



# Crosscut

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

< From Popular Mechanics – April 2012 – Lynton and Jeff's Shaker bookcase construction article

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Editor: Trevor Pope ([tpepe AT iafrica.com](mailto:tpepe@iafrica.com)). All written content and opinions are those of the editor, unless stated. ©  
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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 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. AGM and Knife making.**

**Next Turner's monthly meeting is on Monday, the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Hollow forms by Andrew Riley.**

## News

### Turner's Meeting

#### Turning Plywood by Eddio

**Marchio.** Eddie showed some designs for laminated plywood turnings. He described the different techniques for constructing the blanks for these turnings and the types of plywood that can be used. He explained some of the difficulties that may be encountered, such as alternating grain, and how to deal with it. Eddie then touched on some general aspects for the design of turned pieces, such as shape and size, proportion, etc. The books that Eddie referred to by Mike Darlow and Ray Key should be available from Hardware Centre.



### Main Club Meeting

#### Making Shaker furniture – a talk by Lynton Dennill (picture above right) & Jeff Hollingdale (picture below right).

Jeff has spent some time with Lynton at his workshop and they collaborated on two Shaker style designs that they described. Jeff described some of the history of the Shakers and their influences on US furniture designs. The philosophies of the sect in their



everyday life were carried over to their furniture. They emphasised Plainness, Practicality and Pride in their designs – the 3Ps. Lynton described two designs – one of a rack of shelves and the other of a side table. While they used traditional techniques such as dowelling, some concessions to modern techniques were made, such as the use of a router. An article describing the shelves by Lynton and Jeff can be found in the April 2012 issue of Popular Mechanics (SA edition). A feature of the article was that only basic hand tools, a jig saw and drill were required to complete the project. An article describing the table can be found in the latest Home Handyman magazine.

## Club Notices:

**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 any 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.

To assist with positioning the club as a beneficial organisation, Alistair has compiled a presentation, documenting the WWA's history since establishment. With assistance from various members, including Costa's complete collection of newsletters, he now has a list of all the chairmen and chairlady, and the years that they served. An excerpt from Alistair's presentation on the history can be found at the end of this newsletter. Several possible alternatives have been identified and these are being followed up.

**AGM and New Committee.** *Notice is hereby given of the annual general meeting for the Wits Woodworking Association that will take place on Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at the REEA Clubhouse at 18h00. Items on the agenda:*

- *Report from the 2011/2012 chair.*
- *Acceptance of the treasurer's report for 2011/2011. Approval of the budget for 2012/2013.*
- *Election of office bearers and committee members for 2012/2013. We will require volunteers for the position of Secretary and Treasurer, as both have served their three year terms. Failing which, the meeting will be required to endorse the continuation of the incumbents in the positions. We will also require a new Turner's chairman, as Herman is standing down. Steven, who is the present Treasurer is willing to continue as Treasurer or make himself available for chair of the Turners section, but not both. Volunteers for ordinary committee positions are always welcome. Having fun is definitely part of the job description!*
- *Address from the 2012/2013 chair.*

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS: 2012 / 2013 year**

Subject to approval at the meeting, membership subscriptions for 2012 / 2013 are due on 1 May 2012 for R320- per year. Delivery of Crosscut by email is included, postal delivery of Crosscut is R80- extra per year.

Please pay the Treasurer before the end of April to maintain continuity of your membership. Post cheques to the address in the masthead of this newsletter. Details for direct deposits are on your *personal* invoice below.

Thank you.

**Ken Mutch Secretary**

INVOICE		01 April 2012
DUE DATE		AMOUNT
01 May 2012	SUBSCRIPTION for the Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association - 2012/2013 year	R320-00
	Direct deposits to: Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association. Nedbank Main St. branch - Code: 198765. Account No: 1979-321833 – Put your name in the comment line, so that the treasurer can identify the source of the payment.	

**SA Large Telescope presentation.** WWA is to host an interesting presentation on S.A.L.T. by John Smith, combined with a Cheese & Wine evening. In 2001 John's son, Michael, applied for and got the job to design and build the Prime Focus Imaging Spectrograph (PFIS) for the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT). PFIS was renamed the Robert Stobie Spectrograph (RSS) in 2006. In an effort to satisfy his own interest and answer questions from friends as to what Michael was doing and how it related to the rest of the SALT project, John followed a web site detailing the development progress of the spectrograph and later visited Southerland and SALT while Michael was there for the commissioning prior to the inauguration of Salt in November 2005 by President Mbeki. John created a presentation for family and friends discussing elements of SALT and the RSS.

The event will be the final event to be held at the REEA club house. Details are as follows:

Wednesday, 16 May 2012 at 18h00 at WWA Club house - COST: R50-00 per person.

RSVP by the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012: With Ken ([ken.r.mutch@gmail.com](mailto:ken.r.mutch@gmail.com)) or Alistair ([alistair.brand@gmail.com](mailto:alistair.brand@gmail.com))

**For Sale:**

**TORMEK SuperGrind 2000** Includes the Following: SG-250 Spare Wheel 230 x 50mm; LA-120 Leather Profile Wheel; WM-200 Angle Master; XB-100 Horizontal Base; MSK-250 Stainless Steel Shaft with Bushes & Stainless Steel Washers; SP650 Stone Grader; PA-70 Honing Paste x 2; MH-380 Machine Cover; HB-10 Hand Book; Includes the following Jigs: SVM-45 Knife Jig; SVX-150 Scissors Jig; SVH-60 Straight Edge Jig; SVA-170 Axe Jig; SVS-30 Gouge Jig – Small; SVS-40 Gouge Jig – Large; SVD-110 Tool Rest with Torlock; SVD-180 Universal Gouge Jig for Fingernail Gouges; SVS-50 Multi Jig; ADV-50D Stone Truing Tool with ADV-50H Diamond Dresser; ADV-50H Spare Diamond Dresser

R5500.00 Contact Alistair Brande on 079 895 8709

**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 first Saturday of the month 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.

**FOR SALE****AFROX SAFFIRE PORTAPAK OXY ACETYLENE****WELDING -- BRAZING -- CUTTING SYSTEM****THE TOTAL SYSTEM COMES WITH :**

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| * BOTTLES               | * TROLLEY               |
| * VALVE/PRESSURE GAUGES | * HOSING                |
| * TORCH                 | * VARIETY NOZZLES       |
| * BRAZING FLUXES        | * GAS RODS              |
| * WELDING RODS          | * SILVER SOLDERING RODS |
| * ORIGINAL HANDBOOK     |                         |

**LIKE NEW!**

PROPERTY OF LIONEL SOEKOE  
CEL NO. 072 989-6310

**PRICE : R2850**

**Development and evolution of our Witwatersrand Woodworking Association**

Alistair Brande

(An extract from Alistair's marketing presentation on the WWA)

In the late 1980's several keen Woodworkers would congregate at Hardware Centre, Main Street, City & Suburban, Johannesburg on Fridays at lunchtime. After several months of these very informal meetings it was suggested by the late Dr Irwin Luke to formalise matters by starting a Woodworkers Association.

Dr Luke became the first Chairman, a Constitution was produced and Association Officers were duly elected.

Initially the meetings were held at Hardware Centre and Professional and Amateur Specialists were invited to demonstrate their skills to members on “Club Night”. The Members were themselves to demonstrate their own skills and interests.

Occasional weekend demonstrations were held together with a braai and the end of the meeting – these proved to be very popular.

Membership continued to increase and then rapidly expanded when the Association took up the opportunity to move to Helpmekaar High School. Helpmekaar had changed its status from a Government to a Private School and were able to offer the Association the use of a Woodwork Classroom which was not being used by the School.

With the Members agreement the Association purchased a number of Woodworking Machines for both Woodturners and Cabinetmakers so that the Association could offer training courses – these courses were run by the late Ernie Campbell who was a Senior Woodwork Inspector for the old TED and these courses started scores of peoples’ love of Woodworking.

It soon became apparent that with Woodworking being such a wide subject that it would be difficult to cater for all Members interests during one meeting. The solution was to form Special Interest Groups which met on different nights during the month. Whilst some of these groups were very small and eventually faded away others such as Woodturning and Cabinetmaking flourished and remain very popular to this day.

After approximately 12 years at Helpmekaar, the Association was given notice as the School required the classroom. We moved out on 15 October 2005

Meetings were held at Pirates Bowling Association until alternative premises were found.

We moved into new the new premises on 1 July 2006 and on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2006 held an Open Day to celebrate the move to our new Association venue at REEA. REEA were able to offer the Association what was essentially a shed which had to be extensively renovated.

The improvements made included clearing the area, installing brick walls, doors, windows dry walling, burglar proofing & security gates, relaying & levelling the floor, repairing the roof, painting, rewiring the electrics, installing new lighting etc.

All the renovations and repairs were paid for by the Association.

**Some pictures of the clubhouse/ workshop before renovations ...**



**And today ...**

