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From the Chairman



Chairman Neville Comins

Celebrating our 30 years as an Association

This year is a proud one for our Woodwork Association of Pretoria, and particularly some of the founders, with Willie Marneweck and At Smit still as active and supportive as ever. From its initial membership of about 20 in 1989, driven by the many enthusiastic members who have been part of the various Management Committees, and the functions and events organised, this has grown some eight-fold and continues to attract new members.

The Association set out some significant goals in the original constitution which remain just as valid today. Characteristically, we are a community who are happy to share our knowledge, to train members through practical demonstrations and talks in specialist groups, mentorships and project work. A highlight of each year, and one of the Association's attractions is an exhibition of our members' work both for display and sale. Here, as can be imagined, there is some friendly competition for judged works, graded certificates and awards, but always in a great spirit. Over the past year, we have invited other crafters and interest groups to join our "Wood Expo and Craft Festival", proving to be a unique local event to encourage people

to partake of the various hobbies and crafts. We are encouraging our members to cross the traditional skills boundaries and focus to broaden their skills to become 'complete woodworkers'. More and more, a number of new members ask to learn the basic techniques to get started and I am sure that this structured training will be formalised in the coming years. They often say that we are in an era of 'life-long learning', and woodwork is no different.

We are celebrating our special anniversary with a dinner where we can hear more about the 'early days' and the vision that drove these pioneers. These are the people to whom we owe a lot for their insight and efforts. May the Association continue to grow for another 30 years!

Association's Monthly Meeting:

26 June 2019

By Paul Roberts

The monthly meeting was devoted to woodcarving and Audrey Miles made the presentation on **Architectural, African Art and 3-D Carvings** to the 30 attendees. Audrey gave an overview of the history of woodcarving such that from China and Egypt (4000 BC). Many major woodcarving works are associated with religions eg churches. Audrey illustrated her talk with a series of pictures showing intricate carvings. It was clear that the prominent carvers had a large number of assistants. Audrey suggested that Cabinet Makers could link up with carvers for the embellishment of their work. Audrey and her colleagues had prepared a display of different carvings shown in the photograph below.



Audrey Miles presenting her talk on carving



Wesley Welman of REM and prospective purchasers of tools!



Display of different types of carving

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Wesley Welman of REM Centurion then made a short presentation on the services offered by the Company.

Marius du Toit in the 'Show and Tell' demonstrated a cheap and effective clamping system for frames. He uses bicycle tubes which he stretches around the frame and holds it in position with a clamp.



Marius du Toit explaining the frame clamping system

Cabinet Makers Workbench Group

Project:

6 April 2019

By Paul Roberts

A sturdy and flat workbench is an essential tool for any serious cabinet maker. A Group Project has been formed under the leadership of Paul Roberts. A total of nine participants will be active within the Group. The first meeting was held on 6 April at the home of Paul Roberts. The meeting dealt with a large range of topics viz:

- Objectives of the Group;
- Information and resources;
- Workbench design parameters;
- Workbench hardware;
- Selection and procurement of wood;
- Workbench storage;
- Workbench construction;
- Training;

The objective for the next month is to decide on the bench type and design as well as the choice of hardware.



Workbench Group: L to R

First Row: Stefan Nordhoff, Paul Roberts, Kyle Jackson, Jaco de Wet

Second Row: Gawie Botha, Stefan Hefer

Third Row: Michiel van den Berg: Walter Webb, Tony Aimer

After refreshments, the Group went to Paul's workshop to view machining jigs and equipment for the large mortise and tenons for the frame of the bench.



Paul explaining the use of the mortise jig.

Cabinet Makers and Restorers:

8 June 2019

By Paul Roberts

The Cabinet Makers and Restorers Interest Group met in the workshop of Stefan Hefer. The topic for the day was "**Surface preparation and finishing**". The meeting was attended by 23 persons. Surface preparation and finishing is a critical element of any woodworking project and is often poorly done due to time pressures at the end of a project. Final finishing can make or break a project. The presenters and sub-topics were:

- **Leon Wolmarans**- Surface preparation and finishing for small boxes;
- **Louw Trichardt**- Finishing with Danish Oil;
- **Neville Comins**- Finishing of the Lowboy with Shellac (interior) and Danish Oil. Neville also dealt with Woodoc.
- **Paul Roberts** – Application and use of a monocoat.

Leon demonstrated the finishing process he applies on his boxes. Sanding is done down to 400 grit. Leon then uses an Australian product called Ultra Shine which effectively takes the surface to a 4000 grit-finished surface after the application of Danish Oil. Thereafter, a coating of traditional wax is applied.

The inside of the box is finished prior to glueing and the outside after the box has been assembled.

Leon also discussed his Dremel cut-off saw for banding (see photo below).



Leon Wolmarans demonstrating his finishing techniques



Leon's small cut-off saw

Louw Trichardt then took the floor and talked about the application of Danish Oil. The key part of his message was "to read and follow the instructions on the tin!". Louw sands his work to 600 grit. The Danish Oil should be applied until the surface looks wet and shines for a few seconds. Leave for 3 to 4 minutes and then wipe off. Leave to dry. Louw recommends using paper towels. He then applies a Libron wax followed by sheep wool buffing.

Neville Comins explained the various finishes used for the Lowboy Project. Shellac was used as an interior finish and is quick and easy to apply. A so-called 2-pound cut mix was used. (120 gm shellac in 1 litre of solvent). Neville stressed that proper sanding through the grits was essential to remove any machining marks. Sanding should be along the grain. At times a card scraper is needed for a good finish, particularly for difficult grain. Shellac can also be used as a grain filler and a base for other finishing coats.

Neville touched on the use of Woodoc. Multiple thin coats applied with a rag works well.



Louw Trichardt explaining the application of Danish Oil



Neville Comins illustrating the finishing of a Lowboy drawer.

Paul Roberts presented his talk in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. This document is on the Association website.

Michiel van den Berg during the Show and Tell portion of the meeting talked about the spectacle boxes he had made from European Beech. Initially the sliding top was tight, but subsequently they became loose due to dryer weather conditions.



Michiel van den Berg with his spectacle case.

Draaiersbyeenkoms op 22 Junie 2019

Deur Lou Coetzer

Op die tweede kortste dag in die suidelike halfgrond, het 'n klompie draaiers die koue geïgnoreer en in die Scoutsaal byeen gekom vir hul maandvergadering. Diegene teenwoordig het dit dan ook terdeë geniet met die program wat Jan Richter en sy span saamgestel het.

Die hoofitem op die agenda was 'n demonstrasiepraatjie deur Helen du Plessis oor produk-fotografie (product photography). Dit is die fotografering van 'n produk vir advertensie-doeleindes. Die hoofokus van haar aanbieding was om aan te dui hoe die neem van die betrokke foto beplan en aangepak moet word. Sy het talle wenke bespreek en op modelle toegepas oor

die komposisie van die foto, die keuse van 'n agtergrond met passende of kontrasterende kleure en die hoek waarteen die foto geneem moet word. Deurgaans moet die teikenmark, naamlik die potensiele kopers van jou produk, in gedagte gehou word. Verskillende teikenmarkte sal natuurlik verskillende soorte foto's vereis en voor beplan moet word.



Helen du Plessis in 'n tipiese houding om 'n beginsel te beklemtoon. / Helen du Plessis explaining with typical gestures.

Verder het Helen heel prakties al die wenke op 'n selfoonkamera toegepas en verduidelik hoe daar maklik en goedkoop geëksperimenteer kan word deur jou selfoonkamera te gebruik. Verskillende foto's kan van dieselfde item geneem word teen verskillende hoeke, by verskillende agtergronde en vanaf verskillende afstande. Deur hulle dan krities te vergelyk kan die ideale foto makliker geselekteer word.

Aan die einde van die praatjie het die talle vroe vir Helen geleentheid gegee om meer van haar uitgebreide kennis met ons te deel. Dit het geëindig met die aanbeveling dat selfs draaiers slimselfone behoort aan te skaf wat met goeie kameras toegerus is om hulle mooi items mee te fotografeer. Braam Burger het namens die vergadering vir Helen bedank en 'n pen in 'n kassie aan haar oorhandig om ons dank mee te betuig.

Ná 'n kort pouse waarin Marietjie van der Merwe se sout- en soethappies geniet is, het Braam Burger die

lede terug geroep stoele toe om met die vergadering voort te gaan.

Vervolgens het Braam en Jan die administratiewe sake aan die vergadering voorgehou. Braam het volgende maand se ledeverjaarsdae genoem, en 'n volledige oorsig van ons vereniging se uitstalling in Oktober gegee. Hy het selfs 'n lugfoto gebruik om die uitleg van die hele terrein te verduidelik en al die belangrike uitstal- en demonstrasie-ruimtes aan te dui. Die elektroniese kopie van die advertensie oor die uitstalling, sal aanstons per WhatsApp en e-pos aan alle lede uitgestuur word. Gebruik dit asb. om soveel moontlik vriende en familie op jou e-poslys van die uitstalling in kennis te stel.

Hardware Centre hou hul opedag op die laaste Vrydag in Julie, dis op die 26ste. Jan Richter vra vrywilliges om daar te gaan demonstreeer. Skakel asb. met Jan daarvoor as jy belangstel om te help.

Die finale datum en plek vir vanjaar se AWSA-kongres is bekend naamlik vanaf 6 – 9 September by Wildernes. Die hoofdemonstreeerder by die kongres sal Nick Agar van Engeland wees. Hy verhuis aanstons na Amerika en sal nie maklik weer in Suid-Afrika kan kom besoek aflê nie. Hierdie sal dus die laaste geleentheid wees om hom in aksie te sien en by hom te leer. 'n Paar lede het aangedui dat hulle vervoer daarheen beskikbaar het. Skakel met Jan indien jy sou belangstel om vanjaar se AWSA by te woon en van die vervoer-aanbod gebruik wil maak. Ons volgende draaiersbyeenkoms is op Saterdag 27 Julie en belowe om 'n besondere en baie unieke geleentheid te wees. Let wel dat die byeenkoms by die Nuwe Hoopskool gehou gaan word. Jan Richter en sy span het gereël dat daar 'n klompie draaibanke sal wees om, tydens 8 sessies, die kinders, hulle ouers en die betrokke onderwysers te leer om klein items te draai. Die hoofdoel van die byeenkoms sal wees om entoesiasme onder die kinders, hulle ouers en die onderwysers te kweek en hulle sommige van die basiese vaardighede van houtdraaiwerk te leer. Braam Burger sal vir die finale reëlings met die draaiers skakel wat reeds aangedui het om as mentors op te tree.

Die draai-uitdaging (huiswerk) vir daardie byeenkoms is 'n kruik, verkieslik een met 'n deksel. Dit sal geskenk/verkoop word aan veeartse vir troeteldieras. Hierdie behoefte is aan die draaiers gestel ná talle versoeke deur troeteldier-eienaars vir kruieke om hul geliefde troeteldiere se as in te bêre. Dit gaan

voorwaar baie interessant wees om die verskillende groottes en vorme hiervan te sien. Sterkte aan die draaiers hiermee.

Johan Kramer het die inkomste uit die skuurpapierverkope alles aan ons Houtwerkvereniging geskenk. Groot dank gaan aan hom daarvoor.

Die tweede laaste item op die agenda was die bespreking van al die huiswerkstukke. Hoewel die voorgestelde huiswerk 'n item moes wees wat uitsenter-uit-draaiwerk (off centre turning) behels het, was daar ook 'n paar ander interessante items soos die sigaarhouer wat Jan vir Braam gedraai het. Die uniekheid aan die silindriese sigaarhouer is die skroefdraad waarmee die prop/deksel opgeskroef word. Dit is met 'n 3D-drukker in twee dele geproduseer en toe onderskeidelik in die houer en sy prop ingelê. Andy Sutton was met 'n seer knie aan 'n stoel gekluister en kon nie draaiwerk doen nie. Toe gebruik hy sy tyd om 'n handsak of twee van leer vir sy dogter te maak. Hy kon dit met mooi foto's bevestig.

Die verskeidenheid items word in meegaande foto's gewys.



Carel vd Merwe se besondere kurkeikbakke met die breë kurkrande. / Cork oak natural edge bowls by Carel vd Merwe showing the thick corky edges.



Stephan Kruger se gelamineerde naaldhouer (links) en Jan Richter se sigaarhouer. / A laminated needle holder by Stephan Kruger (left) and a cigar-box by Jan Richter.



Twee uit-senter-uit-items. Links is 'n gesteelde fles van geelhout deur Dion Koch en regs 'n kersblaker deur Lukas Botha van makuri. / Two off centre items. On the left, by Dion Koch, is a lidded flask from yellowwood, and the other one by Lukas Botha from makuri.



Twee uit-senter-uit-bakkies. Links is die draaier onbekend en regs is van mooi makuri-hout deur Riaan Booyens. / Two off centre bowls. Left by an unknown turner and the other from makuri wood by Riaan Booyens.



Twee kelkies van kiaathout deur Mike Potgieter. Die stele is uit-senter-uit. / Two wine-cups from teak by Mike Potgieter. The stems are off centre.



Twee uit-senter-uit-amperbakkies. Links is van swarthout deur Lou Coetzer en regs van boekenhout deur Niconette du Toit. / Two off centre barely bowls. On the left by Lou Coetzer from blackwood and the other by Niconette du Toit from boekenhout aka willow beechwood.



Bak met besondere kleur deur Niconette du Toit van avokadohout. / Bowl with remarkable colour by Niconette du Toit from avocado wood.



Vlak bak deur Gerhard Joubert van makseringhout. / Flat bowl by Gerhard Joubert from syringa wood.



At Smit se uit-senter-uit-bak van jakarandahout met sy vierkantige vlerk. / Off centre jacaranda bowl with square wing by At Smit.



Johan Labuschagne se fles-pot van kamferhout afkomstig van Kirstenbosch. / A beautiful flask by Johan Labuschagne from camphor wood originating from Kirstenbosch.

Die laaste item op die agenda was die lootjietrekking vir die klomp tydskrifte en blokke hout wat deur lede geskenk is. Baie dankie daarvoor. Die opbrengs gaan vir die huur van die Scoutsaal.

Association of Woodturners of South Africa (AWSA) News

Jan Richter, member of the Woodworking Association of Pretoria, is the current AWSA Chairman and supplied the following information about the forthcoming Symposium.

The Executive Committee of the Association of Woodturners of South Africa would like to confirm that the annual AWSA Symposium will take place in September 2018.

The details are:

AWSA Symposium

Theme: Spirit of Africa

Keynote Demonstrator: **Nick Agar**

When: **7 to 9 September 2019** (there will be a cocktail function on the evening of 6 September.

Where: Wilderness Hotel,
Wilderness

2019 Challenge: Decorated with African Art

Cost: R600 per delegate

AWSA Masterclasses

Nick Agar will present two master classes on the two days preceding the Symposium.

Cost: R2500 per masterclass

Nick Agar visited South Africa in 2009 when he toured the woodturning clubs and demonstrated at the AWSA congress at the Centre of Visual Arts, UKZN at the

Pietermaritzburg campus, where he demonstrated his signature Viking bowl. Nick would like reflect the Africa environment in his turning at the Symposium, hence the theme "Spirit of Africa"

Please visit Nick's website at <http://www.turningintoart.com/> to learn more about this remarkable and well known over the globe artist.

Master Class 1

Topic: Airbrush on Platter

Date: 5 September 2019



Master Class 2

Topic: Viking bowl and variations on Viking bowl

Date: 6 September 2019



The list of demonstrators at the symposium includes Carel van der Merwe, At Smit, Aswin Ramhith and Braam Burger. There will also be the usual raffle and auction.

Enjoy your turning.

Regards

Jan Richter

AWSA Chairman

For enquiries, suggestions etc please mail to

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Editorial

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