

# Crosscut

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



◀ Lionel Soekoe (on left) enjoying the sun at his stall at the ERWA fair.

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**Next General Club Meeting on Wednesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 from 18h00 at WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. Scroll sawing Demo – Wally Pretorius**

**Next Turner's monthly meeting is on Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. Onboard in the fjords – John Speedy. Wood of the month – TBA**

## News

### **September 2014 Turner's Meeting** –Eddie Marchio

demonstrated some techniques for laminating and turning plywood bowls. He showed some of the types of plywood available. By careful design he incorporates the layers of plywood into the design. Cutting out the layers beforehand can reduce the amount of wood to be turned away for the final shape as well. Eddie uses a full face, filtered dust mask to avoid the dust, although he feels that for occasional exposure, the dust is not dangerous. For occupational exposure, the fine dust and formaldehyde based glues are best avoided. The lower picture shows Eddie with his Trend helmet making a plywood platter.



**Wood of the month** – Acacia karoo – commonly called sweet thorn, due to the smell of the flowers, and/or the sweet gum or the fact that it is often found growing in areas of alkaline soils – so called sweet veld.

The botanical name is now Vachellia karoo, as the Australians have hi-jacked the acacia name for their acacias. (This is despite the fact that their acacias do not have thorns. Acacia derives from the Greek word for its characteristic thorns, (*akis*; "thorn")). ▼



**September 2014 Meeting** – Roger Mayes showed some of the techniques he uses for making boxes from flat wood, plywood and veneer. He showed two techniques he uses for marquetry to decorate the boxes – the window method and the double bevel fitting method. Apart from different species of wood he uses shading, dyeing, and bleaching to achieve contrasting colours for his designs. He also showed how he inserts splines into the corners to strengthen and decorate the joints.

(Some web resources for box making – [www.fine-boxes.com](http://www.fine-boxes.com) [www.finehardwoodboxes.com](http://www.finehardwoodboxes.com) )

The marquetry below is an example produced using the techniques he discussed.



### Club Notices

**Spring Challenge.** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 09h30, at the WWA clubhouse. Bring boxes to show and win a bottle of wine for the best on the day. Your boxes may be in any form – turned, sawn and/or carved, as long as each can contain something and has a lid. The fun event is to turn a Honey Dipper in less than 6 minutes on one of the three club lathes. Bring your own blanks & tools. This will be followed by a bring-and-braai.

**Annual Braai – Toys for Charity Fundraiser.** Due to a lack of response from Greenside High School we reluctantly have had to change the venue for the **Toys for Charity Fundraiser**. The new venue is at the SA Guide Dogs venue at 126 Wroxham Road, off Witkoppen Road (turn into Wroxham Road at the Porsche Centre) The only date we could get is the **29<sup>th</sup> November 2014** and whilst this clashes with The Hardware Centre Show, it does bring us back to the traditional last Saturday in November date.

Members are reminded that the **Toys for Charity Fundraiser** is our Social Responsibility commitment for the year and members are requested to make a minimum of 10 toys for donation to the Westview Clinic. Last year we made over 1400 toys for donation to crèches. More details to follow.





**Hobby\_X Midrand** - Gallagher Estate, Midrand was from Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2014. **One Good Turn** had a stand with Schalk, Johan and various students demonstrating. On the left Schalk (in the hat) is showing the finer points of finishing a magic wand. Behind them is the giant table leg. Johan is on the right.



Another student is finishing off the bottom of a bowl held in the Cole jaws mounted on a chuck.

(Thanks to Johan for the pictures.)

#### Regular Events:

**Toymakers.** The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the new clubhouse. Contact Eddie Marchio on 011-678-8062 or [rm22 AT mweb.co.za](mailto:rm22@mweb.co.za) for more information.

**Wednesday Workshop.** The Wednesday evening workshops are on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at the new clubhouse, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Grant Mackay on 082-391-9769 or [mackay.grant AT gmail.com](mailto:mackay.grant@gmail.com) or [gmackay AT worldonline.co.za](mailto:gmackay@worldonline.co.za) for more information.

**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.

**Saturday Turning workshop.** Schalk van Niekerk conducts Saturday morning turning workshops at his premises in Germiston. (At the old East-African Timbers site) Membership is R400- per year, R30- per meeting. He can accommodate up to 12 people in a session with the lathes he has available for teaching. They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month from 8h00 to 12h00. Contact Schalk on 082 443 4972 or [schalk@onegoodturn.co.za](mailto:schalk@onegoodturn.co.za) or Johan Kramer on 083 251 0183.



## East Rand Woodworkers Association Annual Show.

Fine spring weather welcomed visitors to the Northfield Methodist hall in Benoni on the 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014. It all started off very quiet, as rugby was in progress, but there was a late rush. Some of the familiar faces you may recognise were Audrey showing off the Dremel scroll saw, At Smit busy on his Jet 1221VS lathe and Bill Parrack, who was carving a large panel.

Those who know At will know that he doesn't accept the limitations of any standard lathe he owns and will modify his lathes to suit his needs. His original Jet JWL-1014 was heavily modified with all sorts of extra functions (variable speed, spindle lock, indexer, additional brackets, lamps, tool holders, etc). As Jet has introduced new models over the last ten years, and At has bought newer models (JWL-1220 and most recently the JWL01221VS), the modifications have reduced. Jet has significantly improved their smaller lathes, so that the JWL-1221VS meets most turners' needs for a smaller lathe.

When At was asked by a visitor what starter lathe he recommended, he started off by saying that if you buy one of really cheap square tube bedded lathes – the R1000- ones, you will regret it and nobody will want to buy it from you. In contrast, At says that if you spend more on a mini lathe you won't regret it. Good advice.

The Jet Mini (JWL-1014) was the first popular mini lathe available locally (since about 2004) initially from SAM until Strand Hardware became the official importers. Hardware Centre stock all the Jet lathes. Similar examples from Adendorf (see page 3 above), Mr Woodturner, SAM and others will also meet a beginner's needs. You can see the Nova Comet II in use at the WWA club house. Also, the small Jet lathes are in demand second-hand, so if you decide to give up turning or wish to upgrade, you won't be stuck with one.

