



March 2012

# Crosscut

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

< Tulbagh Chest of Drawers from Pierre Cronje

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Go to [www.wwa.org.za](http://www.wwa.org.za) for back issues of Crosscut.

**Next General Club Meeting** on **Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012** from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. How to turn your hobby into a viable business by Piet Smit.

**Next Turner's monthly meeting** is on **Monday, the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012** at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Pepper Mills for Africa – how to turn a pepper mill by Piet Smit.

## News

### Turner's Meeting

Dries Blignaut draws a distinction between eccentric and off-center turning. He defines eccentric turning as when only part of the work piece is off-center, such as when it is mounted in a chuck and the tail-stock end is moved off center.

Off-center turning is where the whole axis of the work-piece is moved away from the lathe axis, but remains parallel to the lathe axis. Dries explained how he made his signature eccentric turned goblets using a sequence of different eccentrics. He also showed a chuck mounting plate he made for off-centre turning.

Chris van Heeswijk presented Cork Oak (*Quercus Suber*) as the wood of the month. Cork Oak was commonly planted in our parks in Johannesburg and can be identified by its distinctive bark. It originates in North Africa and the Iberian peninsula. Chris showed some pictures illustrating how cork is harvested from bark of the trees.

### Main Club Meetings

Alex visited the WWA clubhouse from Pretoria, where he works as an antique restorer. He has 15 years' experience in restoration and he shared some of his experience in repairing veneered finishes. He talked about the different veneer types and where they are used. Surface preparation, gluing, clamping, trimming and matching techniques are all important to the final result and he explained some of the methods he uses. Alex can be contacted on 082-512-5185 or [migachev.elex AT gmail.com](mailto:migachev.elex@gmail.com)

### Club Notices:

**Hobby-X** is at the Dome, Northgate, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – 1<sup>st</sup> March is the TRADE DAY, for trade visitors only. The WWA will take part in Hobby-X in the same way as previous years. Dates and times: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10am to 6pm. Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9am to 6pm and Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> – 9am to 5pm. See <http://www.hobby-x.co.za/> for more.

**Club house.** We were given notice with a letter dated the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 by REEA that our lease for the clubhouse will terminate at the end of March 2012. However, the lease actually gives us until the end of May 2012. **We are on the look-out for new premises.** As you may know, we are unusual amongst the woodworking clubs in having our own workshop, so we can't just meet anywhere. We need a place where we can keep our machines and benches. Ideally, a venue that has a store-room where we can store our equipment would be ideal. Then we can move it out into the meeting area for demonstrations and workshops. The meeting area should accommodate at least 40 people for a demonstration or talk. Our present schedule is 2 formal meetings and 4 informal workshops per month – a total of about 20 hours per month. We cannot afford a commercial rental without a large increase in our subscriptions. Also, the area would be idle most of the time, so some sort of sharing arrangement for the meeting area would be preferred. We would like to continue with the present way the club operates, but if need be, we can make changes.

The committee is exploring all alternatives, so all suggestions and participation from members are welcome. If you have any suggestions on how the club should operate or on premises, please contact a member of the committee. You

may be expected to do a bit of following up of any opportunities to the point where they become real before the committee will become involved.

The assist with positioning the club as a beneficial organisation, we are documenting its history since establishment. Two of the founding members, John Speedy and Peter Middleton are assisting with this. If you have material you wish to contribute, please contact Alistair Brande on [alistair.brande AT gmail.com](mailto:alistair.brande@gmail.com) or 079 895 8709. He is particularly interested in who the chairmen were in the early years. Copies of old newsletters will help.

**For Sale:**

**Rhodesian Teak.** Ranging from off-cuts to full lengths, flooring and decking. Commercial supplier with a large range. Off-cuts priced at R2500- per cube. Off the M14 near the Lion Park. Turn off Malibongwe near the Lion Park traffic lights at the Ball and All Golf place. Contact Mark at Sawmill Products CC on 072-128-1024 for more information.

**Exotic hardwoods** such as for musical instruments, turnery (sic) and parquet flooring are available from Prosono International. Contact Etienne D Plooy on 011-465-7102 or 082-325-8425 or [EDP@prosono.co.za](mailto:EDP@prosono.co.za) or [www.prosono.co.za](http://www.prosono.co.za)

**Saturday Workshop.** Ken Bullivant previously held the Saturday workshop at the clubhouse, but when we moved from Helpmekaar, he decided to move it to his house in Boksburg. Currently 5 of our members attend these meetings and more are welcome. The location is 13 Franklin Avenue, Comet, Boksburg on the last Saturday Monthly – possibly changing to 2nd Saturday from 09:00 to 12:00. They decide on an annual project and work throughout the year making it. They also make toys, several of which were displayed at the braai, and individual projects are discussed and problems solved. Contact Ken on 082 809 0020 if you wish to take part.

**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@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 Grant Mackay on 082-391-9769 or [mackay.grant AT gmail.com](mailto:mackay.grant@gmail.com) for more information.

**Pierre Cronje**

Situated in the Cape Pierre Cronje is a commercial furniture maker who has an impressive range of styles on offer. See <http://www.pierrecronje.co.za/> These range from formal, dark, highly polished furniture to some more organic pieces that I have picked out here. These are natural coloured, even weathered pieces with visible joinery. They have a chunky, almost solid stature. Some of these pieces are made with oak sourced both locally and from France. Here are some of the pieces from his web site that caught my eye.

**Bolted Bench**



I'M AT HOME MOST SATURDAY MORNINGS  
FROM 9-00AM TO 12-00 NOON  
COME ALONG - BY ARRANGEMENT

- ❖ For coffee, biscuits and a chat
- ❖ No obligation to buy
- ❖ Creates good fellowship
- ❖ Word of mouth promotes sales

I have in stock a full range of Record Irwin Lathe accessories,  
Record Irwin wood turning tools, Record Irwin hand tools,  
Record metal/wood band saw blades  
AND MY OWN WELL KNOWN JIGS

**I CAN MACHINE TOOLING ACCORDING TO CLIENTS IDEAS, NEEDS AND DRAWINGS**

Lionel Soekoe 60 Darwin Street CNR Bowling avenue Wendywood  
Tel (011) 802 3046 or 072 989 6310





< Calais Dining Table

Sandveld Chair

Zen console – side/ server table



Breton Plank Cupboard





Bushmanskloof Cupboard

These items are not cheap. There are presently no prices on the web site. Expect to pay over R2000- for the chair and over R10,000- for the cupboards. These prices are encouraging in a way, as it indicates that there is a market for this type of furniture at prices that allow individual hand-made pieces to be produced.