

# Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association  
PO Box 411346, Craighall, 2024

◀ Best of AWSA Symposium: Platter by Nigel Waters, entitled "Finding Prehistoric Nemo"

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Editor: Trevor Pope ([tpope AT iafrica.com](mailto:tpope@iafrica.com)). All written content and opinions are those of the editor, unless stated. © Copyright reserved. Go to <http://mysite.mweb.co.za/residents/tpope/homepage.html> for back issues of *Crosscut*.



**Next General Club Meeting** on **Wednesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2009** from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Denis Lock will talk on Jigs, guides, gauges and other useful things. Why do we need jigs? Jig categories. Materials and hardware for jigs. Jig examples.

**Next Turner's monthly meeting** is on **Monday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009** at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Demonstration on making a lidded box on the lathe.

## News

### July General Club Meeting.

Martin Phakathi talked on "Making Speakers". He explained the effects on the sound based on the type of wood used, and the shape of the speaker box; the effect of the capacity of the box, construction techniques – including air-tight seals, wiring, bass response hole sizes and impact etc. He discussed finishing the box exteriors, and points to consider when mounting the units in ceilings etc.

### July Turner's Meeting.

Dries Blignaut turned a natural edge bowl. He demonstrated the use of the bowl gouge and how to turn reducing the amount of tear out. Herman Potgieter brought in some slides of congress which were shown.

**Nick Agar's visit.** Those of you, who braved the cold, will have enjoyed an entertaining 2 hours with Nick. The upper picture shows Nick using the club's Nova 3000 to make a decorated bowl from Jacaranda. The lower picture shows the completed bowl, just prior to dismounting from the lathe. The blue highlight on the rim was made from a combination of texturing, blue ink and liming wax.

### From the committee:

**Annual Turner's Challenge.** This is an annual event, scheduled for the 12 Sept 2009. The project is a salt and pepper set of any design, with a prize for the best on the day. Entrance R10-, bring-and-braai, from 11h00. The Pretoria and East-Rand clubs will be invited as well, so you will be able meet turners from those clubs.



**East Rand Woodworking Association – Annual Fair** at Timber City East Rand on Saturday morning, the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Contact Bill Parrack on 011-849-5643 or 011- 421-0411 for more information.

**Please Note:**

**Toymakers.** The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the clubhouse. Contact Eddie Marchio on (011) 678-8062 or [renato AT pixie.co.za](mailto:renato AT pixie.co.za) for more information.

**Wednesday Workshop.** The Wednesday evening workshops are on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Winston Klein on (011) 674-1513 for more information.

**For Sale:**

J-Flex. 100m x 1 m in 5grits: 120/150/180/220/320. For the set of 5, R135-. Contact Lionel Soekoe on 011-802-3046 or 072-989-6310

**Wanted:** Can anyone help? I need an old Bosch POF 50 or POF 52 Router Base. Contact Ken Bullivant on 082 809 0020 or [ken@kbwoodcrafter.co.za](mailto:ken@kbwoodcrafter.co.za)

## Some feedback from the AWSA 2009 Symposium

By Trevor Pope

I attended the 2008 and 2009 events, both held at the School of Decorative Arts at the University of Natal, in Pietermaritzburg, and found them both extremely worthwhile. Each year there has been a visiting turner from overseas who comes with fresh ideas. The local turning community is quite small (about 200 people around South Africa) and the clubs are quite isolated from each other, so the symposium is a valuable opportunity to get together and share ideas.



Each time I have attended, I have come home with a crop of ideas and techniques to try in my turnings. The emphasis this year was more on creating original pieces, by providing a combination of techniques and insight to apply them within a creative framework. Two speakers from the Ceramics department gave some insights into the creative process from the perspective of ceramicists (they said ceramists) – who we call potters. Michele Rall (right, above) gave us some insight into how the eye reacts to and interprets art, which was helpful to understand why individual pieces invoke the reactions that they do. Professor Juliet Armstrong (right, middle - [www.julietarmstrong.co.za](http://www.julietarmstrong.co.za)) gave a presentation on creating pieces with an African Identity, giving some background into native pottery and customs, as well how important the environment is in which pieces are displayed.



Jez Rowe (073-369-9830 [jez AT rowepm.co.za](mailto:jez AT rowepm.co.za)), at right is showing Schalk van Niekerk (middle) and Roy Gibbs (left) the pulley ratios for the VB36 lathe that was used for the main demonstrations. Jez used the occasion to launch an upgraded version of the VB36, with the long bed shown. If you haven't seen one in action, the VB36 is most impressive. The VB36 is massive (500 kg plus) and with its journal bearings, almost silent in operation. It had a 3kW motor with a Variable Speed Drive fitted, which allowed it to spin a massive piece of wood up to speed in 3 seconds and stop it just as quickly. Both Schalk and Butch have VB36s and they find them essential for the large pieces they turn. (go to [www.hegner.co.uk](http://www.hegner.co.uk) for all the technical details



on the VB36). Jez has suggested a number of improvements on the current model and these should appear in due course. The price will depend on the options you choose and Jez is looking at the local manufacture of some parts, which could also effect a cost-saving. The website gives prices in Pounds, but the shipping costs are likely to be significant.



Some of Nick Arnul's influences from 2008 can be seen in these two examples from Alan Ferguson (Left). Compared with Nick

Arnul from last year, Nick Agar is a more artistic turner, and showed a number of techniques and design alternatives for wall shields and decorative bowls. He uses a VB36 for his large wall shields (see <http://www.turningintoart.com> for some examples)

The picture on the right shows Nick Agar during one of his demos at the symposium, as the chips fly. On the upper, right-hand side of the picture is the nozzle of a chip collector, which can be seen drawing in dust being generated by Nick.



The next picture shows the finished article, created using a combination of texturing, carving, turning, staining, scorching and pyrography in a 90 minute demonstration.

There were a number of demonstrations ranging from small scale work, such as jewellery, upwards. Dennis Laidler (in the orange shirt and beard, complete with shavings), showed how to make small pendant from a



combination of cast pewter work and wood.



On a larger scale, Butch Smuts showed how he makes the cut-outs on a large hollow vessel using a chain saw. The red and black vessel below is an example of his work. To get an idea of the scale, this piece is about 80 cm high.

This year wasn't as well attended as last year, probably due to the economic situation; however the quality of the presentations was as high as before. Judging by the copious note taking and photography, people left with a lot of ideas which should start appearing in pieces at the individual galleries.

This is why the symposium is important – it stops people falling into creative ruts – ideas cross pollinate and more pieces that are new and fresh are produced.

A shot from the instant gallery shows some of



John Wessels' distinctive pewter inlay work. This shows how the turned work on show is departing from "Round and Brown" to incorporate other media.



Each year the boundaries are pushed more into the realm of art.



Some notes I made of sources of supply may be useful:

- Earth pigments – such as white and green earth colours can be mixed with waxes to make coloured waxes. Pigments are available from pottery suppliers such as the Clay Pot (Bronwyn Metter, 374 Louis Botha Ave, Maryvale, 011-640-7316 [theclaypot AT mweb.co.za](mailto:theclaypot@web.co.za)).
- To finish a piece, Nick recommends using acrylic lacquer over liming wax. The lacquer does not change the colour of the wood.
- The Lancelot cutter is similar to the Arbortech, except it uses a length of chainsaw chain sandwiched between two discs, fitted to a 115mm angle grinder. Look at the Lancelot cutter on the King Arthur's tools website (<http://www.katools.com/lancelot.html> )
- Mouth Atomisers such as used by Nick are available from Herbert Evans shops.
- Nick recommended the Bosch Power Carver (PSE 180E) with Maxcut gouges for durability and performance.
- Every year Schalk van Niekerk suggests a theme for a competition for the next year that he judges and awards a prize. For 2010, Schalk's challenge is to make a piece that incorporates 4 elements of the following shapes – sphere, cylinder, cone and square/cube.
- Similarly, John Wessels' challenge for 2010 is to make a piece that incorporates wood, mineral (rock or crystal) and metal elements.

