



# TREEN TOPICS

**NOVEMBER 2009**

*Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society Inc.*

*Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm*

*Nowra Technology High School. Moss St. Nowra*

*Secretary: Peter Jackson P. O. Box 2163 Bomaderry 2541*

<http://www.shoal.net.au/~woodcraft1/>

## **TREEN TOPICS NOVEMBER 2009**

It was good to see Noelene and David, who were mere visitors at the September meeting, there again this month in their capacity as members. For the second meeting in a row we saw two visitors, this time named Alan and Frank, who are presumably potential members. I think we are beginning to see the results of our higher exposure to the public bearing fruit. I have a list of members dated January 2006 which has twenty two names crossed out. A few are deceased and a few have had to give it away because of age or health problems and the rest are no longer members for reasons unknown. Admittedly during that same period nine new names have been added to the list but even with these, there is a net reduction of thirteen members. It is to be hoped that this decline has hit the bottom and that we are now seeing the beginning of resurgence in membership numbers.

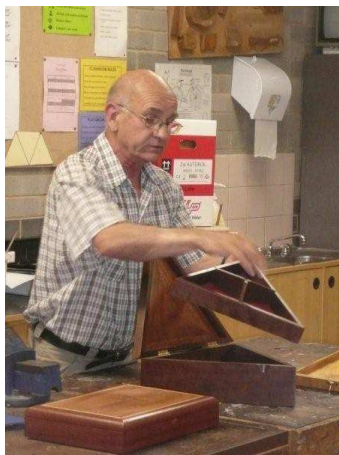
Our in house speaker was Peter Jackson on the subject of machine design and lathe design in particular. Peter has made a number of lathes and it was only on the fourth or fifth attempt that he got one working satisfactorily. In the early prototypes there was always one component that did not perform as it should and this was enough to cause him to consider the machine unsatisfactory. Nevertheless, he learnt by these mistakes and eventually finished up with a good one which is still in almost daily use in his shed.

There are numerous features on a lathe that need to be assessed

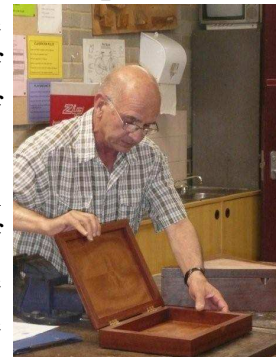
before you make a purchase. Things such as the size of the motor, bed length, clearance underneath, weight etc all need to be considered, and if you are a raw beginner, you hardly know where to start .If money is not a problem to you then it is a simple matter of spending a fair amount on a quality machine and you will be almost sure of getting a good one.

However most of us do not have that luxury and we have to compromise. This makes it all the more important to decide what features you want and to determine whether the machine under consideration meets those requirements. It would definitely pay dividends to consult with someone who knows more than you do and then to heed their advice. These principles apply to any major purchase and they are probably even more relevant if you intend to make your own machine.

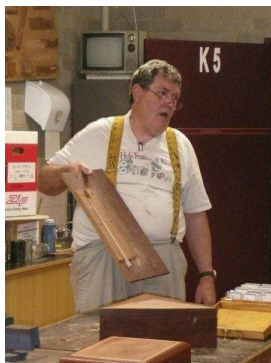
A well presented talk from an experienced presenter.



Demetrio was first out of the blocks for show and tell with two impressive boxes. One was triangular in shape with sides about 375mm long and 100mm high made of Brazilian walnut. The lid instead of being flat, which would have been simple to make, was raised in the middle which meant it had to consist of three pieces with compound mitre joints where they join. It was made of Blackwood and “topped” off the job to perfection.



The other one was a document box made from jarrah with a nice black speckle through it. The lid was out of banksia with a huon pine inlay. Both of the boxes were finished with shellac and wax which is a departure from Demetrio's usual oil finish.



David Hire produced a variation on Peter Farrell's vice jig. It is made for holding smaller pieces and works effectively.



Since Gordon had the turning instruction he has not been able to stay away from the lathe and he came



up with two more nice camphor bowls with walls about 4mm thick .



Peter Jackson continued his tool making with a centre finder made from blackwood and brass which was nicely finished.

In response to a request from the quilting ladies he is mass producing a small roller that they use in their craft. It has a turned wooden handle and a slightly convex turned wooden roller connected with a U shaped steel bracket. He had to make a press to get the required shape in the steel bracket.

### Creative Moments 2009

Gordon gave us some interesting statistics from the exhibition which exceeded all previous years except in raffle sales. This can be attributed in part to the fact that the takeaway sales continued throughout the whole period where previously it only went for one weekend. This meant that people bought more of those items and therefore had less money to spend on raffle tickets.

Overall sales totalled over \$11000 (Previous \$7000) from the sale of 284 items.

Raffle winners were: Bernadette Hughes – Throw and Cushions, Shirley Arthur – Wooden Platter and Mr Davis – Bird Bath.

It was very good to see Shirley amongst the winners.

### **TREEN TOPICS NOVEMBER 2009**

As you can see the standard of journalism has reduced significantly for this edition of Treen Topics as Peter Farrell is away. This is the bad news the good news is that Peter will return rested and ready to write up a storm latter in the month.

The best way for me to keep out of trouble is to keep it simple so here we go. The following events will take place in the near future:

Friday 13 November 09 our members are manning the Bunning's BBQ in the afternoon in support of the fund raiser for the Cancer Council.

Tuesday 17 November 09 members of the committee will attend the Bunning's BBQ brief to determine what days the SWS will be given access to BBQ facilities in 2010.

Wednesday 18 November 09 George Viellaris will give a talk on

designing the inside curve of a bowl. This will complete the lectures on Bowl turning for the moment.

Saturday 21 November 09 Jim Davey will demonstrate and instruct on planing techniques. Jim has shown us how to fettle a plane now he is going to show us how to use the plane. This workshop will be at the Nowra Men's Shed as normal.

Friday 27 November 09 our members will be manning a display and demonstration at Bunning's in support of the fund raiser for the Cancer Council. We will start setting up at 3pm and should be packed up by 8.30pm Hrs

Sunday 6 December we will be having our traditional Christmas BBQ at Kangaroo Valley. Unfortunately the cost of living has finally caught up with the BBQ and we will need to charge \$6 per head rather than the \$5 per head we have traditionally charged. Daryl will be organising the catering and Ted Hawkins from Kiama will demonstrate scroll work. We will also have visitors from the Shellharbour branch of the Sydney Wood Carvers. The BBQ will start around 10am and finish when we go home.

Please note there will be no more meeting or workshops for the remainder of 2009 we will start our new program in 2010 with a social BBQ.

Wednesday 20 January 10 social BBQ at Dennis O'Keefe's home at Jaspers Brush. Remember this BBQ is self catered so whatever you want to eat or drink please bring it with you. Dennis is located at 45 O'Keefe's Lane in Jaspers Brush, if you get lost just ask anyone in Jasper Brush and I bet they will be able to direct you to Dennis's place.

In addition to the above program there are a few other things happening. We will be running night workshops at the Nowra Men's Shed in 2010. We have decided that the workshop will be on Tuesday night with the first workshop scheduled for Tuesday 23 February 10. The theme for the first workshop has as yet not been decided but we expect to have it sorted out by early

December 09. If the theme of the workshop does not appeal to you then there is nothing stopping you from bringing along your own project. There will be expertise available to help any one who is experiencing difficulties with their project. In addition to the theme project we will be

undertaking some form of woodturning on the night.

The SWS Induction Pack has been completed and we expect to distribute the pack to all members early in 2010. The pack provides the basic safety instructions for members.

Business Cards will also be available either in December 09 or early 10. The business card saga has been running on too long and we will all be glad to finally see a usable card.

Greg Clark

## **RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

### **NOVEMBER 2009**

Since we have covered the program in another article I won't bother repeating it in this article. I would however like to give you a glimpse into the organising that goes into the program and thank those responsible for the implementing the program.

Firstly I would like to thank Jim and Suzie for running the Plane Tuning workshop at their home. It may not be apparent but both Jim and Suzie put a lot of effort into making the workshop run smoothly. Jim has all his equipment laid out and ready for use and Suzie sorts out the catering. I must not forget to thank Warwick who comes along at midday and helps Suzie with cooking the lunch. The workshops run at Jim's and Suzie's place just run smoothly because of the preparation that they undertake.

The turning classes that George and Peter are running are another success with many of our members and members of the men's shed receiving training. We are continually looking at ways to improve the delivery of the training without burning out our two volunteer instructors. Both George and Peter can take a well deserved pat on the back for there efforts.

I must also mention the efforts of our catering staff, John always has the tea and coffee ready after the meeting and Terry is doing a terrific job catering for the workshops. In addition to the catering Ian is running the raffle in a very efficient manner.

It is easy to forget the work being done by our members in support of the

club and each other but when something runs smoothly it most likely not noticed but when it goes wrong it stands out and I believe it is important to acknowledge the people who are making the society run smoothly.

I know I have left out a whole lot of other members who are doing outstanding work in making the society run smoothly but I would like to mention Gordon. Gordon has done an incredible job of sorting out the accounts for the Creative Moments Exhibition, this task is not one too many of us would willingly but Gordon has excelled.

Just to change the tack for a while the wrap up meeting for the Creative Moments Exhibition will be held early in November, we have been listening to the constructive criticism and the suggestions to make the exhibition better and we will address the problems before the next exhibition. It should be remembered that despite some problems with the display of items and the usual problems with accounting the Exhibition was a great success and the organising committee and all the members who participated have done a great job.

Greg Clark

*The Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society Inc. was formed in 1987 and is Comprised of persons interested in understanding woodcraft and developing skills in its many and diverse forms.*

*The aims of the Society are to:*

*Foster an understanding and appreciation of woodcraft  
Provide mutual advice, help and a problem solving forum.  
Collaborate with other craft groups in the Shoalhaven.  
Involve the families of "woodies" in social activities.  
**Your Committee***

<i>President:</i>	<i>Greg Clark</i>	<i>44478384</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Warwick Robinson</i>	<i>44434080</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Peter Jackson</i>	<i>4423 6153</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Gordon Elford</i>	<i>44214397</i>
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<i>Committee:</i>		
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	<i>Daryl Roth</i>	<i>4421 6775</i>
	<i>Jim Davey</i>	<i>4447 8790</i>
<i>Men's Shed Rep:</i>	<i>Don Parkinson</i>	<i>4421 8695</i>

***Next Committee Meeting:***

*Bomaderry Bowling Club*

*7.30pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009*