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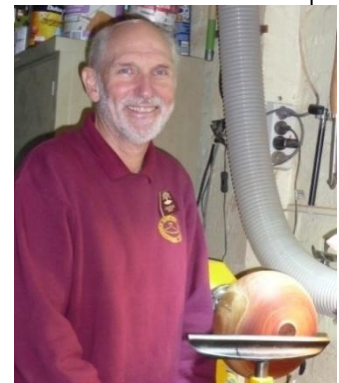
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

July 2014

Our June meeting provided us with an opportunity to appreciate and understand the design basis and challenges faced in producing the many wonderful Exhibition entries by our Guild members.

The common thread that emerged from the discussions was that members enjoyed the challenge of making something that was new and difficult for them and the ingenuity they brought to the job to solve unexpected problems. This is certainly an aspect that attracts many of us to the craft. I hope this body of work inspires you in your turnings in the coming months.

Attendance at the Monday evening sessions can be a great way to learn more about design aspects, turning techniques and finishing standards. I encourage members to attend these sessions.



I noted that many items displayed by members at the Exhibition were sold. This can be very gratifying outcome for our work. The great dilemma is of course in setting a price that reflects the value of the work but is reasonable from the buyer's perspective. I don't know of any method in coming to a decision. Experience over many years coupled with a 'gut feeling' is probably the best answer.

The annual 'all day' demonstration is on at this month's meeting, next Saturday 26th July commencing at 9am. It promises to be a good day covering some interesting turning techniques, an opportunity for fellowship and a great BBQ lunch being tended by our Guild Chef Jim Pagonis. Please be prepared to pay at the door.

Our AGM is to be held in August, please think about being a committee member as it is best to be able to spread the organisational load across a number of members. Formal notification of the AGM is included in this edition of Talking Turning. The Committee is also seeking nominations for the Brian Christian Award which will be presented after the AGM.

I assume that most members are producing some toy items for the annual Toys for Country Hope collection. This community activity was originated by the late John Atkinson and there is an award in his name for the best made toy. Your toy donations are required at the August meeting.

And most of all, keep having fun, Graham

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." - Joshua J. Marine

SHOW AND TELL OF AUSTRALIAN WOODTURNING EXHIBITION ITEMS

At the June meeting we spent an enjoyable time discussing the wonderful range of items entered by our members into the Australian Woodturning Exhibition. Below is a snapshot of many items and comments made by the participants.



Geoff Easton entered 7 items and was pleased that five were scored by the judges. Geoff likes using unusual woods salvaged from nature strips. He enjoys making mushrooms and believes in following his heart with the design form of each item. The mushrooms are from Jacaranda and Paperbark.

Ross Gabriel entered four items. A wavy-edge vase turned from the fork of a prunus branch was seasoned, with no particular care, in a corner of his shed. Ross experimented with colour dies for this item.

A striking walking stick from Osage Orange, with the curved handle made from dowelled segments superglued together. The grain of the shaft was particularly irregular.

A 4-wing bowl from Oak & Redgum, with designed gaps between the lid, bowl rim & wings. His fourth piece was a Skeleton movement clock in a Blackwood disk. He had difficulties getting concentric lips for the movement when reversing the disk in his Cole jaws. A good exercise in understanding the criticality of planning the process steps.



Val Dalsanto had six entries which incorporated some interesting design ideas ; Val continued his interest in clocks, a 'Sunburst' clock with striking spikes was from Oak & Redgum. His second clock was from Redgum & Myrtle and contained a swivel section for easy reading.

Two small platters on an effective stand, from Oak & black polish.

Box with mirror in lid & three swing-out drawers. Some sticking of the drawers required some later repairs (not shown in photo).

An unusual wine pourer from Redgum, Oak & chromed steel produced some discussion. We had hoped the bottle would be offered around for tasting.



Frank Larsen produced two items, his first attempt at a Carriage clock in Redgum required about eight pillars before he had four matching ones. (yes, identical items have their challenges) After warming on the mantel-piece for some time, the clock fell out on its way to AWTEX and needed remedial repairs. The “Drozda” bowl in a beautiful piece of spalted Beech was hollowed out with a home-made tool. Hollowing was also a new activity for Frank.

David Scott entered three large(no surprise there) platters, all turned using the same system of a wooden faceplate & aluminium brackets for turning the underside.

Osage Orange, from the stump region of the tree. It had lots of cracks & faults, which were filled with black fiberglass. The rim & foot were made from segments of oak, Redgum & Osage Orange.

Walnut, sourced from near Romsey about 15 years ago. Redgum & Oak segmented rim & foot.

The third was entered into wood art section; Himalayan Cedar, only about 18 months old, but very stable, with Red Pine (also Cedar family) inserts. Clear & black fiberglass used to fill some holes plus painted decoration to add interest.

David’s fourth item was a set of bud vases made from laminated ply of Cedar, Red Pine and Oregon. Producing the desired consistent shape for each proved to be a challenge.



Ray Smith was again productive with seven entries, a number of which were sold.

The Village Ducks scene, with Redgum ducks and Osage Orange chicks, turned & steam-bent reeds. The water is black paint under resin.

Clock with 3 legs & base, from lace She Oak was sold. Ray cautioned us about the care required to ensure that the downwards finial below the clock is exactly centred on the base.

Small lace She Oak clock with three legs.

Shallow bowl of birdseye Maple, supplied by Harold Irving’s son. He has entered one of these in each of the last three years. Two have been sold, & this year’s placed 2nd.

Small tiger myrtle bowl.

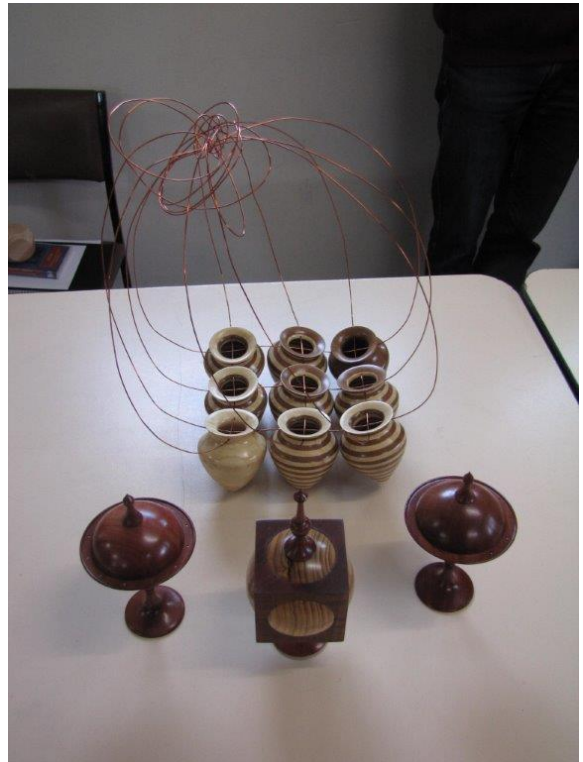
A She Oak or Bull Oak bowl was sold.

Graham Besley entered eight pieces & sold five.

Pair of jewelry boxes earmarked for his nieces. After making the first, he decided to make the second to complete a pair, but had no accurate blueprint to work from – a lot of measuring was involved!

Indian Cedar sphere box, the enclosing Redgum cube is initially made larger, hollowed, then reduced to its final size using jigs for symmetry. The Danish oil was hard to finish nicely on the cedar because of its oiliness.

His wood art entry of wired collection of amphora style urns laminated from two colours of bamboo flooring. The challenge was to make a production run of 9 similar items.



Mal Jackson entered two items in the open division.

Natural-edge bowl with wings that had the challenge of being flat and uniform in thickness.

Peg Solitaire set from Huon pine & Blackwood. The base was initially square, & drilled in a jig with removable 19mm spacers, so that all the holes would be in straight lines & regularly spaced. He had to make the 32 pegs twice, as the larger heads on the first set made them difficult to grasp. The fit of the lid to the base had to be adjusted after AWTEX, as the judges may not have been able to open it easily.



A mighty display generated much discussion at morning teatime.



John McBrinn produced four wonderful items into the open category. Identical pair of segmented interlocking tubes, very difficult to get a cross-section which continued a circular arc across the join from cutting a bowl form in half. Another challenge was to turn the underside of the bowl rim section.

Streptohedron from Lemon-Scented Gum root burl. He had to make a clamp jig to hold it in the chuck for drilling the holes for decorative inserts. It took a long time to centre each one.

Multi-wood laminated bowls from built-up planks. These were cut into rings with the bandsaw table at an angle, then re-stacked & glued. Because of all the different grain directions, superglue was used as a surface binder & polished.

Oregon ribbon sculpture. Eight hollow cones were made up from 16 segments each, mounted on jigs & shaped exactly with templates so that all surfaces matched. The surfaces were textured with cheap (softer) wire brushes, then the cones cut up & rejoined into the final ribbon. Finished with spray lacquer.



Please note that photos of all Guild Member's entries can be found on our website in the photo albums section.

In addition to the above we had a few other show and tell items;

Charles Mercer was asked to turn a large bowl for his daughter's 50th birthday. When nearly finished one in Oregon, he was told that it was not what was wanted. The second one was made in clear pine, with concentric coloured circles separated by black Texta grooves. Charles second piece was very nice carriage clock in Redgum & Claret Ash, with Dremel-pierced details.



New member Andrew Wells has produced a barley-twist (3 starts) walking stick from a Redgum fencepost. After turning the long tapered section, a series of angled saw cuts, spacing narrowed as the diameter reduced, provided the starting point for the twists, which were developed with files, then 80-400 grit sandpaper.

FORWARD PROGRAM and REMINDERS

JULY 26th MEETING: All day turning demonstration by well known turner Guilio Marcalongo who has four complex items to turn for us. Please pay Geoff at the rear door when arriving. The meeting commences at 9am. There will not be time for our usual show & tell session. Morning and afternoon tea plus a BBQ lunch is included.

In AUGUST:

AGM: Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Koonung Woodturners Guild Inc. will be held at the Koonung Community Cottage 109 in Koonung Road Blackburn North on Saturday 23rd August 2013, commencing at 9.00am.

Please think about nominating for a position on the committee, we need at least 6 members to share the load. Don't leave it to someone else.

The AGM will be followed by our annual review of special tools, gadgets and jigs that we have produced and used in the past year or so.

BRIAN CHRISTIAN AWARD: The Committee is seeking nominations for this annual award for a member who has shown significant contribution to the Guild and has demonstrated advancement in his or her level of turning skills. Please provide your nominations to a committee member before August 13th. This award will be announced at the August meeting.

TOYS for COUNTRY HOPE: Looking forward to seeing the great variety of items that you, our members, will have created for this annual charity event. Please have them completed and bring along to the August meeting.

ST ALFREDS CHURCH has requested that we provide a demonstration for their Boys Group on 4th September. We need some small items to sell to the boys for Father's Day presents.

We would appreciate it if members could make an item or two for this activity. The Committee has a range of small parts that can be used such as pens, key rings and knives.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY MEETING: So that we can invite past members to this function, please provide contact details of any past members that you are in contact with, to Ian Absolom or any committee member. We require these details by the August meeting.

Motion Passed unanimously by Club members at the June Meeting:

“The members of Koonung Woodturning Guild congratulate the Whitehorse Wood turners on the excellent Exhibition and competition held on 13-15 June 2014.

Our members have shown increased participation in the Exhibitions because of the developments and professionalism in their operation.

We fully endorse each and every part of the operation.

These parts include:

- Having four levels to cater for a wide range of skills , abilities and experience (Open Intermediate Novice Student),
- Having a wide range of categories to display various woodturning skills,
- Being able to enter two items in each category,
- Having three judges for each item to minimise bias,
- Having the judges operate independently so there is no collusion,
- Having all items displayed in a professional manner.
- Having items for sale.

Our Guild will support further Exhibitions if all of these are included and strongly urges the Exhibition Committee to continue its outstanding contribution to the woodturning community by ensuring that the Exhibition is held next year and beyond.”

NUNAWADING LIBRARY DISPLAY:

Again this year we were asked to display our Guilds work in the cabinets in the foyer of the library. Many items produced for the AWTEx are included in the display. Worth a look. Thanks to those members who loaned their items for the display, which will be there until 25th July.





Open Identical Pair
1st Place - John McBrinn
Australian Woodturning Exhibition 2014