



Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association

PO Box 411346, Craighall, 2024

Wooden Folding Rule

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Go to <http://mysite.mweb.co.za/residents/tpope/homepage.html> for back issues of Crosscut.

Next Main Club Meeting on Wednesday, the 14th March from 18h00 at the new WWA clubhouse at REEA. Marnie will talk on making electric/acoustic guitars.

Special General Meeting, (at the same time) to approve the 2007/8 club subscription. In the light of the increased costs of the new clubhouse, the committee is proposing an increase to R200-.

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on **Monday, the 5th March** at 18h00 at the new WWA clubhouse at REEA. A talk on finishes for wood – oils, varnishes, waxes, lacquers, etc – what they contain and how they work.

News

February Main Club Meeting. Dennis Locke (from the East Rand Woodworkers Club) gave a most useful presentation on router jigs and techniques. It was very practical and well explained. He showed a number of his own attachments for his routers, how to make them and advice on using them. Dennis has written a number of articles for Home Handyman on his jigs. He is happy to discuss your ideas / problems. Contact him at denis.lock@worldonline.co.za – 011-616-6576.

If you are interested, articles in Home HandyMan can be found in the following issues.

April 2007 (in preparation) – Pattern routing using a router table; Feb 2007 – Edge-trimming jig; Dec 2006 – Routed MDF door; Nov 2006 – Cutting mortices; Sep 2006 – Butt hinge and other recesses; Jul 2006 – Trimming cross-cut edges; Jun 2006 – Using a router as a jointer; May 2006 – Improve the stability of your router.

We have a lot of these issues in the clubhouse, failing this, phone Dorinda on 011-462-8959 to order back issues.

February Turner's Meeting. George Simpson gave a demonstration on a polishing techniques using buffing wheels and different polishing compounds.

Butch Smuts Wins Axminster Competition. Butch Smuts was awarded first prize in the professional contest, presented by the Axminster Power Tool Centre., Woodturning (Photo) Competition 2006 (See *Woodturning*, Feb 2007#171, p 49). Thanks to Willie Goosen for spotting this.



From the committee:

Clubhouse Projects. As discussed at the main club meeting, there will be a work party on Wednesday the 28th Feb from 17h30, to complete a number of clubhouse projects such as cupboards, lighting, safety signs.

Hobby-X. The dates for Hobby-X 2007 at the Dome are 8 -11 March Coca Cola Dome (Trade Day 8 March) Thurs & Fri 10:00 - 18:00 Sat & Sun 9:00 -18:00. Hardware Centre plans to have three lathes on the stand. The turners are looking for volunteers for all four days, to demo for either a morning or afternoon shift. Three turners plus one person to watch over the display are needed per shift. Final details will be arranged at the next turner's meeting, just beforehand. Please can volunteers for Hobby X phone Steven on 0835562690 to give their details and the day they can be there (Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday)

Tree Walk. On Saturday, 17th March 2007: two hours spent looking at trees and other interesting natural features at the Roodepoort National Botanical Gardens with Karin Spottiswoode, who is a qualified guide.

We meet at the entrance at 7h45, to leave at 08h00 from inside the gate. Entrance fees are for your own account. The walk will last about two hours, so wear comfortable shoes and a hat may be advisable. Afterwards, we will have tea at the restaurant (for own account). You may want to bring binoculars, tree and bird books, and water if it is hot.

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Monday of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the new clubhouse. Contact Eddie Marchio on (011) 678-8062 or renato@pixie.co.za for more information.

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

For Sale:

Approximately **100 tons of tree trunks** available in Piet Retief as a result of strong winds in January 2007, including Cedar, Pin Oak, Silver Oak, Cypress, Jacaranda, Willow, Pine and some Acacia species. Sizes vary from 500mm to 2m in length. Prepared to sell these to recover costs of approximately R150 per ton. Also available for sale are approximately 60 tons of Cypress wood (approx. 36 trees, 40cm diam).

For further information please contact Gudrun Loubser at gfloubser@xsinet.co.za

Workbenches For Sale: Three ranges, namely the Carver (1370x400x880mm) at R5,439, the Major (1680x528x880mm) at R6,910 and the Cabinet-Makers Standard (2040x597x880mm) at R8,145. Prices include VAT and include delivery to main centres in South Africa. 5% discount on mentioning this advert and 10% and 15% discount on quantities of 3 or 5 respectively.

Also, we have in stock 200 **Rhodesian Teak turning blanks** 200x200x50mm (planed & treated) weighing 1.9kg each. We are offering these at R34 each to WWA members with discounts of 10% for 10 or more and 20% for 30 or more. Bulk shipments from Cape Town by road is best and is for your account.

Contact John Cochrane, Bymore SA at teakbench@telkomsa.net or 083 301 9005.

Solid Meranti woodworkers bench with W/W vice and stop. 3 Metres long * 85 Cm wide and normal bench height.

Bench incorporates a Tool well, 3 Drawers and 2 double cupboards. Very good condition.

KITY Thicknesser/ Planer Ref No 636 259 mm Bed width 7000 RPM - MINT Condition.

TORMEK 2000 Supergrind with all attachments - MINT Condition.

HobbyMatt Universal Metal Turning Lathe with 21 Cm centres complete with many attachments -- MINT Condition.

KITY Lathe Copying Attachment unused.

Contact Frank Evans on 083 557 3347 (Cell) or 011 478 3761 (Home).

Wood Lathe: Model 600 SA Motor DC 624 (DC does not mean "direct current" here; power: single phase) Swing over bed: 10cm; length between centres: 60cm. Speeds: 4 staggered pulleys driven by V-belt. Accessories: live centre, face plate, short toolrest. Price: R990-

Contact: Willie Goosen, 083 266 2247.



The story behind this lathe for sale:

Upgrade: "No name brand" to Nova DVR XP

by Willie Goosen

Quite a number of years ago, I came across a lathe, distributed by Group 600, but with no visible name on the lathe itself. See the photo above.

Not very large, and with only 10cm swing over the bed, which was a good quality cast iron, and the motor was powerful enough. Those were the days before I was introduced by John Speedy to our club, and to better lathes and proper turning chisels. I had to feed my pink savings pig to almost the size of a watermelon to afford something better. The better one was the new Nova. I had to wait for it almost 3 months and I made a pest of myself nagging Kishore and company keeping track of the shipment from New Zealand.

Before the new machine came I bought a SuperNova chuck. I was very impressed and excited. On the old lathe it ran with a little vibration and I thought that it would be solved on the new machine. The frustrations on the old one were: too short a distance from centre to centre, a fixed

headstock with no possibility to try my hand on bowls more than toy size, a very small swing over the bed, and only four speeds, even without any indication of what they are. Run by feeling! But it had a compatible spindle for the Nova Chuck, though with the need of a standard adaptor And it had a tail and head stock quill hole of 6mm!



When the new one came I was overjoyed! I smelled the aroma of the new baby, ran it often without anything on the faceplate or between centres, just to listen to the wizzing of the smooth drive, and played with the up and down arrows and enjoying the increase and decrease of the revs. I turned a few pieces and my joy is still speeding up with my learning curve.

Two points that I may add on the negative side concerning the Nova: the vibration of the Supernova chuck was carried over from the old lathe to the new one. With a feeler gauge I found that the chuck doesn't run absolutely true to the measure of 0.2mm. Perhaps some wise member can give some feedback on this one. It's a bit irritating to true a workpiece between centres just to discover a little off-centredness when the workpiece is transferred to the chuck. And secondly, the clamp handle of the toolrest doesn't permit a change-over of the toolslide (banjo) clamp handle from the right position to the left position. One has to totally unscrew the toolrest clamp handle to change to the alternate fastening position of the toolslide clamp handle. One of the smoothest actions of this facility of a lathe is that of the Oneway. What a beautiful and smooth machine, but very pricey to get to SA.

I am happy to join the ranks of Nova-owners!

Wood in Switzerland and Bavaria (continued).

By Roger Matthews -- October 2006

One box mimicked the tall stem and stern posts of a Viking boat, with a complex locking mechanism – also of wood - comprising four rotating buttons set in the lid. These had to be actuated in a specific sequence to release the locking peg.

Many novelties for sale are created from shavings of differing thickness and curl radii. One example was a Xmas tree built on a square tapering stem, with the branches graduated from large to small, with each layer of four branches matched for width and radius of curl.

The old shaving machine on display in the shop is typical of machines of that vintage. It is made from heavy castings and could only be looked at. It may be demonstrated for visiting groups. It appears that the blade can be rotated from a square cut to differing approach angles, probably to change the curl radius.

At the Ballenberg cultural museum boxes were on sale and I found a booklet on their history – but published only in German.

Examples and illustrations of shaving planes were seen. These are wide wooden bodied planes with two pairs of handle set in the sides, for two people to apply the strength needed to separate the shaving from the parent timber.

Factory made shaving boxes are sold in big stores in the craft sections, with a variety of stickers and accessories for buyers to create their own artwork and embellishments.

Wood Carving:

We made a pilgrimage to Jobins factory, showroom and school in Brienz. This is the home of expensive woodcarving, beautiful music boxes and clocks. Very impressive work and there were 2 artisans on view creating uprights for a balcony with a vine decoration.

In the entrance was a bench of which the one end was a carved full size bear sitting in a relaxed pose with one foot across the other knee. The carving of details like the face and every hair was exquisite, but my first prize went to the detailed carving of the underside of the pads and claws on the raised foot!

The workshop featured a multi-purpose grinder with extended spindles each terminating with a drill chuck. Spaced along the spindles were 2 or 3 abrasives or buffing pads in differing shapes to accommodate the numerous shapes of the tools. A set of about 30 artisan's carving tools set out on a bench were all buffed to a mirror finish at the business end.

Wooden Water Pipes:

We did not notice any in use, but at Ballenberg museum there was a series of illustrations describing how trunks were bored lengthwise to form pipes – and all done by hand. Like all hand crafts there were several ingenious holding devices and guides to ensure the accuracy of the bore, and that it remained true to the axis of the trunk.

Water-powered sawmill:



Also at Ballenberg there is a working sawmill dating from 1840. This is driven by an overshot waterwheel connected to an impressive roomful of gearing and shafts that reciprocate a 2 metre vertical saw blade, and also synchronise the progression of the cast iron bed with the securely clamped log.

Water Troughs:

In every town we came across water-troughs in the streets. They now appear to be more of a street decoration but are still functional, although the tell-tale stainless water outlet secreted in some of the wooden delivery pipes indicates that modern hygiene has caught up with tradition. We drank as and when thirsty. Generally 2 to 3 metres long and hollowed out from 600 to 800 mm diameter logs these are generous reservoirs, connected to a continuous flow of water. Some were quite plain, as were those we saw on every farmers plot, but some were elaborately and delightfully carved, with bears, dogs and Ibex prominent. In the smaller towns animals regularly graze in front gardens along the streets and are driven to their barns each night, so the troughs do still serve their original purpose.



Not Wood but Copper:

This was a surprise to the South African psyche as we noted the widespread use of copper for roofs, gutters, down-pipes, flashings on domestic and business buildings. Saw a new wooden carport with the whole roof sheathed in bright copper. Many roadside shrines along the wanderwegs are roofed in copper. There is obviously no thought of possible theft and we saw no evidence of vandalism.



Old Objects:

We saw small wooden hay wagons and sledges used in the shops as receptacles for goods, but appear to have been functional in earlier times.

Functional but great Workmanship:

At the Aareschlucht (river Aare gorge) there is a cantilevered walkway about a kilometre long. It is attached to the rock wall of the gorge and comprises angle iron stringers with the outer legs upturned to retain the timber decking laid crosswise. Nothing remarkable – one could say – but the cut ends fitted closely and at the many changes of direction, the boards had been accurately cut, matching board to board and board to angle iron frame. No gaps greater than a millimetre – and there were thousands of boards to be cut. The crowning pieces were the safety infill pieces positioned between the inner metal frame and the natural rock face where the custom-profiled timber followed the rock very closely.

