



# Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association

◀ Distressed milking stool with a three way lap joint.

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**Next Turners Meeting on Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016** - No meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016 due to the public holiday. Making a "¾ Ball on a Box" on a lathe – demonstration by John Speedy

**Next Meeting on Wednesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – General meeting** from 18h00 at WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. The AGM will take place on Wednesday 11th May 2016 at The Living Link. Plus a "Show and Tell" Extravaganza



## News

### 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 - Turner's meeting.

Talk on work holding using chucks. Peter Middleton (see right), Herman Potgieter (on the left) and Chris van Heeswijk displayed a variety of woodturning chucks and accessories. They explained the principles of operation and how to use them. Accessories such as screws, Cole jaws, pin jaws, concentric and eccentric add-ons, drive centres, etc were explained. Important principles and safety practises were emphasised.



### Wood of the Month – Red

**Sandalwood** (Chris van Heeswijk) – *Adenanthera pavonina* is a brown/reddish wood native to India that has a variety of common names such as coral wood. It has red edible seeds and leaves and is widely grown throughout the world. The seeds are very uniform in size and weight, so they have been used from ancient times as a standard weight. The wood is valued for furniture and boat building and a red dye can be extracted from it.



### 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 - Club meeting.

**Festool** – Tork Craft demonstrated some new Festool power tools. The HKC55 cordless circular saw was demonstrated. It is rail guided and can also cut accurate angles. It has an effective dust bag, alternatively it can be connected to a vacuum cleaner. The Festool vacuum cleaner has a special anti-static hose to avoid any danger of static discharge. A new oscillating cutter was also demonstrated. (You may remember that Fein held the patent for many years, and still supplies them. On expiry of the patent, a number of suppliers have produced competing products.) Those with experience of Festo will know that they produce very high quality tools suitable for



professional use, but they are priced accordingly.



**Club Notices**

**Safety gear use at clubhouse.** Please bring your own safety gear – eye protection, ear protection, dust masks, gloves, etc for use with power tools and machines at the clubhouse. These are personal items and hygiene is a consideration, so the club does not provide these. You are expected to use the appropriate items when using machinery for your own safety and to serve as an example to others.



Although we have a fully equipped first aid kit, we don't want to have to use it, ever.



**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS: 2016 / 2017 year**

Subject to approval at the meeting, membership subscriptions for 2016 / 2017 are due on 1 June 2016 for R400- per year (Subject to confirmation at the AGM). Country, spousal and scholar subs are R100- 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.

*Alistair Brande* Secretary

01 May 2016	INVOICE	
AMOUNT	DUE DATE	
R400-00	01 June 2016	SUBSCRIPTION for the Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association - 2016/2017 year
		Direct deposits to: Witwatersrand Woodworkers Association. Nedbank Main St. branch - Code: 190805. Account No: 1979-321833 – Put your name in the comment line, so that the treasurer can identify the source of the payment. Internet transfers are preferred. If you deposit cash, please increase the amount to include the cash deposit charge.

**There will be no Turners and Toymakers meetings on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, due to the public holiday.**

**Turners jackets.** These are available for collection at the club meetings. Some of the name tags were not supplied and material for pockets is still outstanding – these will be collected and be available at the next meetings.

**Wiggly-worm toymakers workshop.** The toymakers will be holding a Wiggly Worm Toymakers workshop on Saturday 14th March at Albertskroon.

**Spring Challenge.** Set down for Sat, 10<sup>th</sup> September at Albertskroon. As before, there will be two competitions, a Milking Stool made beforehand and a turning challenge on the day- an egg cup that can be made in a few minutes. (Google “egg cup races”) Last year, it was a honey-dipper. Steven Barrett will co-ordinate. More details to follow.



## Regular Events:

**Toymakers.** The toymakers meet on 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. Contact Eddie Marchio on 011-678-8062 or [rm22 AT mweb.co.za](mailto:rm22@web.co.za) for more information.

**Wednesday workshop.** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, from 17h30 to 20h00 at Albertskroon. Contact John Allen on 083 457 4801 or Clive Stacey (083 407 8008 [stacey AT netactive.co.za](mailto:stacey@netactive.co.za) Clive will also open the workshop during the week by prior arrangement only!)

**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.

**Friday Morning workshop** - Winston Klein will be convening a workshop at the Albertskroon work shop on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays monthly from 09:00 to 12:00. Contact Winston at 072 553 5045 or [kleins AT iburst.co.za](mailto:kleins@iburst.co.za)

## 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](mailto:Johankramer300@gmail.com)**

## Saturday meetings

1. Second Saturday of month - Eddie will open the workshop – 011 678 8062 [rm22 AT mweb.co.za](mailto:rm22@web.co.za)
2. Third Saturday of month – Clive will open the workshop – 083 407 8008 [stacey AT netactive.co.za](mailto:stacey@netactive.co.za) Clive will also open the workshop during the week “BY ARRANGEMENT”
3. Fourth Saturday of month – Graham will open the workshop – 082 900 0242 [grahamcr AT mweb.co.za](mailto:grahamcr@web.co.za)

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

## Lathe Steady for Spindle Turning

Turning long, thin spindles on the lathe is not easy if you want to avoid excessive sanding. As a workpiece such as a chair leg rotates against a cutting tool, the force required to remove material is resisted by the workpiece, causing it to deflect. Even the lightest cut will cause a noticeable deflection of the workpiece. When the workpiece is long and thin, such as an elegant chair leg or spindle, it becomes correspondingly less stiff, and deflection becomes even more noticeable.

Wood is not a homogenous substance – it has grain and is not uniform in strength and density. This means that as the workpiece rotates, the cutting edges cuts through varying grain – radial or axial grain. Also the density of the wood may vary with growth rates of the tree in different seasons, over different years, and between sap wood and heart wood. As the workpiece rotates, the cutting edge generates variable cutting forces as the circumference rotates past it, and the workpiece deflects accordingly.

All sorts of vibrations can be set up which complicate matters further. These show up as wave patterns and ribs on the workpiece. Classical spindle turning requires one to use a sharp gouge and use a slicing cut, riding the bevel. Riding the bevel uses the workpiece to support the end of the gouge, to control the depth of cut. However, when the ripples occur on the surface of the workpiece, these are just then replicated further. The picture shows ripples after roughing out, before the steady was used – small waves inside big waves!

In this case, the wood is White Stinkwood, *Celtis Africanus*, which is a ring-porous wood. It is quite hard and also exhibits a wide variation across the grain, so it is somewhat of a worst case.



To damp out the vibrations, the workpiece can be supported from behind with a hand, preferably inside a leather glove. This can be partially effective, but on longer spindles, this can be difficult. You can try different lathe speeds, different gouges, light cuts or scraping cuts. Holding the driving end in a chuck will impart some stiffness to that end, which will delay the onset or move the ripples further towards the tailstock end. You can try working from the ends inwards, to ride the bevel on the smooth wood, all with some degree of success, but as you get towards the centre, you may still find ripples. These can be quite considerable, several millimeters deep – too deep to sand out!

Time to consider a steady rest?

Those who have been turning for some time will have come across “*The Practical Wood Turner*” by Frank Pain, first published by Evans Brothers (publishers of *The Woodworker*) in 1957. It has been reprinted several times since, and is still available from Sterling Press.

Frank was the first professional woodturning demonstrator in the UK, and writes in an easy conversational style that probably reflected his narrative while he was demonstrating. Buddy Lawson met Frank many years ago, and will tell you about him if you ask.

Frank tackled the issue of steady rests from a practical point of view in his book. I reproduced the section on steady rests from his book – look for it in next month’s Crosscut. It is an entertaining read.

Following advice in the book, I made a steady rest for my lathe, which I found very effective in dealing with vibration on long spindles – some skill is still required to avoid ripples, but there was a remarkable improvement.

As Frank states, you will need to fit the design to your particular lathe, so I haven’t given dimensions. I made mine from 50 x 75 SA pine and glued two pieces together. The lower piece fits between the bed bars of the lathe and a wedge from below holds it in place. A mortise was cut to house the follower and wedge in the upper piece. The follower pivots on a 6mm bolt held in place with a wing nut. The follower and wedge were made from some unidentified hardwood from the scrap box.



As you can see there is a significant improvement in the portion close to the tail stock.

The follower is self adjusting due to the action of the wedge, simplifying use. You can see a light brown ring caused by friction of the follower on the workpiece. It is superficial and is easily removed with a light sanding. Candle wax applied to the contact area of the follower will prevent this.



The extract from the book follows next month.