



# TURNINGS

November / December 2005

WCWA, Pinelands Hobbies Club, Nursery Way, Pinelands

Please Note New WCWA Web Address - [www.wcwa.za.net](http://www.wcwa.za.net)

AWSA home page: [www.awsa.org.za](http://www.awsa.org.za)

Central Ohio Woodturners (Sister club to WCWA): <http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~awolfe/COW/cow.html>

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hi to all

What a month: Flower Show, Training, Entries for the Summer Showcase and a wonderful Open Day!

Taking one thing at a time, the Flower Show went off very well. Not only the stand and the demonstrations for which we got a gold medal, but also the sales which were excellent. Eric and Mike, thanks for all the hard work and the endless hours you contribute to the club's activities. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the success. Allow me a special word of thanks to Dave Stephenson for coming all the way from Sedgfield to share his talent and skills with us in Cape Town.

With the training coming to an end, any comments and contributions will help to improve the next sessions. We may even think of having a session or two for intermediate or even advanced turners. Please share your ideas with us. Early next year we will extend the present programme. Thanks to everyone who offered a class and those who participated. We have all learned from one another.

About the Show Case, only two words - Excellent and Thanks. The results will be made available at the meeting.

Due to work commitments I will not be able to attend the meeting on Wednesday as I have to be in Johannesburg. I am using this opportunity to thank everyone for their commitment, help and support. A special word of thanks to the Committee members. The debate was sometimes tough but your loyal support is much appreciated. Enjoy the rest of season and may you and your families have a blessed 2006.

*Louis*

## EDITORIAL

I can't believe that this will be the last newsletter for the year and that in order to say "Happy Christmas" from all on the committee that it's got to be done NOW! For those new members who are still getting into the swing of the club, we don't have formal meeting (or Newsletter) in December since so many members are away on leave. The club will however probably be opened on most Wednesday evenings for members' use, but check with Eric or one of the workshop managers before driving through specially.

We have all sorts of exciting events on the calendar for next year, the biggest obviously being the hosting of the AWSA congress at the end of April. Please guys, think out how you can help, and offer your input.

*Ken*

## Protected Trees - Follow up

Since the last newsletter, there have been a couple of developments, both of which indicate that the act was passed with every good intention, but that the wording was somewhat "over the top".

Bert Parker passed an interesting article on to me from the Weekend Argus, 29/10/05. In part it reads

"The National Dept of Water Affairs and Forestry plans to scrap the licence that governs the use of SA's 47 protected indigenous trees by next year.... If the Forestry Laws Amendment bill of 2005 currently before parliament became law sections of the National Forests Act that related to licences could be done away with...

...stressed that water affairs and forestry minister would ultimately decide the conditions of exemption"

Izak Cronje also heard an interesting radio interview with an official from DWAF in which he stressed that one of the main aims of the act was to curtail the massive trucking-in of both Kameeldoring and Leadwood in Gauteng.

He quoted a figure of over 90 tons per day going into poorer areas where it was sold as a more cost effective fuel than coal. It is coming both from within SA and from Namibia. We share the concern and appreciate the need for control of this gross over-utilization of these protected indigenous trees.

So guys, let's keep our ears to the ground. Do please let me know what you hear or read in this connection.

Thanks to both Bert and Izak for this information.

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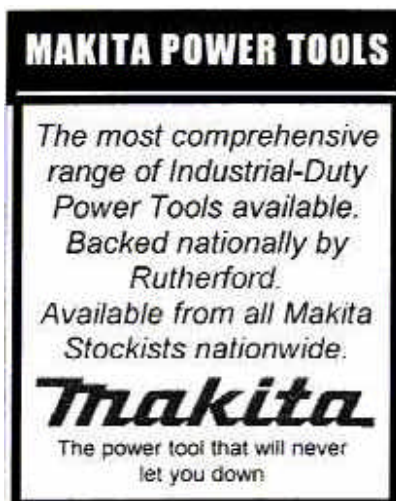
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### BANKING DETAILS -

**Western Cape Woodturners Association**

Bank: **Peoples Bank**  
Savings Account Number: **2204012882**

Branch  
Code: **120405**



**the bank will no longer accept it.**

### CAPE TOWN FLOWER SHOW

27th to 30th October 2005.

Our third and most successful participation in this event has come to an end. We did have trials and tribulations along the way but they made the effort all the more challenging and enjoyable. Two big changes from the previous shows were distance and setting. Firstly was the venue 50 or so kilometers from home, meaning that anything forgotten was not just round the corner. Secondly our stand was inside a huge marquee. How sturdy would the flooring be?

Having been told by the organizers that one could view the stand as early as Monday the 24th my wife Yvonne and I drove to Lourensford Estate on that day to assess the situation. The marquee had been erected over the weekend. It had rained extremely hard during the night and some leaks were more than obvious.

The flooring was carpet tiles laid over chipboard sheets supported by cross beams. It all looked very professional. When inspecting our stand, which was on a slight incline (not noticeable by sight but very perceptible to a sober guy like me) I had a sinking feeling. The flooring had been soaked by a generous leak during the night and the chipboard could not support the extra weight. I promptly went through the floor. Rather than during the show!

It was decided that the heavy equipment, lathes, trestles, exhibition stands and timber would be taken to the site on Tuesday as rain was predicted for the Wednesday so we could set up without having to run the gauntlet between rain drops.



*The Gallery*

So early on Tuesday Bernard, Sulayman and I met at the clubhouse, loaded our vehicles and in convoy proceeded to Somerset West. Near the Engen petrol station on the N2 I lost sight of Bernard. I contacted him by cell phone and he told me to keep going he just stopped at the garage as his bakkie was overheating and he wanted to check his engine's water level. Later on he told me that the problem was serious. His water pump had packed up and that his wife was on her way to help him. Sulayman and I dropped our equipment as fast as possible and made our way back to where Bernard was stranded. When we got there his wife and his baby son were sitting in the bakkie and he had gone to Somerset West with his wife's car to look for a replacement pump. During that time we transferred the equipment to our bakkies. We had barely finished when Bernard returned with a brand new water pump, which he installed. Once he had finished his roadside repair and tested it he returned home and Sulayman and I delivered our second loads. Thank goodness for cell phones. They may be a nuisance at times but we can't do without them.

On Wednesday, the rain having held off, Mike and I, joined by Ken and Phillip quietly set up the stand, arranging and rearranging things until we were all satisfied that we had reached the best possible presentation of our craftsmanship and working methods.

The 6 meters by 3 meter stand was divided into two distinct sections -  
*A gallery* showing articles turned by members and a table of timber off cuts showing rough pieces of timber before turning.  
*A workshop* with four lathes (a Record, two Jet and a Carbatek) a chain saw, Triton jaws and various hand and power tools.



*The Workshop*

Thursday 27th the opening day could not have dawned more perfect. Glorious sunshine bathed the Lourensford Estates, nestled in a valley at the foot of the majestic Hottentots-Holland Mountains creating an air of peace and tranquillity. After the champagne breakfast and the customary speeches the first shift set the wheels in motion.

Four lathes spun into action, creating beautiful shavings and spreading the scent of camphor throughout the marquee. The crowd was plentiful and our stand attracted a great deal of interest and admiration. From somewhere in that throng the judges scrutinized our exhibition and demonstration. Our image was surely enhanced by our dress uniformity, sponsored name embroidered shirts and nametags, which left no doubt in the public's eye as to who belonged to the Association.

Once again there was a wonderful vibe and contagious enthusiasm amongst the members. The workshop area was a little congested, but no one complained. The lathes being set at 90 degrees allowed for the usual "decorating" of one another with shavings to the amusement of both the visitors and the turners.

Each and everyone performed their duties with dedication and at no time did I see a member of the public left wanting for assistance. The interaction between visitors and our members was really evident. The shift changes went smoothly as if they had been practiced a thousand times. At no time did we have a lathe standing idle except Friday when Dave had time off and no one made use of his lathe.

We were kept busy non-stop not only with local residents but also with foreign visitors from all corners of the world. A predominance of Germanic sounding tourists was evident but British, French and US visitors introduced themselves and made good conversation with us.

We never had a time to relax from opening till closing times and this made our day seem very much shorter than it was and kept our spirits up. The chairs we brought to rest our weary feet were placed in a vacant spot in front of our stand and were never used by us but by footsore wives who sat down and waited patiently whilst their husbands followed our demonstrations.



*Young and old causing traffic congestion at the stand*

Visitors often commented that our stand was so popular that more aisle room could have been given to us so those interested could stand and watch whilst allowing others to pass.

On Saturday morning whilst checking the stand before opening time Mike noticed that our prized wild olive hollow form, which Dennis had turned and Ken had photographed and put in poster form and is used at all our public appearances, had gone "AWOL" in spite of the security measures in force. That really put a damper on our stand. On Sunday morning it was ceremoniously returned to us having been found earlier somewhere in the tall grass not far from the main exhibition area. It was in perfect condition showing no telltale signs of humidity or water marks.... makes you wonder!! That revitalized us and we tackled the final day with renewed enthusiasm. The show closed at 6.00pm and the break-up team got into action. How easy it is to take down what took the best part of a day to set up.

By 8.15 pm all our stuff had been returned to the clubhouse. Nothing broken, damaged or lost; quite a feat!

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The organizers conveyed their thanks to us for having such an informative, educational and enthusiastic stand and have invited us to participate again next year and have promised us a larger and better situated stand thus providing us with an ever greater opportunity to increase the public's awareness of woodturning.

A big "Thank You" to them for their confidence in our Association.

This year our stand achieved a Gold Medal, one up on our Silver of last year.

This would not have been achieved without the dedication, support and hard work of all the volunteers who assisted me in all aspects.



*Dave baffling the audience with his miniature turning.*

I would like to thank Dave Stephenson in particular who came all the way from Sedgfield and Mike Richards especially for his tremendous support before and during the whole show. He and I stayed at my wife's holiday house in Gordon's Bay thus avoiding heavy mileage in getting to Somerset West. The rest of the thank you list goes as follows:

Transport:  
Bernie Swanepoel, Sulayman Peck, Frank Maunder, Hugh Scholtz.

Setting up:  
Mike Richards, Ken Pilkington, Phillip Antrobus.



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Demonstrations:  
Dave Stephenson,  
Mike Bester,  
Bernie Swanepoel,  
Jimmy Stevenson,  
Graeme Hill,  
Hugh Scholtz and  
Dennis Laidler.

PR:  
Mike Richards,  
Sulayman Peck,  
Ken Pilkington,  
Derek Westley,

Frank Maunder, Sven Karth, Brian McCay, Harold Mills, Jacob Venter, Steve Bull, Johan Labuschagne, Gordon Bowers, Juri van den Heever, Edward Foster, Louis van Niekerk, James Brophy and Phillip Antrobus.

Break-up and Transport:  
Mike Richards, Bernie Swanepoel, Frank Maunder, Hugh Scholtz, Ken Pilkington, Juri van den Heever and Ed Foster.

I must not forget to thank Yvonne for having put up with the disruptions to family life and allowing me time off with the boys for the duration of the show. Annette Richards deserves a similar vote of thanks.

For those who enjoy statistics –

26 members took part.  
13 members exhibited work, each one selling at least one item.  
79 pieces were sold - value R 12980

As usual all pieces turned during the demonstrations were sold on our charity table. A total of R 1280 was collected.

Once again thank you all for wonderful help and support.

*Eric.*

### OPEN WORKSHOP DAY

Dennis and Gigi hosted an excellent open day at their home this month. Thanks to you both for all the trouble you went to, organising extra mini-lathes, gazebos, eats and refreshments.



I spent a most interesting couple of hours there on Saturday morning and was very impressed both with Dennis's Stubby Lathe and the Kelton hollowing tool he demonstrated.



Firstly, the lathe impressed enormously. Massive, very well thought out, a pleasure to use in spite of its mass and taking up a surprisingly small amount of floor area. Its split bed, combined with a host of different configurations for positioning of toolrests, make it unique. It's a long term purchase which I'm sure will serve Dennis very well for years to come.



When one has a curved "Samurai sword" of a tool shoved some 200 mm deep round a curving slot in a massive piece of Blackwood, it takes a fair amount of (cart) horse power to keep the chips flying out. Like so many things in woodturning, experience counts and Dennis occasionally had to get his apprentices out of jams and back on track.

It really seemed like an Aussie / NZ benefit day with even the versatile Rolly Munro hollowing tool putting in an appearance.

During the couple of hours I spent there, Dennis turned a chainsawn Blackwood blank down to a 450 mm bowl, took a "core" clean out of it's middle, forming the 380 odd mm blank for the next-size-down bowl.



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The flip side to the day was the Kelton Hollowing System. Like many, I'd read about it, but never seen it in action. The one thing I'd picked up somewhere was that one needs a fair amount of power to use it effectively. How true.



Most intriguing!

By the end of the day, Dennis had turned four excellent bowls out of that one piece of Blackwood. Any bowl is

a whole lot marketable than another bag of shavings, so that tool really does make a lot of sense.



Now just don't let Steve get one Anne. He's productive enough as it is! (Mind you, I would admit that nests of bowls do stack conveniently, one inside the next, saving shelf space...)



I eventually succumbed to an overwhelming attack of hay fever and had to call it quits, but from all accounts the day was enjoyed by the many who continued to drop in throughout the afternoon. By the end of it, some 30 members were the richer for Dennis and Gigi's generosity in opening their workshop doors to all.

Thank you for a great day.

Ken

### **BAND SAW BLADE GUIDES**

I recently decided to invest in a bandsaw for the first time.

There are two important lessons I've learned to date.

First of all, a bandsaw is not a luxury for a woodturner. It's a necessity. Since starting to turn I've used a trusty little Stihl 017 petrol chainsaw for most of my cutting. A heck of a lot better than nothing but a bandsaw, according to all that own, one was the way to go. Correct!

Secondly, roller (or Carter type) blade guides are not the things to use if you intend to cut green wood.

The 14 inch Jet model I chose came with Carter blade guides - precision guides that run on each side of the blade, above and below the table. I soon found that putting damp wood through the saw with these fitted rapidly produced a layer of sticky sap / sawdust on the blade. This got rolled onto the blade by both sets of rollers, creating a snowball effect. Within a short time the blade was being forced forwards out of the ever decreasing gap, the tyres were both covered in gunk and the saw was sounding like a pebble mill.

Onto the net and eureka - I found via the Axminster catalogue that Jet in the UK sell the same model with *solid guides*, offering the *precision bearing guides as an aftermarket upgrade!*

Well, in my case I needed to do just the reverse, so a phone call to Brian Jolly at Strand Hardware and a day later I had the alternative assemblies in my hands. Fitting was easy, cost was minimal and the fix immediate. Now when I cut green wood, I watch with satisfaction as the crud gets peeled off the blade by the solid metal blade guides.



*Precision Bearings*

Once again, it comes back to that all-important question - Watchawannitfor?



*Solid guides*

The precision guides are now safely stored for precision use on dry wood and I'm taking much pleasure in being able to safely saw out ideally sized accurate blanks.



Izak walked past my woodpile the other day and chortled

"Guess who's got a bandsaw!"

Right as usual.

Ken

## **FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Wed 16<sup>th</sup> November *Summer Showcase and year-end braai.*** This is the last formal function for the year, so bring along something to braai on the provided fires. You'll need to keep your tongue lubricated, so bring some appropriate tung oil and enjoy discussing what I hope will be a wide range of entries for the summer showcase. ***Hope to see you there from around 18h30 onwards.***

Eric, a special thanks to you for your pre- and post-organisation that we too often take for granted at our functions. It is appreciated though not always expressed.

**Wed 23rd and 30th November** – open workshop evening.

**Wed 7th Dec** Committee meeting and Open workshop

**Wed 14th, Wed 21st Dec** - Open Workshop evenings

**Wed 4th January** Committee meeting and open workshop

**Wed 11th January** Open workshop evening.

**Wed 18<sup>th</sup> January** First formal meeting of the New Year, instant gallery, raffle, and demo by Thys Carstens on *Resin Inlays*. This promises to be a sell-out!

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> February** – *Pens and Pepper mills* – Bert Parker, Ken Turner

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> March** *Collaboration evening*

Other Wednesday evenings will follow the normal "Open workshop" pattern.

## **THE MARKET PLACE**

We run commercial adverts in our newsletter. If you wish to advertise, or know of a company or person who might like to advertise, please contact Hugh Scholtz or Ken Turner. Rates for an advert placed in the monthly newsletter, are R350 per annum. The adverts are rotated monthly to make it fair to all.

### **Hydrowax**

Is available from Eric at R50 per 5litre or R20 per 2 litre at the clubhouse. You never know what the South Easter will blow down.

### **For Sale**

Chris van der Merwe (8866323) of Stellenbosch has the following, in mint condition, for sale:

1. Rockwell 4 speed wood lathe Model 46/111
2. Femco electric motor 0.37 KW
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5. 2 tool rest bases
6. 2 face plates: 75mm, 150mm.
7. 1 screw center for headstock

8. 8 Stormont Sheffield chisels
  9. 1 Sorby gouge 10mm
  10. 1 Footprint gouge 10mm
  11. 1 inside calliper
  12. 1 Outside calliper
  13. 1 Book on woodturning by Bruce Boulter
  14. 1 Video on woodturning for beginners
- Price: R3000-00 o.n.o.

### **For Sale**

Shopsmith Mark 5 combination woodworking machine, complete with standard single purpose tools and additional accessories.

Available with workshop manuals an assortment of woodturning chisels and workshop aids.

Asking price R 4 750.00 phone Leon de Beer 082 877 9038. for an address and more details. I'm sure he'll be happy to answer your questions.

## **TAILPIECE**

A little light-hearted fun to end the year -

### **Four All Who Reed and Right**

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes;  
but the plural of ox became oxen not oxes.

One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
yet the plural of moose should never be meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice;  
yet the plural of house is houses, not hicie.

If the plural of man is always called men,  
why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

If I spoke of my foot and show you my feet,  
and I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,  
yet hat in the plural would never be hose,  
and the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
but though we say mother, we never say methren.

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,  
but imagine the feminine, she, shis and shim.

Let's face it,  
English is a crazy language.

There is no egg in eggplant,  
nor ham in hamburger;  
neither apple nor pine in pineapple.  
English muffins weren't invented in England.

We take English for granted.

But if we explore its paradoxes,  
we find that quicksand can work slowly,  
boxing rings are square  
and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea, nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing,  
grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends,  
but not one amend?

If you have a bunch of odds and ends  
and get rid of all but one of them,  
What do you call it?

If teachers taught,  
why didn't preachers praught?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables,  
what does a humanitarian eat?

Sometimes, I think all the folks who grew up speaking  
English should be committed to an asylum for the  
verbally insane.

In what other language do people recite at a play and  
play at a recital?

Ship by truck and send cargo by ship?

Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same,  
while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language  
in which your house can burn up as it burns down;  
in which you fill in a form by filling it out  
and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

~Author Unknown~

Happy Christmas to you all  
and  
only the best for an  
amazing 2006.