold items in the chucks or face plates, finishing techniques and on design, members have greatly improved their work and strived to bring in better pieces each week. So members who want to get out of doing the dishes on a Monday night come along, only \$2 a head and have a laugh in good company. Some nights we can also solve the problems of the world.

We start about 7.45pm. Next month I will get some photos together.

*Monday scribe*

Is there any truth in the rumour that members are going to make three good points about an item before suggestions on how it could be improved. Ed.



Rick suggests that there is no limit to what can be done with material produced by the knitting Nancies

### **FUTURE DEMOS**

To help advertise The Australian Woodturning Exhibition we are approaching Bunnings to hold a demonstration on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Nunawading Historical Society has again requested the Guild to hold a demonstration at their usual Open Day of Schwerkolt Cottage on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009

## **BEES WAX FINISHES by Ray Smith**

When visiting New Zealand some years ago I visited a Kauri works at Awunui. This works show cases swamp kauri which is collected from swamps and believed to have been underground for 30,000 to 40,000 years after being blown over by the volcanic activity which created the Rotorua area. The huge logs and roots are made into high class and expensive furniture as well as turned items which are sought after by tourists.

On enquiring into the finish used on most turned items I was told that most finishes were a mixture of bees wax and cooking oil - samples of which they had for sale. Having a plentiful supply of bees wax I decided to make my own

The recipe is simple:

Place the beeswax in a suitable vessel and place the vessel to heat in hot water until the wax melts.

Then add cooking oil – I use grape seed oil.

The mixture when cool should be the consistency of butter in summer time.

If the setting mixture is too hard repeat and add more oil.

This can be rubbed on to a sanded object making sure all of the wood is covered. Leave for a short time for the oil to soak into the wood and burnish using a soft rag with the lathe turning at a fast speed to melt the wax.

A cheap, effective and food safe finish results!!!

.....  
I have read about the following finishes but have not tried them.

1.

Place bees wax into a convenient container, pour on pure (not mineral ) turpentine and place the whole vessel in hot water to melt the wax and help it to mix freely with the turpentine. The mixture, when cool, should be the consistency of butter in summer time.

2.

Proceed as No. 1 and add a small portion of Carnuba wax to harden the polish.

3.

Black wax for ebonising.

Proceed as in No 1 and add Watty! Colorwood Stain-Charcoal. Add a small amount of Reckitt's washing blue (about the size of a sugar cube), which gives the black an extra intensity and a richer tone.

**No matter how good your chosen finishing recipe is, the final result will depend upon the standard of the work underneath.**

Don't forget something for Show and Tell next meeting Day

## **AUSTRALIAN WOODTURNING EXHIBITION 2009**

How are your items proceeding??? Can we increase on the number of placings our members received last year???\*

Some important dates:

12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> 14 June The Exhibition

22<sup>nd</sup> May Entries Close (send to Ken Wraight)

8<sup>th</sup> June Entries to Storage King - Bulleen close

9<sup>th</sup> June Hand deliver exhibits to Whitehorse Centre

This year there are three sections

NOVICE INTERMEDIATE OPEN

The usual raffle is being conducted with the Exhibition. One dollar of each ticket we sell will go to Guild funds.

The prizes are \$600, \$200, \$100 Bunnings Gift vouchers.

## **WORKSHOP**

Thanks to committee member, Geoff Easton, the band saw is again working well with a new blade and oiled bearings. Also there are two spare blades.

Equipment now includes a new vernier caliper and two strong G clamps.

Our attention has been drawn to a task someone at Manningham Woodworkers has completed. They have a catalogue of hundreds of topics e.g. air brush, banksias nut turning, mulga turning, bird boxes, and where information on them can be found in magazines and books. The website is:

[www.woodcraft-manningham.org.au](http://www.woodcraft-manningham.org.au).

[Click on Library](#)

Further GM comments to Bill Gates comparing the computer and car industries. If GM developed technology like Microsoft:

Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left hand turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.

Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the roadside, close all windows, shut off the car, restart it and reopen windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.