

# TREEN TOPICS

*September 2011*



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*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*



## TREEN TOPICS SEPTEMBER 2011

### Creative Moments 2011

The big day we have been working towards all year is almost here. Our entries have to be delivered to the Art Centre the day after this meeting. It is our yearly opportunity to show the community what we can do and to benefit from our labours by selling things if we want to.

***Do not forget that your entry form MUST be in Jim's hands by 5.00PM on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> which is the week BEFORE this meeting.***

The reason you are receiving this Treen Topics so early is to remind you of this deadline.

A sheet will be doing the rounds at this meeting seeking volunteers to man the table at the exhibition. Please be ready to put your name down for this easy to do job. It is not fair when the same people have to double up because so few members are willing to give a hand. Each session is only a few hours so take this chance to do your bit for the club.

### In House Speaker

None other than the recent recipient of the Len Arthur Award, Gordon Elford, will be our speaker this meeting. His topic will be the rose engine. A **rose engine lathe** is a specialized kind of geometric lathe. The headstock rocks back and forth with a rocking motion or along the spindle axis in a pumping motion, controlled by a rubber moving against a rosette or cam-like pattern mounted on the spindle, while the lathe spindle rotates. Rose engine work can make flower patterns, as well as convoluted, symmetrical, multi-lobed organic patterns. No other ornamental lathe can produce these "rose" patterns.

Gordon made his own rose engine so it will be of special interest to the turners amongst us.

## PRESENTATION STUART GRAHAM

On behalf of the members of the Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society I would like to present Stuart Graham with this certificate in recognition of his contributions to the society. Stuart joined the society on 20 November 2002; and has been a strong supporter of the society holding the position of Librarian and attending most if not all of the Bunning's presentations. It is at these presentations that Stuart's personality came to the front; charming the ladies with his turned wine goblets and entralling the kids by presenting them with objects straight off the lathe.

Stuart and Judith are moving to Goulburn to be closer to their children; we wish them the best for their move.

Greg Clark



## **.LEN ARTHUR AWARD 2011**

The Len Arthur Award was established in 2008 as the Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society was facing a dilemma, there were a significant number of the long term members leaving the society for one reason or another and no satisfactory means of recognising their contribution to the society. The traditional way was to make the member a Life Member of the Society but this is really not suitable for members who are leaving the society.

It was fortuitous that we had a conversation with Shirley Arthur late in 2007. Shirley wanted to establish some sort of award for society members who were not necessarily the best woodworker but made a significant contribution to the society. Shirley wanted the award in memory of Len. This conversation was the beginning of the Len Arthur Award.

The selection of the recipient of the award is by taking nomination for the award from the members and having the committee make the final decision as to who will receive the award from the list of nominations.

The winner of the Len Arthur Award for 2011 is Gordon Elford. A little bit of background on Gordon. The Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society records indicate that Gordon joined the Society on 20 March 2002. If my maths is correct Gordon has been a member for nine and a half years.

A little bit of background on Gordon. Gordon started work in 1955 as an apprentice wood machinist working for Robs Northern Industries in Lismore. Gordon married Barbara in 1959 and they had three children two boys and a girl. Gordon's career took a big turn after getting married and he joined the ambulance service in 1962 which meant he had to move to Nowra. Gordon worked for the Ambulance service for 40 Years before he retired.

Gordon and Len both were members of Probus and it this association with Len and Charlie Francis that had Gordon joining the Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society. Len asked Gordon to join the committee in 2002 and Gordon obliged becoming the Treasurer a position he holds today. Gordon also joined the committee of Creative Moments in 2002; oddly enough becoming the Treasure of that committee also, I think he likes to count money.

In the words of Gordon he said that he was inspired by Len and this convinced him to join the committee because he felt that the more he put into the society the more he got out of the society. Len and Gordon both visited Bruce Ledbetter the woodturning specialist and they both brought lathes from him.

From a personnel note when I first meet Gordon I thought that he was a bit grumpy but once I realised he was hard of hearing and working with him these past few years I have nothing but admiration and respect for Gordon and his abilities.

Without any further fuss it is with great pleasure that I would like to ask Shirley to present the recipient of the Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society Len Arthur award for 2011 Gordon Elford.

Greg Clark



## **BUNNINGS PRESENTATION 20 AUGUST 2011**

The Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society was asked to participate in the Spring into Spring promotion run by Bunning's on Saturday 20 August 2011. The request was for the society to provide a display and demonstration in the store from 1000 Hrs. till 1400 Hrs. The Spring into Spring promotion is an annual event for Bunning's and we have attended on numerous occasions over the preceding years. The big difference this time was that there were very few other community groups asked to participate; so we must be doing something right.

The display was a big success we gave out all of our Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society pamphlets a pile of SWS business cards and a small mound of flyers for the Creative Moments exhibition. The public was pleased to see us and very appreciative of the display with lots of positive feedback.

I would to thank the regular demonstration crew of Stewart and Gordon; Stewart turns miniature goblets which he gives to the public, Gordon demonstrated his Rose Engine which fascinated the crowd. In addition to the regular display team Bob Jolliffe joined us with a lathe demonstration. Bob has been a member for a number of years but has been busy making a living up country on a mine site and has found it difficult to regularly attend meetings. Bob got in touch with me a couple of weeks ago and asked if he could help; I said yes and sent Bob a copy of the safety regulations; Bob promptly went out and manufactured a safety screen for his lathe a great effort I am sure you will all agree. When Bob started the demonstration he started turning Camphor Laurel bowls which sent a pleasant odour around Bunning's and attracted lots of people to the our stand. The Camphor Lauren trick will have to be used again it worked well.

We had lots of interest in the society but only time will tell if we get any new recruits; it a bit like fishing you cannot catch fish without having bait in the water.  
Greg Clark

## **LADIES NIGHT 18 AUGUST 2011**

Ladies night went off without any problems, once we sorted out the change of night from the usual Wednesday to the Thursday night. Bomaderry Bowling Club is becoming a very busy place with a regular poker game on a Wednesday night making our usual room unavailable.

The members who attended had a pleasant evening with the format we now adopt being a fairly relaxed affair; a meal followed by the presentation of the Len Arthur award. There is a series of photos and short videos being played on the big screen and this provides entertainment whilst we are having the meal.

For those of you who do not already know, Gordon Elford was awarded the Len Arthur award for 2011; Gordon is a well deserving recipient of the award always giving freely of his time and expertise to assist the society and its members. Shirley Arthur made the presentation and it always good to see Shirley and her family take the time to attend and put the personnel touch on the award.

In addition to the Len Arthur award Stuart Graham was also presented with an award in recognition of his support to the society; Stuart has attended every Bunning's presentation and is a popular attraction turning his miniature goblets and presenting them to the public. Stuart enthral the kids and charms the ladies.

Special thanks to Liesel and Bob Turnbull for putting together the collage of photos and short videos showing the societies activities for the past twelve months and also for bringing along the Huskisson Girl Guides projector equipment .

Greg Clark

## **RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT SEPTEMBER 2011**

I am in a mad rush to complete ramblings for September as I was too late to meet publishing date for Treen Topics in August.

The first thing I should mention is CREATIVE MOMENTS opens on 22nd September 2011 and I know we are all rushing to finish off that special project for display; I am trying to complete my coffee table so that it will be available. Not only do we need items for display but we need people to volunteer as stewards for the exhibition; you must remember that these exhibitions do not run themselves.

John Knowles is recovering well and we can expect to see him back in circulation shortly; John is a strong supporter of the society and we all wish him well during his recovery.

By the time you read this the Canberra Working with Wood show will be over I am hoping that it will be better than the Sydney show as I was thoroughly disappointed in the Sydney show; to many non-wood related suppliers and nowhere near enough equipment on display.

Greg Clark

The wider the blade the more tension is required and the first issue was when using a 1/2" wide blade the tension spring did not have enough capability to absorb (maintain) cutting tension. The result is called barrel cuts where the cut is convex. Second major problem was spine of the saw (support arm assembly between the wheels) was very

## lightly fabricated and was bending under tension. User Report – Jet 18Q Bandsaw.

*By Bob Jolliffe.*

Without doubt the versatility of a bandsaw makes it one of the most useful cutting machines a workshop can have. I upgraded 2 years ago from a 14" to an 18" machine; however the research which concluded in buying the Jet 18Q took place over a 6 month period. The decision to go Jet was based on the shortfalls of my first machine. The theory behind a bigger machine was "this is the last one I will need" and features such as re-saw capability, horsepower, user friendly and above all market standing/supportability were key factors. So here we go – my first "user report".



The Jet 18Q Bandsaw.

### Reasons for Change,

My first machine was purchased from a very reputable Sydney and National distributor and was described as a 14" heavy duty bandsaw. It carried the distributor's brand name and cost \$829.00. Point of sale discussions centred on what were my intended uses for the saw which were basically preparation of

woodturning blanks and nothing out of the ordinary usual workshop stuff.

The same saw can be purchased all over the world under a different distributor's brand name.

I struggled to get the performance as described by the seller and continually adjusted the saw parameters endeavouring to improve capability. Bandsaws rely on two very important factors – Blade Tensioning and Blade Tracking.

### Some of the issues,

Blade tensioning is achieved by a spring absorbing energy and "stretching" the blade to a predetermined value. Blade tracking is controlling the location of the blade on the crown wheels. During cutting operations blade guides keep the blade from being pushed around as the load/tension on the blade varies as more/less horsepower is forced into the blade to make the cut.



I completed a check using a dial indicator and found the upper and lower sections converged significantly with tension applied. This created two more problems – tension reliant on the “body” resistance to bending and effects on alignment of the two wheels (coplanar). Most blades will drift but this is compensated by rip fence adjustments. However when coplanar adjustment is out this cannot be easily compensated for.

Through experimentation I got the saw to work but limited to a 3/8” blade and the tension required to drive it. It actually performed very well with tension, tracking and drift issues disappearing but that was it – limited to what it could successfully achieve using a 3/8” blade. The design capability of this machine was specified up to 3/4” wide blades.

## Research,

Based on my experiences the key issues for me in bandsaw selection criteria will be;

- Spline construction and resistance to bending
- Tensioning system
- Blade guides
- Horsepower
- Ease of adjustments.

## The Contenders,

A shortlist of bandsaws was developed that was reduced to two real contenders. Laguna LT14” series which has had consistent rave reviews. However there are significant disadvantages the main one being you had to import yourself and if something does go wrong how do you fix it?

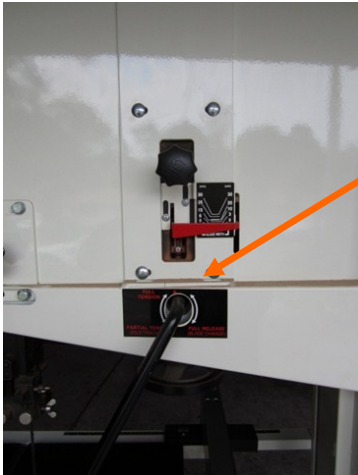
The second was the Jet 18Q, an upgrade from the popular Jet 18, which also had good reports (not comparisons) and described *“as real hobbyist machine with capability to fill a position in a small professional workshop”*.

The Jet spline is designed using a pressed triangular tapered section which strengthens the construction by reducing welding (fabricated section) and increasing the beam depth – cleaver! Refer photo showing the spine.



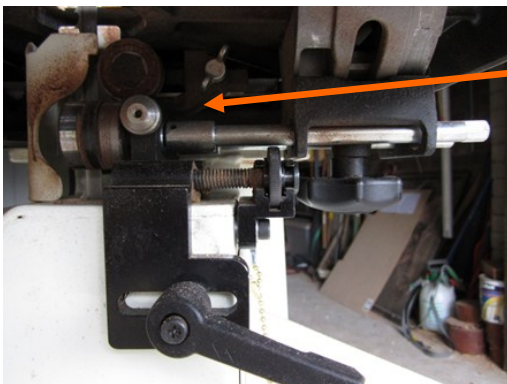
The tensioning mechanism is huge and variable for blade widths between ¼” to 1-1/2” and has two tension readout displays and incorporates 3 positions activated by the quick release lever:

1. Tension reduced when not in use so blade stretch will be eliminated.
2. Blade in tension for normal operation
3. All tension removed for blade changing but keeping the existing tension settings in place.



*Tension quick release lever*

The blade guide system is European style (bearings) and very solid in construction. All adjustments can be made with the cabinet doors closed and requires no tools. Additional to blade guides coplanar adjustments can be made (if required) by adjustment screws fitted to the lower wheel mounting assembly. Traditionally coplanar adjustments involved moving the upper wheel in or out on the shaft assembly using shims, the Jet system is easy.



*All adjustments to blade guides are accessible without opening the cabinet doors and no tools are required to complete adjustments. Photo shows lower blade guide assembly*

Horsepower comes from a 2HP totally enclosed motor which has 2 speed capabilities by changing the drive belt position. Jet motors are designed to input consistent horsepower with high efficiency.

Product support was no issue - I own Jet equipment and it has never given and problems except for a damaged lock lever on my lathe which was replaced with one phone call.

The Jet 18Q gets a tick in every one of my research key issues. Time to buy.

My experience with Jet dealers takes me to QLD every time as they are more than helpful and ready to do a deal. Negotiating a deal in Sydney always falls short of expectations.

My recommendations for Jet dealers are Gary Pye at GPW Woodturning on the Gold Coast and Gregory Machinery, Richlands, Brisbane. The deal you can strike pays for the freight and all the additional extras they will throw in or offer at a reduced rate.

Gregory came to the party by supplying the Jet 18Q, 2 additional blades, Jet mobile base and delivery to Wollongong for a tad over \$2.2K and that was when the aussie dollar was well below \$US.80c. A few days after ordering and a call from the courier the Jet was in my garage at Corrimal.

After unpacking and assembling (took about 2 hours that included squaring everything and tuning) I found the table perfectly flat and the powder coat finish on the body immaculate. The Jet comes with a 3/4" blade fitted that has multiple teeth and shallow gullets. Not a real woodworking blade but never the less time for a cut. The blade pushed through pine, hardwood and some Gidgee without any effort. Re-sawed some 8" Sydney Blue gum with relevant ease so I decided to get this blade blunt before changing it. The machine worked perfectly straight out of the box and no coplanar adjustments were necessary!!!

A few months later I needed to cut some bowl blanks and the 3/4" blade would struggle with the radius so I changed to a Henry Brothers "Special" – 1/2 3 TPI Bimetal. The results using this blade are phenomenal as it actually fly's through anything you put in front of it.

This combination, in my opinion; of Jet 18Q and 1/2" Bimetal blade will take some beating.

Re-sawed 10" River Red gum into parallel strips 12mm thick with consistent easy and no barrel cutting. The blade tensioning/adjustment and coplanar alignment systems work fine and the issues with the old bandsaw are non-existent.

There are negatives, a second dust extraction port in the lower cabinet would eliminate having to clean it out after every "hard days use", the top wheel tracking adjustment hand wheel is not as robust in design as the rest of the machine but probably no issue and the Jet mobile base is not as well designed or as easy to move around as other aftermarket models.

I do not think I have pushed the Jet to its full potential, after 30 minutes of continual Camphor Laurel bowl blank cutting the motor was not even hot. I have yet to build a proper re-saw fence therefore veneer cutting at under 2mm thickness has not been attempted – I have a Henry Brothers 1-1/4" re-saw blade ready to go when the time comes.

In summary the issues of the first bandsaw are not present in the Jet, but the Jet was nearly three times the price. There has not been any 18" bandsaw reviews (comparisons) completed so opinions of experts in the field were not available and the Jet was purchased based on my research.

But this machine is currently fulfilling every role it was purchased for with consistent ease and therefore makes me a very happy Jet 18Q owner.

## ***Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society Inc.***

*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 a 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>
<i>Editor:</i>	<i>Peter Farrell</i>	<i>4422 8177</i>
<i>Committee:</i>		
	<i>Bob Turnbull</i>	<i>0412333477</i>
	<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 5th October 2011*