



TURNINGS

March 2001

WCWA, Pinelands Hobbies Club, Nursery Way, Pinelands
<http://www.angelfire.com/ct/wcwa/index.html>

"Further from the madding crowd, I find inspiration in windblown sand dunes and snowdrifts, or in the curl of an ocean swell breaking on a flat beach. I am fascinated by sensual curves such as these and I try to recreate them in my bowls. And then there are always bodies – of cars and of people. For those who don't care to loiter around the streets gazing at bodies for fear of being arrested, there are magazines full of all the raw material you could ever want.

From: *Turned-Bowl Design*. by Richard Raffan

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Wednesday 21st March, 19:00 sharp, at the Hobbies Club, Pinelands, as usual.

NB Please note change to previously published programme for this month

EDITORIAL

Greetings turners!

Peter Nicolle certainly made the art of cutting threads look "do-able" at our last meeting. Thank you Peter for a most informative demonstration on thread chasing.

The turnout of beginners at the "other" Wednesday meetings is most encouraging, so those of you who haven't turned in a while, or who wish to have some guidance on techniques, do come along at 19:00 on a Wednesday – these evenings are great fun – even if you only have a drink and catch up with the other members, or wish to make use of the library.

Meanwhile through the most energetic efforts of Eric, awareness of turning and our club are growing. Thanks, Eric – Keep it up, and any members with other ideas of promoting ourselves, please share them with us!

As I write this editorial, the "turning" of the seasons is again becoming evident – there is a distinct chill in the air and there are already many leaves littering the sidewalks – equinox is upon us next week, after which the nights will be longer than the days, with the sun already rising noticeably later every day and the afternoons getting shorter and the need for a jersey in the evenings suddenly being a reality.

Dennis and I have taken to going for a walk after work every afternoon – time and other activities permitting – with two main aims, to have a special time together, and to get some regular exercise, which has the added benefit of being a stress-reliever. The shorter afternoons have become quite obvious over the last couple of weeks, but we still enjoy the feeling of stillness and endurance in the forest in the fading light.

<p>DISCOUNT TOOL CENTRE CAPE TOWN 021-949-2002/3/4 176 DURBAN ROAD BELLVILLE</p> <p>FOR ALL YOUR TOOLING REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>FROM SCREW DRIVERS THROUGH TO WOOD TURNING LATHES AND ACCESSORIES</p> <p>FOR POWERTOOL REPAIRS AND SPECIALIST ADVICE ON ALL MAKES OF POWERTOOLS</p> <p>VISIT DISCOUNT TOOL CENTRE FOR THE RIGHT TOOL AT THE RIGHT PRICE</p>

We are fortunate to be able to walk at Kirstenbosch regularly (Botanical Society members have free access to the garden), and normally climb straight up to the base of Skeleton Gorge, a reasonably stiff walk, where, for those who know the area, is where the esteemed South Africa Statesman, General Jan Smuts used to walk regularly throughout his life. The magnificence of the indigenous forest touches us every time, and we are very grateful that the recent fires on Table Mountain were kept out of the indigenous forest, as it is so desperately dry at

present, that great damage could have been caused to trees, some of which must be centuries old. Walking really is a wonderful form of recreation and judging by the fact that the majority of Mountain Club members attending the annual Memorial Service at Maclear's Beacon (highest point on the Mountain) recently were what could be considered "senior" members, and that Rev. de Lisle who delivered the service was celebrating his eightieth birthday, this is a life habit to be encouraged.

Another valuable life habit is having a hobby or an interest, so as the days become colder and wetter, the allure of working indoors becomes stronger – so turners – now is the time to really get going for the Showcase and the benefit of "outside" turners assessing your works.

So long,

Gigi

FROM THE CHAIR.

I can't really believe it but yet another month has passed and nearly a quarter of the New Year has gone by. Why the time has passed so quickly is anybody's guess!

What happened during this time was a series of ups and downs.

On the down side :

INTERBUILD CAPE 2001.

Two weeks ago Tom and I had a meeting with both the director and the exhibition manager of Specialised Exhibitions and finalised everything, such as stand size, parking, exhibitors' entrance tickets etc. Meanwhile I got stuck in organising a duty roster, a list of requirements, a list of items to exhibit... when I heard through the grapevine that the show was cancelled.

I got hold of the director who confirmed this fact and he apologised for not advising us. We had been overlooked during the notification because we were on a separate list as the only exhibitors that had a free stand and therefore no deposit was refundable.

On the up side:

1. MODEL ENGINEERS CLUB.

The Open weekend on the 24th & 25th of February at their Clubhouse in Croquet Lane, Rondebosch was enjoyed by all who took part, despite the intense heat. We were outside on a fibreglass-covered stoep!

We gained a fair amount of exposure and raised quite a few questions from the public as to how certain items were turned and to their astonishment, we also answered some queries on facts that were just taken for granted or that they were too shy to ask. A definite crowd-puller was the fragrance of camphor that emanated from our corner.

Four or five people seemed genuinely interested in the club and I am hoping that they will in time join us.

To all those who assisted with this effort either with transport, exhibiting and demonstrating a great thank you.

2. OVERSEAS VISITOR.

I had barely got home on Sunday the 25th when I had to take part in an AWSA committee meeting held by telephone conference. For those who have not done this it is quite a fun experience.

The outcome of it was that the AWSA had in mind to invite an overseas turner, mainly for the East London Seminar in September 2001, but also inviting him to demonstrate at various venues around the country. Two turners were proposed – Mark Hancock and Phil Irons and the final decision had to be made by that Wednesday.

I was not prepared to take that decision on my own and tried to get in touch with everyone of you by email or phone, to get a fair reflection of our Association's choice. From those that I did manage to contact or who replied by email, the count was overwhelmingly for Phil Irons.

The national consensus was the same and Phil Irons will tour the country, and subject to confirmation, he will arrive in Cape Town from the U.K. and will be our guest from the 14th to the 18th of September. You will be kept advised of any future developments.



3. ANOTHER OVERSEAS VISITOR.

Out of the blue I received a phone call from David Walters who owns a gallery in Franschhoek, telling me that a friend of his, Dennis Hales from the Norwich area in the U.K., will be spending a week in the Cape. Would any local turners like to meet him?

I got his email address and contacted him and his positive reply together with his web page address

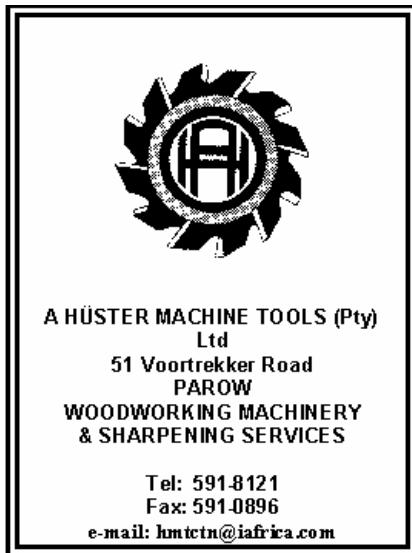
reached me in less time than it takes to turn a mushroom with a captive ring.

Dennis and his friend David and their respective wives Rachel and Michelle will be our guests on the 21st of March.

Our planned programme for the evening "Rescue 911" will be moved to a later date to accommodate Dennis.

His forte is platters and colouring wood, as well as turning the odd fruit or two. He has offered to turn an apple at the meeting and bring us samples of his work, which he sells at David's gallery.

Here's looking to a well-attended and enjoyable evening and please bring a lot of your latest pieces for the instant gallery. I am hoping that our guest will agree to be one of the evening's critics.



4. EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA.

Definitely as definite can be, will be taking place over the Easter weekend 13th to 16th April at the Good Hope Centre.

It was intimated that we were invited to take part in this show for free, but when I went to finalise details I was told that we would have to pay for our stand at the rate of R125-00 + vat per square meter! and we were offered 30 m². I leave it to you to work out!

I swallowed hard, retained my composure and explained our financial situation and objectives and constraints....

We were then offered a stand at R1000-00 +vat on what I would call the prime position!! One of the four corner stands in the centre of the ground floor where the two main exhibition lanes cross one another.

I did not give a definitive answer and went home to ponder over it.

I then phoned Midford Bester of the S.A. Woodworkers Magazine to find out that he was

not involved. Anyway to cut a long story short, he agreed to sponsor us 100% for the show! All we have to do is allocate him a bit of space for the advertising and selling of his magazine.

Incidentally we will be able to sell our wares without any commission being taken.

Volunteers are still required for this event; I know it's the Easter Week-end but I am sure some of you could spare just a couple of hours to make this a success and lessen the burden on those who are going to be there for the greater part of the show.

So guys for the sake of the show let's give it a go!

SHOWCASE JUNE 20TH.

That time of the year is coming around again.

Let's make this one an event to remember.

To add a different flavour to the proceedings we will have outside assessors to appraise the items on display.

The committee has invited the Knysna guys (Mike Kaplan, Richard Henley, Grant Marshall and Dave Stephenson) to officiate on that evening.

The association will cover their transport costs and accommodation will be provided if any of them are not able to settle with family or friends.

To make this a great evening the more exhibitors and the more pieces, the better, so chaps choose your timber and put your chisels to it.

OPEN WEEKEND 23RD AND 24TH JUNE.

An idea was thrown at me and is still germinating.

Basically the Hobbies Club will be open to the public during these days. All the club users The Cape Restorers Society, The Miniaturia Guild, The Western Cape Woodturners Association and The Cape Town Woodworkers Club will all exhibit their wares or demonstrate their skills.

A nominal entrance fee will be charged and exhibitors who wish to sell some of their goods will have space allocated to them.

The canteen will sell cold drinks and hot dogs.

As this is the first time such an exercise will be undertaken anyone with ideas or assistance is more than welcome to pass this on to any of the committee members.

Where does the time go? Well I know now.

Besides the demo at the Model Engineers I have not yet turned a thing this year!

Till Wednesday the 21st happy turning and may your shavings be long and curly. (Do as the chairman says not as he does.)

Cheers

Eric

FROM THE COMMITTEE

CHAIN SAW

It is noted that some members making use of the Club chain saw are abusing the privilege by not paying the nominal contribution towards running costs. PLEASE remember to put your contribution in the bottle after using the chain saw. The minimum per use is R2 per member, and user discretion is required when hard wood and many cuts are made, as to how large a contribution toward the replacement/repair of parts, oil, etc should be.

It has also been suggested that a “designated chain saw user” be drawn up, in order that only people with the necessary skills use this equipment.

CLUB LOGO

This matter will be finalised at the AGM. Any last-minute suggestions must be submitted to the committee before 4th April 2001.

T-SHIRTS

Some progress is being made, and further input would be welcomed.

PROMOTION LEVY

The committee wishes to propose that an annual levy of R20 per member/household be introduced when the membership fees for the coming year are reviewed. This fee will allow the Club to produce display material to promote the WCWA at exhibitions and shows where we participate, and increase awareness of woodturning and the aims of the Club, for the benefit of all its members.

FROM THE MEMBERS

Tom Allan recently alerted me to an article in *Woodturning*, February 2001 by Steve Sinner, on judging, which is quite a topical matter in the Club at present. The article, aptly titled “Trial by Jury” gives a very different perspective on the fraught process of judging and a couple of observations are included for interest – a total contrast to our Club’s approach to judging, where in the past we have used the basic criteria of skill, design and finish.

In this article, the author describes his experience on a judging panel of 18 members. The approach was for five slides to be submitted for each entry, and the slides would be on screen for 45 seconds. The panel had to evaluate each entry in four categories. Basically the categories were equivalent to first impression, originality, quality, and use of materials. There was almost no discussion between panelists

This is a rather different approach to what we are accustomed to, and it must be stated that in this situation the quality of the photographs used is critical. The telling statement of this article is: “present your work in the most professional manner

possible, remembering that you are competing with the best”. This last statement naturally applies in our situation, though our “judging” methods and criteria are very different.

REMINDERS

The committee members for 2000 / 2001 are:

Eric Thornton	Chairman	531 1559(h)
Graeme Hill	Secretary	794 1639(h)
Ruben du Plessis	Workshop co-ordinator	948 9991(h)
Mike Bester	Treasurer	976 3606(h)
Alan Jackson	Library	558 1296(h)
Gigi Laidler	Newsletter	797 7755(h)

Email contacts for committee members are:

Mike Bester	bozo@iafrica.com
Eric Thornton	notnorth@mweb.co.za
Alan Jackson	alanj@global.co.za
Gigi Laidler	laidler@nbict.nbi.ac.za

Please could all members who have access to email (and MS Office) let us know, in order for us to send you the electronic version of the newsletter, which allows you to see it and print it out (if you have a colour printer) in glorious Technicolor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many thanks to all the members who have renewed their membership for 2000/1. Members whose contribution has not been received to date, are considered to have resigned their membership, and will be charged the R10 per visit guest fee for any further meetings they attend.

Subs are as follows:

Ordinary member:

WCWA	R60.00
Hobbies Club	40.00
Total	R100.00

Family member:

(Same surname – living under same roof)

WCWA	R35.00
Hobbies Club	R25.00
Total	R60.00

Country member:

(No Hobbies Club fee)

WCWA	R60.00
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Guest Fee:

A guest fee of R10 per visit will apply to members who have failed to renew their membership, and guests attending more than two club meetings.

Note: AWSA membership (R35) can be paid together with WCWA subs, and Mike Bester will then remit all AWSA memberships to the National Body.

NAME TAGS

Mike Bester has issued name tags for the current subscription year, and members are encouraged to wear their name tags when attending meetings. Committee members can be identified from the printing on their name tags being red rather than black.

CLUB LIBRARY

Members are reminded to please come early enough to return borrowed material and select new material from the library before the meeting commences.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

21st March

Special Guest: Dennis Hales from the Norwich area in the UK has been invited to attend our regular "formal" monthly meeting and will be turning an apple. Please bring along an interesting selection of your works for the Instant Gallery and "celebrity critique".

18th April

The AGM of WCWA.

16th May

Woodoc finishes by Thijs Carstens

20th June

June Showcase

Date to be determined

"Rescue 911" How to salvage a piece when things go wrong. "Rescue" techniques and novel ideas will be demonstrated. The committee would also like to hear from members about ideas for remedying a lathe or wood "disaster", turning an otherwise unusable piece into an acceptable artwork.

Programme for meetings:

1st Wednesday is an informal affair where members are welcome to use the association's equipment, receive guidance from experienced members and generally discuss matters turning. (Also the committee meeting)

2nd Wednesday is specifically targeted at assisting beginners.

3rd Wednesday is the more formal evening comprising discussion of association matters, demonstrations, videos and in June and November the biannual showcases.

4th Wednesday same as 1st Wednesday.

NB Remember to bring your own chisels and other accessories for the 'working' Wednesdays.

THE MARKET PLACE

LATHE

Record CL136 with chuck, gauges and chisels. Asking price R4 750. Please phone David Buchanan at (021) 558 5196.

TURNING JACKETS

Fred Goodman has a contact who will make your turning jacket for you if you supply 2m of the material of your choice, at a cost of R40. Please contact Fred for further details at: (021) 708 3371

SUPERGLUE

Thick Glue @ R18.00

Thin glue at R15.00

Cyanoacrylate 305 @ R17.50, all available from Mike Bester.

MASKS

The committee has a supply of masks @ R11.00 each, available from Mike Bester

HYDROWAX

R18 per 5 litre container – Speak to any committee member at the meeting.

SECOND-HAND TABLE

A reminder that members can bring any tools or equipment they have "outgrown" to the club for sale on the "second-hand table" which Ed Brymer is in charge of. An appeal had been made for more goodies for the second-hand table, as stocks are running low.

TAILPIECE

In general, you should select the lathe tool that works best for you. Time-honoured guidelines say that a gouge and Roundnose are commonly used to cut flat and convex surfaces, such as taper and beads on spindles. When turning bowls, use a bowl turning gouge.

Don't hold the tip of a skew in the wood for more than an instant – push it in and get it out. Otherwise, the chisel can heat up, burn, and draw to the temper.

Feed your tools slowly and steadily; never jab or force a tool into the wood. If your chisel begins to chatter or you get a rough cut, check the sharpness of the edge. If the sharpness is good, then the stock may be turning too fast, or maybe you're trying to remove too much stock at one time, or perhaps the stock is whipping because it's becoming too slender to turn without some sort of centre rest.

Cheers, and happy turnings until Wednesday evening,

Gigi