



# TURNINGS

May 2001

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

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 19:00 sharp, at the Hobbies Club, Pinelands, as usual.

## EDITORIAL

Greetings turners!

Well, our AGM has come and gone, and I'm still in the "hotseat" as editor of *Turnings*, so I'm afraid you'll have to put up with my ramblings for a while longer, while I hope to be able to continue to keep all members up to date with happenings in the Club, and to have this newsletter out reasonably on time - anyone know how to "magic" a few extra hours into a day?

As far as the committee goes, we welcome Eric back as Chairman - thanks Eric for the great job that you have done over the last year, particularly for all your time and the effort that you have devoted to promoting the art of woodturning, and the club, and for organising all the shows and events, in spite of your challenging circumstances.

Graeme will again be our secretary, while Alan Jackson continues as librarian. We welcome as new members of the committee, Bert Parker as Treasurer, Jon Hide as Workshop co-ordinator, and Gert Ferreira.

A very special vote of thanks goes to Mike Bester, who is standing down as treasurer, after doing an excellent job balancing the books for so many years. And last but not least, we say good-bye to Ruben du Plessis as a committee member, who is standing down due to time constraints - thank you for all you have done, while serving on the committee.

As committee we look forward to another activity-filled year, with some exciting events planned, such as having the guys from Knysa visit to assess our mid-year Showcase, and the visit in September by Phil Irons.

With our first comparative "cold" snap, we've already spent a couple evenings nursing a warm glass of Glühwein, cuddled in front of a cosy fire. This is an excellent time of year to scabble through the woodpile and do some serious culling. Be ruthless and remove any logs that are cracking, or haven't stood up to the rigours of our recent hot dry

summer. This is ideal firewood-making weather, and noting neatly stacked piles of wood on pavements after seeing Municipal workers pruning street trees, has reminded me that winter is always a good time to take advantage of the results of winter storms, and to pick up some interesting wood to replace the wood used up over the last couple of months, or wood which was collected last year that hasn't made the grade with the passing of time. It often happens that we see some promising-looking wood, which we load up and bring home, only to find that it cracks, or warps and is unusable when turned. This then serves the ultimate purpose (to the delight of pyromaniac Nicholas) as fuel in our much-used and enjoyed fireplace. So roll on winter!!

*So long,*

*Gigi*

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## FROM THE CHAIR.

There is not much I have to say since the A.G.M. except that you will have to put up with me as your Chairman for another year.

As some of you were not present at the meeting I feel that I should publish the Chairman's report for the year as this may be of interest to other parties who do read our newsletter.

Copies of the minutes of the previous A.G.M. and financial statements which are of a private nature to Association members only are available on request.

So here goes:

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2000/2001.**

Good evening fellow turners.

I can hardly believe that a whole year has gone by since the chairmanship was thrust upon me.

I personally do not like the wording "Chairman's Report" as to me it implies that he blows his own trumpet and that everything that has happened in the club during the year is of his own doing.

It sounds very dictatorial.

As we are in a democracy "Committee Report" seems more appropriate to me despite the fact that the Chairman compiles it. Be that as it may tradition is tradition so lets follow it.

### **GOALS.**

At the beginning of the year goals were set:

- 1- To reach a double century:
  - a) That the club would enter the new millennium as a sound and healthier club. We'll chalk that one up as plus in our favour.
  - b) To reach a membership of 100 beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In order to squeeze a half point out of this one in our favour lets put it this way. We have over a 100 members in our books but due to the constraints of the present economic situation not everyone has been able to maintain their subscriptions up to date.
- 2- Increase interaction between members by the judicious use of the Wednesday evening workshops. Those evenings are now well attended and have proven to be very productive and informative. We'll score another plus on this one.
- 3- Promoting the association and art of woodturning in public through outside exposure: I will not dwell at length on each event as you all know what we did but a little recap does not hurt and it might stimulate us for next year.

#### **Exhibitions:**

Bellville Arts Association - September 2000

Pinelands Library - January 2001-05-02

Exhibitions and demonstrations:

Hobby X - Bellville Velodrome - November 2000

Model Engineering Club - February 2001-05-02

Easter Extravaganza Good Hope Centre - April 2001

We'll score a big plus on this one.

In total 2.5 out of 3 = 83.33% not bad.

### **PROJECTS.**

One project came our way *The Olde Oak Tree*. Sadly nothing came of it. As the wood was not treated when cut and stored away it rotted, spalted and cracked so quickly that only a few small pieces were turned but nothing that we could proudly

present to Groote Schuur for posterity as a memento of its past existence.

### **EQUIPMENT.**

The Association invested in another piece of equipment a Super Nova chuck. It was a second hand item at a reasonable price. The only problem being that the chrome plating was peeling off. It was later confirmed to me by a very reliable source that this item was in fact once owned by one of our existing members whose name I will not disclose.

### **CONGRATULATIONS.**

First of all to one of our most prolific turners *Thys Carstens* for his many achievements during the year:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the F.N.B. Vita Awards competition.
- Invitation to exhibit at an Arts Festival in Milan, Italy.
- His commission by Price Waterhouse to turn two huge and identical vases for their Head Office foyer.
- His joining the KKK (Klein Karoo Kultuurfees) (Sorry Thys had to pull your leg I know it now called the F.N.B. Craft festival and that you can only be there by special invitation).
- Having one of your bowls being bought by the Premier of the Western Cape Government Mr. Gerald Morkel to remain as a permanent exhibit in the Premier's official residence.

### **MONTHLY MEETINGS.**

It is heart-warming indeed to see that the monthly meetings remain well patronised and that the instant galleries are getting bigger and better all the time not only in number of items but number of participants.

Many beginners are now exposing their pieces to the scrutiny of our critics, are braving and taking cognisance of the public constructive criticisms.

The improvement in their work and confidence is noticeable from month to month.

Keep up the good work it shows that we are achieving something in the Association and that the knowledge and experience of seasoned turners is rubbing off on the novices.

### **THANKS.**

To be able to report on and put all of the above on paper, except for Thys's feats, I have to thank each and everyone of you without exception for first of all being a member of the Association because without members we would not exist and secondly for your constant support and encouragement.

Before singling out individuals thanks must go to all the members who assisted in whatever way with our exhibitions and demonstrations.

Next thanks go to the instant gallery critics who volunteered army style at every monthly meeting.

In this category *Izak Cronje* deserves a special word of thanks for his command of the English language,

his gift of the gab and his ebullient sense of humour and timing. Never a slip of the tongue yet I am waiting for the day that in lifting and showing off a goblet or some functional vessel you use your now famous dictum "Beauty is in the eye of the *be(er)holder*"

Our visitors to the club:

**Dennis Hales** from Norwich in England who gave us an impressive exhibition and demonstration of his abilities.

**John Mills** from Durban who popped into the club on one of our workshop Wednesdays and also assisted for about four hours at our latest exhibition and demonstration.

It must be pointed out that both our guests were on holiday in Cape Town and gave us unhesitatingly some of their valuable time to be with us.

It goes to show that turning is really addictive and forges friendship.

**Midford Bester** the publisher and editor of the South African Woodworker magazine for fully sponsoring us at the Easter Extravaganza show.

**Thys Carstens** for keeping in touch with the source of the constant flow of instant glue and keeping us supplied.

**Mike Bester** for holding very tight reins on the finances, keeping our website up to date and supplying us with our name tags.

**Ruben du Plessis** as workshop manager for being at the club every Wednesday to assist with any mechanical or other problem.

**Alan Jackson** for unflinchingly running the library and from month to month sorting out the jumble of returned books and chasing those that don't come back by themselves.

**Graeme Hill** for keeping the Committee minutes as minute as it possibly can. Not only are they in point form but the typing in Times New Roman size 6 has swollen the sales of magnifying glasses. Maybe he is quietly trying his hand at miniature turning as well.

**Gigi Laidler** for maintaining the high standard of our monthly newsletter despite her increased pressures of work, two teenage boys and not to mention receiving articles at the last possible minute and with all that she never stops smiling.

My apologies if anyone has been forgotten; it is without any premeditation or malice whatsoever.

Oh! Yes my wife Yvonne for putting up with my comings and goings more so the goings to the club or where ever turning duties may take me.

Some wives are classed as angling widows some golf widows what do you call a woman whose husband turns (out to be) dead wood?

## TAIL PIECES.

At the Easter Extravaganza a father and his seven to eight year old son stopped to watch me turn a spinning top out of wet camphor. As I thinned out the shaft I hit a sort of soft flaw in the pith and the shaft broke in two and one piece flew off the tail stock and landed on the floor.

Kid's comment:

*"He's not very good is he Dad!?"*

Same venue two days later.

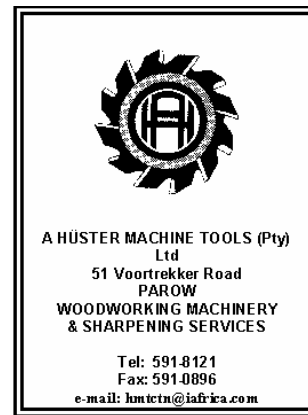
Visualise the set up: Our stand is surrounded by a stand selling well known brands of cold drinks, an ice cream stand, unmanned at the time, a hot dog stand and a tuck shop selling all sorts of decadent looking sweets.

I am turning a camphor mushroom with a somewhat elongated head, when up comes a little boy aged about 8/9, a cold drink in one hand and packets of sweets bulging out of every pocket of his overalls,

*"Excuse me Mister ! How much for a cone with a chocolate flake in it?"*

How do those two episodes rate for encouragement?

Eric Thornton  
Chairman.



## FROM THE COMMITTEE

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

With a month to go, members who are keen to measure their progress and skill as turners are reminded to put their efforts into finishing off all the pieces they wish to submit for the June Showcase. Please note that pieces that have not been fully completed ("gallery-ready") will not be accepted.

We are lucky to have four turners from Knysna as our "assessors" for this event, with Bert Parker the moderator. In order to be fair on all entrants and the judges, a maximum of five pieces per paid-up member will be accepted for the showcase. All turners, regardless of level of skill, are welcome to enter.

The judging for this event will be based on three categories, namely Form, Function and Finish.

For Form, the essentials will be that the piece will be assessed on "how" it looks, for instance is it well balanced, are the proportions correct, is the size of the base appropriate to the dimensions of the rest of the piece, is the flow of the curves harmonious?

Function will be assessed, among other criteria, on whether the intended purpose is well served, is the choice of wood and finish appropriate to the intended use, is wall-thickness suitable, and is the weight and stability in keeping with the intended use.

Criteria used for judging the Finish will include whether it has been well sanded, has the finish (oil, wax, sealer etc) been applied well, has the foot been well finished, is any applied decoration appropriate, has the wood been used to its best advantage (grain, knots, cracks, texture, etc), and is the piece enjoyable to feel and hold?

### **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.

### **PHIL IRONS VISIT**

WCWA will be fortunate to be the first "hosts" to Phil Irons when he arrives in South Africa, prior to being the guest demonstrator at the AWSA seminar in East London. He arrives here on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September, and will give some Master Classes and a demonstration for members while he is in Cape Town. The committee are in the process of finalising his programme while he is our guest, so watch this space for further details on how to book your place for these events.

### **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 (and particularly for the benefit of members as well) from advertising in the newsletter, please let the committee know.

### **A FINAL NOTE**

Over the last year our "other" Wednesday evenings at the club have been well attended. Apart from members being able to make use of the equipment belonging to the club, these evenings are an excellent opportunity for the less experienced turners to learn from the more advanced turners, and to practice new techniques, so please make a note to come along, if you feel in need of guidance - that is what your club membership is for!

## **FROM THE MEMBERS**

### **BOOK REVIEW**

*Woodturning* by Phil Irons. 125 pages; hardcover, published by Apple Press, London, 2000. Price R239 at Exclusive Books.

I was lucky enough to receive a generous book voucher for a recent birthday by the editor. It was at Exclusive Books, Constantia Village Shopping Centre that I discovered *Woodturning* by Phil Irons. Phil Irons will be the overseas guest demonstrator at the Annual Seminar of the Association of Woodturners of South Africa, that will be held in East London between 22 - 24 September this year.

The first feature that strikes one about this book is its novel physical format. It is a hardcover ring-bound book. Pages 17 to 112 are physically separated about two thirds the way down the page. This splits the book into two separate sections. The top section comprises 22 excellent projects, while the bottom section 22 techniques used in turning.

The project section progresses from simple spindle projects such as a cord pull and rolling pin, to more advanced projects such as a baby's rattle which incorporates four captive rings, and door wedges which involve shoulders between square and round sections. Projects 11 to 19 progress through further spindle work to faceplate projects such as scoops, caddy spoons, spindle boxes and a round-bottomed box. The final three projects include a simple bowl, natural-edge bowl and an end-grain hollow form.

The 22 techniques cover the whole gamut from chain-sawing and lumber conversion (to bowl blanks), through tool sharpening, mounting blanks on the lathe, the use of gouges, hollowing and a variety of finishing techniques.

The projects are described using clearly annotated colour photographs and each includes a list of tools and accessories as well as a description of the wood types and dimensions of the blanks used. Each project also gives the techniques used and the novel format of the book allows the user to turn to the appropriate technique without losing sight of the project being followed. The techniques are also well illustrated by annotated colour photographs.

The introduction includes information of workshop layout, selecting a lathe, tools, safety precautions, as well as a limited selection of northern hemisphere turning woods.

The final section of the book is a gallery of inspirational turnings by contemporary turners and rounded off with a comprehensive index.

My immediate reaction to the book was a rekindling of the desire to do some spindle turning after having spent the last couple of months concentrating on bowls and hollow forms. The baby's rattle is a great way to get back into using spindle gouges, the skew chisel and home-made captive ring tools. Turning

the caddy spoons involved manufacturing a set of custom wooden jaws to fit my scroll chuck and hunting down a couple of second hand hole saws which I found in *The Treasure Box* on Victoria Rd., Southfield.

I would strongly recommend this book to novice and intermediate turners needing a range of projects and techniques to progressively improve their skills. The book could also conceivably be used by advanced turners as a basis around which to develop a logically structured training course.

Come September, I will be happy to congratulate Phil Irons on an excellent two-in-one manual which will, without doubt, improve the knowledge of turning techniques and practical skills of all those lucky enough to have access to his book.

I heartily recommend that the club committee purchase a copy of Phil's book. It will be an invaluable aid to all novice and intermediate level members.

*Dennis*



## **REMINDERS**

The new committee members for 2001 / 2002 are:

Eric Thornton	Chairman	531 1559(h)
Graeme Hill	Secretary	794 1639(h)
Jon Hide	Workshop co-ordinator	671 8711 (h)
Bert Parker	Treasurer	914 0927 (h)
Alan Jackson	Library	558 1296(h)
Gert Ferreira		559 1409(h)
Gigi Laidler	Newsletter	797 7755(h)

Email contacts for committee members are:

Eric Thornton	notnorth@mweb.co.za
Graeme Hill	mwgahrbh@mweb.co.za
Bert Parker	nimbus@yebo.co.za
Jon Hide	jonah0@xsinet.co.za
Gert Ferreira	gskc@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**

Membership for 2001/2002 is now due. Members who fail to pay their fees for the new financial year by the end of July 2001 will be considered as resigned members and will no longer enjoy the benefits of membership.

### **A REMINDER TO PLEASE BRING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE NEXT MEETING FOR PAYMENT TO BERT PARKER.**

Subs are as follows:

#### **Ordinary member:**

WCWA	R80.00
Hobbies Club	40.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>R120.00</b>

#### **Family member:**

(Same surname – living under same roof)

WCWA	R35.00
Hobbies Club	R40.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>R75.00</b>

#### **Country member:**

(No Hobbies Club fee)

WCWA	<b>R80.00</b>
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Note: AWSA membership (R35) can be paid together with WCWA subs. The National Body would prefer to have clubs pay for their members as a group payment, rather than individuals paying directly to the AWSA. Bert Parker will remit all AWSA memberships to the National Body.

## **NAME TAGS**

Mike Bester had issued name tags for the previous year, and members are encouraged to wear their name tags when attending meetings. New tags will be issued in due course. Committee members can be identified from the printing on their name tags being red rather than black.

## **FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME**

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

Woodoc finishes by Thys Carstens

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

June Showcase.

### **23/24 June**

"Open Weekend" where all the different groups comprising the Hobbies Club will show off their skills and interests to the public.

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

"Surprise" - certain members will be "in on the secret" - so come along with an open mind and allow yourself to be inspired!

### **15<sup>th</sup> August**

How to turn an old-fashioned baby's rattle - a demonstration of spindle turning.

**14 - 18 September**

Phil Irons is hosted by WCWA - watch this space for details of his programme

**19<sup>th</sup> September**

"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.

**22 - 24 September**

Annual Seminar in East London

**17<sup>th</sup> October**

Bert Parker shares his knowledge of woods.

**21<sup>st</sup> November**

November Showcase and end-of-year braai

**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.

**REMINDER: ANNUAL NATIONAL SEMINAR****AWSA Congress 2001 - East London**

**Date:** 22 - 24 September 2001

**Venue:** Hudson Park High School, Vincent, East London

**Costs:** Registration:  
 (full) paid before 31 July R250.00  
 (full) paid after 31 July R275.00  
 Accommodation - Hudson School  
 per night R50.00  
 Other accommodation and  
 travel Own Cost

The East London Woodturners Guild are the hosts/convenors and full details are available from Elliot Murray.

Tel: (043) 772 4106 (H); 082 872 4924 (cell).

email: [drelliot@mainlandnews.com](mailto:drelliot@mainlandnews.com)

Accommodation enquiries to Bjorn Uys

Tel: (043) 735 4486.

**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.

**TAILPIECE**

Please guys, I need your assistance with some articles of interest to fellow turners. So when next you have an idle moment, please put pen to paper, or finger to keyboard, and share some thoughts and inspirations with the rest of us. I'll be happy to receive your contribution by fax, email, or on a piece of paper dropped into my mailbox or handed to me at a meeting.

Cheers, and happy turnings until Wednesday, *Gigi*