



# TURNINGS

April 2001

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

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 19:00 sharp, at the Hobbies Club, Pinelands, as usual.

## EDITORIAL

Greetings turners!

At last we are experiencing some variety in our weather, with some welcome showers falling recently (my Mom-in-law is visiting, and it always rains when she's here!). It is hard to believe how much water is pouring out of the Mountain, after so many months of increasing dryness. Glühwein and warm fires always make winter worthwhile... Last Friday evening, Nicholas joined Dennis and I for our "constitutional" in the forest, and we thoroughly enjoyed getting wet, walking in the evening rain. Hopefully this bodes well for things to come, not as in the past couple of years, where we had some early rains, with little to follow, and relatively warm weather to boot. It's about time we had a decent winter storm (with the prospect of being able to collect some pavement wood from the casualties of such storms).

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let you down

At the moment it is more than likely that Phil Irons will be demonstrating at the Annual Seminar, which will be in East London again this year. Before going to East London, he will travel up the Garden Route,

demonstrating and giving lectures at various venues along the way. Cape Town is due to host him from 14 - 18 September, so if you have any special ideas for entertaining him, please let the committee know.

Many thanks to Rienzi Beckett for his interesting contribution to this month's newsletter, and to Jon Hide for his tip on the website. I wish to appeal to ALL members to kindly share some tips or experiences with us, or submit informative articles for the newsletter. You can email, fax, post, or give me material in longhand at the next meeting - it all helps make my job as editor a little easier (if you want me to continue in this portfolio...).

So long,

*Gigi*

## FROM THE CHAIR.

I am not going to dwell too much on this month's *From the Chair* as I also have to compose my Chairman's report for the year and get it ready for the A.G.M.



*Dennis Hales at work, demonstrating his craft at our last meeting.*

21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2001.

The highlight of the month was without any doubt Dennis Hale's visit to the club. Besides being an accomplished speaker he has a warm personality, a sense of humour and an indubitable passion for his work. All this put together, was a recipe for an extremely enjoyable and informative evening. As I am at a loss of words to describe his style, choice of subjects and colouring techniques, I will leave this up to each and everyone one of you who was fortunate enough to be there.

For those of you who missed this event and would like to see for themselves, there are ways and means to remedy the situation:

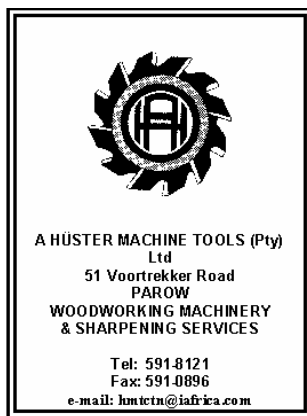
- if you have access to the Internet go to:  
<http://www.d.hales.clara.net/>
- if you do not have access to the Internet go to:  
Roubaix House Gallery,  
24,Dirkie Uys Street,  
Franshoek.  
where some of his latest pieces are for sale
- if you can do neither of the above ask someone who has Internet and a colour printer to assist you.

After the formal business part of the evening the get together with wine and snacks went down well (no pun intended!) and gave us an opportunity to have a chat with our various guests: Dennis and his wife Rachel, David and Michelle Walters who were instrumental in introducing Dennis to us and Declan Brassil from the Irish Woodturners Guild who was brought to the meeting by Mike Bester.

I hope our guests enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Dennis for sparing the time during his short sojourn in South Africa to come and speak to us.

Dennis, good luck with your forthcoming exhibitions and with all your future plans.



### **EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA.**

It's all systems go.

If the mail is running according to normal schedules and you receive this month's copy of *Turnings* before the start of it here are the exhibition times:

10.00 AM to 8.00 PM from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of April.

Any additional volunteers for assistance will still be welcomed at this late stage.

John Mills from Durban (The AWSA Secretary) who will be in Cape Town for Easter contacted me, and informed me that time and family permitting, he would like to join and assist us sometime during the

show. Thanks for the offer. How's that for dedication to turning!!

### **THANKS.**

I wish to express the Committee's and my thanks to

The Management of Kwikspar, Central Square, Pinelands for their generous gift of chips and peanuts they offered us towards the catering for the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Till the A.G.M. on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April,

Happy turning,

*Cheers*

*Eric*

### **FROM THE COMMITTEE**

#### **SHOWCASE JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>.**

With just on two months to go, we would like to remind members to prepare for our mid-year showcase, when we have a first for the Club, in that "outside" turners will be involved in assessing works on display.

#### **OPEN WEEKEND 23<sup>RD</sup> AND 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE.**

Plans are progressing towards the "open" weekend on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June. This will follow the mid-year Showcase and will be an opportunity for members to have their items on display for the public to see. Again, volunteers will be called upon to give up some of their time to "man the stall" and be on hand to demonstrate and inform visitors what woodturning is all about.

### **ADVERTISERS**

Please let the supplier know you are a member of WCWA when making a purchase with one of our advertisers. This gives valuable feedback to the advertiser. If you know of companies who would benefit from advertising in the newsletter, please let the committee know.

### **FROM THE MEMBERS**

#### **CRAFT SUPPLIES COURSE IN FRANCE**

As woodturners we all know of Craft Supplies at Millers Dale in Derbyshire, UK, and some of us have even enjoyed a woodturning course there. However, how many know that Craft Supplies now run courses at a recently established training centre in France? I was privileged to be one of the turners on the inaugural course last year.

It all started just before Christmas 1999 when we received a card from Nick Davidson, the MD/CEO of Craft Supplies, on which he mentioned that they had purchased an old water mill alongside the River Arize in the foothills of the Pyrenees, where they would be running intermediate woodturning courses during the European autumn of 2000. Anyone who was interested should make contact. My wife was

keen on the idea, so we asked for more details and settled for the course from 11 - 15 September.

The course was to last five days - working in the mornings and free in the afternoons to explore this beautiful area, not all that far from Andorra. Five candidates can take part and the excellent accommodation caters for accompanying wives/partners. The courses are all in English, so language is not a problem. Jamie Wallwin had been persuaded to come out of retirement and was our tutor.

Some chose to drive, while others like us flew from Stanstead (UK) to Carcassonne, about 1½ hours from Le Moulin de la Materette where it all happens. We picked up our hire car and took our time reaching "Le Moulin".

By late Sunday afternoon everybody had arrived; 3 couples plus Vic and David on their own. Jamie's wife Charmaine also came as well as the Davidson family of Nick and Fran, their daughter Emma and son Tom, as well as Steve a delightful young Australian working his way around Europe.

After official introductions over a drink, we had dinner on the stoep, with the sound of running water and owls in the background. The food was excellent as was the local wine. After coffee we were offered Armagnac and some Muratie Port I had brought along, which impressed all those who like Port.

We all retired to our spacious and comfortable rooms with en suite bathroom or shower room and we slept like logs.

The real business of the 5 day course started on Monday morning after an excellent breakfast. Jamie was waiting for us at 08h30 in the workshop, which is a separate building, and wood store, housing 5 new lathes; 2 Record and 3 Woodfast, as well as a large Wadkin band saw. Each student was allocated a lathe and supplied with a set of "Home of Woodturning" (Craft Supplies) turning tools and a clamp on angle poise lamp. There was also a table with a large variety of more specialised tools which could be used by anybody.

After a short talk by Jamie on the rules of the workshop and safety, each of us had to give brief details of their turning experience/courses and type of lathe owned.

We would be involved in 5 projects namely

- a) advanced spindle turning
- b) a box
- c) a platter
- d) a natural edge bowl
- e) a deep hollow form

Jamie watched over us, always ready to assist. He has the uncanny ability of offering advice and assistance just at the right moment. During mid-morning tea break we would see how others were progressing. The workshop was a hive of activity and concentration, and time just flew by.

We often wished we could have worked in the afternoon as well, but the holiday aspect of the trip had to be remembered.

The region is scenically beautiful and away from touristy crowds and places. There are castles and caves, golf and trout fishing, fresh air and country roads and little villages with markets. Very much an unspoilt area of France. At dinner each evening we would discuss what we had done and seen. Nick was always available to give advice on where and what to see and do. Some went as far as Andorra and although not all that far, the trip took longer than expected as the road is very tortuous.

After dinner when it cooled down we would move into the large lounge, light a log fire and enjoy lively conversation. On a couple of evenings Nick entertained us with tunes and songs played on his handmade guitar. There were also numerous woodturning books and beautiful examples of turned objects everywhere.

On one of the nights we were all invited to dinner at a nearby bistro where we enjoyed a typical French meal of the region. As it was the inaugural course, my wife and I decided we should all sign our names in a pictorial book of Cape Town which, we presented to Fran and Nick.

The week passed quickly and one realised how much one had done and learnt in those five busy days, not forgetting the camaraderie of an "in house" course.

If anybody would like more details please feel free to phone me (021) 531-3566.

*Rienzi Beckett*

### COOL WEBSITE

Jon Hide suggests that <http://www.woodturning.co.nz> is an exciting website to visit

### REMINDERS

The outgoing 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	<a href="mailto:bozo@iafrica.com">bozo@iafrica.com</a>
Eric Thornton	<a href="mailto:notnorth@mweb.co.za">notnorth@mweb.co.za</a>
Alan Jackson	<a href="mailto:alanj@global.co.za">alanj@global.co.za</a>
Gigi Laidler	<a href="mailto:laidler@nbict.nbi.ac.za">laidler@nbict.nbi.ac.za</a>

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 renewed their membership for 2000/2001. The 2001/2002 membership fees will be decided at the AGM

## NAME TAGS

Mike Bester has issued name tags, 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.



## FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

### 18<sup>th</sup> April

The AGM of WCWA.

### 16<sup>th</sup> May

Woodoc finishes by Thijs Carstens

### 20<sup>th</sup> June

June Showcase

### 18<sup>th</sup> July

"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:

1<sup>st</sup> 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)

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday is specifically targeted at assisting beginners.

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

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday same as 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday.

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

## THE MARKET PLACE

### BENCH BAND SAW

Toolcraft bench band saw on a stand, with spare blades and extension lead. In working order.

Asking price R600. Contact Peter Earl on (028) 313 0686 (trading as Bygones Antiques).

### LATHE

One of our past members, Leon van Rensburg, wishes to sell his lathe:

Record #3, in good condition with extras, including combination chuck plus extra rings, long boring kit, live centre on tailstock and some turning chisels.

R4,500.00 for the lot. Price subject to negotiation.

Contact Leon van Rensburg at 851 7796 or cell: 0827166439.

### 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

Ed Brymers's "second-hand table" was looking a little depleted at the last meeting, so this is another reminder that members can bring any tools or equipment they have "outgrown" to the club for sale.

## TAILPIECE

The quality of the finish of the inside of a vessel is inversely proportional to the diameter of the neck (and the ability of a finger to probe).

Cheers, and happy turnings until Wednesday, *Gigi*