



Crosscut

Newsletter of the Witwatersrand Woodworkers' Association

PO Box 411346, Craighall, 2024

With sponsorship from **builders warehouse**

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 Go to <http://mysite.mweb.co.za/residents/tpope/homepage.html> for back issues of *Crosscut*.

Next Main Club Meeting on Wednesday, the 12th March 2008 from 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. To be announced.

Next Turner's monthly meeting is on Monday, the 3rd March 2008 at 18h00 at the WWA clubhouse at REEA. Roland Westgate from Richem Products cc, will be discussing glues and their characteristics and the types of products they have.

News

February Main Club Meeting. Dave Arendze from Den Braven talked about their wood-fillers, sealers and polyurethane foam products. They also sell a thin super-glue which may be suitable for use with saw dust for filling cracks.

February Turner's Meeting. Hans Kritchner showed some of the boxes he makes and sells. He also showed an innovative design of sword-stick that he makes. His unusual designs and selection of woods opened our eyes to possibilities and new ways of making boxes.

From the committee:

Hobby-X 2008. The annual Hobby-X show will take place on 6th to 9th March 2008 at the Dome, Northgate. This is our annual showcase for the Club and we are hoping to grow our numbers by attracting new members and generating income for the club. WWA have been allocated a stand free of charge and will be holding daily workshops open to the public and demos in conjunction with Bosch, Dremel, Henkel and HTH. The Turners stand is in conjunction with Hardware Centre with turners making guest appearances on the WWA stand. All materials and tools for the workshops will be provided, and a simple project will be completed, that each participant will be able to take home. Simple hand tool and power tools techniques will be used, such as a jig saw, drill and screw-driver. We need members to volunteer a few hours on Friday, 6th, Saturday, 7th and Sunday, 8th to lead the workshop demonstrations. **If you are able to commit this time please contact Karen Fairfield on 083 879 6729.**

WWA Committee members and duties:

Four of the present committee members would like to stand down at the May 2008 AGM, and we are looking for volunteers to stand. Being on the committee is not a huge job; in fact most of the jobs are quite simple. To this end, here is a list of the duties of the committee members, so you can see what you are volunteering for should you stand.

Chair (Official committee member per constitution – Presently Jenny Tomlinson)

- Conduct meetings – main club, committee, ad hoc
- Co-ordinate club events, such as annual braai
- Manage club finances with treasurer and co-sign approval of expenditure

Secretary (Official committee member per constitution – Presently Kenneth Jackson)

- Take minutes of meetings
- Maintain list of members
- Distribute newsletter
- Write official club correspondence, such as thank you letters, condolence letters

- Co-sign approval of expenditure

Treasurer (Official committee member per constitution – Presently Glenn Lopich)

- Manage club finances – account for payments and report monthly on status.
- Prepare annual financial report for AGM
- Produce an annual budget for forthcoming year, including determining required subscriptions
- Receive payments such as membership subs, sponsorship, course fees
- Make payments such as rent, maintenance expenditure, sundries

Membership (Ordinary committee member – Presently Karen Fairfield)

- Promote club to sustain membership at appropriate level
- Maintain contact with members to ensure that club is offering what the members need

Newsletter (Ordinary committee member – Presently Trevor Pope)

- Compile monthly newsletter
- Record notices and events for newsletter.
- Maintain web site as an information source for members and attract new members
- Source informative articles for newsletter

Turner's Rep (Ordinary committee member – co-opted from turners' committee – Presently Steven Barrett who is the chairman of the turners' section)

- Co-ordinate main club events with turner's subcommittee
- Liaison between main club and turner's section

Events (Ordinary committee member – Presently Dave Fincham)

- Arrange speakers for main club meeting
- Arrange sponsorships for events and club house

Member (Ordinary committee member – Presently Costa Carastavrakis)

- Ad hoc duties as required, such as machine and club house maintenance co-ordination.

Please Note:

Toymakers. The toymakers meet on the first and third Mondays of every month, at 09h00 till 12h00 at the clubhouse. Contact Eddie Marchio on (011) 678-8062 or renato@pixie.co.za for more information.

Wednesday Workshop. The Wednesday evening workshops are on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, from 18h00 till 20h00. Contact Winston Klein on (011) 674-1513 for more information.

Country Woods have moved. Their new address is 10 Delphi St, Marlboro North, Sandton – not far from their previous address. Contact them on 011 444 6705 or cwdsjhb@iafrica.com

For Sale:

Router – Dewalt 625e, Elu Mof96 with table. R2500-
Mig Welder. R10,000-
Sliding Compound Mitre Saw – Dewalt. R7500-
Portable Contractors Saw – Elektra Beckum. (new) R5500-
Planer – Festo. Hardly used. R1500-
Orbital Sander – Makita. R1200-
Vacuum Cleaner – Festo CT22. R1500-
Fein Multi-tool in case. R1200-
Tapping machine – Fein. (Worth R10,000-) R4000-
Palm Sander – Makita. R400-
Narrow belt sander – Makita. R900-
Orbital Sander – Triton. R300-
Edging router – Lumell, with box, almost new. R2500-
Rotex 150 (old shape) R2500-
Chop saw – Makita. R1500-
Old Festo Rails. 1.4 and 0.8 x 2. R500-
Router Plane – old Stanley with different shape cutters. R1000-
Wooden Planes x3, Profile, Jack, Smooth. R400-
Vacuum Pump still in box. R1000-
Dumpy level. R500-
MiniMax Planer thicknesser, 350mm, 3-phase. R21,000-

SCM sliding table saw, fully reconditioned, 1.2m slide, 3-phase. R30,000-
Dust Extractor, 3-phase, double bag, new. R4000-
Wood lathe – Nova DVR, 10 Henry Taylor turning tools, grinder and sharpening system, chuck system and tooling. R17,000-

All prices negotiable. Contact Peter on 084 432 4111

Planer. Inca. 220mm wide, with one HP motor, on stand. R3000- Contact Eddie Marchio on 011 678 8062

Felder 6-31 BF. Fitted with a 3-phase motor with the following functions: planer, thickness planer, circular saw, spindle, mortise and all the clamping systems and table extensions as well as many cutters for the spindle as well as 40mm chuck, also twin bag extraction system. All of this for R90000 ono. Replacement value would be about R180000. If interested please call Vigen at 082 465 4443.

Wanted We are steel Balustrading manufacturers and urgently need a reliable professional to supply our wooden hand rail profiles and would be pleased if you could assist in putting me in contact with individuals or companies that can fill this need. Contact Luis Sampaio, ASCENDANT MANUFACTURING, Unit D4 Sifon Industrial Park, Anvil Road, Robertville, Roodepoort. Tel: 011 472 3789 Fax: 086 671 8190, Cell: 082 555 0673



Wanted – Wooden Hearts. Would you be able to help at all...

I'm putting together a communication piece for a client and would like to commission someone to produce 80 wooden hearts. I've attached a picture to give you an idea of what I am looking for. I need the hearts to be engraved (I've been told that laser engraving would work). Do you know of anyone who might be able to produce such hearts? - Jessica Maitland-Stuart [jessica@garageast.co.za]

TEL: 082 8066 833
STREET ADDRESS: Unit 55, First Avenue,
Cir of 1st & 7th Avenue, Parktown North, 2193
MAIL: Same as above. EMAIL: jessica@garageast.co.za
jessica@garageast.co.za



Practical Power saving

Trevor Pope

I've been asked several times how people can save power at home, to do their bit to reduce consumption. Here are some practical suggestions with some explanations.

The two biggest power consumers in your house (in the South African climate) are the hot water geyser and the electric cooker.

For the **cooker**, you can convert to gas. Town gas is cheaper than electricity and helps to reduce overall carbon emissions. Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) that comes in cylinders is more expensive than electricity the last time I did the calculation. The government is talking about regulating the price of LPG, which should keep the price down. Also gas cookers, with installation, are expensive.

For the **geyser**, you can convert to solar water heating, with electrical backup for those occasional overcast days. The cost of an installation will depend on your circumstances. There are a number of internet sites that explain all the principles. South Africa has abundant sunshine – more than 200 days of uninterrupted sunshine a year, ideal for solar water heating. A good local Internet web site that I can recommend is <http://solardome.co.za/>. They even have pricelists, so you can work out some budget pricing. For a typical domestic installation, with 3m² of panels, and a 200 litre tank, with installation, I think one can budget at about R15000-. This may sound like a lot, but if you take the escalating price of electricity into account, you can do a Return-On-Investment calculation to see where you stand financially. I estimate a pay-back of about 5 years, which is not too bad. If Eskom comes through with their subsidies, of 20 to 30%, the pay-back will be even shorter. Keep an eye on the Eskom web site for an announcement of this, together with the accredited suppliers who will be entitled to offer the rebates.

Geyser blankets – an HVAC engineer I work with estimates that geysers lose about 10% of the energy put into them to the surrounding air. A geyser blanket will reduce this further. If you surround your geyser with an additional 200mm extra fibreglass insulation, it will lose almost no energy to the air. You should also lag all the hot-water pipes with fibreglass as best as you can, to reduce heat lost as the water runs from the geyser to the point of use. Lagging water pipes in your roof, including the cold water is also an insurance against them freezing and bursting in mid winter, so it is generally a good idea.

Peak consumption is the main problem for domestic energy consumption. The morning peak lasts from 6h00 to past 9h00 and the afternoon peak from 18h00 to 21h00, caused mainly by stoves and geysers in domestic use. By changing your usage patterns, you probably won't save on the total amount of energy you use, but you will reduce peak demand. If you are retired, it is your civic duty to go to bed early to save

energy, and according to our minister of minerals and energy affairs, you will also become cleverer in the process. You should cook and wash after ten o'clock at night! Also if you listen to another government official, you will turn your geyser on only at peak times – exactly the opposite of what is required. Clearly there are a few gaps in the understanding in government. Mind you if they listened to the experts, we wouldn't be in this mess in the first place!

Practically, you can turn OFF your geyser during peak times, as long as you remember to turn it ON again when you go bed, and OFF when you get up. Because your geyser stores hot water very effectively, it will keep the water hot for the whole day, and provided you don't use too much hot water, there will be enough throughout the day. To avoid the problem of remembering to turn it on and off, I fitted a timer switch. This is an electronic timer switch, programmed to turn on at 22h00 and off at 5h00. Our geyser is only a 150 litre unit for four people, two of them female, and it stores enough hot water for normal usage. However, I found that there were some days when the water almost ran out, so I added an additional ON period from 12h00 to 14h00. This is also outside of peak times. A timer will not save on total electricity used, but does remove a potential 3kW load from the grid at peak times. Total cost, with self installation was about R300-. The "ripple" relays that some people have installed in their homes are used by the municipality to disconnect the geyser at peak times, with the same effect.

Another very effective way to save electric energy is with **compact fluorescent bulbs**. These are now so cheap, that there are very few reasons not to use them. The only reasons I can think of where they can't be used is that there are some special sizes that are not available, and that they can't be connected to a dimmer. Some people also don't like the colour of the light emitted. Look at the life-cycle cost calculation below if you are not convinced:

A typical application is an outside light rated at 100W. Assume the bulb is on at night (half the time) giving a usage of 8000 hours over a two year period, for example:

- Incandescent lamp -100 w (with a life of 1000 hours average) – 8 bulbs at R4-00 each, using 8000 x 100W = 800 kWh at R0-52 per kWh = R448- total cost.
- Compact fluorescent lamp – 18W (with a life of 8000 hours average) – 1 bulb at R16-, using 8000 x 18 W = 144 kWh at R0-52 per kWh = R91- total cost.

Add in the number of times you have to climb up a ladder to change the incandescent bulb over the two years. You can see how much money you will save next time you replace an incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb. The only downside of compact fluorescent bulbs is that you should not throw them into the bin, when they fail, as they contain heavy metals such as lead on the circuit board, and a minute amount of mercury in the tube. Recycle them appropriately.

In the workshop, some people don't like fluorescent bulbs because of the strobing effect they can have with moving machinery, changing the perception of movement, which can be dangerous. I think that this is a bit of an "old-wives tale", as I have never seen it to be a problem. Anyway, compact fluorescent bulbs with electronic ballasts work at much higher frequencies – above audible range – at about 20 kHz or more, and this effect will not be a factor.

Another disadvantage of compact fluorescent bulbs is they do not turn on instantaneously, and do not reach full brightness for a few seconds after turn-on, but usually that is not a problem.

Another significant power consumer is space heating and cooling. Most South African houses are very poorly designed from a thermal point of view – too hot in summer and too cold in winter. The most significant factor is lack of **insulation** in the roof. Heat radiates down from the ceiling during the day and radiates out at night. On houses without insulation, you can see the outline of the brandering above the ceiling because the paint eventually darkens due to the higher temperatures, slightly less under the brandering. Think-pink which is spun glass fibre with a pink resin binder is the most common roof insulation. It is rather unpleasant to install as the fibres get into your eyes, pores and lungs, but it is extremely durable, and highly fire resistant. The recommended thickness is at least 75mm, and 100mm is better. It does tend to compact with age, so it is better to err on the side of too thick. In the UK, the recommended thickness is 200mm. Payback will depend on the design of your house, the climate and how much heating and cooling you use, but I have seen studies that indicate paybacks of a few years based on installed cost.

I have tried to indicate the economic value of these measures, because that is unfortunately what most people value. There is also the sentiment of doing the right thing and not wasting energy; consuming our finite resources and polluting the planet, which is very difficult to quantify, but may in the end turn out to be priceless.