

Theo Haralampou

www.woodturner.com.au



When Theo was young he dreamed of becoming a woodwork teacher.

While his career path took a different direction he eventually fulfilled that dream when he demonstrated at the Australian event Woodturn 2004 in Sydney, alongside Richard Raffan, Soren Berger and Tim Skilton.

Theo is now a regular at Australia's biggest annual symposium, Turnfest, demonstrating in 2005, 2010, 2011, the Turnfest Masters 10th anniversary in March 2012, and in 2013. This year is his fourth consecutive year as a presenter at the three-day Timber and Working with Wood Shows in the capital cities of Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, and Melbourne. He has also been invited to demonstrate on the Norwegian Woodturning Cruise in August 2014.

Theo has been described as a well prepared demonstrator, fully equipped, light hearted, informative, fast and fascinating, with a raft of interesting tips and ideas. His greatest joy is to watch the smiles on the faces of his audience as he explains the safest and easiest way to develop tool control, take advantage of the characteristics

of the wood, create interesting projects and have fun along the way. Theo is also a professional drummer and he not only turns his own drumsticks, but also makes his own drums - the xylobowl tongue drum.

Theo's ability to identify and connect with his audience, his choice of projects, and his infectious smile have made him popular with the general public and the woodturning fraternity.



Demonstrations

Xylobowl Tongue Drum

Tongue drums are one of the world's oldest known percussion instruments; a part of African, Asian and South American cultures for thousands of years. Back in 1985 I came across a rectangular boxed tongue drum and, being a professional drummer, I gravitated toward producing a tongue drum in the round form. The first ones I made were bowl shapes with lids affixed. The lids had fingers of wood that created a multiplicity of sounds when struck with a rubber ended mallet. I now also create them as a one-piece hollowed form with a sound hole on the underside. When played briskly it sounds like a thousand wood blocks. Different beaters create different tones from the drum and the drums can be tuned.



Key points: Material selection; constructions options and techniques; style and design; cutting options for the tongues; finishes inside and out; sound holes; tuning and adjustment; resonance and nuance; and making your own drum sticks.

Turning Wood Into Trees

I will never forget how proud my dad was as he pointed out a tall tree that he had planted. As a tree in the park, it gave pleasure to thousands of people. Now these trees are old and falling. By turning them back into little trees they can put a fresh smile on peoples' faces and the tree can be remembered. That's what I call "recycling at its best and most exiting".



This presentation is about spindle turning techniques, design and embellishment, and how we can create a legacy so the trees can live on.

Key points: Ten different tree designs; wood selection and characteristics; form a cone the easy way; tool rest alignment; a spindle gouge to do skew work; getting the best finish off the tool; eliminating catches; straight and curved cuts; adding colour for effect; knurling, spiralling and chatter work; minimise sanding; finishing.

Cupcakes and Doughnuts

It was while woodturning at a recreational camp for children with cancer that I realised the joy that can be spread by creating small quirky items with lots of colour and with an element of fun.

For me woodturning is about putting smiles on peoples' faces and sharing the fun. A few years ago a friend asked me to make some things for a fairy garden. I made rainbow mushrooms, and wooden cupcakes, and pretty soon the doughnuts followed. Putting the cherry on top of the cupcake was easy, but working out how to create the swirl of cream was more of a challenge. It's done using a spindle gouge and takes about five seconds.

Key points: Wood selection; routing on turning, jigs and their setup; indexing choices; cupcake design and embellishment; using knurling, chatter work and colouring; doughnut design; mounting options; turning techniques including shear scraping; tool alternatives; adding the "sugar"; and other projects and designs for the fairy garden.

