



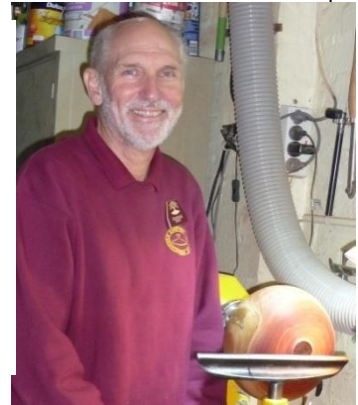
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

October 2013

I understand that September was a successful month with an enjoyable afternoon held at the Schwerkolt Cottage and an excellent demonstration by Alan Thompson with many gems of wisdom on finishing techniques. Thanks you Alan for sharing your knowledge.

My thanks are also extended to Vice President John Osborne for taking the reins during my absence overseas. Talking of which, I saw a lot of turned "souvenir" items in Italy, all made from olive wood. The grain and colour of this wood is wonderful. If you get your hands on a piece, I am sure it will result in a great item.



Our Guilds demonstration stall at the Whitehorse Spring Festival will have occurred by the time my report is sent to you. Thanks to those members who contributed to the day.

The end of the year is rapidly approaching and the Committee has begun planning for our Christmas Breakup function in November. An indication of numbers attending will be sought at the October meeting. We will also be looking for some volunteers to bring along a plate of food, a list of specific requirements will be advised at the October meeting.

I hope all members have begun making some interesting toys for our end of year Harold Irving Toy Appeal charity event. Our activities that contribute to the community, are I believe, a key component that continues to keep us a strong Guild. As usual please make items in pairs as we donate to both the Salvation Army and the Eastern Emergency Services.

David Pincus is nearing completion of documenting the Guilds History. David is requesting members provide him with photos that reflect members at key Guild activities for the years prior to 2010. Thank you David for persisting with this important project.

Next Saturday's meeting topic is "**Gadget Day**" Please bring along a range of your jigs and gadgets that you use for turning. We Look forward to seeing your creativity.

I understand a few of our members have recently been in hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them back at meetings again.

Graham

A thought for the month...*"Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears."* — John Lennon

SEPTEMBER SHOW AND TELL led by Murray Coulthard

Due to the fact that there has been no show and tell for a few months, members took full advantage of this meeting to show off their latest and greatest efforts.



Trio of bowls by Val dalsanto



Frank Larson's Potpourrie container in Redgum



Segmented salt and pepper shaker set in various timbers by Joe Walker



Black Heart Sassafras oval turned budvase by John Osborne(2)



Alan Thompson's Scottish spurtles (well the top one at least!)



Gavel and block in 100 year old Redgum by John Wheeler



Coffee grinder by David Scott



Engraved bowl (left) and platter (right) by David Coull



Eucalypt  
burl bowl  
by John  
Osborne(2)



Ron Dunstan's Hakea  
Carriage Clock



Staved drink  
holder in various  
timbers by Peter  
Jurrjens



A natural edge bowl by Murray Coulthard



Di Bermingham's Redgum dibber

Ray Smith's  
Teak bowl





Huon pine bowl by John Osborne(2)



Lidded container in Redgum by Val Dalsanto



Barley twist candlestick by Reg Johnson



Black Heart Sassafras bowl by Ray Smith



Redgum Burl Platter by Graham Mills



Pens by John Osborne(2)

Cyprus bowl by peter Jurrjens



**GUEST DEMONSTRATOR FOR SEPTEMBER:  
ALAN THOMPSON.**

Our own Alan Thompson provided an insight into his very effective finishing techniques during a demonstration which was enjoyed by all who attended the September meeting.

In opening, Alan posed the question “why finish?”, his response being – to preserve the timber, to accentuate the grain and to leave the item ‘looking good’. In his opinion, a high gloss is not necessary although it looks good on tight grain hardwoods such as Blackwood, with low sheen being better for light coloured timbers. Alan finds that the eye looks at the grain rather than the shine when lower sheen finishes are used and it should always be considered how the finished item feels in the hand (how tactile it is).

Alan’s finish of choice is Danish Oil but he is happy using waxes like *Glow* or *Shellawax* on simple utility items (like his shopping bag holder). Items which need to be food safe he prefers vegetable oil to pop the grain followed by beeswax.



Alan’s advice as to extending the shelf life of the Danish Oil is to:

- Store the DO upside down in a brown paper bag which seems to assist in maintaining a steady temperature.
- Buy in small quantities (unless you are using large quantities!)
- Crush the can slightly when putting the cap on to expel some of the air.

Alan generally applies a coat of *Woodsmith* sanding sealer followed by a light rub with 0000 steel wool. He then applies coats of *Ruskins* Danish Oil until he achieves the desired finish. He estimates an average of 3 coats but this will vary depending on the timber and the finish required.

To illustrate the difference in durability between various finishes, Alan had prepared a spindle turned item divided into three and applied different finishes to each third. He then spent some weeks handling the item (while watching TV!) The photo at right shows that the sheen on the Danish Oil (left most third) has stood up to the handling whereas the *Glow* (centre third) has gone slightly dull and the sanding sealer (lower third) has lost its sheen completely.



Alan also reminded us that regardless of the type of finish, items will fade considerably if exposed to the sun. The item shown here has been left for several years sitting on a window ledge. The effects of sun exposure are clearly evident when comparing the bottom (left) with the top (right)



As important as the type of finish used (if not more so) is the preparation for applying the finish.

**SANDING:**

- If not using color coded sandpaper it is essential that you number the back of the paper with the grade.
- Work through the grades. Alan's sanding schedule is - 120, 150, 180, 240, 320 and 400 although he may go further depending on the timber and/or use (exhibition pieces for example).
- Sand spindle turned items end to end and then with the lathe off, sand with the grain using the final grade.
- With face plate turned items, turn the lathe off after the penultimate grade and drag that grade across the grain. When these marks are sanded off with the final grade, sanding is finished. It is sometimes useful to do this for each grade.
- With uneven (non-round) items use a hard sanding block to avoid rounding over one edge. It is important that the sandpaper on the block engages the work at the dead centre and with the sanding block held vertical.



Sand spindle items end to end



Crisp edge obtained by using sanding block on non-round item



Spindle turned item sanded and sealed

**SEALING:**

- Apply sealer with clean cotton cloth.
- Sealing (with *Woodsmith* sealer) can be done with lathe turning.
- Perform a light rub with 0000 steel wool before applying finish and wipe dust off with a clean cloth.
- With faceplate items, apply sealer in a circular motion then lay off in the direction of the grain.

**FINISHING:**

**Danish Oil-**

- Shake well before use.
- Don't over wet.
- Apply evenly and stroke off in the direction of the grain.
- Rub back lightly with 0000 steel wool in the direction of the grain between coats.
- When finished put the cap back on while squeezing tin to expel air.
- If a high sheen is required, buff on the lathe using a cloth buffing wheel.



Buffing on the lathe



Outside of bowl buffed to high gloss

## FINISHING (Cont):

### Glow-

- Shake well before use.
- Apply with clean cloth with lathe stopped.
- Buff with firm pressure and lathe turning at high speed (the wax builds with heat).

### Foodsafe-

- Apply vegetable oil with a clean rag which will highlight the grain.
- Don't use olive oil as this will become rancid.
- Apply beeswax to the item spinning in the lathe directly from the stick.
- Buff using a clean cloth while spinning on the lathe to obtain a bright lustre.



High gloss obtained with *Glow*



Applying beeswax after vegetable oil



Vegetable oil/beeswax finish

In addition to providing an insight to his finishing of turned items, Alan also brought in some of his toys and discussed how they are finished.

Alan utilises several finishing schemes but all are 'child safe'. Primarily he uses:

- Spray enamel.
- Water based dye (from U-Beaut - <http://www.ubeaut.com.au/dye.html>)
- *Jo Sonja* acrylic paints (available from craft shops)
- *Wattyl Estapol*



Racing car finished in spray enamel. Wheels finished in *Jo Sonja* black acrylic and *Jo Sonja* matt varnish



Lizard finished in *Sonja* acrylic paint. Alan advises not to be too fussed with artistic element as it's a toy and won't look pretty for long!



Puppy finished with sanding sealer and two coats of brush applied *Estapol*.

## TOYS FOR COUNTRY HOPE:

The toys made by members and delivered at the August monthly meeting were taken down to Turn Around at Phillip Island by Stuart Watson and presented to Babs. Feedback provided by John Wheeler would indicate that they are delighted with our offering. John was told that this year's donation was without doubt the best yet! Congratulations and thanks to all those that made the toys for these deserving kids.

Graham Besley's award for the best toy will be presented at the October meeting.



## FORWARD PROGRAM and REMINDERS

**ANNUAL SUBS.** It's that time of the year again and subs are due. Many of our members settled up at the September meeting but if you haven't and will be attending the October meeting, subs can be paid to David Caddy who will be collecting in treasurer Geoff Easton's absence.

**OCTOBER MEETING.** Members are reminded that there will be no demonstrator at the October meeting. This month we are asking members to bring in their turning related jigs and gadgets. This is a great opportunity for you to show off your creations and share with other members the high tech (and low tech!) devices that you have designed and built to improve your turning.

**CHRISTMAS BREAKUP.** With the November Christmas luncheon rapidly approaching, your committee is in the process of planning and allocating tasks. The committee will be providing some of the catering but your help is once again requested. A sheet will be passed around at the meeting and members will be asked to nominate items that they can provide. As usual, cost of ingredients can be reimbursed by the club.

**CHRISTMAS TOYS.** Speaking of Christmas.... Hopefully by now you have a shed full of toys which you have built, ready for presenting to the Salvation Army and Eastern Emergency Relief representatives prior to the Christmas luncheon. If not, better get busy – only 5 weeks to go! It's an opportunity for us to make a deserving kid's Christmas morning a happy one.

**HANDS ON DAY.** At the January meeting after the break, we are planning another ever popular 'hands on day'. The committee has come up with a couple of ideas for a project but is asking for member's thoughts. If you can think of a suitable item that preferably:

- can be completed in a couple of hours
- is of reasonable complexity
- is suitable as a group activity so may be broken down and worked on by group members and reassembled when completed

then let a committee member know so that it can be discussed at the next committee meeting.

**SAFETY TESTING.** Most of the members have undergone their brief workshop equipment safety testing. If you've yet to be signed off then please grab a couple of committee members at the monthly meeting or consider dropping in to the Thursday afternoon or Monday evening sessions and get 'done'. For insurance reasons, members who haven't been signed off can't use the clubs equipment.

### FOR SALE:

New Zealand made Nova 3000 Lathe on a bench.

With swivel head, one HP Motor, Nova chuck, spur drive, tail stock insert and face mask.

Bought new and never used \$1500 – Contact David Coull 9842 2205



# Working with Trees

One of the best sources of wood for turning bowls is the “urban forest.” Trees cut in our neighborhoods and properly processed are constant sources of turning stock. Tree trimmers and arborists do not generally cut trees into pieces suitable for wood turners so it is helpful for you to be present when the tree is cut down or trimmed. Many local hardwood species can be perfect bowl blanks whereas most non-deciduous varieties are not so good. It is an interesting challenge for the new turner to learn which local species work the best.

The illustrations below depict the steps in cutting bowl blanks and storing them until you are ready to turn. Quick handling is most important in the warmer months when the wood dries too rapidly. If the wood is not processed with speed, the drying will cause the wood to split and make it unusable.

Here are the steps to harvesting turning blanks from the urban forest:

- Cut the tree into log sections approximately 20% longer than the tree is in diameter thus allowing for some checking on the ends before the wood is completely processed.
- Seal the ends of each log section with a wax solution if the wood will not be processed immediately. Other end grain sealing agents also will work such as inexpensive or surplus latex house paint (your color choice).
- To prepare and store the bowl blanks created from the log sections stand the log section on end and locate the pith of the log (the center of growth). Rotate a straight edge around the pith examining the log to locate two portions that appear to be as symmetrical as possible and mark a line along that axis.
- Cut the log into two portions along the marked line bypassing the pith on both sides. The pith of the tree is unstable or dead wood and must be excluded from the bowl blanks to keep them from splitting.
- Re-seal the ends with a wax solution or latex paint end grain sealer to prevent rapid moisture loss from the bowl blanks. Store the cut bowl blanks in a cool, airy location until they are rough turned. Allow for air circulation to prevent mold accumulation on or in the bowl blanks.

