

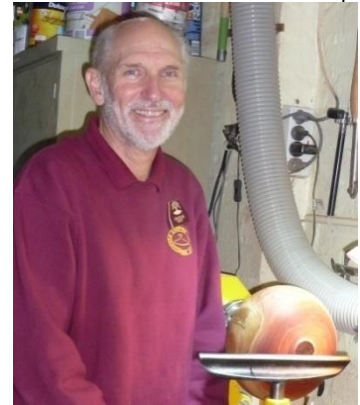
VOL 10/15

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

October 2015

The demonstration given by Robbo at our September meeting was a great opportunity to advance our knowledge on sharpening systems, safety and techniques. I hope you all gained some new information from his entertaining talk.

Christmas is just around the corner and we should be getting into "Santa's little helper" mode by making toys for under privileged kids. Our Guild has always provided a bounty of hand crafted toys to the Salvation Army Toy Appeal and to the Eastern Emergency Relief Centre. I trust we will again this year have a wonderful collection that will bring joy to many children this Christmas.



Our Breakup Luncheon will again be held at the November meeting. The Committee is seeking assistance from members to provide some food items for the lunch. A list will be circulated at the October meeting seeking volunteers. You will of course be refunded any food expenses. The cost will again be \$15 per head, very reasonable in today's spiraling costs. If possible, please prepay at the October meeting. Your partners are very welcome to attend. Last year we had a successful activity for the wives/partners with the button collecting discussion. This year we have another interesting speaker on another craft topic that the Ladies should enjoy.

Our guest demonstrator at this month's meeting is Cliff Walsh, a well known and skilled turner who has recently joined our Guild. His demonstration promises to be very informative.

This month's meeting is also the time to bring along your item for the "Presidents Challenge... to do something new that you have not previously completed". It should be a very interesting show and tell session and I am really looking forward to hearing about your new personal challenge(s).

I hope you are enjoying your turning activities,

Graham

"The biggest failure you can have in life is making the mistake of never trying at all." – Unknown

Once again I missed the monthly meeting and had to rely on others to do my job. Many thanks to Carol Bentley and Ray Smith for all the photos and write up of the September Show and Tell and Robbos' demo.

Ed.

JUNE SHOW AND TELL Led by Frank Larsen

Well, this month had quite a large Show and Tell, with a good mix of items on display. And it was good to see some more of the newer Guild members joining in.



Ross Gabriel brought in 2 bowls. The first a Blackwood bowl finished with 5 coats of wipe on poly and buffed within "an inch of its life!" It really was a beautiful finish, Ross. The second was an unfinished, larger bowl of Redwood burl with a similar finish



Ray Smith brought in another present he had made, this time for his daughter. And one which he's not made before (actually made for next month's Show and Tell!) It was a hinged trinket box made of Black heart Sassafras with a carved edge on the lid and finished with Danish oil



Ray also brought in an item that had been requested at the last minute through the Guild. It was for a round wooden insert to hold a photograph which would be placed in the middle of a large concentric wooden trophy for the scouts. Off the cuff it took a lot of ingenuity and patience but Ray came up trumps and the Scouts were delighted.



Charles Mercer came in with a platter and a lidded container. The platter was made of Piranha pine and finished with 2 coats of Rustin's Danish oil. The lidded box was lovely bowl with a spindled lid, the bowl and lid were made of celery pine and the spindle of red gum sleepers he dug out of the ground. Again it was finished with good old Rustin's.



Max Gregory brought in 2 bowls, both of Huon pine but the smaller one having a base of red Gum. Both were finished with Shellawax. Great effort, Max He also brought in amazing collapsible table with a round parquetry top. A lot of skill and ingenuity went into this and it was widely acclaimed.





Peter Jurrgens came in with a great tally of 4 items; 3 three candle sticks made of European Beech, Bamboo and Privet respectively and a drinking mug for his daughter when she was travelling. This was made of Purple Heart with a Huon pine insert. All were finished with min wax



Diana Bermingham came with another of her Shawl and Scarf Pin sets; the pin being made of an undetermined exotic timber which consensus thought may have been Cocobolo and the ring of Jarrah. They were finished with EEE.

She also made a delightful little bird which caught her eye in a gallery she had recently visited – ideas come from everywhere so keep your eyes peeled folks! It was made from a small branch with some bark left on to give it character and left *au naturel*



David Coull followed up last month's candlesticks with a pair of lamps this time. They were made of Rose Red wood and finished in Danish oil. The black inserts were dyed with acrylic paint and he said how hard he had found it to get black fittings for lamps these days. But perseverance pays off David – they really looked good

Tim Denyer bought in a lovely Red Gum goblet finished in Bees Wax along with a small Cypress bowl, also finished with bees Wax



Graham Besley brought in his second take on his "curiosity" modestly named a bowl on the sheet! Again it was turned as a ring then cut in half and glued together. The fluted edges were his first attempt at carving and gave it a very pleasant look. The finish was Danish oil. Certainly an improvement on the first one, Graham

Carol Bentley entered her first Show and Tell with the item she had turned (with much help from Alan Thompson) at Schwerkholt Cottage. It was a small ring holder/bud vase turned from Cypress and unfinished. She also bought her first candlestick with the reset for the candle made with a Forstner drill and finished with Danish oil. She had been asked to make a Pet Funeral Urn for a friend who was dying and who wanted her favourite pet's ashes to be put in her coffin with her, so with much trepidation she made a lidded Cypress container, finished with Danish oil and felt on the base, with a plastic bowl Insert for the pet's ashes.

From Schwerkholt she also brought a small, very fine goblet made by Alan Thompson (set as her ultimate challenge!)





Frank Larsen's piece was inspired by an illustration he had seen in a magazine. He found a piece of wood on the nature strip, covered in paint so he rescued it to make this beautiful carved platter. He calls it "The Gannet." For simplicity and elegance this stole the show for me.



Richard brought in a number of items, the most innovative of them being a stunning Gentleman's Shaving Kit, a gift for his son's birthday. It was a mix of Blackwood and Red Gum. During the process he had to make a mandrel to fit his lathe and a bottle stock chuck for the brush. The kit came from Carbatec with the bristles on the brush being badger. He found it difficult to stop the chrome ring popping out when trying to put the bristles in. The finish was 2 coats of Wattle gloss with a final coat of satin. He also brought along 2 Christmas ornaments using coves and bead decoration of white wood Silver Top Ash, plus another made from the Melaleuca in his yard which was not yet finished.



And last but not least, Val Dalsanto, with a plethora of pieces!

- *A quirky spectacle holder (for a quirky turner) made from Jarrah
- *A Christmas candle holder made from an old laminated bed head with a dyed finish
- *A Plum lidded bowl, 2 days old when turned, decorated with a "special gadget!" and finished with EEE
- *A Pen made from Red Wood from a Sierra kit from Pop's Shed and finished with Danish Oil
- *Some Jewelry Rings made for a client to demonstrate how she could make them herself





This month, well known Melbourne Professional turner Ian ‘Robbo’ Robinson provided insights into the oft forgotten lost art of tool sharpening. As a production turner, Robbo requires sharp tools at all times and cannot afford to spend too much time at the grinder refining an edge. He has developed much skill in quickly attaining a sharp edge and is happy passing on his wisdom to us ‘amateur’ turners.

Next to turning itself, Robbo says the most important thing is sharpening, and to make sure that your grinder only ever has a quality wheel! To practice, get a metre long by 2 inch wide piece of scrap metal from a machinery shop and use it to practice grinding your tool shape and edge.

First word of advice is “ IF YOU CAN SEE THE TOOL EDGE ,ITS BLUNT”

Grinders (He only uses Abbot & Ashby grinders)

Start with no less than a 6” wheel grinder and remember there is little difference between the hollow grind on a tool ground on a 6” or an 8” wheel.

Robbo says he’s a real pain when he goes to buy a new grinder – once inside the shop he takes all the wheels off the grinders to try them!

- 🔧 It should not vibrate (with wheel removed) when on the bench
- 🔧 There should not be a lot of extraneous slack (side play)
- 🔧 Don’t use face plate or rubber feet under the grinder
- 🔧 Worst thing is the tool rest supplied with the grinder because it’s flexible and
- 🔧 Always wear safety glasses when operating the grinder
- 🔧 The side guards are not there to keep your fingers out of harm’s way, but to contain the bits of debris if the wheel explodes!

There are many different kinds of grinders:

- 🔧 High speed /Low speed/Sand paper/Wet grinders

With a high speed grinder you adapt your touch to the speed of the grinder. If you need a slower speed it’s best to turn the grinder off and use it as it’s slowing down

- 🔧 Robbo doesn’t like flat sharpening on a sandpaper grinder as it doesn’t give a concave edge to the tool
- 🔧 He actually recommends the use of a jig for most turners as you can obtain constant angles every time

Wheels

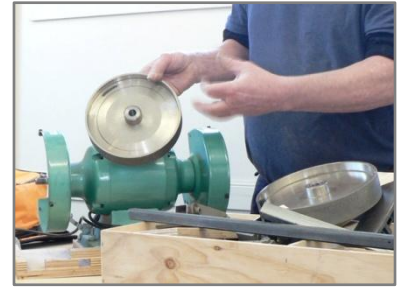
You can start with a gray carborundum wheel, but the preferred choice would be the white Aluminium Oxide one which should be bought from a wood turning shop, otherwise they are too hard. Most importantly the wheel must be “sound”, so tap it to check – a good one “rings,” if it “thumps” it’s stuffed!

- 🔧 For a Blue max wheel (gel bonded) use 54 grit on 8” grinder only
- 🔧 On a white wheel use 80 (can be 90) grit.
- 🔧 These are top of the line and run exceptionally cool



🛠️ The King of Wheels, however, is the 'CBN' a heavy metal wheel and is highly recommended as it will last a lifetime. When you consider what you spend on an ordinary carborundum wheel and how often you will need to replace it, the CBN (at approx \$240 per wheel) comes out the winner!

- ✍️ It's perfectly balanced and runs true
- ✍️ Never decreases in size
- ✍️ Runs cooler with no sparks
- ✍️ Doesn't need washers and comes with built in bushes
- ✍️ And CBN wheels do not need guards as they are virtually shatterproof
(guards are only needed to contain the debris if a wheel shatters)



One thing in particular to note is never to over tighten the locking screw, it should be finger tight only.

Fitting a wheel



- 🛠️ Turn a wooden shim to put the wheel in the middle
- 🛠️ The 2 bits of papers supplied with the wheel act as shock absorbers when you first start the wheel
- 🛠️ The 2 side washers must be of the same size. If they are not pressed metal go to a metal engineer and have them made. If aluminium washers are supplied they may gall on the shaft!
- 🛠️ It's good to have a stainless steel shaft
 - A 6" grinder has 1/2" shaft; a 5" grinder has a 5/8" shaft
- 🛠️ And, as with turning, you should always stand to the side for the first turn

Making the wheel run true

A new wheel may not be properly aligned in the cradle and as such will not give a give a good, true edge?

🛠️ A very important tool for wheel alignment is your felt pen. Use this to mark the location of the wheel each time the balance is tested

- ✍️ Loosen the shaft, turn it 180° then tighten it and try again
- ✍️ Rotate it 1/8 turn at a time and test until the wheel is true



Dressing a Wheel

By properly dressing a (none CBN) wheel you will end with one that is running true and clean and ready to use!

- 🛠️ Often wheels become grooved and undulate, so they need to be dressed with a "Dressing Stick"
 - ✍️ To remove grooves and nicks
 - ✍️ To clean the wheel (gets black marks out of wheel)
- 🛠️ There are a number of different types of "dressing sticks"
 - ✍️ A star stick wheel is only to be used on carborundum wheels as it may put multi grooves all the way down the wheel
 - ✍️ A single point diamond stick may have similar effects





- ✎ The best diamond dresser is a T dresser 30 – 40 mm wide
- ✎ But the best stick is a carborundum one – get it flat and it gives a straight edge across



NB: Make sure your grinder is running at full speed before you dress the wheel, otherwise the wheel will get chipped or worse still, could shatter

Jigs

Whilst Robbo likes to sharpen his tools “freehand”, he acknowledges that not everyone has the “knack” to do this and consequently jigs are necessary tools for most other turners.

These days there are a plethora of jigs around, and once you have selected one you like, stick it with it as every system is different and you need to be consistent in the sharpening of your tools.

At this point Robbo showed some examples of different jigs: a Uni jig, a Heli Grind by John Crawford which is good for the swept ground of the bowl gauges and the True Grind jig from new Zealand for which you can buy a special platform.

The Tormak is the best chisel sharpening station in the world for wood turning tools, but you can’t Shape a tool on the Tormak. They do, however, manufacture a jig accessory to fit all grinders which will do that. Robbo felt the wet grinders are not cost justified for normal hobby turners but are outstanding for production woodworking shops. His advice is to use a CBN wheel on your grinder instead, – at approx \$240 it’s still the best value for money. Setting a jig consistently with a CBN wheel is very easy, particularly if you have a platform like Robbo’s where all his jigs are interchangeable as they all fit under his grinders.



The jigs rely on fitting into a small “notch” or saddle for grinding, and the biggest problem is that they can easily fall out.

The tool rest is used as the fulcrum and the jigs rely on 3 factors to set the grind angle:

- 🔧 Projection or how far the jig comes out
- 🔧 Adjustable angle of tilt
- 🔧 Bar length

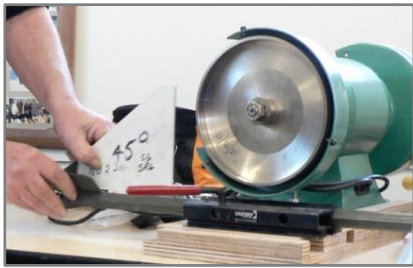
You must get into the habit of holding the jig, not the handle of the tool you’re sharpening!

- 🔧 Hold the jig and hold it tight
- 🔧 Make sure it is firmly seated in the saddle
- 🔧 Don’t get distracted like some well known person he wouldn’t dream of mentioning nearly lost some fingers – Giulio Marcalongo perchance!
- 🔧 You need good light for sharpening as well as at the lathe – you can’t sharpen tools if you can’t see what you’re doing!

Lighting doesn’t have to be expensive. This is an example of a good but cheap lamp (from Aldi) which is adjustable and can be clamped to wherever it’s needed!

- 🔧 And remember “if you can see an edge on your tool, you don’t have an edge!”





Setting angles on the wheel

Templates are used to set the grind angle but some of the commercially available templates are next to useless!

Robbo prefers to download his from the South Auckland Woodturners [site \(http://www.sawg.org.nz/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Tru-Grind-Spacers1.pdf\)](http://www.sawg.org.nz/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Tru-Grind-Spacers1.pdf) He then prints them out and then makes them up in plywood. The photo at right shows Robbo using one to set the grind angle on a jig. Note it is important to always keep the jig the same distance from the wheel.

Duplicating edges that work well for you

Newly purchased tools are not sold sharp so you need to shape them and sharpen them to your own style. Therefore it makes no sense to buy "Signature" tools that are pre-shaped and may not be good for your particular style.

When setting up your angle for sharpening there are 3 essential points :

- 🔪 Set the projection for your style, eg 50, 55 or 60° and mark the angle of the grind with a felt pen.
- 🔪 Set the side angle first by touching the side against the wheel: ie set the bar length first, further in and higher up the wing. For example the Elsworth grind, which has the wings cut right back, is only used in a transition curve cut, called the "Bottom Feeder" and has been used by the Brits for ages. The wings are used for sheer scraping
- 🔪 Set the nose bevel angle. Robbo likes his bevel to be the same all the way around

Tools

Robbo likes to sharpen all his tools to a 45° angle

- 🔪 Except for the **Spindle Gauges**, which have a long nose for getting into difficult places!
 - ✍ They're good for beads and coves and hollowing out boxes
- 🔪 **Skew Chisels** with straight or curved edges
 - ✍ The curved edge was allegedly attributed to Richard Ruffin who mistakenly thought they would alleviate catching!
- 🔪 **Bowl Gauges** can be V flutes, offset U flutes, parabolic and catenary curves (which describe the shape of a flexible hanging chain or cable)

Honing Tools

Robbo doesn't hone his tools or teach honing. It's too easy to stuff it up. And it's a process used mainly for carving not turning tools.

If however, you decide you really need to have a go, use a diamond plate eg a Norton (blue colour) but apparently not the one shown in this picture! And you can also hone using a wet stone and WD 40.



Robbos Quotes :

Main reason for sharpening a tool is that you can't turn with a blunt tool – and that leads to safety issues!
Sharpening should always be a "light" touch – like an Angel's kiss!
Shaping can be as hard as necessary, but I'm a firm believer that you can over sharpen tools
Don't sharpen on a belt sander – they run the opposite way!
Before your 2nd/3rd last cut, sharpen your tool; it gets rid of 'tear out' more often than not
Most importantly the wheel must be "sound" so tap it to check - a good one "rings," if it thumps it's stuffed!
If you're only going to use one wheel, use an 80 grit
It's most important that you be able to get a sharp edge on your tool
Manufactured angles are not sharp – you need to shape and sharpen them to your own style
Don't buy "Signature" tools – they may not be to your style
The first thing I do when I get a new tool is to polish it – eg the flutes of all gouges - they look better and then cut better
You must have a smooth tool rest – everything must slide effortlessly
I would recommend a jig for most turners as you get consistent angles every time
Three words I most hate : "Yea, I know;" then they promptly go off and do the opposite!
And last but not least!!!!

"Women are better turners, for 3 reasons:

- 🔪 *They listen*
- 🔪 *They try to do what they're told*
- 🔪 *And they smell a whole lot better than you bastards!*

OCTOBER MEETING.

The October meeting will feature Cliff Walsh (who is now a member of the Guild!) who will be demonstrating two methods of achieving curved fretworks. This promises to be a ripper so don't miss it!

OVERDUE SUBS.

Our Treasurer, Geoff will not be at the meeting so Carol Bentley will be acting in his stead to collect Annual Subs which are now overdue. Currently about 60% of members have coughed up, if you have yet to pay yours, please see Carol at the meeting. Those who can't make the meeting, please contact Geoff to arrange alternate methods of payment.

NOVEMBER MEETING.

The November meeting will be the Christmas breakup. Graham will be circulating a list for you to add your name should you and yours intend to come along to the luncheon. Graham will also be asking for members to assist with the catering. Many of the catering items will be provided by the Committee but there are still a few things that we may need help with. Attendance cost will be \$15 per head as per the last six years and Carol will be available to collect your money should you want to pre-pay.

CHRISTMAS TOYS.

Don't forget that we will once again be providing toys to the Salvos and Eastern Relief for those less fortunate children in the community. Hopefully you all have been busy in the workshop frantically creating masterpieces ready for the presentations at the November breakup.

WINDCHEATERS.

Di Bermingham (acting on info provided by Carol Bentley) has come across a source of windcheaters in Koonung maroon. She thinks they are about \$40 and additional \$7 or \$8 for the club logo. Please let Di or Carol know if you want one and they will look at getting firm prices and putting an order together.

To provide a good impression to the public, it is really important that members at demos, etc. are in 'uniform' - polos, windcheaters, smocks. If you have yet to purchase tops in club colours, see Di or Carol for a great deal.

Springfest

Another excellent day spent at the Nunawading spring Festival. Several members attended and kept the lathes spinning providing great entertainment to a large crowd. As usual, our efforts were rewarded with an appreciative audience and the Guild coffers were increased with the sale of a fair few items. Many thanks to Val and Geoff for the load/unload and transport of the gear and to all those that helped at the setup and cleanup.



Rick showing off his skills making offset Christmas trees



Val, Charlie and Ian pose for the camera



Punters checking out our wares note the guys testing the massager

**KOONUNG WOODTURNERS
GUILD INC.**
*Promoting Excellence and Fellowship
in Woodturning*
Reg. No. A0033752T

*The Koonung Woodturner's Guild meets at 9.00am
on the fourth Saturday of each month at 109
Koonung Road Blackburn North 3130*



Open Bowl Greater than 20cm
1st Place - John McBrinn
Australian Woodturning Exhibition 2015