



# WOODTURNING NEWS

Official Bulletin of the Port Elizabeth Woodturners' Guild

June 2005

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Guild meetings are held at **18:30** for **19:00** on the **third Thursday** of every month, unless otherwise advised.

## Chairman's Chirp .....

*From Andrew Dunn.*

Welcome to new members who have joined this year. Some "old faces" are no longer around, and will not be receiving this newsletter, as subs were due by last month. However, we welcome any old members back after payment of their subs.

As a reminder, subs (R110 per year / R70 for country members) were unchanged from 2004, but newsletters were reduced to four to cut costs. We can change the frequency of the news letters next year but we need more volunteers to put a monthly newsletter together, and an increase in subs to around R150 will properly be necessary. If you feel strongly about this, make sure that you are there to stand-up and be counted at the next AGM.

(Note; Visitors are required to pay R25 per meeting after their first meeting).

History has been made! At the judging of the spheres competition, Jez Rowe's entry received a double gold----- a club first. This world class entry actually didn't meet the criteria of being able to roll on the floor, but when you see it you will understand why! Well done Jez!

The attached program for the remainder of year attempts to strike a balance between theoretical stuff and practical demo's. A new venue, Nic Riche's workshop, has become

available. Come and drool over some snappy new machines.

*(It is also in Dobson Street, same as Nico, only it is on the south side of the freeway bridge.)*

Thanks to the committee for all your brain-power in putting together an interesting program! We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

## A Word from the Editor .....

*From Peter Kingston.*

A list of current members has been included in this news letter, so that you can see who-is-who-in-the-zoo!

Please check to see that your own details are correct. If there is something which is incorrect, please let us know.

Furthermore, there are some members who have not signed the indemnity form on the back of the membership application form. Please check that this in fact been done, at the next meeting.

They say that copying from one author is plagiarism, however, copying from many is research.

Consequently, you will find some of my "research results" in the following pages.

# LATHE SAFETY GUIDELINES

*(With acknowledgement to American Association of Woodturners)*

1. Safe, effective use of a wood lathe requires study and knowledge of procedures for using this tool. read and thoroughly understand the label warnings on the lathe and in the owner/operator's manual.
2. Always wear safety goggles or safety glasses that include side protectors and a full face shield when needed. Wood dust can be harmful to your respiratory system. Use a dust mask or helmet and proper ventilation (dust collection system) in dusty work conditions. Wear hearing protection during extended periods of operation.
3. Tie back long hair, do not wear gloves, loose clothing, jewelry or any dangling objects that may catch in rotating parts or accessories.
4. Check the owner/operator's manual for proper speed recommendations. Use slower speeds for larger diameter or rough pieces, and increase lathe speed for smaller diameters and pieces that are balanced. If the lathe is shaking or vibrates, always stop the machine to check the reason.
5. Make certain that the belt guard or cover is in place. Check that all clamping devices (locks), such as on the tailstock and toolrest are tight.
6. "on". Be sure that the work piece turns freely and is firmly mounted. It is always safest to turn the lathe "off" before adjusting the tool rest.
7. Exercise caution when using stock with cracks, splits, checks, bark, knots, irregular shapes, or protuberances.
8. Hold turning tools securely on the toolrest, and hold the tool in a controlled but comfortable manner. Always use a slower speed when starting until the workpiece is balanced. This helps avoid the of an unbalanced piece jumping out of the lathe and striking the operator.
9. When running a lathe in reverse, it is possible for a chuck or faceplate to unscrew unless it is securely tightened on the lathe spindle.
10. Know your capabilities and limits. An experienced woodturner may be capable of techniques and procedures not recommended for beginning turners.
11. When using a faceplate, be certain the workpiece is solidly mounted. When turning between centers, be certain the workpiece is secure.
12. Always remove the toolrest before sanding or polishing operations
13. Don't overreach, keep proper footing and balance at all times.
14. Keep the lathe in good repair. Check for damaged parts, alignment, binding of moving parts and other conditions that may affect its operation.
15. Keep tools sharp and clean for better and safer performance. Don't force a dull tool. Don't use a tool for a purpose not intended. Keep tools out of reach of children.
16. Consider your work environment. Don't use lathe in damp or wet locations. Do not use in the presence of flammable liquids or gases. Keep work area well lit.
17. Stay alert. Watch out what you are doing, use common sense. Don't operate tool when you are tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol
18. Guard against electric shock. Inspect electric cords for damage. Avoid the use of extension cords.
19. Remove chuck keys and adjusting wrenches. Form a habit of checking for these before switching on the lathe.
20. Never leave the lathe running unattended. Turn power off. Don't leave the lathe until it comes to a complete stop.



## Learn to turn

Learn to turn while you're young and free  
And you shan't be daunted by the size of the tree.  
Learn to turn when you are sixty-four,  
Then you'll need help lifting the log off the floor.

*--- Angelo Iafrate, Johnston, R. I.*

## Competition Results.....

### "Turn a Sphere"

Advanced Section: No awards.

Intermediate;

Double Gold; Jez Rowe. Jewellery Box.  
Silver; Walter Pretti. Wild olive globe.  
Bronze; Walter Pretti. Seal with ball.  
Walter Pretti. Plain ball.

Beginners;

Gold; Alan Botha Golf Ball.  
Silver; Alan Botha 3 balls (various woods)

Open competition;

Silver; Jez Rowe Mulberry bowl.  
Bronze; Alan Botha Bowl.

*Chairman's comment;*

*"If you don't enter, you won't win anything".*

Points on the Participation League.

Jez Rowe	3
Walter Pretti	3
Alan Botha	3
Nico Swart	3
Peter Kingston	1
Andrew Dunn	1

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## some thoughts on copying.....

*The following extracts are from an article in American Woodturner by Glenn McMurray and David Ellsworth.*

Freedom to learn, freedom to copy.

Turners are learners first and foremost.

Whether our focus is on the flighty estoric "art vs. craft" or the more grounded "skew vs gouge", our curiosity drives us to read books, go to conferences, play videos, arrange for demonstrations in our clubs and of course, stand at the lathe. We have the freedom to do these things, just as we have the freedom to do what we want with the skills we learn.

It is natural for us to copy what we are taught, just as the apprentice did hundreds of years ago. The difference is that we have the freedom to do what we like with those pieces.

We must each take responsibility to hold the moral high ground in presenting our own work to the public.

Making a copy for skill building or as a gift is acceptable. However, displaying such work in a local library show or public gallery is dicey if the piece really is a copy of someone else's work. There are no hard and fast plagiarism rules, other than to follow your conscience, be true to your hart, to consider the impact on others who may be doing work similar to yours.

No one "owns" a particular shape.

I believe it was the late Bob Stocksdale who quipped,  
"The Chinese have been copying my shapes for centuries".

Don't I have the right to copy what I see as a means of learning to turn? After all, what I see out there are these glorious colour magazines showing these stunningly beautiful objects, even though I am still having trouble just controlling my tools in the wood, I have this burning desire to attempt to make something similar. I don't see ideas forming from lightning bolts. So what else am I supposed to do for inspiration?

The answer to this question is, yes, we have every right to experiment with whatever designs we see, whether they come from a magazine, a demonstration, a woodturning class, or just in one's own mind's eye..... lightning bolts or no lightning bolts.

The difference is, when we put a price tag on our favorite piece and put it up for exhibition or sale, then the rules begin to change. We need to recognize that there are responsibilities that go along with this decision.

If we wish to call ourselves "artists", why on earth would we want to reduce our personal distinction by copying someone else's artwork?

In effect, copying for the purpose of learning can become a tool for self-discovery. Copying for profit is simply a way of stealing another person's voice and using it as if it were our own.

# PEWGW PROGRAM.....for the balance of the year.

**23 June;** Martien Rust will talk on indigenous timbers.  
Venue; Strand Hardware, Govan Mbeki Ave.

**23 July;** We will have a workshop on the various forms of Texturing (Arbortech, Wire brush, Dremel, etc).  
Pieces for “Natural edge competition” to be handed in at this meeting.  
Venue; Nico’s Workshop. 22 Dobson Street, North End. (bring own chair).

**18 August;** Discussion/Talk on Shapes and Forms..... and how to find inspiration for designs.  
Various members will contribute, and please come prepared to share ideas.  
Pieces for “Texturing competition” to be handed in at this meeting.  
Venue; Strand Hardware, Govan Mbeki Ave.

**15 September;** Paint techniques. This subject back by popular request. Various speakers/demonstrations.  
This will be the subject of our 4<sup>th</sup> competition.  
Venue; Nic Riche’s workshop. 5 Dobson Street. Access from Crawford Street. (bring own chairs).

**20 October;** Tool, gadgets and chucks. Please contact Andrew if you have a “hot new tool” to show.  
Pieces for “Paint technique competition” to be handed in at this meeting  
Venue; Nico Swart’s workshop. 22 Dobson Street. (bring own chairs).

**17 October;** “Monster Challenge”. This will be a fun collaboration meeting, and will also be our year-end function with Wors-rolls, etc.

**19 January;** “Valentine Ball”. No, we’re not dancing, but developing the sphere into a spherical lidded box, with a heart shape inside. Andrew will demo.  
Entries to be submitted to your loved one by 14 February. ( No extensions of time without repercussions ).  
Venue; Nic Riche’s workshop. 5 Dobson Street. (bring own chairs).

**16 February;** Annual General Meeting. Notice of meeting hereby given.  
The Agenda will be distributed nearer the date. Items for inclusion to be submitted to a committee member on or before 19 January 2006.  
Venue; Strand Hardware, Govan Mbeki Ave.



## Some usefull bowl proportions.....

Description	Height	Diameter	Wall Thickness
Sugar bowl .	50mm	100mm	5mm
Side salad bowl.	100mm	150mm	7mm
Salad bowl.	100mm	250mm	13mm
	100mm	350mm	16mm
	100mm	400mm	17mm
	150mm	250mm	13mm
	150mm	350mm	17mm
	150mm	400mm	18mm

