

# Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association



◀ Decorative technique shown by Steven.

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**Next Turners Meeting on Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 – General meeting** from 18h00 at WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. Making a yo-yo by Herman Potgieter

**Next Meeting on Wednesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 – General meeting** from 18h00 at WWA clubhouse at the Living Link Hall. Bessy Clamping Systems from Vermont Sales – Stephan

## News

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 - Turner's meeting.** Finishing Techniques.

Herman Potgieter demonstrated a finishing technique suitable for pens using superglue. He showed how he wet sands using purified beeswax softened with technical oil, followed by the application of superglue with linseed oil as a lubricant.

Steven Barrett showed how texturing and dry brushing can be used for decorative effects. He textured using a pencil grinder, and used dry-brushing to colour the piece.

**Wood of the Month** – Ptaeroxylon obliquim known as Sneezewood or Nieshout. It has a distinctive peppery smell and when worked can be strongly allergic. It is exceptionally durable as fence posts. It is not threatened, widely distributed and grows readily in frost free areas.

**10<sup>th</sup> June - Club meeting.** Bobby Bezuidenhout demonstrated a



traditional technique for making a mortise and tenon joint: chopping the mortise by hand using a mortise chisel and cutting the tenon using a tenon saw.

(With hand skills, you don't need lots of expensive machines to make fine furniture - just time and patience, enjoying the creation process.)



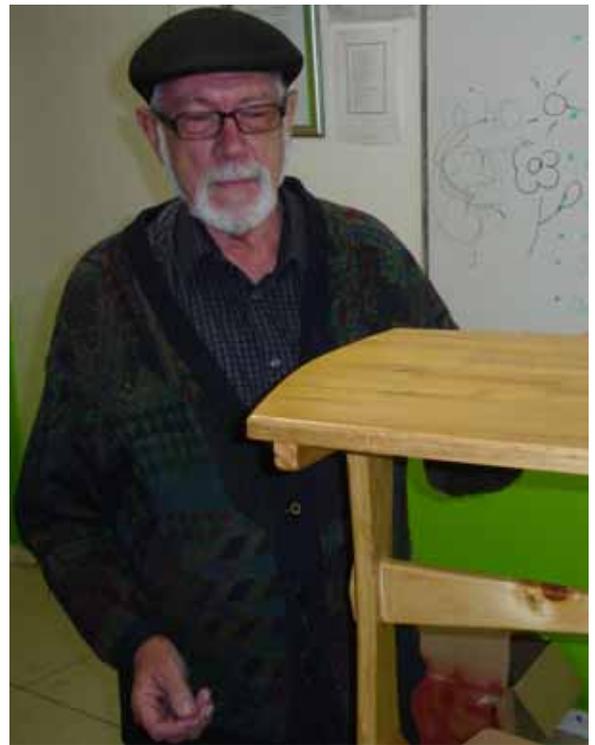
Jeff Hollingdale showed off a Shaker Side Table, explaining the style and design features characteristic of Shaker furniture.

### Club Notices

**Spring challenge** – The provisional date for the Spring Challenge is Saturday 10 October 2015 at Albertskroon. TO BE CONFIRMED!

**Saturday workshop** will be held at the Albertskroon Workshop on Saturday 11th of July, starting at 9h30: The topic is “**How to use a Jigsaw**”. Experts will also be on hand to assist with queries on the machinery at the workshop or on any other queries/questions members may have. Followed by a Bring & Braai.

### Pretoria Woodworkers Association Turner’s Day:



HOUTWERKVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA  PRETORIA WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

## INVITATION

The Pretoria turners kindly invite your club / association to our Turners-day on 25 July 2015.

The day will be filled with demo's by At Smit, Carel van der Merwe en Simoné van Vuuren.

We invite you to bring some of your turned pieces to exhibit and show on the day. We please ask that you bring a maximum of two pieces to show

Time: 9 am to approx 15:30  
Place: Scouts hall, Rodericksway 421, Menlopark (see map)  
Entry Fee : R50 per person (includes refreshments and lunch)



For catering purposes, please RSVP to Simoné on [simonejvv AT gmail.com](mailto:simonejvv@gmail.com) or by SMS to 0762961095

The Scout Hall is at 431 Rodericks Rd, Pretoria, 0081 GPS Co-ordinates - Scout Hall: -25.767175 (S), 28.267603 (E). Parking: -25.767948 (S), 28.267501 (E)

**New WWA Clubhouse** – situated just off the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> St and 9<sup>th</sup> St in Albertskroon on the west side of Johannesburg. A shop called Wood and Wotnots, resplendent in green, is on the corner. The entrance to the yard is in 5<sup>th</sup> St just around the corner.

The map shows the location: To the NW is Alberts Farm Park, and to the SE is the Jewish section of Westpark Cemetery. If you drive from Northcliff Corner, West along Milner Ave, it becomes 5<sup>th</sup> St. You pass the sports club on the right and cross over the Montgomery spruit, a tributary of the Braamfontein spruit. You pass an Engen garage on the left and then you will see the bottle store and Wood 'n Whotnots on the right. Between them is 9<sup>th</sup> St, and the new workshop is at the back of the yard with all the overspray.



Courtesy of Google Streetview, you can see the yard entrance is in the white wall, to the right of Wood 'n Wotnots on the corner.



#### Regular Events:

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

**Wednesday Workshop. Currently suspended until a new convener can be allocated. (Due to the move to the new location, Grant is unable to be in time to open the clubhouse.** To attend or volunteer to convene, contact Alistair Brande on [Alistair.brande AT gmail.com](mailto:Alistair.brande@gmail.com) or on 079 895 8709.

**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 new work shop on the 1st and 3rd 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) (Winston used to run the Wednesday workshops at the clubhouse until Grant took over.)

**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.

#### For sale:

Lathe. Coronet Elf 5 speed, swivel head with out board attachment ¾" shaft. R3000- negotiable  
Master chuck – Henry Taylor ¾" spindle. R300- neg Record Power chuck RP3000 R300- neg  
3 jaw chuck R300- neg Preferably the chucks should be sold with the lathe.

Adapter ¾" to 25mm, Faceplates 150mm x ¾", 50mm x 25mm R100- neg

Turning tools – 14 of various chisels, scrapers, gouges, parting tools by Robert Sorby, Henry Taylor R3000- neg

Wood finishes, blanks, etc. Tormek T7 with many extras R5000- neg

Contact Keith Lehman 083 447 8144

## I would like to try woodturning – how much do I need to spend?

This is a common question asked at shows.

You can save a lot by buying second-hand, but this is largely a matter of patience and luck. For most people, buying new is the only option. The prices quoted below are all new, list prices. Shop around – you may find better deals than I have listed.

### Pole lathes

If you have time and no money, you can make yourself a pole-lathe.

There are many designs on the Internet as well how-to videos on YouTube. Before you write off this option, watch a few video clips, and you will be amazed how quickly green wood can be turned into chair parts, albeit with some skill required.

If you can source some lengths of 2 x 4s in SA pine, then a few rand spent on hardware for the centres,

and some cord for the drive will allow you to build a workable pole lathe. The design above is typical of what can be found using Google. Select a design that appeals to you and build it in a day.

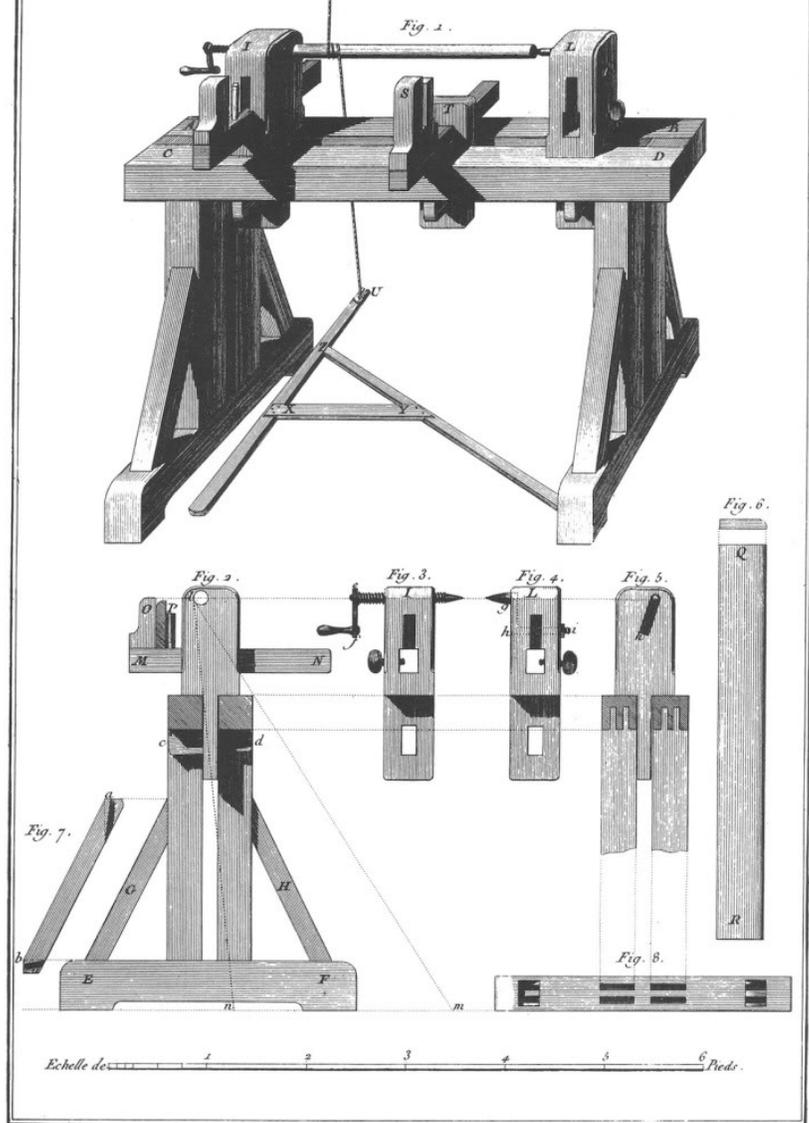
Just three cheap carbon steel turning tools – a spindle gouge, a parting tool and a skew chisel, and an oil stone (R50-) for sharpening will allow you to make lots of shavings. Because you are providing the muscle power, you will quickly learn good habits, such as avoiding scraping. You can make chair legs, simple bowls, tool handles, etc, mostly between centers.



Before you buy any powered machinery, invest in a good, comfortable set of impact rated safety glasses. (R100-) Don't be a cheapskate about your eyes! They can't be replaced.

### Cheapest Powered Wood Lathe:

Next up, the cheapest powered lathe with tubular bars can be had new for about R1700-. (Note that these are very basic, but they do work). They are readily available used, so visit some second-hand shops, and you may be able to save some money. If you find one with the out-board sanding disc on the left hand side of the headstock, this can be used for sharpening if you can't afford a small bench grinder (R550-) Small bench grinders are readily available used, but be sure to ask to see it running first. Inspect the wheels for signs of abuse, and leave it running for a



couple of minutes, standing well clear in case of exploding wheels!

Add in a set of carbon steel tools (R600-) and you can make shavings. You will be rather restricted in what you can make, mostly between centres and faceplate work, but you will be turning!

The main problem with these units is if you decide you like turning enough to upgrade, you will find the second hand value is very low. Also fitting a chuck may not be possible, due to the non-standard spindle thread.

### Mini lathes

Next up the scale is a mini-lathe with a cast iron bed, such as these offered by Adendorf (R3500- see picture on right); Mr WoodTurner (Nova Comet II – R6400-); or Hardware Centre (Nova Comet II and Jet Mini). These are very capable machines, and can take a very basic chuck (R1200- from Adendorf) as well when you need to expand your options. With a HSS set of turning tools (R1600- from Adendorf), and a small bench grinder (R550-) you can look forward to many productive hours of turning before you may feel restricted. Bed extensions are available for some lathes (Nova Comet – R1100- and the Jet Mini), so furniture spindle turning will also be possible.



Schalk has a selection of the Adendorf mini-lathes that he uses. You can visit him (see contact details above) and try out one before you buy. The club has a Nova Comet II and a Jet Mini, which you can try out as well.

So, just to get going with eye protection, a mini-lathe, a set of HSS turning tools, a grinder and the simplest chuck from Adendorf, budget on about R7000-. Don't think you can manage without some sort of grinder to sharpen your tools on a powered lathe – they go blunt quickly, and you can't work with blunt tools.



The mini lathe and tools are all durable kit, and will last you many years. They are also easy to resell, if you decide woodturning is not for you.

