

JULY 2004

WOODCRAFT MATTERS

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Remember

If you miss your normal meeting you are welcome to do a "make up" by attending another group that month. Just give the group leader a call to let them know you will be coming along.

Prez's Comment

Wood is Good

So, a new committee with new and ongoing challenges. Keeping up the momentum gathered over the last year will be difficult without continuing support from you, the members.

As a group we are looking forward to a productive and cooperative year.

The most important thing facing all of us is to keep the club healthy by bringing in new memberships. This is not wholly the responsibility of the committee, but of all members.

Full membership enables us to keep fees low and provide a sound basis for the club to flourish.

Spread the word among your friends and family, it is critical we attract younger people to join us and invigorate our activities.

Some of us "more mature" members (oldies) become complacent and we allow apathy to take over, a sure way to an early demise (personally and as a club). So "get with it", folks!

How would it be if each one of us could boast introducing one new member to the club?

Lets try and make what we do and say attractive to outsiders.

Robert McNamara

Box Making Clubs

Two box making clubs have already commenced in July.

The first Friday afternoon in the month, 12.30 - 3.30 pm. is led by Ken Morrison.

The third Tuesday night in the month, 6.30 - 9.30 pm. is led by Reg Orr.

To join, contact either Ken, Reg or Robert, fill in the enrolment form available at the club, pay your money \$55.00, or \$30 as your second club and "rock up".

There are still vacancies for both groups.

3 IMPORTANT MESSAGES

BANDSAW ACCREDITATION

To allow more member access to bandsaw usage, the next opportunity for accreditation will be held on **Wednesday 11th. August, from 7.00 pm**. The club policy is to ensure all users have attended an information / demonstration session before being able to use the machine.

Ring Robert McNamara 9876 1032 to confirm your attendance.

LATHE CHUCKS

ATTENTION ALL TURNERS. WE HAVE A PROBLEM!!!!!!!

It is becoming more apparent that some turners are not using the chucks correctly. We have had to replace bent and broken centre screws too often. Since purchasing the chucks, we have bought nine replacement screws.

This indicates:

- (a) Too much force is being used to thread blanks onto the chuck
- (b) Pilot holes in the blanks are too small in diameter or too shallow.
- (c) The screw is not inserted correctly into the chuck. The lip at the rear end of the screw **MUST** contact the back of the chuck jaws.

If the screw is too long in its normal setting for your blank, packing washers are available for you to use.

Your blank **MUST** be tightened up to the face of the chuck or the packing washer, if a gap exists you are courting disaster.

Make sure the chuck is firmed up to the end of the head stock spindle before starting the lathe.

If this is not done, the torque of the lathe will "slap" the chuck so tight that you will have a major task to remove it.

Please try to avoid contacting the chuck with the tools whilst turning, it doesn't do either any good.

Our problems seem to stem not from turners who are not sure, they usually ask for assistance, but from those who think they know, but really don't . How do we combat that?

Hoping for less damage and outlay of expenditure in the future.

Robert.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Mentioned in last months newsletter was the need for all key holders to develop a routine of "locking-out" the power board at the end of each session. This is necessary because of our shared use of the facilities with a home-school group.

Please follow the simple procedure as detailed on the front of the switchboard and make it part of your closing up duties.

Please note that you must switch power to the machines OFF, then lock the switchboard.

Magazine Subscriptions

On your recommendations, the club has now taken out subscriptions for three magazines for our library. Borrowing rules are as for all books and magazines.

The Wood Review, the Australian Woodworker, and Wood Carving, an English publication, are all in circulation. Please feel free to borrow or read at the club, but remember they are for all members to access, so don't monopolize them and don't forget to bring them back promptly, others will thank you for it.

Introduction to Wood Turning Course

The next introductory course is scheduled to commence on **Wednesday 25th. August, at 7.00 pm**, and will run for the usual six weeks. There are still two vacancies for anyone within the club to participate if they wish, contact Robert if you are interested, before we seek enrolments from elsewhere. Some extra assistance to run the course would also be appreciated.

Club Uniforms

Distribution of club uniforms is virtually completed, generally to everyone's satisfaction, at least nobody has complained personally to me!

A number of inquiries have been made about further orders of fleecy jackets.

I will be placing another order later this month, members wanting a jacket or any other item (shirt, cap or sew-on badge) please contact me ASAP on 9876 1032 with your order and payment

There was about a 50% response to the uniform issue, a bit disappointing considering all the work put in by the committee to gauge your approval and commitment for the project. New (and old) members might want to take advantage of this next order.

Comments from those participating as to the quality and appearance of the items received was positive, now is another chance for you to "be in it".

MANNINGHAM WOODTURNERS

Another productive night we had on the fourth Thursday, even though there were only four of us present. Robert & Gino have finished the base ring for the foot stool ready for drilling the spigot holes; John was busy cutting his segments for the ring and top. We finished off with a bit of socialising to cap the night off.

Now for last Sunday.

I congratulate Charlie for his organising the demo day with Jim Carroll who put on a very informative demo on the new range of turning tools available. The day was well attended with 37 members of various clubs. Jim provided a good range of articles to purchase and seemed to do well with sales. Jim made a donation of polish to the club, thank you Jim.

Ian Hansford



Above is pictured the Foot stool which we are making in Manningham woodturners as mentioned in the article at left. The base consists of a ring which in this case is laminated, with a solid top.

When Ian Hansford made the above stool he even turned a decorative rose in the underneath part of the top, lots of attention to detail.

DAYCARVERS

All benches were full on the first Friday in July as members diligently chiseled, whittled or sanded away at a diverse variety of carvings..

One of the keenest must be Janet, all the way from Bendigo, who inadvertently set her alarm for 4.30 am instead of the usual 5.30 am in order to drive to Templestowe for the 9 am start. Ken Reid is another who travels a long way from deepest Gippsland but on this occasion, with grandchildren in tow, he arranged to stop overnight in a Warrandyte caravan park to be at his bench by nine.

Dr Charles was diligently working on a name plate in walnut for his office door; Jack Jones was back and starting on a "wise" owl; Janet and Ken were completing eagles started at the Carve-in back in May and Yen was still practicing whittling of the human face and gained some sympathy when he admitted that he was finding his women the most difficult. One member was planning to laminate a block of kauri pine and attempt a life size self portrait of a very distinguished head but wasn't too sure that it would be recognisable as such.

For "Show and Tell" Derek produced an Art Deco dancing girl piece in European pear, Ronet another of her voluptuous female figures this time in American oak and Greg showed another well executed box in rare cabbage bark.

Everyone was encouraged to put an entry in the Royal Show woodwork competition and also to attend the 28th July Woodcraft AGM.

Derek Borrell

Crazy guy on a bike does Tasmania

This bike ride was carried out May/June of this year by Don McLean.

Click on the link below and then select East Coast Tasmania to follow Don McLean on his East Coast Tassie Ride.

www.maccaschoice.crazyguyonabike.com

Royal Melbourne Show

September 16th. to 26th, 2004

Members intending to exhibit items in the Art and Craft section of the show need to acquaint themselves with entry conditions, etc. and have entries in by the closing date of Friday 16th. July, 2004. Details on the notice board and in the schedule booklet in the attendance book. Entry form in the back of the schedule booklet can be photo copied, or from the RAS web site www.rasv.com.au

WOODTURNERS WAFFLE

The July activity saw quite a few lidded boxes completed and those who finished were quite happy with them. We also had a good selection of show and tell which was good to see.

August 19th meeting - The activity will be something different. We will have the secret carvers business revealed by one of its own, Ken Morrison a carver at our club. He will talk about carving and bring some examples of his work, carving on boxes. I would like to see a good turn up of Central members and also welcome other members of the carvers to come and support Ken. You can join in our raffle for \$2. I would like heaps of show and tell of anything at all from turners and carvers.

The demonstration day numbers started very slowly with not much support from Central Woodcraft members. I had to work very hard to get the numbers but help came from Gino's reminder and a lot of support from other clubs. In the end it worked out well, about 37 people attended the demonstration. Thanks to all those who helped on the day and a special thanks to the \$2 man Bill Bridges.

The basic French Polishing course will be up and running by the time you read this newsletter. I have nine people ready to go, five from Central Woodcraft, ladies and gents, three from Maaroondah and one from Warburton Valley. We will try to put some before and after photos in the newsletter when the course is completed.

Charlie Chamberlain



Above photo shows Jim Carroll from Carroll's wood craft on Demo Day as mentioned in Charlie's article Wood turners waffle.

Jim brought his own lathe along for the demo as well as a safety screen and a huge amount of stock for sale. All in all it would have been a big effort for him which is why we're all glad that we ended up with the desired amount of people on the day. A big thankyou to all that made the effort.

A couple of photo's taken during Central turners night.



The above photo does not do the platter made by Stuart Watson justice, the grain is superb.
(My attempt at humour has Stuarts blessing.)

Question and Answer

Albert Akkerman suggested that we start a Question and Answer section to the newsletter. Which to me sounds like a good idea. So if there is anyone out there who needs some questions answered please drop me a line, you would know by now that my details are on the top left corner of page one of this news letter. And at the same time responses should come via the same way. I will then publish them in the next news letter (if the person asking the question requests the answer be forwarded onto them earlier I will be happy to do so)
Please note other clubs who receive this newsletter are most welcome to participate in this if they wish, after all there is a lot of knowledge out there.

To start off Albert has asked how do you make ebonising solution, i.e. for ebonising timber?

Look forward to hearing from someone.

Regards Editor

Templestowe Turners

July 1st., saw a good "turn-up" of members, including four new starters, graduates of the last Intro. to Turning course. Welcome to Pasquale D'Amato, Joanne Legg, Harvey Andrews and Giles Dalloway. We hope you soon settle in and enjoy the company and challenge of wood-turning.

The task for the night was a small tea candle. Led by Stuart and Alan, everyone produced something different but effective, some good finishes were achieved on a variety of woods including some hard jarrah and merbau.

Next club night on Thursday Aug. 5th., will be a short session of UFO (Un-Finished Objects) turning, with the plug being pulled at 7.30 pm. for a concentrated clean up of the club rooms, it is our turn in the cycle of monthly clean-ups and, by mutual agreement, this time has been designated for the task to be tackled. An extra vacuum cleaner or two would be a big help if you are able to bring one. All come to make light work of the job.

See you all there, Robert, Stuart and Alan.