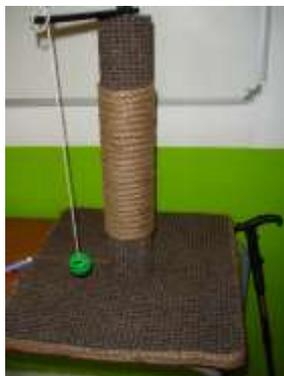


Crosscut

◀ Cat scratch pole made for a Living Link resident by William Ramwell – thanks William!

Secretary: Matt Hoffmann secretary@wwa.org.za Editor: Trevor Pope tpope AT iafrica.com
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Next Turners Meeting on Monday, 3rd June 2019 from 18h00 at the Living Link Hall —

A video titled: A 20 dollar Bowl in 20 Minutes

Wood of the Month – Wood Features and Figuring.

Next General Meeting on Wednesday, the 12th June 2019 from 18h00 at the Living Link Hall

A video titled: Free Wood & How to Dry It for Woodworking in a Small Shop

News

6th May 2019 – Turners meeting. John Speedy showed the use of three different tools for end-grain hollowing. Using a piece of wet Jacaranda, John discussed the relative advantages and disadvantages of each. The shielded hook tool comes from Woodcut with an adjustable handle. The cutting edge is covered with a shield that can be adjusted to vary the depth of cut. The end can also be articulated for hollowing under rims of vessels. The ring tool is a Swedish design, with a cylinder on the end of the round bar. One end is sharpened with the bevel on the inside and the other with the bevel on the outside. The hook tool is the simplest and looks like a backward “?” on the end. The curved outside part is used to cut the inside of the workpiece. This is an ancient design, which could be made by any competent village blacksmith, so it was widely used. Each tool can only be sharpened a limited number of times before it becomes unusable, but with the hook tool, the turner could just visit the black smith to the have the end reformed. John discussed the use and merits of each.



15th May 2019 – AGM and General Club meeting.

The 30th AGM for the WWA confirmed that the club is in good health. Chairman Herman reported on activities of the last year. Michael Minassian reported that membership is stable with over 100 paid up members and the finances are healthy, albeit with a slight deficit due to the expense of renting the Albertskroon workshop.

Matt Hoffman, Benny Penn and Les Greyling stepped down from the committee and were replaced by Stefan Brand, Lynton Dennill

and Dave Drummond. The other committee members – Herman, Alistair, Michael and Pierre Mouton will continue for 2019 /2020.

The responsibilities for 2019/2020 are Chairman – Alistair, Vice Chair – Herman, Treasurer – Michael, Secretary – Lynton Dennill, Workshop / Facilities – Pierre, Membership – Stefan, and Training and communications – Dave Drummond.

After the AGM, Eugene Taljaard then showed how he makes his bandsawn boxes. He laminates the blanks using contrasting woods and plywood before cutting them up on the bandsaw. Using a fine blade, he slices off the back and then cuts out the interiors before gluing the back on again. The interior pieces are also hollowed out to make drawers, before the whole lot is sanded and finished.



Club Notices

Woodworking 101 – next on the schedule for Saturday the 1 June 2019 at 09h00 at Albertskroon workshop is a picture frame with mitre joints.

This may sound like a simple project. However, to make neatly fitting corners, and to make a square frame is not always the simplest of tasks. There is more than one method to cut a mitre and to fit and bring the joints together. Hopefully I can explain and show some of the methods.

Members wishing to participate are requested to bring their own timber of choice. Minimum timber required is 4 lengths of 500 mm long x 50 mm wide x not less than 20 mm thick. Cutting timber to size can be done at the workshop. Also, if you have any of the following, please bring: mitre box, tenon saw, mitre square, plane and tape.

For any further information, contact Bobby at 083 873 3872 or gmail at bobbymel109@gmail.com

Regular Events:

Monday Morning workshop. (Was toymakers) the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the Albertskroon workshop. Meetings will be cancelled if they coincide with a public holiday. Pierre Mouton will open up the workshop.

Every Wednesday and Friday – Graham Rudings will open the workshop, but reserves the right to cancel at short notice. Graham is setting up an email circulation list for announcements and any cancellations. Please email Graham [grahamcr AT mweb.co.za](mailto:grahamcr@mweb.co.za) to be added to the list. Graham can be contacted on 082 900 0242.

Ken's Saturday Workshop. Ken Bullivant holds a Saturday workshop at his house in Boksburg. The location is 13 Franklin Avenue, Comet, Boksburg on the first Saturday of the month from 09:00 to 12:00. They decide on an annual project and work throughout the year making it. Individual projects are discussed and problems solved. Ken also offers private lessons too. Contact Ken on 082 809 0020 if you wish to take part.

SPIRIT OF THE WOOD - WOODTURNERS

Offering Woodturning lessons, One-on One Training, Classes and Club, Willing to assist persons with limited physical/intellectual abilities. Contact Johan Kramer on 083 251 0183 or Johankramer300@gmail.com

Saturday meetings

1. First Saturday – Bobby Bezuidenhout – Woodwork 101 for beginners. Contact Bobby on 083 873 3872 or milesiabez AT gmail.com
2. Second Saturday of month - Herman will open the workshop – all things turning related – 083-631-0501 hermanpotgieteresq AT gmail.com
3. Third Saturday of month – Contact Pierre at 083 308 7917 or pm9917 AT gmail.com
4. Fourth Saturday of month – Graham will open the workshop – 082 900 0242 grahamcr AT mweb.co.za If you plan to attend, please send your email to Graham, so that he can send out any last minute cancellations.

“SHOULD NO ONE ARRIVE BY 10h00 THE WORKSHOP WILL BE CLOSED.”

Please can the conveners complete the attendance register on the bar counter, so we can gauge attendance?

The closing up instructions must please be followed by the convener when leaving. Graham has placed the procedure in prominent positions in the workshop.

AIDS FOR TABLE SAW AND PLANER. (by Clive Stacey)

The first two pictures illustrate hold downs for using on the planer (Clive is referring to what the Americans call a jointer – a stationary machine. Ed). I use the two single handled “hold downs” for longer pieces of timber so I can control the pressure on the outfeed table and push on the infeed table without any rocking.

The longer “hold down” is what I use for shorter pieces.

I fixed the handles at an angle because I have seen this done on commercial devices.

I fixed screws through the top of each “hold down” which protrude sufficiently through the bottom of the device and give good traction on the workpiece below without marking it and preventing it from slipping.

The third photograph shows the underside of the “hold down”. It is possible to see the screws protruding from the underside.

The last picture shows a device for the table saw. It is customised for my fence and is designed for holding down thin or narrow work against the table saw fence. It does work as a sacrificial fence. It must still be tested to see the variety of assistance it provides and what modifications if any should



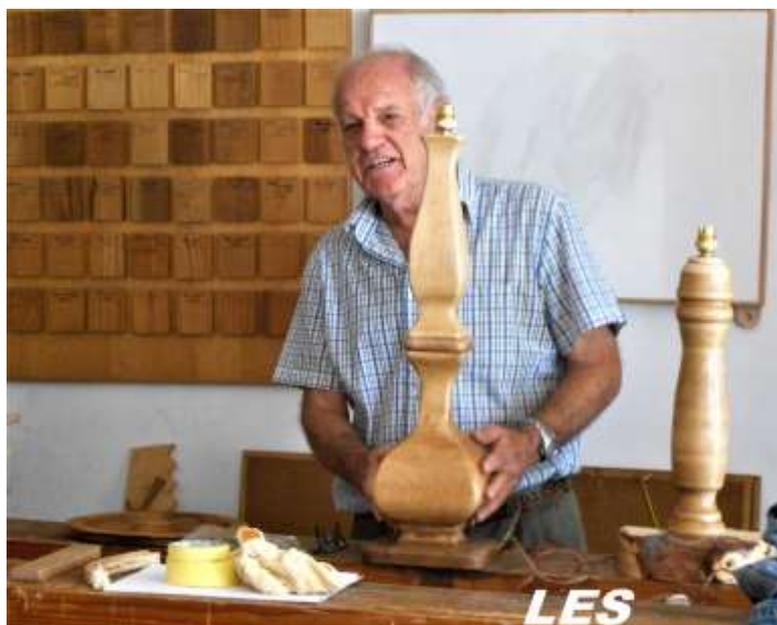
be applied. Sharpened brads inserted under the undersides of the two “hold down” pieces might be useful.



Albertskroon Workshop report - May 2019 (Winston Klein)

Attendance remains constant with a preference for Fridays, when there is usually a presentation.

3rd.May: Les showed his table lamp and detailed some problems he encountered whilst cutting some of the components on the bandsaw.



10th May: Winston demonstrated a thickening jig for use with a hand plane. This is used for short pieces of wood which one could not do on a machine.



17th May: Glenn gave a comprehensive talk on a “Monster Truck”, which the group who attend Ken Bullivant’s Saturday Workshop, are making. He described the various jigs they use for preparing the various components, the process for making the tractor tread on the tyres was particularly interesting. The various components can be seen in the photograph below.

24th May: Roger, with a little input from Winston, talked about the use importance of cabinet scrapers in a woodworkers skill set. He also showed a Veritas scraper holder, which greatly relieves the stress on the user’s thumbs, as well as a scraper plane which he made. Roger also showed a number of specially profiled scrapers used for cleaning mouldings during furniture restoration. Winston demonstrated the use of a plane iron as a scraper which works well with less strain on “old”

thumbs.

As this report is being done before the end of May, the last week will be recorded in the June Report.



History of the Wits Woodworking Association

Trevor Pope and Peter Middleton

Almost unnoticed, the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Wits Woodworking Association passed in 2018. Before memories fade and members go to the great workshop in the sky, it is appropriate to record a few of the milestones in the establishment of the association.

The genesis of the WWA occurred in the late 1980s when several keen woodworkers would congregate at Hardware Centre in 1988 at the then Hardware Centre premises in 20 Kay Street, Selby, Johannesburg on Fridays at lunchtime.

Hardware Centre then moved to Main Street, City & Suburban (The



name City and Suburban comes from the defunct gold mine south of the suburb, along Main Reef road.) After several months of very informal meetings it was suggested by the late Dr Irwin Luke to formalise matters by starting an association. Dr Luke became the first chairman; a constitution was produced and club officers were duly elected – this was in April or May 1988. The other founding members were Peter Fourie, Peter Middleton, Harry Hughes (deceased), Alwyn Lambourne (deceased), Don Dymond, PV Nana and Kishore Vallabh.

The second chairman was Peter Middleton and Buddy Lawson (recently deceased) was the third chairman in 1992, followed by Val Valentine as the fourth. A complete list of WWA chairs will follow next month.

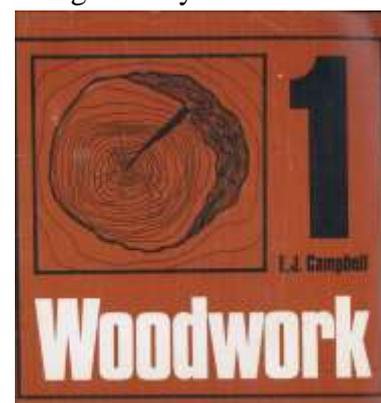
Hardware Centre hosted the WWA meetings for several years. Professional and amateur specialists were invited to demonstrate their skills to members on “Club Night”. Members were also asked to demonstrate their own skills and interests. The picture above shows Peter Middleton and Kishore Vallabh at one such meeting. Occasional weekend demonstrations were held together with a braai at the end – these proved to be very popular.

The picture below taken at the Hardware Centre premises in Main St shows from left to right: Nana Mistry, (unknown), Kishore Vallabh, Julian Stern, Peter Middleton, (unknown), Mike Haydn, Val Valentine



Within 4 years of founding, the WWA limited membership to 200 members and space became a problem. Schalk van Niekerk organised a woodworking classroom to be rented at Helpmekaar High School in Braamfontein. Helpmekaar had changed its status from a government to a private school and were able to offer the club the use of a woodwork classroom, which was not being used by the school. This proved an ideal location, being central and spacious. Machines were bought and workbenches sourced and the club was able to offer training courses to members.

One notable class - Foundation Wood-working was run by Ernie Campbell (b. 01 Aug 1911- d. 16 Oct 2001). Ernie, a former woodworking instructor and senior inspector in the old Transvaal Education Department (TED), was a gifted teacher. Ernie wrote an introductory woodworking text book that was used in schools. It is now out of print, so we have scanned it in and provide copies for new members to start out with. Some members still fondly



remember Ernie's course – it was probably one of the high points in the WWA's history. It soon became apparent that with woodworking being such a wide subject, it would be difficult to cater for all members' interests during one scheduled monthly meeting. The solution was to form special interest groups, which met on different nights during the month. Two groups flourished – cabinet makers and wood turners. The wood-turners even formed their own committee, with a view to separating from the main club. Fortunately, this was avoided as many members have interests in both areas. There are still two separate meetings to cater for the two areas of interest. Other specialist groups were established. The toy makers started in August 1996 and still meet. Eddie Marchio, who was one of the prime movers behind the toymakers, has recently moved to Cape Town. Various evening and day time workshop sessions have taken place over time. Special interest groups catering for carving and old tools were also started, but did not generate enough interest to be sustained.

Unfortunately, after 12 years, Helpmekaar school needed the space and the WWA was forced to look for alternative accommodation. We moved out on the 15th October 2005. Finding accommodation that is both central and cheap, with space for both machines and meetings proved to be a tall order, prompting several moves over the years. The WWA is unique amongst the associations in South Africa in having a workshop for use by members, and this has caused some difficulties over the years.

Alan Young who was the chair at the time made many efforts to find an unused scout hall or bowling club. As these were usually situated on municipal land, it required the co-operation of the Jo'burg City Council, who turned out to be particularly unhelpful.

We put the machines and benches into storage and used the Pirates

Bowling club in Greenside and Hardware Centre for meetings until a shed was rented at REAA in Craighall Park. The shed was substantially renovated by the WWA members at our cost. Dry-



walling was installed (led by John Allen), doors, burglar proofing and security gates were fitted, the floor was sealed with epoxy (Costa), lighting and plugs installed and we moved our machines and chairs in. Due to the lack of a ceiling, that shed was particularly hot in summer and freezing cold in winter. It was located in a nice environment next to the river and the stables. On the 9th August 2006, we held an open day to celebrate the new club house. Unfortunately, REAA under financial pressure decided that they could make better use of the space, so on the 31 May 2012 we were on the move again.



We were fortunate to find alternative accommodation at the Living Link village up-river in Parkhurst, where we still meet to date. We initially rented a house in the village for the workshop, before we secured premises in Albertskroon, where the workshop is presently situated. Ideally, we would like to meet at our workshop as well so we would be able to use more machines for demonstrations in meetings, but that isn't practical at present, due to lack of space and enough secure parking in the



evenings. We have a mini-lathe (Nova Comet II) that we store at the meeting hall at the Living Link which is suitable for most of the turner's demonstrations. Unfortunately, we are more restricted for cabinet making demonstrations without a proper workbench, but we are still able to have some very entertaining and informative talks and demonstrations.



The workshop in Albertskroon is opened regularly every week as shown in our program published above. Friday mornings regularly have talks and demonstrations as well. One of the regular speakers is Winston Klein, shown here giving an introduction to combination planes such as the Stanley #45 and #55

In 2002 we took part in our first Hobby-X show at the Dome in Randburg – Schalk was the prime-mover behind that initiative and we have been participating every



year since then. In 2005, together with the Pretoria club, we hosted the annual AWSA congress at the Printers College in Honeydew.



In August 1996, a toymakers group was formed to cater for members interests and to give back to the community. Toys for underprivileged children were

donated annually. Initially donations were made to CHOC, Cotlands and Reach for Dream. Then a decision was taken to support Westview clinic to the valuable work they were doing to support creches on the West Rand. The picture shows a workshop session at Greg's factory in Nov 2012 where we mass-produced toys.



The picture shows Winston Klein, Eddie Marchio, Frans Joubert, Barries (deceased) and his wife Meisie. Roger Matthews took the picture. Following the 2007 year end braai, these toymakers delivered the toys to the Sanca

West Rand Branch

Since 1991 we have had an annual braai with spot and raffle prizes which has evolved into the present Toys-for-charity event. For many years this was held at Greenside High School, before a year spent at the Guide-Dogs Association (2014) and since 2015, hosted at the Gereformeerde Kerk in Randburg.



(If want to add to the history or correct any facts, please contact Peter or Trevor. Any contributions will be welcome.)