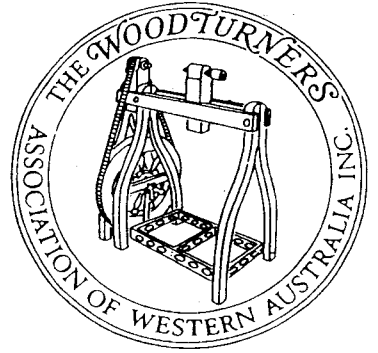


The Official Newsletter of the

THE WOODTURNERS

ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE.....	2	NEW MEMBERS.....	5
WEEKEND CALENDAR.....	2	SHAVINGS FRO THE COMMITTEE.....	6
DEMONSTRATIONS.....	2	FOR SALE.....	6
WORKSHOP MEETINGS.....	3	TOOLREST DRAWING.....	6
MONTHLY COMPETITIONS.....	3	SEASONING TIMBER.....	7
WEEKEND WORKSHOP & A.G.M.....	4		
PROFILE-LEN NICHOLLS.....	5		

No:77

AUG./SEPT. 1998

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

AVON VALLEY.	4th Thursday, Bob Adams Place, 8 Pioneer Place, Toodyay 7.30pm
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. 7pm Liddlelow Homestead, Cooper Avenue, Kenwick.
MANDURAH.	Every 2nd Tuesday 3pm Mandurah High School, Gibla Street, Mandurah Check with Convenor for locations during school holidays.
MELVILLE.	4th Thursday. 7.45pm Melville Recreation Centre, Cnr Stock Rd and Canning Hwy, Melville. Wednesday mornings 8am Southside Woodturning Supplies Willagee
MIDVALE.	2nd Tuesday. 7pm The Woodworking Centre 36 Farrall Road, Midvale.
MUNDARING.	Every Friday. 7pm. 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. Wandi Community Hall, Lot 33 DeHaer Rd, Wandi.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Jack DeVos came home recently from a visit to Canada, where he had an opportunity to sample the Woodturning scene over there and give a demonstration or so. We hope to learn more of his experiences in due course.

The Canadians were interested to hear about the way our Association operates. In particular how we have our various groups take responsibility for a full weekends activity for the benefit of Association members as a whole.

It appears that clubs and guilds over there have no "umbrella" organisation to bring them together the way we do. Consequently they do not seem to benefit to the same degree from the wide interchange and sharing of skills.

Dwelling on this difference in approach reminded me of the importance at this time of year of public-spirited members stepping forward to fill vacancies on Group and Association Committees, so that the benefits of our way of doing things can continue.

I believe we have a good system - long may it continue.

Gerald

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19 - see insert.

From the editor

Directory Changes -

Melville Convener **Derek Martin** is to be away for two months.

Brian Fowle is the man to contact.

George Herring is to be Convener for Kenwick Group until their AGM in September following the resignation, for personal reasons, of Reg Watson. George's phone numbers etc are already in the Directory although the Editor understands George is to spend rather less time at work these days.

Speaking of George - he has been a great support for me in arranging to keyboard all the handwritten material sent in to the Newsletter by members. Thanks George you've been appreciated. Next issue there will be a new editor. I have enjoyed the task and thanks to all who have helped.

ASSOCIATION WEEKEND CALENDAR

August and September. See Programmes pages 3 & 4
Competitions - see page 3

Date **17/18 October 1998**

Venue **Eva Pavilion Brookton**
Host **Central/Southern Group**

Date **21/22 November 1998**

Venue **Wandi Community Hall Wandi**
Host **Wandi Group**

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date **Saturday 5 December 1998**

Venue **Beckenham Community Centre R**
or Kalamunda Agricultural Hall

Format: One day workshop incorporating a number of activities together with a modest cost meal.

Cost: Normal workshop entry fee plus cost of meal (final cost still to be determined).

Date **Saturday 12 December 1998**

Venue **Miss Mauds Function Centre, Fremantle.**
Time **12 noon**

Format **Social smorgasbord luncheon. \$21-50 per head.**
A separate cash bar will be available.

Please also refer to shavings from the committee

DEMONSTRATIONS, EXHIBITIONS, SALES.

August 14-16 **W.A. Wood Show.**
Out of the Woods.

September ~~14-19~~²¹⁻²⁶ **Melville Plaza Shopping Centre.**
Canning Highway Melville.

November 16-21 **Southlands Boulevard**
Shopping Centre. Burrendah Boulevard.

For further information please contact:

John Lillywhite Phone (08) 9339 2359.

Neil Piper Phone (08) 9398 2387.

Neil Basden will be arranging the rosters. Please remember to give at least two weeks notice of your intention to participate
Phone 08 9349 1082

Please - all goods for sale on first day of display.

Charles Owens

It is announced with regret that **Charlie Owens** (Member No 815) of the Melville Group passed away on **26 May 1998**

Frederick George Rosewarne

It is announced with regret that **George Rosewarne** (Member No 278) of the Bunbury Group passed away early June.

George was 80 and died after an operation. He will be sorely missed by the Bunbury Group who says he was an excellent turner and "very finicky" about finish.

The Association extends its sympathy to next of kin

Snippets - May 1998 Minutes

- Committee policy is to be amended to allow a term of three years for non-executive office holders
- Committee thanks are recorded to Barry Leivers and Ivor Bridges for work done on videoing. Barry has purchased two cameras and is inquiring about monitors
- A convenors meeting is to be held to discuss the revised Convenors handbook
- Equipment to be purchased includes
 - Switch for N-O-R lathe
 - Stand for Mandurah lathe
 - Adaptor for Kenwick lathe
 - Tools for Wandi, Treasurer holds a spare set (Lotteries)
- Country workshops may be advertised to attract new members.
- WAWA is seeking replacements for the following office bearers who will end their terms at the AGM
 - Secretary (George Herring)
 - Treasurer (Milton Rundle)
 - Weekend Co-ordinator (John Lathwell)
 - Competition Organiser (Viv Paust)
 - RAS Arts & Crafts Committee (Viv Paust)
 - Newsletter Editor (Richard Leggo)

NEXT NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION October 1 1998

DEADLINE FOR PRINTED COPY: September 7 1998

DEADLINE FOR HANDWRITTEN COPY: September 1 1998

The Newsletter Editor

Post Office Box 371

KELMSCOTT WA 6111

Change of address notices to Membership Secretary
Jim McDonnell 31 Arundle Ave Greenmount WA 6056

WAWA WEEKEND WORKSHOP

Memorial Hall Toodyay 15/16 August 1998
(Ample parking at the rear of the hall)

The Avon Group extend a welcome to all members, their partners, friends and visitors to the workshop.

MC BILL OMEARA
SAFETY ADVISOR KEVIN McCRACKAN
HOSTS MAX HEATH, DAVID SARGENT, BOB ADAMS
TRADE SUPPLIER WOODWORKING CENTRE MIDVALE

COMPETITION Item/items not exceeding 8mm diameter

TURNERS GALLERY Please bring items for public display, show your work to the world.

SHOW & TELL We can all learn from each others display, items needed

PROGRAMME: - SATURDAY 15

- 8.00 Set up venue.
9.00 Hands on and fellowship, tool sharpening.
10.00 Competition entries close – popular voting opens
Morning Tea (A plate with food please)
10.30 **Ken Rex Router Work on the Lathe**
11.15 **Neil Basden Chain Saw Milling**
12.00 Competition entries close. Voting commences.
Sausage Sizzle
1.00 **Bus trip to points of interest, available to all**
Hands on work or queries and have your problem solved
2.00 Popular vote closes
2.30 **Tom Cooke Demonstration Industrial High Water Pressure Cleaner for debarking burls. Bring your burl for cleaning**
3.00 Afternoon Tea
3.30 **Gordon Wilkins Hollow Bowl Turning**
4.15 **Show & Tell, Voting Results, President's Forum**
5.15 **Re-organise Venue for Meal and entertainment**
6.00 **Evening Meal - Soup and Roast Beef - Charge \$5**
Please bring a salad to share.
7.00 **Quiz night**
Comperes : Dan Kilgallon & George Herring

PROGRAMME SUNDAY 16

- 9.00 **Milton Rundle - Vacuum Chucking**
10.00 Morning Tea
10.30 **Kevin Pritchard - Turned Wooden Toys**
11.15 **Outrigger Turning**
12.00 **BYO Lunch (Shops nearby)**
1.00 **Results** Guess the Wood Competition
1.05 **Simultaneous Demonstrations - Four Turners doing lidded boxes their way**
All Hands - Load wagon and lathes.

ACCOMMODATION

Avalon Holiday Retreat 08 9574 5050 Avonbrook Farmstay 08 9574 4192
Freemason's Hotel 08 9574 2201 Ipswich View H/stead 08 9574 4038
Lavender Cottage B/B 08 9574 4189 Pecan Hill Guest Hse 08 9574 2636
Victoria Hotel/Motel 08 9574 2206 Whitfield House B/B 08 9574 4436

Caravan Parks Avon Banks 08 9574 2636
Broadgrounds 08 9574 2612 Hoddywell 08 9574 2410

GROUP CHALLENGE TEAM COMPETITION

September weekend 19th and 20th Sept. Six groups participating - five members per team. Competition on Sunday morning.

The groups are:-

Avon, Bunbury, Kenwick, Melville, Midvale and North of River.

ITEM - TABLE CANDLE STICK HOLDER

Five turners per team will compete to turn three legs, one base and one top. One team member must be an eligible beginner. The contest will be timed. Challenge manager will be Bob Malacari. (continued next column)

Mandurah and Wandl groups are bringing their lathes and will demonstrate on Saturday, but do not intend participating in the challenge.

COMPETITIONS

WEEKEND WORKSHOP COMPETITIONS 1998

August	Item(s) with no part exceeding 8mm diameter
September	Candlestick to drawing supplied
October	Jewellery box, schematic drawing supplied. (see also Column 2)
November	Turned article produced in under 3 hours (excluding finishing coats)
December	Best thing turned

MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

MAY 1998

Topic was 'Lidded Container (no restrictions)' and some certainly showed no restrictions. Beware of turners such as Malcolm Munro who make a dog box and Alan France with his long legged sphere. There were 33 items well spread over all 5 classes. Our judges were Elaine Boyd, Dick Morley and John Boekhout who had an unenviable task, as each had very firm opinions on what was right or wrong with each entry. Many thanks to them for their work. Popular choices of the members went to Alan France with Tom Warbutton (intermediate) and Colin Richards (open) polling well. Due to the high standard of entries 31 items received votes.

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Beginners	Max Rutherford	Dave Hodgkin	Alan Smith
Novice	Ken Dixon	Kevin Hall	Barrie Leivers
Intermediat	Alan Smith	Bob Webb	Malcolm Munro
Open	Colin Richards	Peter Dessent	Ken Rex
Masters	Alan France	John Lathwell	Len Nicholls

PS There are two Alan Smiths.

JUNE 1998

Hallstand, Umbrella or Walking Stick Stand.

A daunting competition piece and only a few entries were received. 5 Novice, 1 Intermediate, 2 Open, 1 Master. Styles were varied and the workmanship was of high standard. Each item would be a very acceptable piece of furniture in a home. Even Dan's beautifully turned miniature will be a lovely addition to a doll's house. The wide span of the popular votes showed that people have quite a divergence of opinion on what they like although Alan Smith's entry was a clear winner. 54 members took the trouble to vote, not bad but we would like more to participate.

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Beginners	No entries		
Novice	Bob Todd	Frank Werren	Barry Leivers
Intermediate	Milton Rundle		
Open	Alan Smith	Peter Dessent	
Masters	Len_Nicholls		
Popular choice	Alan Smith	Peter Dessent	Milton Rundle
			Len Nicholls (Sub for Viv Paust)

WAWA - WEEKEND WORKSHOP & AGM
Kalamunda Agricultural Hall Canning Road Kalamunda
19/20 September 1998

The Executive Committee extends a warm welcome to all WAWA members, partners and visitors to this workshop and our fourteenth Annual General Meeting. This weekend is special as it gives us an opportunity to review where we have been and to look forward to our future. This weekend we have concurrent demonstrations on Saturday with 8 lathes and on Sunday Morning a challenge match between six Groups to turn a "Table candlestick holder" to their own design. The Weekend Co-ordinating Committee have organised and are managing this meeting.

Convenor John Lathwell **MC** Bob Malacari
Safety Adviser Kevin McCrackan
Competition Candle stick (drawing supplied)
Trade Supplier Woodstock Bentley
Hosts Les Small, Geoff Barkla, Gordon Ward
Hostesses Eve Small, Norma Rundle, Marie Lathwell

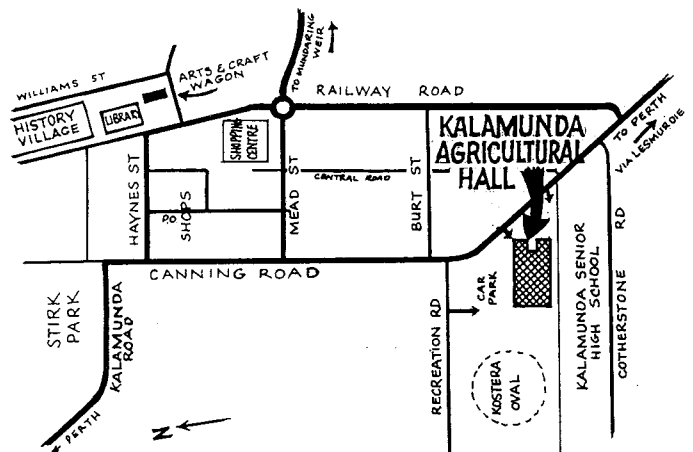
SATURDAY

- 8.00 Chuck wagon & lathes unload- set up
Competition & Show & Tell - set up
Registration and fellowship
- 9.00 **MC Announcements and welcome**
- 9.05 **Eight concurrent Demonstrations (see below)**
- 10.00 **Election Ballot opens (if required)**
Competition entries close Popular Vote open
Morning Tea **Please bring a plate**
- 10.30 **Alternative Programme "A simple use of Essential Oils in the home" Leeann Dobson**
- Eight Concurrent Demonstrations continue**
- 12.00 **Lunch - Sausage Sizzle - Lesmurdie Scouts**
Soft drink cans at the desk
- 1.00 **Popular voting closes**
Annual General Meeting
- 3.00 **Afternoon Tea**
- 3.30 **Show & Tell, Competition Results, Guess Wood**
- 4.30 **Eight Concurrent Demonstrations continue**
- 6.00 **Tea - please supply cold meats & salads for smorgasbord - soup tea & coffee supplied**
- 7.00 **Variety Show by Kalamunda Dramatic Society**

Lathe	9.00 - 10.00	10.30 - 11.15	11.15 - 12.00	1.00	3.30	4.30 - 5.30	
Avon 1	Bill O'Meara Shopping Bag Handles	Margaret Young Egg Cups	Bob Adams Vases	A N N U A L G E N E R A L M E E T I N G	S H O W A N D T E L L	Phil Berrill Bowls	
Bunbury 2	Mike Kenny Sugar Scoop	John Shinnick Tom Brixey and Rob Sparrow Clock - Start to Finish				TBA	
Kenwick 3	CHALLENGE TEAM OF FIVE TOTEM POLE						Continues
Mandurah 4	Val Periera TBA	Keith Seaman TBA	Digger Constant Vases				HANDS ON
Melville 5	John Lillywhite Small Bowls	Alan France Segmented Turning	Neil Piper Pepper Mills				Kevin McCrackan Bowls
Midvale 6	TBA	TBA	TBA				TBA
North of River 7	John O'Grady Copy Machine	Allan Fettes Turned Teddy Bear	Mal Munro Baksia Nut Vase				Bob Webb
Wandi 8	Rod Cocks Off Centre Lid Embellishment	Robert Jones Something Nice	Robert Kirk Honey Dipper Egg Cup Captive Ring with gouge				HANDS ON

SUNDAY

- 8.00 **Set up - Socialise**
- 9.00 **Announcements - MC explains challenge Rules**
"Three Legged Table Candlestick Holder"
- 9.05 **Challenge commences - 6 teams (see P4)**
- 10.00 **Morning tea Please bring a plate**
- 10.30 **Challenge goes on**
- 12.00 **Lunch BYO some local shops open**
- 1.00 **Presidents Forum**
- 1.10 **Challenge Competition critique and results**
- 2.00 **All hands load trailer lathes etc THANKS TO ALL**



PROFILE OF A TURNER

Len Nicholls

Apart from his family, Len has three interests, his church, woodturning and travelling. To each of them he gives his wholehearted support, usually quietly behind the scene, neither desiring nor looking for recognition. Len was born in Victoria and grew up in the suburbs of Melbourne. He attended primary school in Camberwell and Merlynston and high school at Coburg High School, Boxhill.

After 5th year, Len left school to take a job with the Central Wool Commission which was the body that acquired all the wool grown during the war years. They had to appraise and store all the wool bought. After 18 months, Len left to join a French wool company called Compagnie d'Importation de Laines (CIL). His father who was a railway man thought it very imprudent to leave the safety of what was then a part of the Public Service to join a "fly by night" French company.

Twenty one years later, Len came from the Victorian office to open the administration finance and shipping departments in the WA branch. Another 21 years was then spent with CIL in WA during which time the company expanded from wool buying and shipping to scouring works and wool dumping.

Len's first association with timber was in building his own home in Melbourne using Baltic pine and Tasmanian hard wood framing. As this was just after World War 2 materials were very difficult to obtain. Fortunately, he had by this time met and married Joan who worked for a timber company. Len continued to add to and improve the home over the next 15 years.

After 42 years in the "fly by night" French firm, Len retired and in appreciation of his loyal and fruitful service over that period he was given a wood lathe. Through his good friend and fellow turner, Keith Johnson, Len joined WAWA in 1988. Largely through Keith's tuition and demanding standards, Len soon became a very proficient turner. A keen competitor in the monthly weekend workshops, he has won many prizes including the overall aggregate in one year.

Len was on the WAWA committee for 2 years including one year as Vice President, but most of his activities in promoting wood turning have been in the Shopping Centre demonstrations and craft displays and sales. He has also contributed by teaching at Melville and through demonstrating at weekend workshops. Len was also WAWA librarian for some time. Len, ably supported by Joan, has given many hours of time to promoting woodturning, always ready and willing and never seeking the limelight. They both enjoy the fellowship and easy camaraderie of WAWA.

Letter To The Editor

In the June/July issue of your newsletter, you have incorrectly given the website address for your association's page on the whereisit network as: VIDACO@WHEREISIT.NET.AU

This is actually the webmaster's email address, and must be written (typed) in **lower case only**.

The correct website address is;

www.whereisit.net.au (must be in lower case/no spaces)

All your club members are welcome to offer suggestions for your web page via the webmaster's e-mail address. (Or by phone or post). I also see your association is considering setting up your own internet site. Our company has set up sites for many businesses in Victoria and would be happy to discuss assisting your assoc. To do the same.

Our new postal address is;

P.O. Box 92 Ashburton Victoria 3147

Phone (03)9886 0375

Fax (03) 9886 0148

email vidaco@whereisit.net.au

Website: www.whereisit.net.au

Cheers **Julian Place** Commercial Online Promotions Pty Ltd

Welcome to new members

Welcome to our new members who have joined since last newsletter

468	Perry de Rebeira	Glen Forrest
1660	Allen Hoskins	Mt Pleasant
1661	John Behan	Mt Helena
1662	Bob Cross	Wattleup
1663	Jim Richardson	Beechboro
1664	Peter Lowe	Willetton
1665	Fred Himing	Bridgewater
1666	Mike Dowman	South Yunderup
1667	Allan Flintoff	Meadow Springs
1668	Bill Higgins	The Vines
1669	Carol Winchester	Myaree
1670	Cuth Ward	Bullcreek

John Jordan Visit

Plenty of room available for -
Kalamunda Demonstration Saturday 29th August 1998
\$12

Bunbury Workshop Sunday 30th August 1998
\$25

Admission by production of receipt.

Please send your cheque to

The Secretary

Woodturners Association of Western Australia Inc

PO Box 371

KELMSCOTT WA 6111

Congratulations Jock McLean Citizen of the Year

Belated congratulations to one of our quiet achievers Jock McLean (No 440) who was awarded the honour of being Mandurah City's Citizen of the Year last year. Jock is a member of Mandurah Group and he and his wife Heather were noticed beavering away on arrangements at Mandurah during the last WAWA workshop there. Good work Jock!

Goldfields Meetings

The Goldfields Specialty Timber Industry Group has adopted a new meeting format. On the first Saturday of every month the programme is open to the public and includes demonstrations, woodworking and hand-on activities for members, a lunch time meeting and do-it-yourself woodworking opportunities. They always manage to get a piece in the local paper.

Finishing Tips from Brian Launer

At the Bunbury weekend February 1997 I asked Brian Launer for a few tips about finishing. Here is what he said.

Grapeseed oil is good for food cutting boards. After applying leave it to dry then buff it up. It takes longer to dry than other oils and sometimes it appears to sweat in patches. Just let them dry out and buff again. Grapeseed does not go rancid.

Grain disappears when oil is used on **jarrah** and Brian thinks this lessens the attractiveness of one of our premier timbers. Brian prefers to use lacquer. Lighter coloured jarrah is best for use with oil.

Sanding sealer tends to 'whiten' jarrah. Brian prefers initial coat with 50:50 lacquer and thinners. His final coat is 33:66. Before the final coat he rubs back with 400 or 600 grit wet and dry abrasive paper using water as a lubricant. For inaccessible areas like inside the lip of a bowl he wipes lacquer in with a good quality lint free cloth.



SHAVINGS FROM THE COMMITTEE

MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION

The Foundation has advised that proceeds raised from sale of items donated by members in September 1997 will initially be used to finance a trip to Disneyland for a young girl suffering from a brain tumour. Treatment has resulted in the ailment presently being in remission.

Any surplus funds following sale of all items will be utilised towards granting the wish of another child and WAWA will be advised details for members information.

CENTRAL FACILITY/HEADQUARTERS

In the continuing effort to locate suitable economic premises, for Association use, members of the Management Committee have recently inspected Hillside Farm in Martin. This project is still in its infancy and a great deal of planning and research is still to be undertaken by the controlling organisations. The place has potential and WAWA's interest has been noted but no early decision is expected.

Follow up was also taken up with Colin Barnett, Minister for Education, regarding plans for the future use of Claremont Teachers Training College but we were advised that this will not be available. However premises in Fremantle may become available in the future and this will be investigated when more details are known.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Consideration is being given to advertising week-end workshops at country centres in local newspapers to assist increase country membership

TRADITIONAL CRAFT SPECTACULAR

The Association display/demonstration at this recent event was an outstanding success. In line with past years practise the promoters, True Blue Promotions, provided the Association's space at no cost. In recognition of their generosity it has been decided to make an Association donation of \$200 to Appealathon which is the beneficiary from this event.

1998 CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS

Analysis of members responses to the survey regarding the preferred format has resulted in a decision to hold two functions again this year.

The first will be held on Saturday 5 December 1998 and will basically follow the format of the popular Liddlelow Homestead functions of recent years. The venue has still to be decided but at this stage it will be at either the Beckenham Community Centre OR Kalamunda Agricultural Hall. A firm decision will be made in the near future. Normal workshop entry fee will apply to cover normal overheads and a modest cost meal will also be available.

The second function will be held at Miss Mauds Function Centre, Fremantle, on Saturday 12 December 1998 at midday. Cost will be \$21.50 per head for the normal smorgasbord meal and a separate cash bar will also be available. Of the responses received in favour of this venue the majority favoured a social luncheon only.

Please note these dates in your diary.

Full details regarding costing, payment methods etc will be advised in the next issue

New Business Premises for Bassendean Lawnmowers

Ken Parker, who has given talks to WAWA meetings about chainsaw maintenance, has moved his business to new premises in the Tonkin Industrial Estate at Bassendean. His new place is at Unit 27 No 21 McDonald St Bassendean just round the corner from Woodstock. Same Tel 9279 3668

FOR SALE

Due to health reasons I am retiring from woodturning, therefore I am selling everything. Namely One Vicmark VL250 Lathe with outrigger and all accessories. A wide variety of Chisels and attachments. I have at least 3 ton of Dry wood ready for turning, namely Jarrah, She-oak, Olive, Camphor-Laurel, Burls of all sorts and lots more. If interested contact Ken Ford Member No.993 on 08-9581 4365.

WANTED

TAILSTOCK for Tough or Hyco woodlathe. Please phone Gordon Davies (1532) 9310 6190

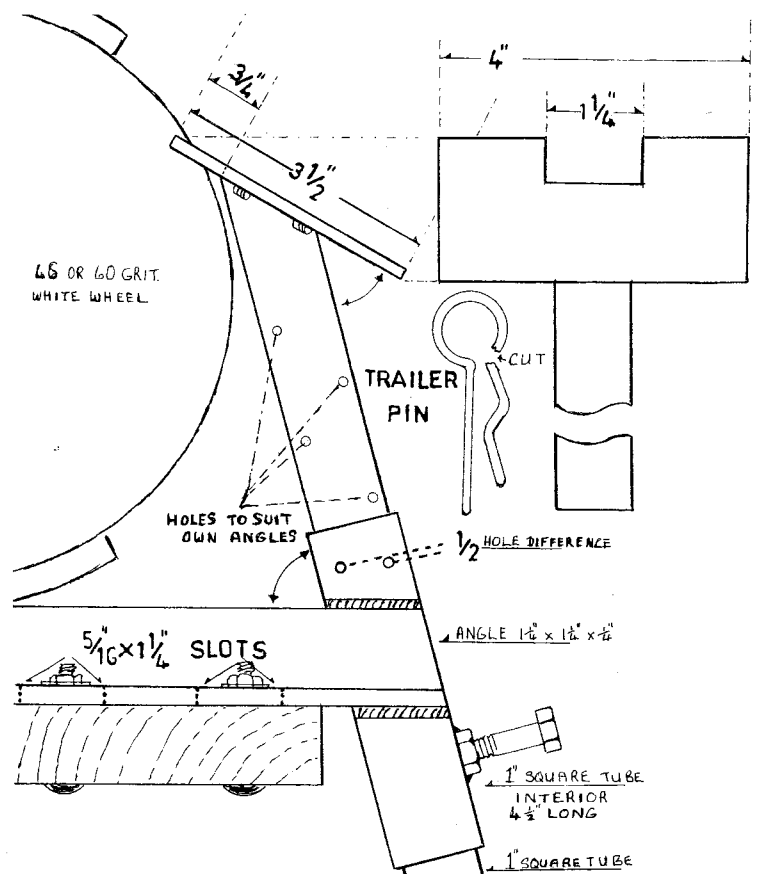
New Venue for Melville Meeting

From the fourth Thursday in August (27th) Melville Group expects to meet in the New Recreation Centre Cnr Stock Road and Canning Highway Melville. The Arts and Crafts Room is the meeting place and it adjoins the Wood Turning Room. Enter from Stock Road there is plenty of parking space. Convenor Derek Martin says the builders expect to finish on time.

Tool Grinding Rest

It goes without saying that blunt tools do not cut wood. We are all wood turners because we like it, so any time we have to spend to make turning better is a nuisance. If you can grind your turning tools repeatedly to the angle you want, and without losing a lot of expensive metal, this gets you back to the lathe doing what you want to do, turning.

The tool grinding rest drawn on this page has by now been used by many turners with almost unanimous acceptance. Drill the holes in the outer square tube right through before welding to the angle. Set the height of rest to suit your tool angles, then drill the inner square tube from either side after locking with the bolt. Then the pin should go right through, enabling the rest to return to the same setting every time. The two holes in the outer square tube enable a half hole height adjustment if needed. Any further advise needed ring me Ivor Bridges. 9295 1867 The unit can also be purchased at the Wood working Centre, Midvale.



OLD TRUTHS ABOUT SEASONING (Seafoning) OF WOOD

John Mason (No 1625) sent in these excerpts from an old book he has *The Whole Art of Husbandry: Or, The Way of Managing and Improving of Land* by Author J Mortimer Esq FRS London. Published in 1708 it uses the spelling (fpelling) of that time.

Chap.X. Of Seafoning of Timber.

Timber, being felled and fawn, is next to be feafoned: for doing of which, some advife that it be laid up very dry in an airy place, yet out of the Wind or Sun: others fay, it ought to be free from the extremities of the Sun, Wind, and Rain: and that it may not cleave, but dry equally, you may daub it over with Cow dung: Let it not stand upright, but lay it along, one piece upon another, interposing some short blocks between them to preserve them from a certain Mouldiness which they usually contract when they sweat, and which frequently produces a kind of Fungus, especially if there be any fatty parts remaining.

Others advise to lay Boards, Planks, etc in some Pool or running Stream; or, which is better, in Salt Water for a few days, to extract the Sap from them, and afterwards to dry them in the Sun or Air; for by so doing (fay they) they will neither chap, salt, nor cleave: Mr Evelyn, particularly, commends this way of Seafoning of Firr, but against Shrinking there is no Remedy.

Some again commend Buryings in the Earth, others in Wheat; and there be Seafonings of the Fire, as for the scorching and hardning of Piles which are to stand either in the Water or the Earth.

Chap.XI. Of Preserving of Timber.

When Timber or Boards are well feafoned or dried in the Sun or Air, and fixed in their places, and what Labour you intend is bestowed upon them: the use of Linfeed-oyl, Tar, or such oleaginous Matter, tends much to their Preservation and Duration. *Hefiod* prescribes to hang your Instruments in Smoak to make them strong and lasting; forely then the Oyl of Smoak (or the vegetable Oyl by some other means obtained) must needs be effectual in the Preservation of Timber also. *Virgil* advises the same.

The Practice of the *Hollanders* is worth our notice; who, for the Preservation of their Gates, Portcullis, Draw-bridges, Sloces, and other Timbers exposed to the perpetual Injuries of the Weather, coat them over with a mixture of Pitch and Tar, upon which they strew Cockle and other Shells, beaten almost to Powder, and mingled with Sea-sand, which incrusts and arms it after an incredible manner against all the Assaults of Wind and Weather.

Chap.XII. Of closing Chops and Clefts in green Timber

Green Timber is very apt to split and cleave after it is wrought into form, which in fine Buildings is a great Eye-fore: But to close the Chops and Clefts I find this Expedient to do well; which is to anoint and fuddle it with the Fat of Powder'd-Beef Broth, with which it must be well foaked, and the Chafm filled with Sponge dipped into it: this to be done twice over. Some Carpenters make use of Greafe and Saw-duff

mingled: But the first is too good a way (fays my Author) that I have seen Wind-flock Timber to exquisitely closed, as not to be discerned where the Defects were. This must be used when the Timber is green.

NOW FOR THE MODERN VERSION

This was found in *The Peninsula Woodturner* Jan 1998

Why Does Wood Split?

The main cause is uneven drying: The wood dries quickly on the surface and the loss of water causes contraction. The moisture is held in the centre of the wood longer and does not contract as quickly, resulting in surface checking and more serious cracking.

End grain loses water quicker than the side grain and this causes splits. **How can we reduce the risk?**

End seal or wax seal (create a waterproof barrier) all end grain wood.

Some woods (mainly exotics, ebony and rosewoods) are more prone to splitting than others - these are sometimes sealed all over.

With wet timber you have four main options:

1. Wax all over until you want to work the piece wet.
2. Use it straight away and turn it to an even, thin wall thickness (max 5/16" - 3/8") avoiding heat build up in sanding, which can cause surface checking. Apply the finish. This piece must be finished in one session (if you have to leave it part turned, then seal the moisture inside by placing the piece in a plastic bag with the air removed together with fresh shavings. Be sure to seal the bag).
3. To dry the piece slowly - apply pastewax to slow down surface drying. Place the piece in a cool position away from direct sunlight. Avoid very dry locations.
4. If you wish to rough turn the piece...for bowls the rule of thumb is leave an even wall thickness, approx 1/10 of the diameter of the finished bowl. Cover all over with pastewax, put inside an open polythene bag.

From *Keppel Woodcraft* newsletter

Snippets (noticed in committee minutes & other newsletters)

- Membership Fees elsewhere make ours look pretty trim
- Goldfields is \$45 but members may opt to pay \$25 and put in work at fund raising venture and group activities
- Tamworth Turners pay \$30 for members and \$2 for Associates or \$50 per family
- Woodturners of the Hunter are the same as Tamworth without the family rate

Basic Tips for New Turners

1. Soak blackboy in water for 2 - 3 days before turning. This prevents toxic dust when turning.
2. Green wood rough turned to 1" - 2" thick, paint with three coats of End Seal or Wood shield, let dry between coats. Weigh item and write both date and weight on bottom. Store in saw Dust in a cool place. Check weight of item every 3 months until weight is stable.
3. If you do not have a dust extractor, place a fan behind you. This blows the dust away from you.
4. Use talcum powder in lathe bed instead of CRC, or oil, to prevent the lathe bed becoming sticky.
5. Use a Cone Pin Drive instead of a Spur Drive for All Spindle turning.
6. Incorporate a clutch with your lathe to reduce wear and tear on starter capacitor when stop starting lathes, ie. sanding or making small objects. You can do this yourself.
7. A good idea for general maintenance is to occasionally soak your chuck in diesel to lubricate the chuck and to keep the internal workings clean. ie. Vic Mark Scroll. It is important to deep dust and grit out of the threads.

Thanks to the Mandurah Group Newsletter June-July 1998

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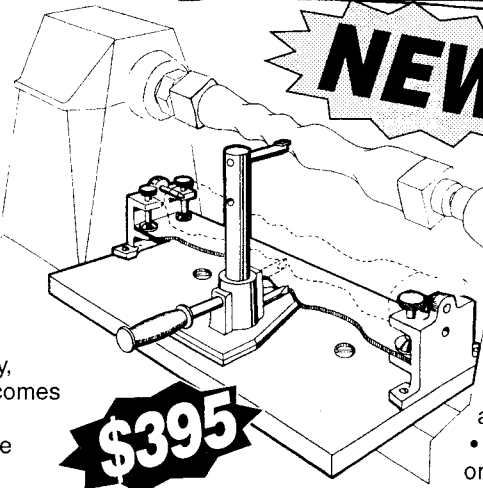


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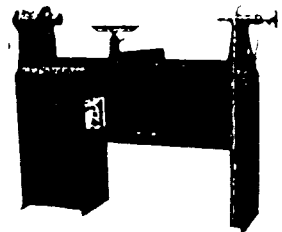
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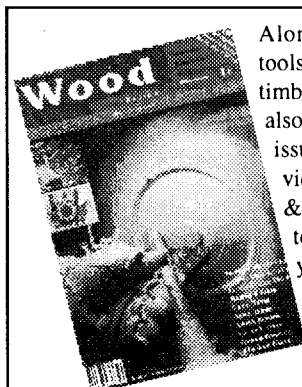
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