

INGGRAINED

Newsletter of the Ferntree Gully Woodworkers Club Nov. 1988

President's message

Fellow woodworkers,
Thankyou for your attendance at the first meeting of the Ferntree Gully Woodworkers Club. I found the whole meeting very exciting first with so many people showing interest and attending.

This was followed by the co-operation of the FTG Technical school Vice Principal in opening up the school staff room for the meeting. And doesn't Knox City councillor, Wally Tew know how to handle a meeting, no silly nonsense, right into the business and get it over with.

Then we were fortunate in having Bob Ripley from the Education Department to give a very

Survey of members

On page 2 of this newsletter you will find a questionnaire to give the committee and members a chance to build a database of members, their skills, hobbies and equipment.

The questionnaire does not contain provision for your personal details because of the desire of some people (quite understandable) for anonymity.

If in the other hand you wish to include your personal details, please feel free to

informative talk and demonstration on the use of the wood turning lathe. Bob was so interesting the school caretaker had to almost physically remove us from the building so he could

do so.

If you also feel capable and willing to give a demonstration, talk, lecture etc etc on any subject of interest you will need to give personal details on the questionnaire or approach a committee member. Please fill out the details on the questionnaire and hand it to a committee member. If you don't want to destroy your copy of the newsletter, make a photostat of the page and submit that.

lock up.

The new committee which was elected on October 5 has already had one formal meeting with another planned, and the progress that has already been made in that short time indicates that we have not only got a working committee but a committee of workers.

We have 15 members who have real faith in our organisation and have payed up their joining fee and annual dues.

This has given us a bit of capital to enable us to start on some of the essentials needed to mcke your club function.

The next club meeting night will be Wednesday, November 2, 1988 opening at 6.30 pm. Triton saw bench manufacturers are booked to give a demonstration starting at 7.30 pm. A Triton Project book has been donated by Triton as a door prize for the night. The name of a financial member will be drawn from the hat to win the book.

Editor's notes.

Welcome to the first edition of "Ingrained".

The whole aim of this newsletter is to keep members informed of what is going on between meetings.

It will arrive at your home between meetings so will act as a reminder to you that there is a meeting coming up or there is something special on.

As with any newsletter contributions are always needed. You don't have to be a Fleet Street journalist to contribute to "Ingrained".

If you have anything you'd like to contribute but feel you don't have the skills to be able to put it down on paper, let me know, I'll help you.

If you feel confident enough to put your ideas down on paper then that's fantastic.

Photographs, sketches or drawings can always help in explaining you ideas to others too, so don't forget those possibilities.

From time to time I'll be attempting to bring you a variety of other material to do with our hobby too. Historical reprints from "The Woodworker" from last century are one thing I have access to. If you can lay your hands on any unusual instructional material, old or new, consider contributing it to "Ingrained".

Without your help "Ingrained" will fall flat on its face.

John Fearn
Editor

Alf Stephens
President

Drying timbers cont'd.

ing. The bowl is turned to 8 mm or less and in its final shape, weighed and heated in the oven for 10 minutes at one setting above defrost. The bowl is finished on the lathe then returned to the oven until weight stabilises.

An oven with a rotating table is best and the oven itself will not be affected by fumes. The bowl will be fairly plastic when it is removed from the oven; it can be shaped or clamped between two pieces of wood to maintain a true shape.

A microwave oven heats from the inside and drives the moisture towards the outer layers — Hence

the advantage of turning to a thickness less than 25 mm. Splitting and checking will occur if steam is generated in the timber, so it is necessary to work with a temperature less than 80°C.

For further information

Campbell, G.S. and Laxamana, M. 1972. Control of checking in specialty items by polyethylene glycol (P.E.G.). C.S.I.R.O. Forest Products newsletter no.379.

Leslie, H.C., 1973 P.E.G. of the woodworker's heart, Man Soc. Tech. 33(1); 13-16.

Grimmett, J.L. Stabilising wooden articles. Adv. Leaf. No.14, 1981, Queensland Dept of Forestry.

Club Aims

The aims of the Ferntree Gully Woodworkers Club have been discussed by the Committee and the following list has been settled on.

To promote woodcraft by creating an interest in working with wood.

To foster communication amongst woodworkers and assist them in achieving excellence in design and craftsmanship.

To promote recognition of woodworking skills.

OFFICE BEARERS

Chairperson: Alf Stephens
44 Commercial Rd. Ferntree Gully. 758 3599

Treasurer: Peter Johnston
17 Florida Drive. Ferntree Gully. 758 6617.

Secretary: Susan Wood
16 Birds Rd. Ferny Creek. 755 1654.

Editor: John Fearn
11 Hayles St. Boronia. 720 2956.

Committee Members
Bill Harvey
6 Meagher Rd. Ferntree Gully 758 1746

Alex Davis
3/34 Woodmason Rd. Boronia. 762 6918

Beate Schutz
50 Station St. Belgrave. 752 5127.

Fee structure

The committee has finalised the fee structure for the club to cater for a wide range of family circumstances.

Our financial year will run from October 1 until September 30 and all fees will be payable and due before the annual general meeting each year.

All fees payed before December 31 1988 will entitle the member to be designated a "Foundation Member".

A joining fee of \$10 will be payable by all members together with an annual fee of \$20 for adults and \$10 for full-time students.

Any club needs finance to get all the bits and pieces together for administration, coffee and all the other paraphernalia needed for smooth and efficient running.

Cheques for joining fees and annual subscription should be made payable to Ferntree Gully Woodworkers Club and given to our treasurer, Peter Johnston.

CLASSIFIEDS

One idea that has been put forward for the newsletter is a classified section with columns for "Wanted to Sell", "Wanted to Buy", "Wanted to Swap" and "Free to good Homes" sections where members, free of charge could off-load some of their junk, surplus tools etc.

If you have anything you want to lodge in these columns, jot it down together with your phone number and give it to our Editor, John Fearn.

Situations vacant

Two cabinet workers fitting out boats. Good work and good conditions.

38 hour week. \$380 per week.
Contact Andrew Wagner
International Marine.
Ferntree Gully Road,
Scoresby. 3179
Phone 763 7233

Triton Saw Bench demonstrator.
Contact John Clark. 584 6977.

Drying craft timbers for turning

Patrick Brogan

Education Officer, Forestry Commission of New South Wales

The art of woodturning is changing. More and more amateurs are discovering the joys of making utensils or ornaments from native timbers and, by doing so, exposing the beautiful grain and colour of the natural wood.

But wood turners are also adopting many new techniques and innovations in their search for better utilisation and preservation of wood.

Drying timbers for turning

Wood, unlike stone or even clay, is never completely inert. It always remains an organic material and continues to react to its surroundings by taking up or losing moisture and responding to the internal forces and stresses produced by its pattern of growth.

Because wood often changes shape as it dries, it has traditionally been the practice to turn wood only after it has dried, or its moisture content has stabilised to that of its environment. This could take years.

Turners using this method have usually air dried the timber. The best solution is a grandfather who left a stack of timber under the house.

Failing that, kiln drying can speed up the process and seems to work well with some species. Difficulty is experienced with large dimensions and the general availability of kilns.

The C.S.I.R.O. has done some work on more or less portable solar-powered kilns. If they are successful they could provide access to low-cost kiln drying; but so far they are not proven. The new method of dehumidification (by condensing out the water vapour) also has great potential, and small portable units are now available.

Lacking a supply of seasoned timber, the woodturner is still usually keen to produce something quickly, and so he turns to green turning and

then curing. This is where new technology has resulted in a number of options. They include the use of bulking agents such as glycerol and polyethylene glycol, oil and beeswax, and microwave curing.

Bulking agents can be used to fill the spaces in the green wood which were occupied by water, so that as the piece dries out the bulking agent remains and the shrinkage is greatly reduced. In fact bulking agents are claimed to eliminate up to 80 per cent of shrinkage.

Most success has been with glycerol although it tends to leave a damp surface on the article. Brine has also been used in this way especially as it is much cheaper, but those who have turned a piece of driftwood are aware of the damage the salt does to tools as well as the difficulty of finishing the surface.

The technique is to rough shape the article, the degree depending on the timber and the nature of the wood, treat with the bulking agent and dry, then work to final dimensions, sand and polish.

Treatment with the bulking agent involves soaking the piece in a plastic rubbish bin completely covered by the solution with the lid in place to prevent evaporation and minimise the growth of fungi.

The turning process unlocks further tensions in the wood, a kind of tree's last revenge. If these are overcome the article is finished with an oil, wax or plastics, used singly or in various secret combinations handed down from Noah.

Conventional polyurethane var-

nishes can be generally used although oil based finishes are better for articles containing bark.

Some woodturners have found success in reducing shrinkage, splitting and checking by boiling the fully turned article in a solution of olive oil and beeswax. A wide variety of species has been used including camphor laurel, mulberry, plum, apricot, silky oak, sycamore and wattle. An added bonus from this process is the finish. A pleasant satin-like wax finish is obtained by simply wiping off the hot mixture with a dry cloth. Instant satin Estapol can also be used over the surface once it has been wiped over with a turpentine soaked cloth.

Microwave drying of timber

The microwave curing of turned articles, particularly bowls, offers an exciting new technique to the woodturner.

The basic process involves turning the bowl roughly to a wall thickness of about 20 mm or less. Weigh the article, place it in the oven, heat for about 10 minutes at a temperature below 80°C, remove and allow to cool for 10 minutes. Then weigh again. Continue this process until the weight stabilises (that is, when weight loss between dryings is zero) reducing oven times each time so that burning is avoided. The bowl then can be placed on the lathe for finishing.

Some species such as camphor laurel will tolerate a faster process-

Recommended soaking times in days using a 50 per cent polyethylene glycol solution at room temperature

Green timber density	Thickness	
	25-37 mm	50-75mm
500-700	10	30
700-900	30	90
800-1000	45	135
over 1000	45	135 (or heat the solution)

Ferntree Gully Woodworkers Club

Survey Questionnaire

Please tick boxes

My age is: under 25 25-35 36-45 over 46

Do you	– Turn wood – spindle <input type="checkbox"/>	faceplate <input type="checkbox"/>
	– Carve – chipcarve <input type="checkbox"/>	relief <input type="checkbox"/>
	– Use wood stains – water <input type="checkbox"/>	oil <input type="checkbox"/>
	– French polish	– Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	– Spray finish	– Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	– Oil polish	– Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	– Wax polish	– Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	– Upholster	– Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	– Repair furniture	– Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	– Repair antiques	– Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	– Manufacture toys	– Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	– Manufacture furniture	– Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	– Collect wood samples	– Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
		sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>
		spirit <input type="checkbox"/>
		No <input type="checkbox"/>
		No <input type="checkbox"/>
		No <input type="checkbox"/>
		No <input type="checkbox"/>
		No <input type="checkbox"/>
		No <input type="checkbox"/>
		No <input type="checkbox"/>
		No <input type="checkbox"/>

Subscribe to or buy:

English Woodworker Practical Woodworking American Wood American Fine Woodworking

Australian Other – please specify.....

What is your best woodworking skill?.....

Would you be prepared to demonstrate or give 15 mins talk on same? Yes No

What improvements would you like to see in your club or magazine?.....

DO YOU OWN

Basic home handyman tools Good carpentry tool kit Joinery and shopfitters tool kit Wood carving tools

Blacksmith's forge

Power hand tools jig saw drill belt sander orbital sander other sander planer rip saw router others
please specify

Bench/floor tools	Bought	Self made
drill press	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
lathe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
band saw	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
circular saw	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
radial arm saw	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
drop/mitre saw	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
dowler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
buzzer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
thicknesser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
spindle moulder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
stroke sander	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What demonstrations would best suit you.

Any other comments

Name , address and phone (only if you feel like it)

Ferntree Gully Woodworkers

16 BIRDS ROAD, FERNY CREEK, 3786 PHONE 755 1654

Dear Club Member,

The next meeting will be held at the Ferntree Gully Technical School woodworking rooms from 6.30 pm to 9.45 pm, Wednesday, 2nd November 1988.

For those who have not already paid, the joining fee (\$10) and the annual subscription (\$20) is now due. All persons paying before 31st December 1988 will be known as "Foundation Members" and will be so identified on their name tags.

In order to make the most of the expertise available within the club membership would you please fill in the attached questionnaire. The information will be made available to any club member on request.

S. Wood

Susan Wood
Secretary

Please fill in and detach, and bring to the meeting

Name:
Address:
Contact in emergency:
Joining date:

Telephone:

Do you have any professional experience?

YES

NO

If YES, please give broad outline

Do you have any specialist equipment?

Do you have any ideas which could help your club in any way?

Special interest

Please if appropriate

CABINET MAKING
TOY MAKING
MODEL MAKING
WOOD TURNING
MARQUETRY
ANTIQUUE RESTORATION
WOOD CARVING
FRENCH POLISHING
OTHER

If there is not enough room for your answers please use the reverse of the detachable part.

Ferntree Gully Woodworkers Club Survey Questionnaire

Please tick boxes

My age is: under 25 25-35 36-45 over 46

Do you

- Turn wood - spindle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	faceplate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>
- Carve - chipcarve <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	relief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	spirit <input type="checkbox"/>
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Bench/floor tools

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Any other comments

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