

Gold Coast Woodturners Inc.
P.O. Box 965,
Mudgeeraba Qld 4213

Gold Coast
Woodturners
Inc.

Newsletter

February 2009

Annual General Meeting—Change of date

At January's General Meeting it was decided to move the AGM from Saturday 21 February to Saturday 21 March.

The February Newsletter will be published in time for the required fourteen days notice to be given to members of the change of date for the AGM, as required by our Constitution.

The reason for this is that our Auditor feels it necessary to charge us for her time and as February is a very busy month, she can not charge us a reduced rate, which she will apply in March. For many years, AAA Business Accountants has not charged for their time and effort so I suppose that in today's financial climate it was inevitable that this would happen. I would like to thank Elisabeth Schühle of AAA Business Accountants for all of the gratis work she has done for us in the past.

Membership fees for 2009 are due soon. **Please make sure your fees are paid by the Annual General Meeting so that you can nominate/be nominated and vote.**

You should soon receive an account for next years Membership Fees.

Our Life and Honorary Members will also receive a form in the near future for filling out and returning. No pay-

ment will be required by those people.

For those who need to renew, your renewal forms need to be filled out and returned to David Hallett with the money enclosed via the Club.

We still believe that this is the best deal in town.

The Annual General Meeting of the Gold Coast Woodturning Assoc. Inc. will be held at the Club on Saturday 21 March at 8.30 a.m.

All positions on the Committee will be declared vacant and a nomination forms are provided on page 2 in this Newsletter. Please take the time to think about nominations.

Nominations for positions close on 7 February 2009. They should be in writing and signed by the member and his proposer and seconder and should be lodged with the **Secretary**.

Please give serious thought to your commitment to the Club. It is only as good as we make it.

We certainly need some new blood in the running of your Club. If you can see things that need to be changed, modified or tinkered with, put your hand up and have a go. If you are interested in seeking a position or helping an office holder with their duties come and talk to one of the present Committee Members who will greet you with open arms and of course explain what the duties are.

Deadlines

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is noon **Monday 2nd March**. Please either send articles via email to woodturners@aanet.com.au or leave in the club office addressed to the Editor, for collection.

Please Note: No articles will be accepted after the above date.

Coming Events

2009

February

Saturday 21

General Meeting

Demonstration and BBQ

March

Saturday 21

Annual General Meeting

General Meeting

Demonstration and BBQ

April

Saturday 18

General Meeting

Demonstration and BBQ

May

Sunday 2

Bunnings BBQ at Nerang

Hands On

Monday

6.30pm—9.00 pm
(beginners)

Tuesday

8.00am—3.00 pm

Wednesday

6.30pm—9.00pm

Thursday

8.00am—12.30pm

Saturday

First of each month
1-5 p.m.

Meetings

1st Thursday of the month

7.00pm

(Committee)

3rd Saturday of the month

8.30am (General)

Nomination Forms

Gold Coast Woodturning Association Inc.

I, _____ propose _____.

For the position of _____ of the above Association.

I, _____ second the proposal.

I, _____ accept the nomination for the above position.

Signed by the Proposer _____.

Signed by the Secunder _____.

Signed by the Nominee _____.

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January Demonstration by Mike McGee & Howard Benstead

This month we learned about the use of resins and high quality glues.

Scott Alexander from ATL Composites told us all about his products and how they applied to woodturning and woodwork generally. Scott did his time with QANTAS as a technician, using all types of high end products as applied to the aircraft industry and, after taking a package, went on to work with ATL Composites.

He started off by comparing the most used glues on the market, cross linked PVA, polyurethane, epoxy, techniglu and West system. Tests concluded that Techniglu was the best and PVA was the least effective, being on par with animal glue. Each member present was given a "show bag" with documentation and fact sheets of all

products demonstrated. I have read through them and they are a mine of information.

The first product demonstrated was Perfect – Gloss self levelling timber coating. He talked about the proper way to mix the product, how to apply it and how to get rid of air bubbles. This product, being self levelling, is used on flat surfaces such as table tops or burl clock faces. The surface must be level when the product is applied and air bubbles can be removed by judicious use of a propane torch. A demonstration piece was brought along to show the difference between sealed and unsealed wood.

The next product discussed was Techniglu. A few of our members already use this and can vouch for its quality.

The main thing to be aware of is not to clamp too tight (0.1 to 1.0 mm) to allow enough glue to remain in the joint. The surfaces to be glued should be finished to between 80 & 120 grit to allow the food to key with the adhesive.



Sealed and unsealed Perfect-Gloss application

January Demonstration by Mike McGee & Howard Benstead—Cont'd

Techniglué can also be used to fill defects in wood, e.g. a burl with voids that need to be filled. Scott added a black colour to the mix and applied it with a spatula, covering the surface. When completely dry it can be sanded off, leaving only the defects filled. Depending on the wood, it is advisable to seal the wood first to get the best result. Different affects can be achieved by using various pigments, metal filings etc. Concrete colouring pigments work well but he was not sure of some of the craft colours that are out there. Have a practice with these first before committing yourself.



Mixing the filler

Peter Poulton & Howard Benstead brought along shallow platters in which a 10mm groove had been turned in the rim. Howard had placed shell pieces at regular intervals and poured in a mix of clear Perfect gloss to fill the groove. The groove in Peter's platter was filled with the same product, tinted black. Both pieces should be dry and cured within 24 hours, depending on the weather.



The filler applied

Available but not demonstrated was Rapid Cure 5 minute Epoxy Resin Glue (similar to Araldite. It comes in reasonable sized bottles and has a long shelf life.



Howard placing clear resin in his platter

Also not discussed were the West System Epoxy fillers, a sample of which is available for members to try at the Club. For those of you who were at Turnfest last year and saw Marilyn Campbell demonstrate, she used the West System products. At that time

they had to be imported but now are sold locally by ATL Composites.

As with all chemicals, gloves and all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment should be worn. Some people are sensitive to the smell and fumes of resins and can develop an allergic reaction.

All products demonstrated are available from ATL Composites and Club members have been offered trade price. I believe Nigel Rose is also a contact for these products.

Scott was also kind enough to give the Club samples of all the products used today, for use by members. Thanks, Scott for a very informative and interesting demonstration. Finding out about new products is not always easy so this was a great opportunity to keep abreast of current technology.

The photographer today was Howard Benstead and I was the scribe.



Products now available to try at the Club

For Sale

For Sale

5000 litre poly water tank

Merino Beige (Cream Colour)

Ring Nasser on: 0447 123 028 or 0404 177 594

Club Shirts—To place an order give size and \$10 deposit to Club Secretary.

THE WOODIES SHOP

Have you found that you need woodturning consumables on club day? Did you know that the club has a shop where you

can stock up on popular items. The Store Manager is Bill Egan and all Tutors have a key to the Store Room.

For sale are the following items:

- Power sanding pads of various sizes (Ray Henley specials)
- Sanding sealer
- End sealer
- Croda (60%)
- EEE polish

- Special friction polish from the Peninsula club
- 50mm cloth-backed Sandpaper (Klingspore brand) in the following grits:
120, 180, 240, 320, 400 and 600.

NOTE: All members are free to advertise in this space but the Editor needs to be notified each month if you wish to re-advertise.

Club Competition – January by Mike McGee



This month's challenge was to make a bud vase, a popular piece to make at turning demonstrations, being quick and easy. That was the intention but, as you will see by this month's entries, they were neither quick nor easy. The voting was fairly close, as should be expected by the quality of the four

entries submitted for judging.

It is a pity that the numbers of participants for this competition has reduced to the four regulars represented here. It's a lot of fun and we all should be up for a challenge.

Linton's winning entry

The winner this month was Linton Allen, with an ebony piece inlaid with various hardwoods and corion. Thanks to all who competed.

Linton has chosen as next month's challenge a **Spinning Top**.

Commemorative badge

The cloth badges, made to commemorate our Club's 25th anniversary in 2008 are now available from Secretary John Meikel. They are free of charge and each member, financial in 2008 is entitled to one.

For those members unable to see John in person to pick up the badges, he will post them out.

Sew it on your apron, turning jacket, Club shirt, wherever you think to be appropriate, to publicise the Club and the 25 year milestone.

Thanks, John for organising the production of this piece of memorabilia. It involved a lot of phone-calls, running about and a large amount of John's time.



More Kid Jokes

A young snake said to his mum "what sort of snakes are we, mum, are we poisonous or non poisonous?"

His mum said "Don't you worry about that son, It doesn't matter what type of snake we are You just go out and enjoy your childhood and don't be such a worrier"

The lad moaned "I really, really need to know right now, mum, really I do. Please tell me. Please"

"Alright son, I give in. Why do you want to know that is so terribly urgent ?" said Mrs snake.

"Well" moaned the lad. "I just bit my tongue"

A young polar bear cub approached his mother one day and asked, "Mom, am I a polar bear?"

"Of course you are," she replied with a smile.

"OK," said the cub, and padded off. Later, he found his dad out by the iceberg.

"Dad, am I a polar bear or could I be a Brown bear or a Grizzly bear a Kodiak bear or any of those other sorts"

"You are a Polar bear, for sure!" said

his dad, wondering a bit at why his son would ask such a silly thing.

The next day, the cub asked the question again and again.

"Are you and mom really polar bears? You are? Well, then, does that make me a polar bear? Pure, 100% polar bear?"

Finally, his parents couldn't stand it any longer. "Son, you're driving us crazy with this question! You are a polar bear! Why do you keep asking?"

The cub looked up and confessed, "Because I AM FREEZING!"

Grass Trees provided by Clive Woodgate

Grass trees or blackboys are very much part of the Australian landscape and uniquely Australian. They fascinated the first European settlers, since they were unlike any other known plant. In fact, they are a living fossil developed early in the evolutionary stakes for flowering plants.

Lumbered with a difficult to pronounce and even more difficult to spell botanical name of *Xanthorrhoea*, they have recently become prized for their landscape attributes. Tasmania has four species namely *Xanthorrhoea australis*, *Xanthorrhoea arenaria*, *Xanthorrhoea nana* and *Xanthorrhoea minor*, with the first species being most widely represented in the woodland communities.

For nearly two centuries, land managers have showed both apathy and lack of concern towards these very slow growing plants and their associated sandy, well-drained habitats. Today, the communities containing these grass trees are very limited in extent, with many of the remnants subjected to various degradation processes. These are taking their irretrievable toll on the grass tree population, which include land clearing, land improvements and the spread of the phytophthora fungal disease.

A sad story of destruction

This relates to an experience with an exploitative landowner in an outer-suburban area well known for its grass trees, who offered for sale large numbers of magnificent specimens. His aim was to cash in on the grass trees, prior to decimating their woodland community, in order to improve the land for a few sheep.

Although information on the rarity of his resource was sensitively provided, the outcome was the clearing of many acres of this grass tree community and the sale of transplanted specimens to unsuspecting nurseries. The word 'unsuspecting' is used because, unless expertly transplanted, they tend to die slowly, leaving the nursery out of

pocket, along with many angry customers demanding refunds.

Sadly, even today the remaining grass tree's survival continues to be threatened, whilst the property remains out of sight from the road and in the possession of the farming family.

Features which inspire landscapers and backyard gardeners alike

Grass trees are related to the lilies, but are placed in a separate family. They are close relatives with the sagg (*Lomandra longifolia*) with which it share many attributes.

They are very slow growing, with some elderly specimens being amongst the oldest living plants on a worldwide scale, surviving for many hundreds of years.

Beautiful old examples are survivors of many wild fires and develop into architectural masterpieces. Wild fire can cause their blackened trunk (1 to 2 metres) to branch into two or even more heads. These consist of thick, rough corky bark, surrounded by a whorl of long, wiry leaves with unique flowers.

The flowers appear as long cylindrical spikes (1 to 3 metres) arising out of the skirt of grass like leaves, often flowering as a direct response to a very recent wild fire. This ability to be one of the first flowers to appear after a wild fire ensures a food source for many insects and birds, in an otherwise alien, blackened moonscape environment. The tops of these spikes are covered with a dense pattern of tiny white to yellow florets. These in turn produce seed capsules containing a few hard black seeds. Their excellent horticultural qualities make grass trees prized garden exhibits.

Cultivation is not easy

Cultivation presents great challenges, with the seed taking up to a year to germinate and the young grow at a rate of only a centimetre or so a year.

Transplanting from the bush is not recommended, unless imminent development will destroy the plant. Transplanting requires diligence and heavy equipment to extract the very deep underground stems and roots, whilst keeping the residual soil attached. Flooding the root zone helps maintain an intact root system and digging the new sites hole prior to the arrival, followed by deep watering of the plant's roots zone, aids the chances of survival.

A traditional Aboriginal favourite

Grass trees were a 'staple' plant for the aborigines, providing food, drink, fibre and materials for making implements and weapons.

I would like to acknowledge Australian Plants Online, web address:

www.asgap.org.au/APOL33

This article was written by Phil Watson and its original title is "The Grass Tree—its uses and abuses" and the photo was taken by Alfred Guhl



Minutes from the January General Meeting

Meeting opened at 8:34 by President Bill Egan

Apologies: Keith Scott, Bert Lloyd, Ron Quickenden, Jim Stoner and Jackie McGee.

Bill Egan thanked all who helped at the Harvey Norman Bar B Q's at short notice. Dave Hallet to give a report later during the meeting.

Secretary Report: The Minutes for General Meeting held on 15th November 2008 were presented, moved be accepted by Anne Williamson and second by Mike McGee, motion carried.

Mail In: Telstra Account, Origin Account, ING Statement, Patrick Hargraves, Bunnings Nerang, Mudgeeraba Show Society, Di Rielly and Ted Shepherd.

Newsletters: West Auckland, Bribie Shavings, Toowoomba Wood, Mid North Coast and Redwood.

Treasures Report:

David Hallet moved the report be adopted, second by Linton Allen, motion carried. David Hallet presented a request from the Auditors of our Club finances. The Auditors believe that there is a lot of time and work to audit the financial books and presented us with options.

The meeting was informed that the Auditor is now charging. The club was given two rates to consider, the cheaper one meaning that the AGM be moved to March. It was decided to move the AGM from 21st February 2009 to 21st March 2009.

Dave Hallet moved a Motion **"We pay the Auditor \$800.00 plus GST of \$80.00 and moves the AGM from 21st February 2009 to 21st March 2009 to obtain the reduced cost of an audit."** second by Mike McGee.

Discussion for and against the Motion took place. Clive Woodgate moved an Amendment to the Motion **"We move the AGM to 21st March 2009 and shop around to get a cheaper priced Auditor"** second by Jim South. Speakers for and against the amendment were called for; the amendment was put to the vote and defeated. The original motion was then voted on and carried.

Des Kurz then moved a Motion, **"As soon as possible we source another Auditor to audit the clubs Financial Books"** second by Peter Polton. Speakers for and against called for; motion voted on and was carried.

General Business:

Demonstrators are required for Evandale and the Clubrooms for Australia day.

Helpers required at Evandale to set up and dismantle the display on Australia day.

Des Kruz has up graded the First Aid Kits.

Bill Egan has a site at the Toowoomba Show Grounds for February Swap Meet available to anyone who would like to use it.

We need two volunteers to clean up around the club on Tuesday and

Thursday, Jim and Ashley stepped forward.

It is suggested that a chain be placed to stop indiscriminate dumping of wood at side of building as looks untidy.

Proposed woodshed, Mike McKee contacted Ted Shepherd's office and the preliminary work of surveying and plans would be left up to Ted Shepherds Office.

Nigel Rose asked about the Keys for workshop and band saw room locks not done yet. Motion forward by Nigel **"The meeting give the approval to go ahead with the lock change of both rooms"** second Mike McGee, motion carried.

We need workers for club functions at Saturday lunches, as we cannot expect the same people to do it all the time.

Newsletter, some people appear to get the newsletter and some do not, the computer version. If there is a constant problem with receiving it may be an upgrade in software or computer skill is required. If still a problem a hard copy will be made available to that person.

Update the picture of the Clubhouse on the web site.

Des Kurz moved a vote of thanks to Jackie and Mike for the work on the newsletter.

Meeting closed at 9:45am

New Club Shirts

As you will be aware, there has been a name change to our Association, We are now known as the "Gold Coast Woodturners Inc"

New Club Shirts, with the new name embroidered on the back and pocket will soon be available from Secretary John Meikel. He showed a sample at last months General meeting and the quality is of a better quality than previously available. The cost will be \$35.00



Position Holders—2007/2008

Patrons:	Ian Morris and Jim Stoner	
President:	Bill Egan	5500 4765
Vice-President:	Vacant	
Secretary:	John Meikle	5572 1840
Treasurer:	David Hallet	5529 7977
Committee:	Edward Smith	5574 7764
	Mike McGee	5590 7822
	Jackie McGee	5590 7822
	Peter Poulton	5520 3921
	Terry Dewley	5530 7976
Grants	Mike McGee	5590 7822
Welfare Officers:	Jim Stoner (North)	5577 1068
	Harry Anstey (South)	5534 8553
Membership Officer:	Harry Anstey	5534 8553
Stores Controller:	Bill Egan	5500 4765
Librarian:	Peter Poulton	5520 3921
Newsletter Editor:	Jackie McGee	5590 7822
	woodturners@aanet.com.au	
Maintenance/Equipment:	Graham Braund	5537 3462
Shirts, aprons:	Bill Egan	5500 4765
Key Register:	Mike McGee	5590 7822
Showcase:	Alex Simpson	5522 0665
First Aid/Safety Officer:	Des Kurz	5530 5703
	Mike McGee	5590 7822
Tutors— Monday	Mike McGee	5590 7822
Tuesday	Bill Egan	5500 4765
Wednesday	Ray Mahoney	5535 2489
Thursday	Graham Braund	5537 3462

Phone in clubhouse—for emergencies only:

5530 2300

Links to some English Woodturning Club Websites

This month I want to refer you to a couple of English Club websites. Have a browse and see what our English compatriots are up to.

Just cut and paste these links into your browser.

<http://www.sheffieldwoodturningclub.org.uk/>

<http://www.somersetwoodturners.org.uk/>

<http://www.cambridge-woodturners.co.uk/profile.htm>

<http://www.torbaywoodturners.co.uk/>

<http://www.forestofberewoodturners.org.uk/>

<http://www.berkshirewoodturners.org>

[uk/index.htm](http://www.tudor-rose-turners.co.uk/)

<http://www.tudor-rose-turners.co.uk/>

I just had to include this American site. The list of woodturning links is HUGE.

<http://mgorow.tripod.com/index-2.html>

If undelivered please return to:

Gold Coast Woodturners Inc.

P.O. Box 965,

Mudgeeraba Qld 4213

Website:

President: Bill Egan

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: John Meikel

Treasurer: David Hallett

Editor: Jackie McGee

woodturners@aanet.com.au

**Gold Coast
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Inc.**

Membership Subscriptions:

February to January \$30.00 per annum plus \$15.00 joining fee.

Pro rata subscriptions available to new member joining during the year.



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2/87 Minjunbal Dr, Tweed Heads South

(opposite Toyworld & Red Rooster

Ph:- (07) 5523 2008. E:- colourcopyshop@optusnet.com.au



*Accountants & Tax Agents
with a difference!*

Elisabeth Schühle
Senior Tax Accountant
CEO

Suite 2, Ground Floor
3 Short Street, Southport
Qld 4215 Australia

Tel: +61 7 55 328 122
Fax: +61 7 55 328 177
Email: aaaom@austarnet.com.au