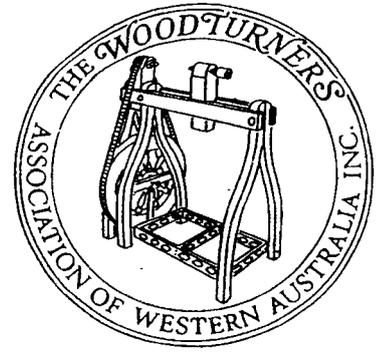


The Official Newsletter of the

# THE WOODTURNERS

ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC



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**No:66**

**DEC./JAN. 1996**

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### W.A.W.A. GROUPS MEETING TIMES, DATES AND VENUES.

- BUNBURY.** 1st and 3rd Wednesday. 7pm. Cross Electrics.
- BUSSELTON.** 2nd and 4th Wednesday. 7pm. Venue - High School.
- CENTRAL/SOUTHERN.** 2nd and 4th Wednesday. Brookton District High School.
- COLLIE.** Sundays 9.15am to 4pm. Various home workshops.
- KENWICK.** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. 7.30pm Liddlelow Homestead, Cooper Avenue, Kenwick.
- MANDURAH.** Every 2nd Tuesday 3pm Mandurah High School, Gibla Street, Mandurah and every 2nd Wednesday on alternate weeks 7.30pm Coodanup Senior High School. Check with Convenor for locations during school holidays.
- MELVILLE.** 4th Thursday. 7.45pm Palmyra Recreation Centre, Cnr Murray Rd and Canning Hwy, Melville.
- MIDVALE.** 2nd Tuesday. 7pm The Woodworking Centre 36 Farrall Road, Midvale.
- MUNDARING.** Every Friday. 7.30pm. Old Parkerville Primary School, Cnr Dura Road and Riley Road, Parkerville.
- NORTH OF RIVER.** 4th Tuesday. 7pm Woodstock 13 Cressall Road, Balcatta.
- WANDI.** 1st and 3rd Thursday. 7pm. Wandii Community Hall, Lot 33 DeHaer Rd, Wandii.

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS.

As we approach the end of the year and become busy with preparations for Christmas and with New Year holiday plans, it is perhaps fitting to look back upon our WAWA year. In doing so, we would have to recall with pleasure, the fellowships of our meetings, the interesting and instructive demonstrations given so generously by many within the Association, the skill evident in competition entries, the variety of the show and tell and the service given by our trade suppliers, to mention some of the elements that comprise our weekend workshops.

It is particularly pleasing to see the way that the Wandl Group has taken off. It is running so well that next year they will host a WAWA weekend workshop independently. Also heartening is the prospect of re-establishment of the Toodyay Group after a break of a few years. Welcome also to our first lady Convenor, Joan Stanton, of the Collie Group.

The two visiting turners, Richard Raffan and Andrew Potocnik, stimulated our thoughts about the way we turn. I'm sure it did us all good to see them perform and to hear their views. No review of our year would be complete without exhibitions of our work, displayed at such places as the Swan Cottage Homes Gallery, the "Wood" shows and of course at many shopping centres. These displays coupled with the demonstrations of turning at various venues, including schools, craft fairs and children's holiday activity programmes do much to stimulate interest in our work and the Association.

Our thoughts at this time go out to those needy children in the community to whom we contribute soft and wooden toys. Thanks to Laurel Reid for undertaking the task this year of coordinating the work of the many involved.

I believe that all these good things happen because we have a sound organisation which is attuned to the wishes of most members who attend weekend workshops, Group meetings and the many other functions organised within our Association. Long may it continue to blossom.

Keep the positive feedback coming, your Management Committee welcomes it and they all wish you a happy Christmas and a productive New Year.

Yours in turning, Gerald.

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## DISCOUNT BUYING SCHEME

*As a service to Members, the Commercial Activities Sub-Committee of the Association, in conjunction with the Secretary, is developing a Discount Buyers Scheme. The list of suppliers will be extensive and will show the name of the supplier, the address, telephone, fax and name of contact, together with the products in which they specialise and the discount being offered.*

*When the scheme is an accomplished list and about to get underway, we will publish a coloured flyer in the Newsletter. This will be updated annually with any additions/deletions being advertised in the newsletter as they occur. This is a big task and we hope to be able to include the flyer in the February Newsletter.*

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## A BIG THANK YOU .....

I would like to thank those W.A.W.A. members who had any part in my being awarded "Life Membership". I am very honoured and most appreciative of this award.

Nancy Launer. Member No 395.

## ASSOCIATION WEEKEND CALENDAR.

Date: **Saturday, 7th December.**  
Venue: Liddelow Homestead, Cooper Avenue, Kenwick.  
Mini  
Competition: Toy Drumsticks etc. (see drawing page 3)  
Details: See PAGE 3.

Date: **Saturday, 14th December.**  
ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS FUNCTION.  
Venue: MISS MAUDS, 33 South Terrace, Fremantle.

Date: **18th January, 1997 SATURDAY ONLY**  
Venue: Liddelow Homestead, Cooper Avenue, Kenwick.  
Competition: Thin Turning Maximum thickness 2mm  
Host Group: Kenwick.

Date: **15-16th February, 1997.**  
Venue: SOCCERDROME, Parade Road, Bunbury.  
Competition: Lidded Box incorporating two or more different species of wood.  
Host Group: Bunbury.  
Accommodation: See page 6.

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## DEMONSTRATIONS, EXHIBITIONS, SALES.

**February 22nd-23rd.** HOBBY SPECTACULAR  
Claremont Showgrounds, Claremont.

**March 22nd-23rd.** WYALKATCHEM Old Time Tractor  
and Machinery Show.  
Wyalkatchem Showgrounds.

**April 18th-20th.** Riddells Timber and Working with  
Wood. Claremont Showgrounds,  
Claremont.

For further information please contact:  
NEIL PIPER Phone (09) 398 2387. Neil will be taking charge  
of all setting up arrangements.  
JOHN LILLYWHITE Phone: (09) 339 2359  
NEIL BASDEN Phone: (09) 349 1082. Neil will be drawing  
up rosters. He will require **two weeks** notice of your  
intention to participate.

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## REMINDER.

**Annual fees were due on the 16th September. Complete the coloured renewal form included with your October newsletter and send it to the Membership Secretary today, with your cheque for \$20.00.**

**Don't risk becoming an unfinancial member,  
pay now.**

---

**AS YOU GROW OLDER, IT'S NOT SO HARD  
TO AVOID TEMPTATION, AS IT IS TO FIND IT.**

**COMBINED WAWA AND KENWICK GROUP  
CHRISTMAS MEETING, 7th DECEMBER  
LIDDELOW HOMESTEAD, COOPER AVENUE  
KENWICK.**

**HOST GROUP:** Kenwick Woodturners Group  
**ORGANISERS:** Kenwick, Melville, Midvale and North of the River Groups.  
**TIME:** 10am to 5 pm.  
**COST:** \$10 INCLUSIVE OF LUNCH.  
**BOOKINGS:** For Catering purposes, please advise your Group Convenor if you plan attending, OR if you are not already on your Group's list, phone Peter Dessent: (09) 398 1297

**PROGRAMME:**

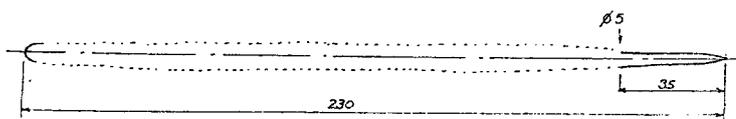
10.00 am	Announcements, Morning tea and fellowship. PLEASE BRING A PLATE.
10.00 - 12.00	MINI COMPETITION. (Prize to be announced) <b>COMPETITION ITEMS:</b> Pick-up stick or Spillikin and/or Pair of toy Drumsticks. See drawing below. Blanks provided, thanks to Viv Paust. Time allowed per person 15 minutes. Please bring your own chisel. Mini competition Items will be judged. (Judge to be appointed).
12.00 - 1.00	LUNCH. Roast Dinner - Three Meats, Six Vegies. Cold soft drinks for sale. BYO - Wine etc.
1.00 - 2.30	Show and Tell. Best thing turned. WAWA and the Kenwick Group.
2.30 - 3.00	AFTERNOON TEA.
3.00 - 4.00	WAWA Cumulative points competition results. Kenwick Cumulative points competition results.
4.00 - 5.00	Tidy up and restore Homestead.

**Your assistance is sought in the following areas:**

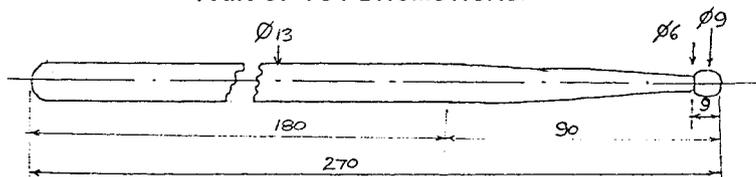
- Any Group or individual who can assist the day by providing **stackable chairs**; and
- Any one who can provide/loan a **mini lathe** for the mini competition (the more the merrier), please contact Peter Dessent Phone (09) 398 1297.

**'PICK-UP' STICK or SPILLIKIN. (Not to scale)**

Dotted Area - Maximum 8mm. Can be as decorative and detailed as you desire (beads, covers, captive rings etc.)



**PAIR OF TOY DRUMSTICKS.**



NOTE: Sanding and a "Richard Raffan" finish required.

**WAWA CHRISTMAS FUNCTION  
MISS MAUDS, FREMANTLE,  
SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER.**

We have had an excellent response to the Christmas Luncheon at Miss Mauds. Over 140 members and their partners will be attending, some coming from as far afield as Geraldton and the wheatbelt. It is lovely to see so many new members as well as our founding members will be present. Each lady will be presented with a corsage of flowers in appreciation of the tireless effort and support they have given not only to their partners, but also to the smooth running of the Association.

Yours in Turning, Russ.

**WAWA WORKSHOP MEETING  
SATURDAY, 18th JANUARY, 1997.  
LIDDELOW HOMESTEAD, COOPER AVENUE  
KENWICK.**

The KENWICK Woodturners Group welcomes all members, partners and friends to the first WAWA meeting for 1997 and wish you all the best for the coming year. We have a programme that is both interesting and informative prepared for your enjoyment.

**CONVENOR:** Peter Dessent.  
**MC:** To be advised.  
**HANDS ON:** Making Toy People.  
**TRADE SUPPLIER:** WOODSTOCK.

**COMPETITION ITEM: THIN TURNING.  
Maximum thickness 2 mm.**

**SATURDAY, 18th JANUARY, 1997.**

8.00 am	Chuck wagon arrives. Set up venue.
8.30	Registration and fellowship.
9.00	Welcome and Announcements.
9.15 - 11.30	Rod Cocks - Designing, Preparing, Turning and finishing a Pedestal.
10.00	MORNING TEA. Please bring a Plate.
10.30 Ladies.	Quilting with Isa Higgins. Design, tools, fabric choice.
11.30	Presentation on Gold Fields timbers.
12.30	Competition entries close, voting commences. LUNCH - BBQ: Meat packs available at reasonable cost. Salads provided. Gosnells Ranger Guides and Joey Scouts hosts.
1.30pm	Joe Hegney - Design of, functionality, tools, turning and finishing a rolled/undercut rimmed bowl.
1.30 Ladies.	Throwing Mud with Garry Merritt the Potters way.
3.00	AFTERNOON TEA. Voting closes.
3.30	Joe continues his demonstration.
4.00	PRESIDENT'S FORUM
4.15	SHOW AND TELL. Competition Results.
5.00	Clean up and Load the Chuck Wagon.

**COUNTRY WEEKEND MEETINGS.**

JIM PEMBER of North of the River Group will organise a bus to go to country meetings if sufficient members are interested. Those who are interested in going to the Bunbury Group

## COMPETITION SEPTEMBER - LEEDERVILLE.

### Split Turning.

The September competition saw 10 entries over all with a fine display of workmanship and the application of the split turning technique.

### RESULTS

Beginners.	1st	Peter Dessent - Jarrah	(60)
	2nd	Alex Cunningham - Jarrah	(61)
Intermediate.	1st	Reg Watson - Jarrah	(43)
	2nd	Rex Bungey - Jarrah	(41)
	3rd	Derek Pollard - Jarrah	(40)
Open.	1st	Alan France - Jarrah/Sheoak	(23)
	2nd	Ron Goodson - Tas Blackhead/ Jarrah	(22)
	3rd	Gerald Young - Rosewood	(20)

Ladies Choice: Gerald Young.

With the election of Gerald Young as President of the Association, I have taken over the role of competition organiser. I take this opportunity to congratulate Gerald on his appointment and to thank him for all his kind words and encouragement to all those who participated in the competitions over the time he was the organiser.

Peter Dessent.

## COMPETITION OCTOBER - BROOKTON.

### Table Lamp - Electric or Oil.

It is pleasing to see the numbers of the competition entries gradually increasing over the last couple of months and I trust that this trend will continue. Members are reminded of the important role competition plays in skills development, not only of the individual, but also we as an Association promoting the art of woodturning in this State. The 16 entries in this months competition displayed variety, uniqueness of design and a high standard of workmanship. In addition, I'd like to thank Geoff Barkla and his helper Bob Malacari, for providing a critique on all the articles presented.

### RESULTS

Beginners.	1st	Bob Webb - Sheoak	(60)
	2nd	John Boekhout - Sheoak/Jarrah	(62)
	3rd	Ray Falls - York Gum	(63)
Intermediate.	1st	Reg Watson - Nyatoh	(40)
	2nd	Jim McDonnell - Jarrah	(46)
	3rd	Peter Dessent - Jarrah	(45)
Open.	1st	Val Pereira - Sheoak	(25)
	2nd	Alan France - Sheoak	(22)
	3rd	John Lathwell - Jarrah	(20)

Ladies Choice. Val Pereira.

Many thanks to all entrants.

Peter Dessent

## COLLIE GROUP.

At the time our October Newsletter went to print, the Collie Group had not appointed a Convenor or office holders. We are now pleased to announce the following positions:

CONVENOR: Mrs Joan STANTON  
Post Office Box 255 DONNYBROOK WA 6239  
Phone: (097) 318291

SECRETARY/TREASURER:  
Les BEAUGLEHOLE  
1 Travers Drive AUSTRALIND WA 6233  
Phone: (097) 258933

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR .....

Extract from a letter from R L WEBB.

*My thoughts after our recent AGM was that the Management Committee should be nothing more or less than the collective wisdom of all the groups coming together to manage the entity which is WAWA. There are a number of ways this can be achieved, but the simplest is probably to change the Constitution to formalise group elections so that when a group convenor is elected, it automatically places that person on the Management Committee. It seems to me that the fact that this does not currently happen means that the groups are not adequately or appropriately represented on the Management Committee and committee members are left to work out their own solutions and to express their own views. That is a difficult position to put anyone in.*

*Apart from the AGM, there is no mechanism in place which allows the management committee to understand what the majority of the members require of it. If the process was changed as I am suggesting, it would mean that each time a member of the committee spoke on an issue he or she would be doing so on behalf of the group they represent and they would be answerable to that group. We need to encourage organisational innovation, both within our management committee and also at a local level, to allow our groups to take all reasonable steps to further the interests of woodturning.*

★★★★★★

## WARNING !!!

Several members have encountered problems with the use of a well known brand of pre-catalyzed lacquer. The finish on their woodturnings showed signs of cracking and crazing.

Approaches to, and a visit from the manufacturer's representative, have so far, not come up with a cause or a satisfactory solution. We have been promised that the matter will be investigated. If you have come across similar problems, Keith Johnson would like to hear from you. Keith's address is: 3 Barrisdale Road, Ardross, 6153. Phone (09) 364 6082.

★★★★★★

## CONGRATULATIONS....

At the latest Craft Spectacular held at the Karrinyup Community Centre one of our youngest members, SIMON MORLEY, took off not only first prize in the woodturning section but first prize overall for woodcraft. Although there were not many other entries the standard was extremely high. Simon's designs show great originality and his work will do well in any innovative exhibition. BRIAN LAUNER, the winner of last year's first prize, came second in woodturning and third in furniture. Well done to both Simon and Brian. Lets give them a run for their money next year !

Peter Lowe.

★

★★★

JOY CHEER

REMEMBERING

HAPPINESS CARING

TRADITION INSPIRATION

FRIENDSHIP FUN GOODWILL

WONDER SURPRISE CELEBRATION

FAITH BEAUTY BROTHERHOOD PEACE

HOPE

LOVE

Best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Editor and Staff.

## PROFILE OF A TURNER .....

### ELAINE BOYD

Like many of our wood turners, Elaine was born in the country. She grew up in the central wheatbelt where her parents were farming at Koorda. She was quite capable of driving a tractor and doing many other farm jobs while still a school girl. Elaine's secondary education was undertaken in Perth - boarding school at first and later her mother came to Perth to look after Elaine and her sister.

On first leaving school she worked as a milliner but the long hours and poor pay influenced her to look for better employment. This led her to become a telephonist working shift work at the Perth GPO. She was one of six selected for work on the overseas lines. This needed some knowledge of other languages. Elaine had learnt some German and French at school and had also picked up some Italian from prisoners of war working on their farm. (During the war many farms had to rely on labour from Italian prisoners of war and most of them were very good workers.)

Elaine had known and been friendly with Ted for around six years when they decided to marry. At that time, married women could not remain employed with the Government services, so she left the PMG and worked as a receptionist at Skipper Bailey until their first child was born.

Prior to taking up woodturning, Elaine had a plant nursery specialising in ferns. After Ted retired they decided they would like a hobby that they could both share.

About 25 years ago, her mother had taken up wood turning. The reason for this was that she wanted a standard lamp and decided they were too dear to buy. Her mother went to Technical School to learn wood turning and then bought a lathe. The money she earned from her turning was used to support an overseas missionary.

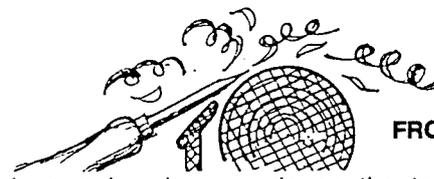
Elaine started turning using her mother's old lathe. She took lessons at Kent Street school for three months using a blunt scraper on pine. At first she was terrified of the lathe but, with proficiency, overcame her fears.

Elaine and Ted met up with Ron Smith and Gordon Ratcliffe at a WAWA demo in Belmont and they encouraged them to join the Association.

Elaine is well known for her artistic pieces, especially her many different mushrooms, usually set in a garden scene using pieces of burl or other settings. She enjoys the different shapes and colours that can be used in these creations. Repetitive turning of many identical articles does not have the same appeal. Her creations have won many of our local competitions and "Best Thing Turned for the Year".

Elaine finds WAWA to be a great social group and hates to miss any of their meetings. She enjoys the interaction and fellowship and the technical hints so freely shared. Over the years she has built up her equipment but it remains basically a hobby. She strongly believes it is an excellent hobby for women and anyone taking it up has a great opportunity to learn and create. Also, from a woman's view point, there are many useful things for the house that can be made.

It is good to see that an increasing number of women are now following Elaine's example.



## SHAVINGS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A start has been made on the task of improving the effectiveness of your management committee. So that the twelve members, who meet once each month, can deal quickly with the many and varied items on their agenda, it has been decided to divide the work into five main areas. The detailed work in each of the following areas will be undertaken by small Sub-Committees.

Sub Committee Area of Responsibility	Members Main Committee	Coopted WAWA Members
Organisational	Les Small Geoff Barkla	To be advised.
Weekend Workshop Development and Coordination.	John Lathwell Ivor Bridges	Peter Dessent
Skill Development	Gordon Ward Bob Power	
Equipment Acquisition Deployment and Control.	Kevin McCracken Michael Head	Group Convenors Others TBA.
Commercial Activities (Including Discount Scheme).	Russ Russell Neville Threlfo	John Lillywhite Neil Piper Neil Basden

Each of the Sub-Committees will report the results of their work to the Executive Committee each month, with recommendations for requests for further directions or decisions as appropriate. It is intended to coopt other members of the Association into the Sub-Committees as needed to embrace as wide a range of views and experience as possible in the management input. These are early days in this process - watch this space for further reports on developments.

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## FOR SALE

**FILING CABINET.** The Secretary has replaced the filing cabinet with one more suitable to the Association's need and the old four drawer cabinet is for sale. Contact George Herring on (09) 497 4719 or (09) 405 4147.

**FOR SALE, owing to my old age :**

One only HITACHI ROUTER 12mm 1600 W Motor \$ 160  
One only MAKITA BELT SANDER 100 x 610mm \$ 160  
One only HITACHI PLANER F200a 15000 RPM \$ 85  
Phone: Bob Wiggins: (09) 364 5698.

**LARGE SUPPLY** of Blackboy Centres, Banksia Nuts, Jarrah Burls, White Gum Burls. Some burls coffee table size, machined to 1.5" thickness. Anyone interested, phone: RUSSELL CLARK (098) 566 248. Russell has access to a large supply of this type of wood which he thinks is too good to be burnt.

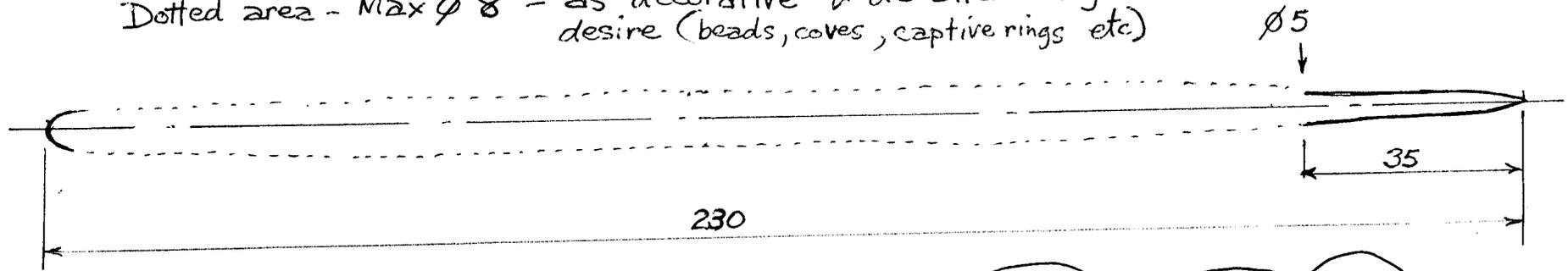
**FOR SALE:**

One 2 speed small lathe \$ 75  
One 4 speed Shure lathe \$ 175  
Phone: Erol Syrid: (09) 307 8816.

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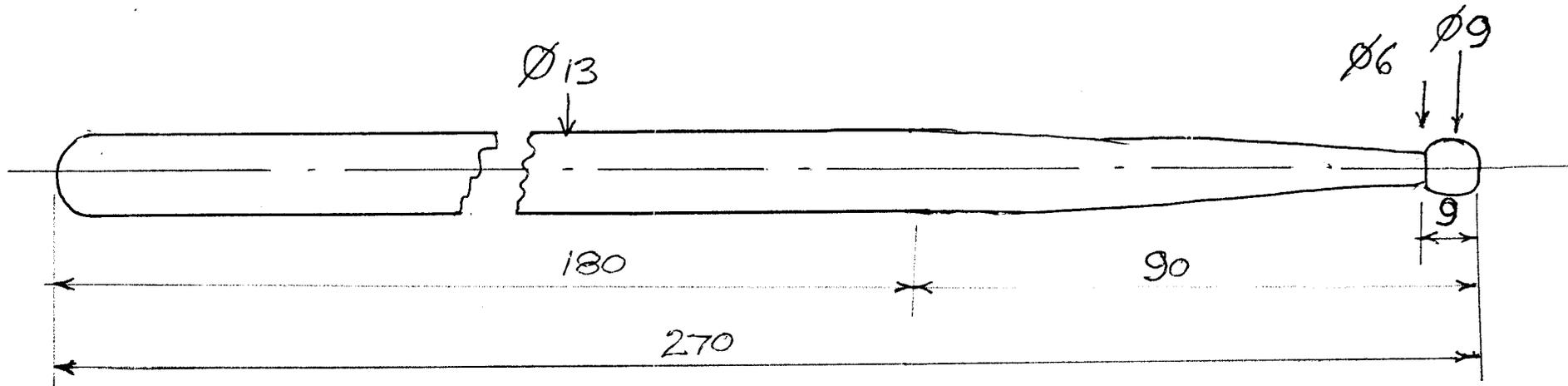
"PICK-UP" STICK or SPILLIKIN.

Dotted area - Max  $\phi 8$  - as decorative & detailed as you desire (beads, cones, captive rings etc)



Sanding and a "Richard Raffan" finish required.

PAIR OF TOY DRUMSTICKS.



**WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA – COMPETITION ARTICLES FOR 1997.**  
**18th January and 15–16th February, see Association Weekend Calendar, page 2.**

- 15–16th March.** BOWL with rolled rim / undercut. WA INDIGENOUS WOOD. See next page for list.  
 OPEN: Up to 350 mm Dia. INTER / BEGINNERS: 250mm Dia.
- 19–20th April.** MAXIMISATION OF TIMBER USAGE 75mm x 75mm x 300mm. Any turned item or items.
- 17–18th May.** NATURAL EDGED BOWL in timber or burl. OPEN: Max size – 350mm Dia. INTER / BEGINNERS: 250mm Dia.
- 21–22nd June.** CLOCK free standing or mantle. Maximum face size 275mm Dia.
- 19–20th July.** SCULPTURAL FORM. May be functional or purely aesthetic. Unrestricted size.  
 Free standing or hanging. Let your imagination run riot.
- 16–17th August.** HOLLOW FORM, Vessel or vase. OPEN: 300mm H, 150mm Dia  
 INTER / BEGINNERS: 250mm H, 100mm Dia.
- 20–21st September.** GOBLETS maximum size 75mm Dia x 120mm tall. OPEN: 4 matched goblets  
 INTER: Matched pair. BEGINNERS: One goblet.
- 18–19th October.** TABLE LAMP – Inside out or Offset Turned. Maximum: 400mm H.
- 15–16th November.** WALKING STICK. Must be turned from a single unsplit piece of timber. Handle free choice.
- 20th December.** Best Thing Turned Competition Results and Biggest "STUFF UP" Of The Year.
- 17th January, 1998.** PAIR OF SALT AND PEPPER GRINDERS, or A CRUET SET.

**Video List continued .....**

**WAWA COMMITTEE AND POSITION HOLDERS 1996/97.**

President	Gerald Young	Phone: (09) 399 5002
Past President	Russ Russell	(09) 337 7631
Vice President and Acting Treasurer	Les Small	(09) 364 6143
Treasurer Designate	Milton Rundle	(09) 385 9559
Secretary	George Herring	(09) 497 4719
Safety Adviser	Kevin McCracken	(09) 310 1057
	Michael Head	(09) 361 1469
	Bob Power	(09) 479 1306
	Neville Threlfo	(09) 398 3313
	Geoff Barkla	(09) 293 4330
	Ivor Bridges	(09) 295 1867
	John Lathwell	(09) 291 6280
	Gordon Ward	(09) 390 6418
Video Librarian	Neil Piper	(09) 398 2387
Publications	Len Nichols	(09) 339 6490
Shopping Centre Co-ordinator	John Lillywhite	(09) 339 2359
Competition Organiser	Peter Dessent	(09) 398 1297

- Ron Goodson** – Tool Sharpening.
- John Shinnick.**  
 Tool Sharpening.  
 Tool Sharpening, Basic Tool Use.
- David Springett.**  
 Elliptical Turning.  
 Woodturning Wizardry.
- Del Stubbs.**  
 Bowl Turning.  
 Del Stubbs at Bunbury.
- Ivor Bridges** – Table Legs.
- Keith Johnson** – Wax Finishing.
- Keith Stout** – Natural Edge Bowl.
- Frank Klaus** – Wood Finishing.
- Bruce Leadbeatter.**  
 Chainsaw Commonsense. Lathe Safety.  
 Fine Woodworker Exhibition. WAWA Exhibition.  
 Woodturning Workshop. Int.Woodturning Seminar 1,2.  
 Pure Enjoyment. Sharpening, Cup Chuck Turn.  
 Bunnings Forest Products. Watty! Finishing.

**If you are returning the tapes by mail, please ensure they are suitably packaged. Special Video boxes are available from Post Offices.**

Tapes should be returned to:  
 NEIL PIPER, Video Librarian  
 20B GREENHOOD COURT  
 GOSNELLS WA 6110.

**VIDEO LIBRARY**

The following tapes are available from Neil Piper (09) 398 2387  
 Tapes may be borrowed by financial members for a period of SEVEN DAYS.

**Mike Darlow.**

- WA Visit.
- Teach Yourself Spindle Turning.
- Teach Yourself Cup Chuck Turning.
- Spindle Turning.
- Bowls, Cup Chuck.
- Brunswick Visit.

**Vic Woods.** No 1 and No 2.

**Viv Paust.** Doughnut Turning.

**Kel McNaughton** Demonstration.

**Dennis White.**

- Turning Bowls.
- Boxes, Goblets, Screw Threads.
- Twists, plus Advanced Turning.

**Richard Raffan** – Turning Projects.

**ACCOMMODATION BUNBURY.**

**PUNCHBOWL CARAVAN PARK**  
 Ocean Drive, Bunbury Phone: (097) 21 4671

**GLADE CARAVAN PARK**  
 Cnr Bussell H'way and Timperley Road (097) 21 3800

**BUNBURY CARAVAN AND CHALET VILLAGE**  
 Bussell Highway, Bunbury (097) 95 7100

## WOOD SAMPLES INDIGENOUS TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The March 1997 Competition Item, calls for a bowl to be made from WA Indigenous Wood. Here is a list of wood samples indigenous to Western Australia.

1. Jam Raspberry	
Jam Wattle	Acacia Acuminata
2. Mulga	Acacia Craspedocarpa
3. Banksia	
4. Banksia Swamp	Banksia Occidentalis
5. Banksia Bull	Banksia Grandis
6. River Banksia	Banksia Littoralis
7. Blackboys	Xanthorrhoea
8. Blackbutt	Eucalyptus patens
9. Bullich	Eucalyptus Megacarpa
10. Cedar Native	Agonis Juniperina
11. Native Plum	Santalum Acuminatum
12. Christmas Tree	Nuystia Floribunda
13. Cypress	
14. Forrest Pear (sand plain Woody Pear)	Xylomelus Angustiforium
15. Gimlet (false Gimlet)	Eucalyptus Dipters
16. Karri	Eucalyptus Diversicolor
17. Marri	Eucalyptus Calophylla
18. Paper Bark	Mealeuca
19. Sandalwood	Santalum Spicatum
20. Tea Tree	
21. Wattle (Black)	Acacia
22. Wattle	Acacia
23. Tuart	Eucalyptus Gomphocephula
24. Peppermint	Agonis Grandiflora
25. Blue Gum	
26. Jarrah	Eucalyptus Marginata
27. Jarrah Burl	Eucalyptus Marginata
28. Snotty Gobble	
29. Sheoak	Casurina Acutivalvis
30. Beefwood	Grevillea Striata
31. Snakewood	Acacia
32. Prionotes	Banksia Prionotes (Acorn Banksia)
33. Bubiela	
34. Corkwood	Corkbark Hakea Lorea
35. Bloodwood	Eucalyptus
36. Kimberly Ebony	Eucalyptus Confluens
37. Wandoo	Eucalyptus Wandoo (Redunca)
38. Powder Bark	Eucalyptus Accendens
39. Salmon Gum	Eucalyptus Salmonophloia
40. Salmon Gum White	Eucalyptus Lane Poolei
41. Salmon Gum Burl	Eucalyptus Salmonophloia
42. Yellow Tingle	Eucalyptus Guilfoylei

## SEASONING TIMBER IN THE MICROWAVE

By Dr Peter Benzie

Lecturer in Industrial Arts, Edith Cowan University.

Microwave seasoning of timber is the answer to the woodturners dream, opening up an exciting new world of wood turning, being limited only by the turners imagination and creativeness.

The traditional air-drying of timber with its inherent problems of checking and splitting, not forgetting the long forced wait, of up to 2 years in some cases, for a crotch or burl, with no guarantee as to the quality when dried, nor the suitability for turning. The modern practice of firstly using a de-humidifier, to control environmental conditions and rapid moisture loss before subjecting the timber to natural air drying has reduced the seasoning process to 6-8 weeks, as well as significantly increasing the recovery percentage of first grade timber, free of defects.

Woodturners using a microwave can now look forward to turning an artifact from a piece of living tree, seasoning and finishing in the space of a few hours. The wood turner will also discover the joy and ease of turning green timber. The microwave oven heats the timber from inside, thus moisture is drawn from the inner layers towards the surface. This results in a reduction of the compression stresses imposed on traditionally seasoned timber.

### The Microwave Method.

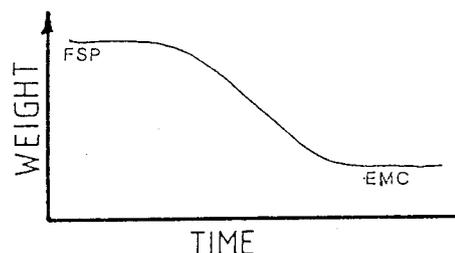
Obtain a green timber blank, preparing it for turning on the lathe. Turn the blank to slightly oversize (3-5mm) larger than the desired shape or form of the artifact. Remove the blank from the face plate or scroll chuck ensuring that the original position is indexed, for future replacement. Next, weigh the turned blank and record the result. If for some reason the entire artifact cannot be completed in one continuous process then the timber blank must be stored in a sealed plastic bag containing the shavings. This reduces the moisture loss from the timber blank.

Place the blank in the microwave and microwave on the DEFROST or LOW setting for ten minutes. The power of microwaves and the range of settings varies considerably between models. It is important to note that the time and setting can vary depending on the microwave as well as the size and type of timber used. Experience will enable you to vary the time but not the power setting.

When complete, the blank must be allowed to cool for at least 10 minutes. The heating effect of the microwaves may not become immediately apparent, as the microwaves only penetrate approximately 25mm. The most important factor is not to allow the blank to heat sufficiently enabling the moisture to generate steam. The cooling time is therefore important and will vary in duration as the timber is heated.

Repeat the heating and cooling cycle, 2-3 times, recording the weight and times on a recording sheet. The sheet should show the timber species, the approximate size eg: diameter, height, wall thickness; microwave setting, initial weight. Then the time of each heating and cooling cycle and the weight at the end of each cycle. As the timber is heated you may find it altering shape due to the internal stresses and becoming very pliable and plasticine in nature, the significance of this depends upon the species of timber. Some interesting shapes can be obtained during this stage however finishing off the bowl can prove difficult. If the timber blank is subject to movement some form of clamping device may be employed to hold the timber in shape during the cooling cycle.

The heating cooling cycle is repeated until the timber reaches the equilibrium moisture content. It is important to reduce the heating time as the moisture content falls, to prevent charring and burning. By plotting the time and weight on a graph the resultant pattern will follow the form of the graph illustrated below.



Once the weight has stabilised and the equilibrium moisture content is reached the turned blank can be remounted on the lathe, turned and trued to the required size, sanded and finished. The microwave system is not infallible and failures will occur, however through practice and experience, the failure rate will fall significantly.

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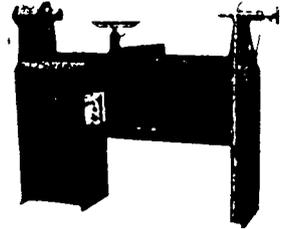
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