

*Waverley Woodworkers Inc.*

**Newsletter March 2006**

Volume 13 Issue 2



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## Office Bearers 2005/2006

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President: Geoff Allen 9568 4380 Vice President: Gavin Betts 9807 4661 Secretary: Tony McLachlan 9840 7716  
Treasurer: Phillip Dunstan 9808 7510 Auditor: Ian Trivett 9802 5110 Public Officer: Laurie Stuart 9807 9793

### Committee Members:

Wolfgang Becker 9560 9278 Bruce Hartland 9560 5708 Cameron McKerral 9885 5525 Laurie Stuart 9807 9793

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### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** (Vice-president's Report ).

Our intrepid president has once again set out on a walking tour, this time to the wilds of Tasmania. He is expected to return in a few weeks time. The club extends its sympathy to him on the loss of his mother-in-law Isabelle, who died suddenly shortly before his departure.

Over the last month the club has seen a considerable amount of activity in the construction of chairs, rocking horses, spiral staircase accessories and other items of furniture and joinery. The indefatigable Helen Longton, whose energy is an inspiration to us all, is set on creating a record with the completion of her fifth project this month.

A large amount of pine off-cuts, given to us by a well-wisher, has been stacked behind the shed. This is for general use but has not yet been stored under cover because at present the shed is full almost to overflowing. To cope with this, the Committee has decided on a general clearance and asks members owning work in the shed to mark it with their name and the current date. A clean-up will be held at the end of March, and all items, which are either unmarked or suspected to have been untouched for more than three months will be removed.

One of our carpentry horses has suffered a severe fracture in its welds. Apparently some member with inadequate equestrian skills was responsible for this and if s/he would describe the circumstances of the accident to a Committee member, we could ensure that this does not happen again.

At our monthly meeting for February we were both instructed and entertained by George Watson, who gave a talk on 'The Lathe and the Big Question'. The talk was illustrated by a large number of models which showed George's skills as a fitter and turner.

George began with a detailed history of the lathe and how it had developed from a simple device for turning wood into a complicated piece of machinery capable of handling metal. Of crucial importance was the invention of the screw-cutting lathe by Henry Maudsley in the late eighteenth century. The metal-working lathes of the following years led to the production of sophisticated machinery and a general improvement in the standard of living in Western society, which went hand in hand with an increase in population. This trend has continued at an ever accelerating pace up to the present day. As a example, we were shown slides of how farming in Victoria has changed from ploughs drawn by horses in the 1920s to mighty vehicles of today which not only perform various tasks but even keep their operators in air-conditioned comfort. The speaker emphasised that has been brought about by the fundamental machine tool, the lathe.

To lead on to the other half of his topic, George presented pictures of how open-cut mining is performed at Port Headland in Western Australia. The iron ore produced there is shipped overseas where it is used to produce giant ships and machinery of all descriptions. In the past this type of activity has brought prosperity but at the cost of population increase. Why should we assume that the same will not happen in the future? And what will happen when resources such as iron ore become scarce? This is the 'Big Question', and the problem with which we are faced has been caused by the tool that has made all this possible - the lathe.

What then is the 'Big Answer'? George did not go on to give it, but the conclusion is obvious: either lathes must be totally banned, or their use severely restricted. The Committee intends to examine this at its next meeting.

Gavin Betts.

## **JUST TURNING**

**30<sup>th</sup> January;** nine members present.

*Peter Kerr* brought back his small Blackheart Sassafras bowl with further turning done to improve the finish from the previous week.



Peter also brought along a small bowl turned from Myrtle.



*Bob Lorensene* brought along a trivet turned from Myrtle with a tile insert and finished with triple EEE Shellawax. Bob also made a 'weed' pot from Silver Birch and several disks of Banksia nut to make coasters.

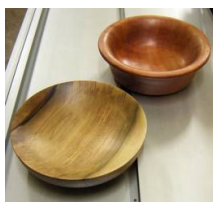


*Bob Morrison* produced three miniature bells turned from Sassafras. He also showed a



bowl turned from York Eucalypt burl which won him first prize about 20 years ago.

*Max Bray* brought two small bowls turned wet, one from Blackwood and the other from Sheoak. The Sheoak was still too wet to finish.



*Geoff Allen's* contribution was a Casuarina bowl with two wide lips at opposite ends. The bowl interior and top was dyed in a Jarrah colour.



Helene Longton.

**6<sup>th</sup> February;** seven members present.

*Peter Stacey* brought in two long handles he has turned for right angled shears. ( A 'love' job for his parish).

*Bob Morrison* showed us his rough turned Chestnut wood bowl. Bob also brought along several pieces of Camphor Laurel for members to share.

Ron Jones's contribution was a bowl of Cootamundra Wattle which was finished with Danish oil.

*Helene Longton* brought a round glued up blank for advice on how to deal with it to make a lamp base. Hopefully Helene will be able to successfully utilise the suggestions made.

Helene Longton.

**13<sup>th</sup> February;** eight members present.

*Bill David* showed us two pens he made from Jarrah which were finished with Friction Polish.

*Phil Dunstan* displayed two stands for stone gem spheres, one from Cherry and the other from Pine. Finish used was Triple E and Shellawax.

*Helene Longton* showed a small Purpleheart bowl with a base added and it was also finished with Triple E and Shellawax.

*Ian Heffernan's* contribution was a sock darning mushroom which he turned from Silver Birch.

*Bob Lorensene's* three small vases made from fruitwood (1) and Irish Strawberry, were also finished in what seems to be the finish of choice at present. Triple E and Shellawax.

*Manfred Linke* came along for the first time. Manfred does some woodwork for Rehab', using a bandsaw and doing some carving. Manfred is interested in learning woodturning to add to his skill of metal turning.

Helene Longton.

**20<sup>th</sup> February;** 11 members present.

*Ron Jones* brought along a vase made of Mulberry, finished with several coats of Danish Oil and Shellawax.

*Alex Morey* showed us his latest masterpiece. A lidded segmented bowl with a very artistic 3D looking band of segmented timber in the middle. The bowl was made from Australian timbers and included Myrtle, Silky Oak, Pine, Sassafras & Walnut. Finish was Ruskin's two part plastic. Alex has also agreed to give us a demonstration, on his method of doing this intricate type of work one Monday evening.



*Wolfgang Becker* made a Red Gum Platter with a laminated inlay of a 'star' in the centre of Camphor Laurel and various other timbers.

*Peter Stacey* brought along a Pin Oak bowl partially finished and told us how the excess Linseed oil used for the finish, oozed out of the timber grain when it was placed in the sun to dry. Peter also showed us his pre-planing for a platter he intends to make for 'Dips and Biscuits'.

*Phil Dunstan* turned two bowls, one of Camphor Laurel with a Silky Oak lid and the other made from Blackwood.





*Ian Heffernan* brought along a hollow log which had been made into a storage trunk.

*Bob Lorensene* showed us two small dishes he had turned, one from Spruce and the other from Red Mallee.



*Manfred Linke* brought a cake lifter which he had cut and



carved out of a solid piece of Jarrah like timber. He also showed us two stylised Madonna's, one carved and the other turned.

*Helene Longton* showed us the very interesting lamp stem which she is making for a table lamp, using the 'inside-outside' turning technique. It will have a Mulberry base.



### Notices and Reminders:

**16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June.** The Australian Woodturning Exhibition is held by Koonung Woodturners Guild, at the Waratah Room, Whitehorse Centre, 397 Whitehorse Rd. Nunawading. (Melways 48 G9).

**11<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> March Shepparton.** Woodturners of the Goulburn Valley 16th Annual Woodturning and Furniture Show. Venue Eastbank Centre, Westford St. Shepparton. Saturday 10-6pm Sunday 10-4pm.

**1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> April Ballarat.** Ballarat Wood and Craft Expo 2006. Venue: Wendouree Sports and Events Centre, Norman St. Wendouree Ballarat.

**14<sup>th</sup> –17<sup>th</sup> April Bendigo.** Bendigo Woodturners Inc. Easter Exhibition. Venue: St. Kilian's Parish Center, Hargreaves St. Bendigo.

**20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> October.** Melbourne Timber & Working with Wood Show. Venue: Melbourne Exhibition Centre, Southbank. (Jeff's Shed).

### For Sale

Wood turning Lathe (Golding brand) 150 mm swing. 990 mm Bed. Headstock 8.TPI 2MT. With External Turning Facility. Price negotiable. CONTACT ROB DOUGLAS Phone 9551 2929.

### **WOODWORKING TIPS FROM "WOODSMITH"**

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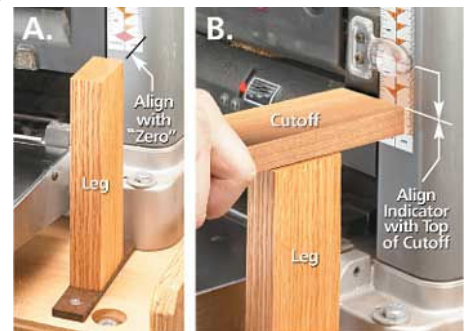
Used by Waverley Woodworkers Inc. by permission.

### **Planer Set-Up Gauge**

My bench top thickness planer is a great tool that's saved me time and money in getting quality, surfaced lumber. The problem is that setting it up for the first pass on rough stock can be a guessing game.

If I only know the approximate thickness of my stock, I have to make a guess when setting the cutter height. Sometimes, the cutter head is set too low and the planer takes too big of a bite. Other times, it's set too high and nothing happens.

To save time and get more accurate setups, I made the gauge shown in the photo. The gauge is nothing more than a hardwood "leg" attached to a 1/4" hardboard "foot" that rests on the planer table. The length of the leg is determined by the distance from the top of the foot to the "zero" mark on the planer's thickness gauge, as you can see in photo A. The gauge can then be screwed to the planer table.

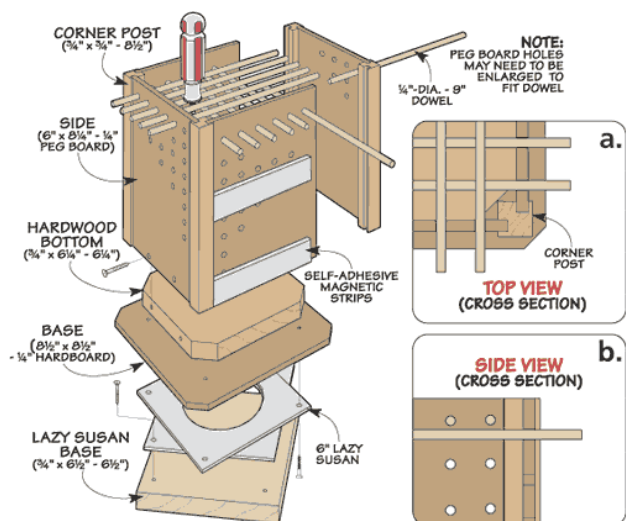


Now when I want to adjust the planer, I just set a cutoff from the piece that I'm surfacing on the gauge and lower or raise the cutter head until the indicator is even with the top of my material (*photo B*). This way, I know at a glance the planer is set to remove a thin slice from the stock on the first pass.

Phil Huber Online Editor, *ShopNotes*

## Lazy Susan Tool Caddy

I needed a way to keep small hand tools organized, so I built the caddy shown in the photo at right. And to make it even more useful, it's mounted to a lazy Susan. The lazy Susan is sandwiched between a hardwood base and a piece of 1/4" hardboard, as in the drawing below. The caddy is made with pegboard sides held in grooved corner posts.



Note: You'll want to make sure the holes in the sides line up with each other. A 3/4"-thick bottom screwed to the caddy keeps it square. To divide the space inside the caddy, push 1/4"-dia. dowels through the sides.

Note: Depending on the size of the dowels, you may need to enlarge the holes in the sides slightly. The extra length of the dowels makes a great place for hanging tools (like the wrenches shown in the photo above) on the outside of the caddy. Finally, I attached a pair of self-adhesive magnetic strips to the outside to hold the smallest tools like small driver bits, a riffer, or a short, metal ruler.

Phil Huber Online Editor, *ShopNotes*

## Mess-Free Cleaning



A table saw blade will cut smoother and more efficiently when it's good and clean. The only catch is that cleaning your blade can be a messy job. Well, I came up with an interesting way to contain this mess.

I went to a local auto parts store and bought the inexpensive oil drain pan you see in the photo. The pan has a large upper basin that drains into a reservoir below. I simply place the blade in the basin and spray it with cleaner (oven cleaner works well). When you rinse the blade with water, all the waste flows into the reservoir and can then be disposed of properly.

Ted Raife Online Editor, *Woodsmith*

## Foolproof Method for Cleaning Dirty Brushes

One of the most frustrating things about finishing woodworking is the number of brushes you have to buy. It seems there's just no good way to clean it. But I know woodworkers who have been using the same brush for years. Here's their secret:

After wiping off the excess finish, rinse the brush in thinner several times. Then wrap the brush in a towel (*Fig. 1*).

Remove the towel, and squirt some dish soap onto the brush. Rub it in your hand to work up a lather (*Fig. 2*).

When the brush no longer feels slimy, rinse it in water, and then spin it between your hands to dry it out (*Fig. 3*).

Finally, straighten out the bristles with a comb, and wrap the brush in a paper towel until it finishes drying (*Fig. 4*).

Wyatt Myers Online Editor, *Workbench*



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## WWW Resources.

I have had no dealings with any of the sites listed but have found interesting and useful information there

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Free Woodworking Information Database at the following site: <http://www.thewoodbox.com/data/databasemain.htm>

*"We don't guarantee the absolute accuracy of all this information, but we have tried our best to provide information that is both helpful and interesting. We hope it appeals to the curious and the serious."*

*At our store in Sudbury, (Ontario Canada) we have over 600 hobbyist customers that make everything from outhouses to violins, some world class carvers, and multiple turners and wood burners of national recognition. We ask lots of questions. This information is their shared knowledge. Thank you to each of you."*

For information on Australian timbers go to the following site. It has a listing of native and exotic tree species which are known to be grown in Australia. [http://www.rainforestinfo.org.au/good\\_wood/oz\\_pln.htm](http://www.rainforestinfo.org.au/good_wood/oz_pln.htm)

A Web site that I do have contact with is WOW (World of Woodturners). It is based at <http://www.myfamily.com/> Members receive e-mails listing the newest articles and contributions supplied by members. It includes pictures of their work as well as questions and replies to queries, etc. The range of work displayed ranges from 'normal' produced by mere mortals such as I, to stunning work that can only be made by very talented dedicated artisans and artists. Fortunately that is not a prerequisite for membership. Membership is free but by invitation,

If any member with an interest in woodturning would like an invitation please e-mail me directly and I will join you up. All I need is your name, gender and e-mail address. You will then receive a reply from the web site which explains the conditions of membership and how to personalise your member information. If a person does not activate their application within a specified time, the application is deleted. The web site is very friendly and I have found it a great source of information and inspiration for my woodturning. Peter Stacey.

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## Did You Know?

In the 1400's a law was set forth that a man was not allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have "the rule of thumb".

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden" and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.

Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

Coca-Cola was originally green

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

The average number of people airborne over the US any given hour: 61,000

**Discounts Available from the following:** These companies offer discounts to members of the Waverley Woodworkers. **Note:** Discounts are only available on presentation of your current membership card.

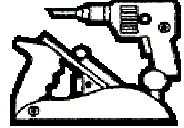
|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>Australian Wood Panels</b> , 40-42 Winterton Rd., Clayton.               | 9543 5033    |
| <b>Baileys Toolbank</b> . Unit 4 Rowen Crt. Box Hill.                       | 9897 1911    |
| <b>Blackwoods</b> , 31 Fowler Rd., Dandenong (ask for Cyril)                | 9518 2222    |
| <b>The Delta Group</b> Shed 2, 577 Plummer St. Port Melbourne.              | 1300 887 558 |
| <b>Gus-Tec</b> . 521 Mountain Highway, Bayswater.                           | 9720 8155    |
| <b>Flatman's Timber &amp; Hardware</b> . High Street Road. Syndal.          | 9802 9211    |
| <b>A. Lewis &amp; Co</b> . 302 Jasper Rd., Ormond.                          | 9578 6218    |
| <b>Malvern Paint &amp; Timber Finishes</b> . 1933 Malvern Rd., Malvern East | 9885 2883    |
| <b>Magnetic Abrasives</b> . 286 Neerim Rd., Carnegie.                       | 9571 6811    |
| <b>Mathews Timbers</b> . 125 Rooks Rd., Vermont.                            | 9874 1666    |
| <b>Moorabbin Timber</b> . 230 Wickham Rd., Moorabbin.                       | 9553 0155    |
| <b>Sachy's Industries</b> , 43 Browning Drive, Glen Waverley.               | 9803 2370    |
| <b>Shiver me Timbers</b> , 217 Kororoit Creek Rd. Williamstown.             | 9397 5993    |
| <b>Woodworking Warehouse</b> . 11 Citrus St. Braeside.                      | 9587 3999    |

If you know of any other source of discounts for members, or if you have difficulty obtaining a discount from any of the above, please contact Peter Stacey, On ph **9572 3090**, or by e-mail [petersta@melbpc.org.au](mailto:petersta@melbpc.org.au)

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# Waverley Woodworkers Inc.

Clubrooms: 2 Windsor Ave., Mount Waverley, Vic. 3149 Telephone: 9807 9648



## Workshop Opening Times

| <b>Day</b> | <b>Times</b>  | <b>Sunday</b>                               | <b>Closed</b>   |
|------------|---|---|---|
| Monday     | <u>Only Public Holidays</u> for general<br>woodwork.                  | <u>Special Interest Group Meeting Times</u> |   |
|            |   | <b>Day</b>                                  | <b>Times</b>  |
| Tuesday    | 9 am – 4 pm.  | Monday                                      | 9 am – 12 noon - Assisted Woodwork<br>Allocated Basis ( <b>Except on Public Holidays</b> ). |
| Wednesday  | 9 am – 12 noon.   |   |   |
| Thursday   | <b>Closed</b>   | Monday                                      | 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm – <b>Carving</b> .  |
| Friday     | 9 am – 12 noon.   | Monday                                      | 7:30 pm – 9 pm – <b>Wood Turning</b> .<br>(Only 1st & 3rd Mondays in July & August).        |
| Saturday   | 9 am – 12 noon December- February.<br>9 am – 4 pm (March - November). | <b>Club Night</b>                           | 2nd Wednesday of the month 7:30 pm – 9 pm.  |

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Vic. 3150

