



TURNINGS

September 2001

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

NEXT MEETING

I have a surprise for you! (apart from going to press early this month) We had previously published in the programme that there will be no regular "formal" meeting on Wednesday 19th September, due to Phil Irons' visit. However, in the last week we had a kind offer from Andi Wolfe, who visited our club last year, to do a presentation on what's going on in the US woodturning scene. Please note there WILL be a meeting on Wednesday 19th 19:00 sharp, as usual.

Remember too, the demonstration at 14:00 on Saturday afternoon, 15th September, which is free for all paid-up members. This will be followed by a social gathering – dinner at R25 per head (pre-booking essential), all welcome.

EDITORIAL

Greetings turners!

These last couple of weeks have been bountiful for turners, with several useful trees falling prey to the weather for whatever reason, with the *Cape of Storms* living up to its name. Last Thursday I was fortunate to collect a couple of large pieces of Silver Tree from Rhodes Drive, before they disappeared.

Today (Saturday) I can say it really feels like spring is in the air, and this is borne out by the fact that I heard the first *Piet-my-vrou* of the season last week – a day after the great deluge, that caused a massive wash-away on the slopes of Table Mountain above Kirstenbosch, resulting in massive rocks and boulders plunging through the forest, cutting a 20m swathe of destruction through the trees in parts, and great damage to the forest road below. Awesome to see erosion of the mountain on this scale. Now the fresh green of budding leaves is as beautiful and exiting as ever, with the regeneration of life in anticipation of the next summer, which I hope will not be quite as hot and dry as the last. Our evenings are definitely getting longer, and there seems to be a general air of anticipation and change (when we are not being lashed by one of the many storms).

At our last meeting, some interesting home-made tools and tricks were demonstrated, with some lively debate on the pro's and con's of some tools – always good to get a different perspective on solving a problem.

We were also honoured at this meeting by the presence of a special guest, Gloria Bastos, who is organising the Hobby-X show at the Bellville Velodrome between 5 and 7 October. Many of you will remember this event (3 – 5 November last year), which did much to promote awareness of turning. Some of our present members were actually introduced to the association through this event.

After having been invited at very short notice last year, we have at least had almost two months notice this time. Please liaise with Gert Ferreira regarding your participation in this event.

The countdown to the East London Seminar is in its throes of the last two weeks, with much anticipation for the event, coupled with high expectations for the activities around the visit of Phil Irons next weekend, here in Cape Town.



A Smoker's Chair made using non-mechanical tools. (See Mike Bester's article.)

Finally, I would like to thank Mike Bester very much for his entertaining article about his trip to Ireland. You make us envious, Mike!

So long,

Gigi

FROM THE CHAIR.

Has anyone ever wondered where the word "deadline" comes from?

Well I know because I have experienced it first hand.

It means the last word or sentence you will ever write because that is the exact moment when the editor walks into your office and shoots you because you have not yet submitted your article for the magazine/newsletter. (sorry to pressurize you to that extent Eric, but thanks for meeting my deadline – Ed.)

We have had all sorts of things happening, one on top of the other.

First it was Tony Kwasniak's fleeting and interesting visit.

Then the worst storms in over fifty years bringing in untold floods to certain areas of the Western Cape in the process smashing two ships onto the rocks along the Peninsula's Atlantic coast. Let's hope that this will not lead to another dreadful oil spillage. Countless trees were also blown down. Ironically none of the turning kind mostly blue gums and stone pines. (depends on where you look – Ed.)

Two of the next items on the agenda were well publicised but a third one as a surprise just for good measure, has cropped up, so read on carefully.

PHIL IRONS' VISIT.

13th to 17th September 2001.

On Thursday at about 9.15 am. Phil will be touching down at Cape Town International to start his whirlwind tour of South Africa. I trust you will all be giving him our usual warm welcome and hospitality. I sincerely hope that the weather will play its part as well. It still has a few days to turn around (no pun intended) from what we are presently experiencing.

Besides being shown around Cape Town, the climax of Phil's visit will be his demonstration:

Saturday the 15th at the clubhouse at 14.00 hours.

Let's give Phil all the support he really deserves.

NOTE: This meeting is also intended as our monthly meeting and after Phil's demonstration we will have a quick meeting and the usual instant gallery. We are hoping that Phil will critique some of the pieces on the table. This will be followed by a social gathering and the evening will finish off with the planned paying guests only Cape Style supper.

WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER.

The evening was supposed to be a non-event as the monthly meeting was pushed forward to the 15th but we received an e-mail from Andy Wolfe (from Cleveland University if my memory serves me well), who you may recall was a guest of the club a few months ago.

She will only be here for a few days and has offered to do a small presentation on what is going on in the US woodturning scene.

So if you can find your way to tear yourself away for another evening at the club I will see you there.

AWSA SEMINAR EAST LONDON 21ST TO 24TH SEPTEMBER 2001.

We have a large contingent from the Western Cape going to the seminar 16 including myself. Let's make this an event to remember

To all the members and their wives of the Association travelling by whichever means to East London, may I wish you a pleasant and safe journey there and back.

WEDNESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER.

There will be no workshop on that night. (Late afternoon return from East London, by road makes this impossible. Ed.)



GOOD LUCK WISHES.

On behalf of the Committee and members of the WCWA I would like to wish Elliott Murray and his fellow turners in East London everything of the best for the success of this year's seminar.

COMMITTEE MEETING SNIPPET.

In parting I could not resist passing this onto the members.

At our last Committee meeting whilst planning Phil Irons' stay in Cape Town it was decided that he would stay with Graeme Hill,

Gigi in typical concerned housewife manner said "That's OK but what about his laundry over the week-end?" The chairman replied pointing to Graeme "No problem he'll (Hill) do the washing and Phil irons!!"

On that note I will leave you.

See you all on the 15th.

Cheers,

Eric Thornton

FROM THE COMMITTEE

HOBBY-X: BELVILLE VELODROME 5 – 7 OCTOBER.

Many of you will remember the Hobby-X Show at the Velodrome in which WCWA participated last year in November. We have had a little more notice this year, and Eric has already circulate a roster for people to commit some time to man our stand. We have been allocated a good position this year, and with all the other exhibitors scheduled to be there, this should really be a good event. Please contact Gert Ferreira about your participation, whether you want to demonstrate, display (and for sale), or merely be there to share your knowledge about turning and the club for a few hours.

FROM THE MEMBERS

WOODTURNING IN IRELAND

Since his visit to South Africa and attending one of our monthly meetings, Declan Brassil and I have, via e-mail, kept contact and when I confirmed that we (Greta and I) would be visiting our daughter in London in May and June this year, Declan was rather adamant that we should include Ireland in our itinerary and so planned that I could attend the monthly meeting of the Galway Chapter of the IWA on Thursday 7 June, as well as give a bobbin turning demo in his workshop on Wednesday 6 June.

Whereas our initial plan was for a 3-day visit, Greta and I finally settled on a 6-day tour, leaving Heathrow on the Sunday and picking up a car at Dublin airport. Our tour took us south west to Kenmare via Blarney where we kissed the Blarney stone, as good Irish tourists do, and then up the west coast, arriving in Galway the Wednesday afternoon.



Mike Bester demonstrating bobbin turning in Declan Bassil's workshop.

The demo was attended by some 20 members of the Galway Chapter and took place in Declan's workshop. I did not take any chisels with me but the chisels that were available managed to do the trick and I turned 1 bobbin in African Blackwood. For this 30 minutes I was paid a "demo fee" of £50. I was

very reluctant to accept it as I most certainly did not expect any fee, but the treasurer was insistent. I informed them that the money would be used to obtain as much African wood blanks as purchase price and freight costs would allow and that it would not come from Mike Bester, but from the Western Cape Wood turners.

After the demo we had tea/coffee and snacks prepared by Declan's wife, Lara. With daylight hours stretching well after 11pm, most of the visitors had left by 10:30 and a few of us then went to a local pub returning at 12am. Declan then produced a bottle of Irish whiskey which, between 4 of us, ran out at 4am, just as daylight started breaking.

The Thursday we drove into the mountainous area of Connemara where, at a craft shop, I saw some spalted Beech bowls turned by Liam O'Neill; mainly functional but with excellent finishing. Thursday evening was spent with the group at their monthly meeting which is held in a room above a pub in Galway. The turning project (goblets) produced some very nice articles. I was impressed by a beautiful chalice from peat bog oak with gold leaf inside. Unfortunately my camera was left behind and I could not take any photos. Early Friday morning we left Galway, and very fond memories of a great and enjoyable 2 days, returning to Dublin and back to London.



A turner in Ireland making Smoker's Chairs using a pole lathe.

A week later we attended a craft fair on an estate near Hayward's Heath where I found a turner making Smoker's Chairs using non mechanical tools only – including a pole lathe. He only makes them on order (9-month waiting list) at one chair per week at a price of £450 each.

Mike Bester

FROM THE WEB

After the “tools and tips” demonstration at last month’s meeting, I was inspired to include the article below, on the Munro Hollower. There has been much debate on the virtues of the ring tool amongst our members, and the comments by the author of the article had a familiar tone, so enjoy the “test report”.



THE MUNRO HOLLOWER

A Tool Test by Dick Veitch

Oh so simple, Rolly, why didn't someone think of this years ago. This is the KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid) principle applied to perfection. We have all seen the "cup tool" or "ring tool" for deep hollowing – love them or hate them, they take the wood out. The hate has usually come from an inability to control the depth of cut. Now Rolly has simply added a cunningly designed safety gauge above the sharp-edged cup to control the cutting depth.

The shape of the cup and the shape of the gauge ensures that shavings are thrown well clear. Certainly, you can be too greedy and clog the cutter but with the right setting this machine just whisks the shavings out. Setting the cutter to give a fine cut is great for finishing or working with the cutting edge well away from the toolrest.

Initially, Rolly told me, he called it the "omni" tool as it can be used to shape and hollow both the outside and inside of bowls, vases and hollow forms. Indeed this is so with a very nice finish being achieved regardless of the grain direction. Take care though. The hollower cuts so easily that you can be fooled into taking too thick a cut instead of making finer finishing cuts just as you would with a chisel. Rolly actually boasted, when he visited South Auckland, that he did not need any other chisel, but this was a little fib. Later in the day of his visit I saw him take a parting tool from his bag and stir his tea with it!

The most basic Munro Hollower kit to purchase is the handle and straight shaft for \$180.00. The 500mm aluminium handle is covered for its full length with a vibration absorbing EVA grip. The

500mm straight shaft can go almost entirely inside the handle thus allowing the user to extend only the length required for the job in hand. A short bolt with a wonderful 38mm ball head is used to secure the shaft within the handle. Thus no spanner is required to adjust the shaft extension or to change from a straight to a bent shaft. Also, you can place the ball at the top or to one side to show the orientation of the cutter once the head is deep inside a hollow form. Additional shafts with short and long bends, cutters, gauges and separate handles are also available with prices varying a little on the composition of the kit.

My first test was a small lump of swamp kauri. I wanted to make a bowl where much of the side sloped inwards – an inner curve which I have difficulty cutting with a bowl gouge. The Munro Hollower made the job easy. With this soft wood it was tempting to set the hollower gauge too thick – the chisel would still cut well but ripping too much off swamp kauri with each cut as you approach the finish leaves damage well into the remaining wood. With a thick setting and soft wood the hollower did appear to clog but I just put it back to the wood and, poof, it was clear and cutting.

So I put it to end grain pohutukawa. First a small bit so that I could watch what was happening. In a very short time I had a 170mm high stemmed vase hollowed down to 150 inside. Looked great but don't put your hand inside to feel the bottom – a significant nipple! In the eight pages of well written and illustrated "Hollower Instructions" (which would benefit from a little upgrade in the production technology) is the suggestion to use a "pin tool rest". While this is a tool rest with a pin to swivel the tool against it can also be used to improve inside bottom smoothness. Slide the hollower shaft into the handle so that when the flat end of the handle is against the flat edge of the pin tool rest the hollower cutter will be exactly at the bottom of the bowl. Now you can push against the tool rest while moving the cutter up and down to cut the nipple out of the bottom.

The detailed instructions also have a very good section on sharpening the High Speed Steel circular cutter. The huge advantage of the circular cutter is that you are really using only one quarter of the circle at any one time. When it gets blunt just slacken the screw, rotate 90 degrees and there is a sharp face. After four moves (four times longer than you can use a regular gouge) go to the grindstone.

My next bit of pohutukawa was a bit bigger and had been drying for 10 years. Hollowing down to about 200mm was a breeze but after that a few tricks (or better skills) were needed – but remember, this is a hard wood. The first chatter, despite a sharp blade and a fine setting, was fixed by adding a weightier handle to the hollower – just as recommended in the instructions. Up to this point the long, light and well-padded handle had been a treat. A word of caution about other handles though, the grub screws on some handles may raise burrs on the hollower

shaft and these may then damage the inside the aluminium Munro Hollower handle.

The hollowing of my pohutukawa went deeper but chatter returned. Changing to a tool rest that extended into the vase made some improvement but eventually I had to stop when the hollow was 250mm down. I wonder how far I could go in friendlier wood or after I have had a little more practice? The Munro Hollower should allow me to cut to 350mm through a 25mm opening – quite impressive.

The article can be viewed on the New Zealand Woodturners' site at:

<http://www.woodturning.co.nz/archives/munrohollower.html>

REMINDERS

The 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	jonah1@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

Many thanks to all members who have renewed their membership to date.

Members who have failed to pay their fees for the new financial year are now considered as resigned

members and will no longer enjoy the benefits of membership and will be charged R10 per meeting.

Part of the membership fee will be dedicated towards active promotion of the WCWA and stimulating public awareness of the art of woodturning, by means of making photographic displays of members' work to be used at demonstrations, etc.

Subs are as follows:

Ordinary member:

WCWA	R80.00
Hobbies Club	40.00
Total	R120.00

Family member:

(Same surname – living under same roof)

WCWA	R45.00
Hobbies Club	R30.00
Total	R75.00

Country member:

(No Hobbies Club fee)

WCWA	R80.00
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Note: AWSA membership (R35) should be paid together with WCWA subs. The National Body prefers 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

Bert Parker has printed the new name badges for the current year. Members are encouraged to wear their name tags when attending meetings, as this helps new members, and old, get to know each other by name. Committee members can be identified by the printing on their name badges being red rather than black.

If members lose their nametags, a new one will be issued at a cost of R5 towards the card-holder.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

15th September

14:30: Demonstration at the Club by Phil Irons, open to paid-up members of WCWA –

17:00 Social gathering and dinner

19th September

Woodturning in the USA: The 2001 AAW Symposium.

Come and enjoy a slide show of what is happening across the seas at the American Association of Woodturners.

22 – 24 September

Annual Seminar in East London

5 – 7 October

Hobby-X at the Bellville Velodrome

Contact Gert Ferreira for more details:

Tel: 559 1409(h); email: gskc@mweb.co.za.

17th October

Bert Parker shares his knowledge of woods.

21st November

November Showcase and end-of-year braai

Monthly programme for meetings:

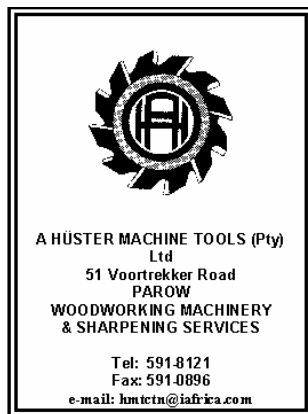
1st Wednesday is an informal affair where members are welcome to use the Association's equipment, receive guidance from experienced members and generally discuss matters turning. (Also the committee meeting)

2nd Wednesday is specifically targeted at assisting beginners.

3rd Wednesday is the regular formal meeting, comprising discussion of Association matters, as well as demonstrations, videos and in June and November, the biannual showcases.

4th / 5th Wednesday same as 1st Wednesday.

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

**THE MARKET PLACE****SECOND-HAND TABLE**

Last month there appeared to be a brisk trade in second-hand goods, so please remember to bring your unwanted tools to the "formal" meeting – this really seems successful for getting rid of the old and maybe getting something "new".

WCWA CLUB T-SHIRTS

We are happy to announce that new T-shirts are available – smart royal blue golf shirts, bearing the club name.

R45 for sizes small to large, and R50 for XXL.

Contact Graeme Hill

THE SA WOODWORKER

A special price of R128 for a one-year subscription to SA Woodworker has been negotiated for club members. Copies of the magazine purchased at this concession price can **only be collected** at the club, and will **not be posted**. Please contact Eric for your subscription form and for further details. From December this year, the subscription rate will be calculated for the annual rate from January to December, and adjusted *pro rata* if paid for any other period.

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

Glue @ R18.00 available from Bert Parker.

MASKS

The committee has a supply of masks @ R11.00 each, available from Bert Parker.

HYDROWAX

R18 per 5 litre container – Speak to Alan Jackson or Bert Parker the club meeting.

Please let the Editor know if you have anything for sale or to swap, and also how long you wish this to be placed in the newsletter, as a free service to members.

TAILPIECE

This month's tailpiece is a sting.

At our AGM I agreed to continue with the newsletter on condition that I would enjoy the support of the members providing input by way of articles and news. I am very grateful to members (Izak, Rienzie, Ed, Thys, Jon, Mike) who have already contributed, but PLEASE guys, it's YOUR TURN to send me something of interest; for instance an experience in the workshop, comment or questions about tools, to share with your fellow turners, if you haven't already done so. It does not need to be a long article – a paragraph or two from a couple of members would be more than welcome – also, how about some letters or comment from the members? The fact that there has not been a spot in the newsletter dedicated to Letters doesn't mean there isn't space, but that there is no material! I would also really appreciate some digital images of the work of members to include in the newsletter.

Cheers, and happy turnings till we meet again,

Gigi