



TURNINGS

August 2003

WCWA, Pinelands Hobbies Club, Nursery Way, Pinelands

WCWA Homepage: <http://www.angelfire.com/ct/wcwa/index.html>

AWSA home page: www.awsa.org.za

Central Ohio Woodturners (Sister club to WCWA): <http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~awolfe/COW/cow.html>

NEXT MEETING

Our next formal meeting will be on Wednesday 20th August 2003, Pinelands Hobbies Club, 19:00 sharp, as usual. The topic this month will be a discussion session on design.

The critics for the instant gallery at this meeting will be Harold Mills and Thys Carstens.

EDITORIAL

Due to the ArtB exhibition, our midwinter Showcase was postponed to the July meeting, with a total of 46 certificates awarded – 17 Gold, 16 Silver and 13 Bronze. Congratulations to all turners who participated – we had an excellent Showcase exhibition last month, and our thanks go to the panel of judges who devoted such a generous amount of their time to the evening of assessment – not an easy task! Seven Novice, one Intermediate and eight Advanced turners submitted a total of 72 pieces. Nico Bantjes 2 Golds now promotes him to Intermediate – well done, Nico! The participation in the Showcase is particularly commendable, considering how much activity there is in the club at present.



Items on display at the Showcase

Our August meeting takes on a different format, being a discussion and a sharing of ideas, rather than a demonstration, so this promises to be a very interesting evening, and turners of all levels of skill should benefit greatly from some really different perspectives on the hobby they are so passionate about.

My thanks go to all who contributed to this newsletter. Ken has shared some of his ideas, so how about it, guys, let's have some of your tips and ideas for the next newsletter.

So long,

Gigi

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings fellow turners,

First of all let me extend my best wishes for a speedy recovery to Harold Mills who had a successful shoulder operation and Thys Carstens whose right index finger tip got attacked by a hungry circular saw. Both patients were doing well when I last spoke to them. I gather both will take a short rest from turning.

Today winter is really here. It is bitterly cold and the rain is lashing down. I am sitting down rubbing my hands to get the fingers warm so that I can start typing my article. The cold is not my only enemy. My PC is sadly ailing and is in its last throes. It sometimes does not respond to controls or has to be prompted on more than one occasion and its memory is failing fast, not unlike its owner.

I have to face the inevitable. A transplant will not cure it. I am now contemplating the prospects of having to part with a long-term faithful friend and a lot of \$\$\$ to make acquaintance with a new and more sophisticated one. Let's hope he is just as friendly as the last one.

I had better type extra fast to finish my article just in case the hard drive's timing clock kicks in.

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To start off and keep you informed let me begin with:

AWSA BUSINESS

The Committee and area representatives of the AWSA held a telephone conference recently and here are the salient points that came under discussion.

1- NEXT CONFERENCE:

It was unanimously agreed that the next conference would be held in Durban at the same venue as last year from the 19th to the 22nd of

March 2004, as there were no suitable long weekends this year.

2- CHANGE TO CONSTITUTION.

As National holidays are fixed dates, long weekends are do not always happen in September. It was agreed that the constitution should be suitably amended at the next AGM to make provision to move or delay the AGM to a suitable date, not more than 18 months after the last one.

The financial year to remain September to August.

Request to be sought from the floor at the next AGM to condone the action of the present committee to delay the AGM.

3- OVERSEAS TURNER.

It was agreed to invite an overseas turner to our country and that he/she attend the National Seminar in March, provided the costs are within reason.

The name of Rolly Munro was suggested by John Mills who is going to try and get sponsorship from Technatool (NZ) and local hardware companies.

It has also been suggested that Tony Kwasniak of Sorby tools would also be present. He would be sponsored by Strand Hardware and by Robert Sorby (UK). His last trip only covered the Western and Eastern Cape. Next year should be Natal and Gauteng.

4- BUDGET.

Perrie is busy on the budget, and when ready will forward it to all the Committee members and area representatives. Should there be an increase he will give his reasons.

Subs to be collected by each area and sent in bulk to Treasurer with list of Members.

5- WEBSITE.

Beyers has received information for the web site from Pretoria and Cape Town. Info can also be sent to Beyers on Fax: 049- 8910515.

The Committee would like feed back from all areas about the site.

6- TURNAROUND NEWSLETTER.

Next one due in September.

Brian requests material from all areas.

Brian wanted to know which format seemed preferable: Adobe acrobat or Word. The general consensus was that both are acceptable.

He apologised for last newsletters duplication on e-mail but this was done to satisfy various members who could not access the last one.

7- AWSA LATHE.

It was agreed that the AWSA lathe a Record CL 1 non swivel headstock, 3 speed be sold by auction. Guide price R1 500-00 minimum. Lathe would go to the highest bidder. Closing date 15th July. AWSA would bear transport costs.

8- WOODTURNER MAGAZINE (UK).

Articles are urgently needed for the "Letter from South Africa section." Article should be about a specific turner and the area in which he is situated. ±2 000 words and pictures. Areas are to e-mail John Mills with ideas.

Payment GBP £75-00 per printed page.

Deadlines:

12th August for Nov/December edition

17th October for January/February edition

13th December for March/April edition.

As one of my favourite comedians the late Victor Borge would say "Well that takes care of this or this takes care of that"



Now back to local news.

JULY SHOWCASE.

Thanks to the adjudicators for their sterling work and giving up their valuable time to go through this lengthy process.

To all the participants well done whether or not you received a certificate.

There were some really stunning pieces on show and in general the standard of pieces exhibited is good and improving from showcase to case. This can only be attributed to the willingness of the less experienced turners to listen and take advice and practice what they have learnt from the more experienced ones who are prepared to willingly and unselfishly share and part with their knowledge and expertise.

AWSA LATHE.

As agreed at the last general meeting the WCWA placed a bid of R 1 800-00 for the lathe. No other bids were received by the deadline so we now have the extra lathe we require for our public demonstrations. It will only reach a week after the Cape Town Flower Show. For this occasion Dennis will come to rescue once again. Thanks.

CAPE TOWN FLOWER SHOW

Just over a month to go before the opening day. As this is our biggest demo so far, and the exposure is going to be quite considerable, a lot of thinking and planning has gone into the design of our stand. Thanks to Gert and his sub committee for all the hard work they have done so far, and thanks for all the offers of help and advice.

Details of the plans will be presented during the meeting on the 20th of August.

20TH AUGUST MEETING.

Just a reminder that Izak Cronje will be co-ordinating a design discussion after Harold Mills and Thys Carstens have had their turn at commenting on the instant gallery. (ironically both "volunteered" for this duty at the June meeting and now they are both on the injured list!)

Till the 20th, here's to happy turning and hoping the weather does not become conducive to the manufacture of designer firewood.

Cheers for now,

Eric

FROM THE COMMITTEE

The focus of recent committee meetings has been the Cape Town Flower Show at the newly opened Cape Town International Convention Centre. Many thanks to all who are contributing to making our display a success – good luck for the next couple of weeks!

CERTIFICATES AWARDED AT THE MIDWINTER SHOWCASE, 16 JULY 2003

Name	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Tom Allan		1	2
Nico Bantjes	2	1	1
Steve Bull		1	
Thys Carstens		1	1
Beyers Cronje	1		
Izak Cronje	4		
Izak & Beyers Cronje		1	
Gert Ferreira	3	3	1
Jack Hobbs	1		
Dennis Laidler		1	3
Brian McCay	3		
Peter Nicolle		1	
Ken Pilkington		1	2
Jimmy Stevenson	1	1	1
Eric Thornton			1
Ken Turner	2	4	1

FROM THE MEMBERS

THE SPIER EXPERIENCE, DECEMBER 2002 – JANUARY 2003

As you may be aware, last year Sue Heathcock approached the Club to do demos and sell their work at the Craft Fair "Under an African Sky" at Spier. However, the notice given was too short for the Association to be able to participate, so she approached me personally, and luckily I had a fair amount of stock, so is was in business.

The craft fair is the initiative of the Enthoven Family Trust. The intention is to train crafters, and give them an opportunity to sell their craft. The undertaking is for a 25-year sponsorship of this initiative. This was the second craft fair, and because of the success of the previous one which lasted for one month, this one ran for two months. It housed the different disciplines in

craft and was separated more or less into categories. We would be in the wood section.

Surrounding Sue's office was a gallery type exhibition of exceptional pieces on the fair, and I was fortunate in having most of my work there. The main buyers are tourists and price is **not** an issue. Sales are cash or on credit card through the Spier office, and is paid over once a week in cash, much like the case in other craft markets like the Explorers' Market at the V&A Waterfront. They have a computerised system and I was very happy with the logistics.

The site is enclosed and under 24 hour security supervision. Sue allowed me to divulge that the turnover was R800 000 for the period, of which one bead section did R70 000 in December and R50 000 in January. Sue is trying to encourage crafters doing actual demonstrations of their craft, and one potter brought his whole studio over for the period and he produced, fired, painted and sold the completed product on site.

Beadworkers, woodworkers and other crafters were also busy with their crafts. Tourists enjoy this because apparently in Europe, you don't see this kind of thing at all, and it is a good selling point in this country.



The "exSPIERience" was thoroughly worth my while, as 40 of the 83 pieces I took along over the period, were sold, and that included almost all my bigger and more expensive work. There obviously are some negative issues(dust on the pieces, heat, wind, rain), but these can be discussed with me, on request.

The demonstration area is under cover and as the grass is covered in wood chips, shavings can be made to your heart's delight. The people involved are friendly, helpful, and always available. The two days that I could manage to be there, I sold most of my work, and I found the tourists do like to chat with you about your work. The holiday atmosphere is great, and food is no problem – you can get a take-away, or have a scrumptious meal. You also pick up lots of email addresses of interested people.

For me, it was a thoroughly enjoyable – and financially worthwhile – experience.

Thys Carstens

HARWARE STORES IN LONDON

With reference to Dawie Jacobs's report on his trip to UK in which, amidst other information, he bemoans the quality of hardware shops on London, I wish to draw his, and all our members', attention to at least one very good hardware shop. It is Buck and Ryan and its address is 101 Tottenham Court Road, W1P ODY. As Bert told us at the July meeting, it is an excellent all-round hardware store, so do not expect to find large stocks of specialist turning tools and equipment. However, on one occasion when I visited them, there was a lathe set up and a demonstration of miniature turning in progress.

Happy hunting!

Harold Mills

JUDGING AT THE BIENNIAL SHOWPIECE:

The judges at the July Showpiece are to be commended for their conscientiousness and diligence in judging such a large number of pieces and in giving written comments on every one of the pieces.

However I, and several of our members with whom I discussed the matter, observed some serious anomalies in the number of points awarded under the "Skill" criterion. As we understand it, "Skill" is short for "Skill required to execute the design" and equates to "Difficulty in creating the designed form". Every turner knows that a shallow bowl requires less skill to turn than a deep, hollow vessel, and yet there were shallow bowls on display with as many points as, and in one or two cases, even more points than some of the deep, hollow vessels. In my opinion, this is nonsense and the people with whom I discussed the matter concurred.

Platters, generally, also require a higher degree of skill than shallow bowls and the larger the platter the higher the degree of skill required, but there were so few platters on display that it was not possible to draw any conclusions about the consistency of applying points under "Skill".

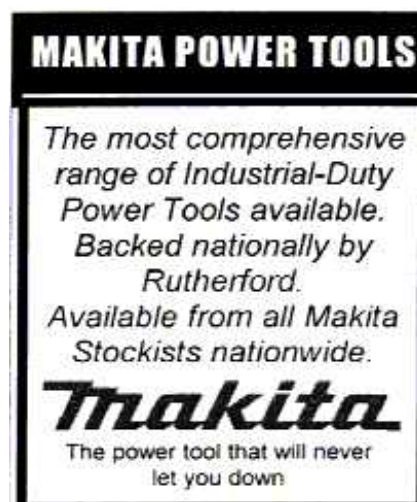
One got the impression that the judges were misled by excellent design ("Form") and execution, and consequently allocated high points under the criterion, "Skill", even when the design was relatively easy to execute. Similarly, while judging a deep vessel which they didn't particularly rate highly under the criteria, "Form" and "Finish", they marked it down under the criterion, "Skill". Two vessels of similar form should be allocated exactly the same number of points under "Skill", even if one scores 5 or 6 under the criteria "Form" and "Finish" while the other one scores 8 or 9 under these two criteria. The application of this principle was not evident in the results of the judging.

Although excellence of execution requires a high degree of skill, it should not be assessed under the judging criterion, "Skill". The right criterion under which to judge this is "Finish" because a thousand years of sanding and multiple applications of Woodoc 10 or Danish Oil will not disguise lack of skill in turning the piece, evinced by such defects as uneven wall thicknesses and kinks in the outside and inside curves of vessels. These defects amount to poor finish.

The points awarded under "Finish" should therefore be marked down even if the surface finish itself is totally free of blemishes.

While the foregoing comments relate specifically to the judging of the July showcase, they would be relevant at the forthcoming meeting on judging to be held on 22 October 2003.

Harold Mills



SOME THOUGHTS ARE SHARED ...

A few odds and ends which I've found really useful since I started turning –

- Having good lighting where one needs it is great, but having a precariously clamped lamp which threatens to fall off unexpectedly is not! Mounting the lamp bracket on a really simple wooden base with a cleat to lock the base to your lathe bed is a "no-brainer" and worth every one of the few minutes spent making it.
- One day I'll learn to drill a centre hole into a workpiece with a gouge. Till then, a normal drill bit securely fixed into a handle is so simple to make and is always handy when I need it. A depth stop on it is a bonus, but masking tape works OK. Quick and easy to get that starter hole in a piece as well as providing a depth indication.
- Is your lathe against a wall? A piece of PVC sheeting or similar fixed to the wall behind a lathe catches a lot of the resin, water and dust from a lathe. The piece I had was long enough to curve towards me where it rests on the floor and makes sweeping up just a little faster.
- A circle of plywood or MDF, (with a dovetail recess cut in it to mount on your chuck or screwed to a faceplate) makes a great sanding disc. Mine is 230mm diameter, but the abrasive can be ordered in virtually any size or grit from BPM in Plumstead, amongst others. Use peel-off adhesive to secure the abrasive. Lovely having a variable speed sander! A simple sanding table which is easy to hold in my toolrest support added to its usefulness.
- Finding it awkward to hold a bowl on your lap to sand it? Try filling a canvas bank bag or similar with enough rice to make a "bean bag". Sew it

closed and try it to make an instantly mouldable "cushion" to hold the oddest of shapes. Also works surprisingly well under a drill press to hold a funny shaped piece at the right angle to the drill bit.

- A wheeled "bag holder" sold for garden refuse is great in the workshop. It holds a standard black bag at just the right height, and having wheels on, it can be trundled around the workshop a whole lot more easily than a black bin.
- Measurement of gouges is an odd one. For some very obscure the measurement is between the inside of the flute at one side to the outside of the bar at the other side. Hence a 5/8" bar produces a 1/2" gouge.

What about sharing your those good ideas of yours?

Ken Turner

REMINDERS

Anyone who has not yet paid their 2003/2004 subscription, is deemed to have resigned. Contact Bert Parker if you wish to join WCWA.

COMMITTEE

The committee members for 2003 / 2004 are:

Eric Thornton	Chairman	531 1559(h)
Ken Turner	Secretary	689 9251(h)
Bert Parker	Treasurer	914 0927 (h)
Gert Ferreira	PR	559 1409(h)
Jim Douglas	Workshop Manager	705 1280(h)
Gigi Laidler	Newsletter	797 7755(h)
Nico Bantjes	Library	913 0296(h)

Email contacts for committee members are:

Eric Thornton	notnorth@mweb.co.za
Gert Ferreira	gskc@mweb.co.za
Gigi Laidler	gigi.laidler@lando.co.za
Bert Parker	nimbus@yebo.co.za
Ken Turner	kturner@iafrica.com

Monthly programme for meetings:

The workshop will be open from 19:00 – 21:00 for the "working" meetings. The workshop must be tidied at the end of the evening by those using the facilities.

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. Subject of demo or videos to be advised in programme. Let Workshop Duty Manager know if you wish to book a lathe.

3rd Wednesday is the regular formal meeting, comprising discussion of Association matters, an Instant Gallery critique, as well as demonstrations, 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.

Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Please forward any comment, article or digital image to

me at my email address: gigi.laidler@lando.co.za, or snailmail me at PO Box 308, Plumstead 7801.

The deadline for the next newsletter is 6th September 2003.

Please could all members who have access to email 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. The newsletter is available in MS Word and PDF format so please let me know in which format you would prefer to receive the newsletter. For .PDF format you will require Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is readily available on the internet.



FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

The proposed programme for the next year is as follows:

20th August 2003

Design discussion sessions. Co-ordinator: Izak Cronje. This will be an opportunity for all members to share ideas, and have in-depth serious discussions on matters turning. A summary of the discussion will be published in the newsletter.

10th September 2003

Novice turners' demo.

12th – 14th September 2003

Cape Town Flower Show at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. WCWA to demonstrate. Gert Fererra will co-ordinate.

17th September 2003

Hollow vessels. Co-ordinator: Dennis Laidler.

15th October 2003

Goblets. Co-ordinator: Thys Carstens.

31st October – 2nd November

Hobby-X: Co-ordinator: Eric Thornton

19th November 2003

Summer Showcase and year-end braai.

5th Dec 2003 – 31st January 2004

Spier Festival. WCWA to demo. Thys Carstens to co-ordinate

10th to 12th January 2004

Art For All exhibition at Good Hope Seminary Junior School (to be confirmed)

21st January 2004

Natural Edge Bowls. Co-ordinator: Dennis Laidler.

18th February 2004

Boxes. Co-ordinator: Izak Cronje.

17th March 2004

Square turning. Co-ordinator: Graeme Hill.

21st April 2004

AGM. 10th Anniversary of WCWA.

Forthcoming attractions: Paper joints, Segmented turning and Involute turning.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subs for 2003/2004.

Ordinary member:

WCWA	R90.00
Hobbies Club	40.00
Total	R130.00

Family member:

(Same surname – living under same roof)

WCWA	R50.00
Hobbies Club	R35.00
Total	R85.00

Country member:

(No Hobbies Club fee)

WCWA	R90.00
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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 (R45) 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.

Banking details:

For members who are not able to come to the club on a regular basis, the bank details for the Association are included to facilitate direct payment of subs. Please

forward a copy of the deposit slip to Bert for his records.

Bank: NBS

Account name: Western Cape Woodturners Association

Savings Account Number: 9226243397

Branch Code: 720026

THE MARKET PLACE

We have been running a couple of commercial adverts in our newsletter. If you wish to advertise, or know of a company or person who wishes to advertise, please contact Bert Parker. Rates for an advert placed in the newsletter monthly, are R350 per annum. The adverts are rotated monthly, with the ad appearing last this month appearing first next month, etc.

Items for “the Market Place” are a free service, however the editor would appreciate feedback when items have been sold.

THE SA WOODWORKER

A special price of R 85-00 including VAT for a one-year (6 issues) subscription, or two years (12 issues) @ R160-00 including VAT, 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 January 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.

SECOND-HAND TABLE

Please remember to bring along old tools to the “formal” meeting”. This offers the newer members an opportunity of acquiring affordable tools, while you have some extra cash for that next bowl gouge you are hankering after, that somehow did not appear in your Christmas stocking.

TWINFLEX

Peter Nicolle has provided the club with 2½m-lengths of twinflex, ideal for table lamps. Minimum R2 donation per piece to the Club.

TURNING JACKETS

Nico Bantjies is producing workshop jackets, blue with the club logo.

R35 for apron and R55 for the full jacket.

Tel: (021) 913 0296

WCWA CLUB T-SHIRTS

Smart royal blue golf shirts, bearing the club name are available to members.

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

SUPERGLUE

Glue available from Bert Parker.

MASKS

The committee has a supply of masks available from Bert Parker.

Cheers, and safe, happy turnings till we meet again,

Gigi