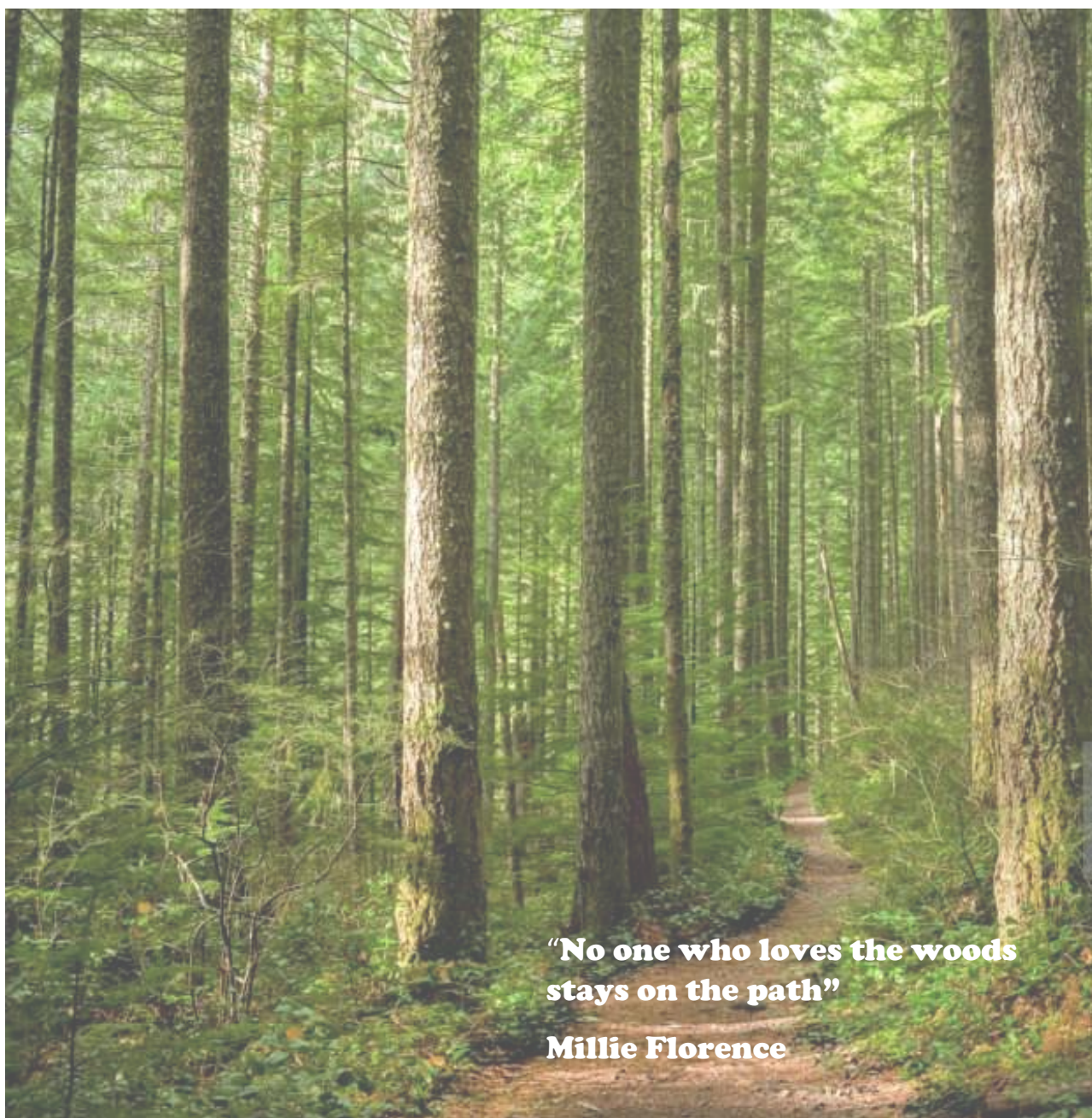
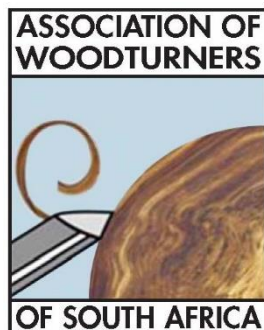


# **Association of Woodturners of South Africa**

## **Symposium 2024 Programme**



**"No one who loves the woods  
stays on the path"**

**Millie Florence**

## WELCOME TO THE AWSA SYMPOSIUM 2024

Welcome to the Association of Woodturners of South Africa (AWSA) Woodturning Symposium of 2024. This is an important annual event in the calendar of enthusiastic woodturners from various Associations across South Africa.

It is a pleasure to extend our warm greetings to you and wish you a pleasant stay in Cape Town, the Mother City.

Our theme for the 2024 symposium is *“No one who loves the woods stays on the path”*. I am sure we have all walked along a path and seen beautiful trees and wondered what one can turn with that wood. Now is your time to showcase that special piece.

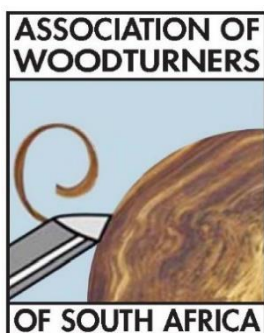
We present an action-packed programme of 14 demonstrations presented by some of our local experts from across the country. We are privileged to have Phil Irons as our international demonstrator. The Woodoc Exco Team, all the way from Fort Beaufort, will also be doing a presentation on the Woodoc products.

In addition, we have a break-away room with some interesting and informative presentations.

You will have an opportunity to interact with our suppliers of specialised tools, equipment, wood blanks and finishing products.

We encourage you to actively participate during the demonstrations, support our suppliers, and network with friends, old and new.

Best wishes  
AWSA Organising Committee



# SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

## Main Hall

(Programme subject to change)

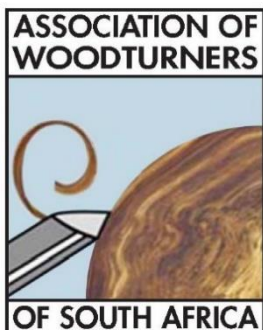
<b>Friday 20 September 2024</b>	
TIME	DESCRIPTION
14h00 - 17h30	Registration and Admin
17h30 - 18h00	Informal Meet and Greet
18h00 - 22h00	Welcome and Cocktail Function

<b>Saturday 21 September 2024</b>		
TIME	DESCRIPTION	DEMONSTRATOR
08h30 - 10h00	Hollow forms with emphasis on shape, form and proportion, chucking and hollowing technique	Phil Irons
10h00 - 10h30	Tea / Coffee break	
10h30 - 11h30	Woodoc technical discussion	Woodoc Team
11h30 - 12h00	Tea / Coffee break	
12h00 - 13h00	AMT resin technical discussion	AMT & Shane Swiegers
13h00 - 14h00	Lunch	
14h00 - 15h30	Fluting with a router	Ashwin Ramhith
15h30 - 16h00	Tea / Coffee break	
16h00 - 17h30	Negative space hollow forms	Carel van der Merwe
17h30 -	AGM	Main Hall

<b>Sunday 22 September 2024</b>		
TIME	DESCRIPTION	DEMONSTRATOR
08h30 - 10h00	Kintsugi for wood. How I make a feature of splits, cracks, worm holes, etc, rather than trying to disguise them with superglue and sawdust.	Phil Irons
10h00 - 10h30	Tea / Coffee break	
10h30 - 12h00	Spindle & skew techniques	Andrew Stevens
12h00 - 13h00	Lunch	
13h00 - 14h30	Decoration and carving	Carel van der Merwe
14h30 - 15h00	Tea / Coffee break	
15h00 - 16h30	Printing on wood / Pyrography	Peter Nicolle
19h00 - 23h00	GALA Function – Encore Restaurant	AWSA

<b>Monday 23 September 2024</b>		
TIME	DESCRIPTION	DEMONSTRATOR
08h30 - 10h00	Colouring to enhance. How I use spirit stains to bring out the hidden figure in white woods with contemporary spirit stains.	Phil Irons
10h00 - 10h30	Tea / Coffee break	
10h30 - 12h00	Wave pattern bowl	Mervin Walsh
12h00	Closing & Raffle	AWSA

Our thanks to BPM Toolcraft for sponsoring the printing of this programme



## SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

### *Break-away room #1*

*(Programme subject to change)*

<b>Saturday 21 September 2024</b>		
<i>TIME</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>DEMONSTRATOR</i>
08h30 - 10h00	<i>Phil Irons demo in main hall</i>	
10h00 - 10h30	<i>Tea / Coffee break</i>	
10h30 - 12h00	<i>Turning a vase - wood and resin</i>	<i>Gerrit van Niekerk</i>
12h00 - 13h00	<i>Marbling on wood</i>	<i>Tanya Dreyer</i>
13h00 - 14h00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14h00 - 15h30	<i>Inside-out turning</i>	<i>Chris Briers</i>
15h30 - 16h00	<i>Tea / Coffee break</i>	
16h00 - 17h30	<i>Turning boxes</i>	<i>Thys Carstens</i>
17h30	<i>AGM</i>	

<b>Sunday 22 September 2024</b>		
<i>TIME</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>DEMONSTRATOR</i>
08h30 - 10h00	<i>Phil Irons demo in main hall</i>	
10h00 - 10h30	<i>Tea / Coffee break</i>	
10h30 - 12h00	<i>Pepper grinders</i>	<i>Thys Carstens</i>
12h00 - 13h00	<i>Lunch</i>	
13h00 - 14h30	<i>Segmented turning</i>	<i>Leon Ginsberg</i>
14h30 - 15h00	<i>Tea / Coffee break</i>	
15h00 - 16h30	<i>Turning pens</i>	<i>Mervin Walsh</i>
19h00 - 22h00	<i>Gala evening</i>	<i>Encore restaurant</i>

<b>Monday 23 September 2024</b>		
<i>TIME</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>DEMONSTRATOR</i>
08h30 - 10h00	<i>Phil Irons demo in main hall</i>	
10h00 - 10h30	<i>Tea / Coffee break</i>	
10h30 - 12h00	<i>Polishing</i>	<i>Heinz Pospech</i>
12h00	<i>Closing &amp; Raffle in main hall</i>	<i>AWSA</i>

## OVERVIEW OF DEMONSTRATORS

### Phil Irons

Born in Sydney, Australia, Phil's first introduction to woodturning came at the age of 13 when his father acquired an 1870s American cast iron child's treadle lathe. Woodturning became a serious hobby in his late 20s and after a six-year spell in the travel industry, he took the decision to become a professional woodturner in 1994. His knowledge and appreciation of English timbers was initially gained from working as a tree surgeon/forester for several years.

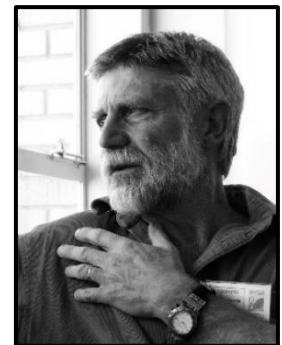


Phil is the author of the best-selling project book "Woodturning: Two in One". This book has been translated into 9 languages. It is the only English-language woodturning project book to have been translated into Italian. He is best known for his vessels and hollow forms with clear, fluid shapes and flowing lines. He uses contemporary-coloured dyes to enhance hidden figure in pale woods, mostly sourced from tree surgeons and firewood merchants. With the addition of threaded lids, his vessels lend themselves to becoming urns. He specialises in these beautiful functional pieces, and they are highly sought after all over the world. Phil describes his urns as "functional art" that can be displayed whether they contain ashes or not. "It is a huge honour that people want to keep the ashes of their loved ones in a piece of my artwork."

He is a past president of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain and a member of the American Association of Woodturners. He lives in Warwickshire, UK, with his wife Cristina and their two dogs: Cirrus, a Pharaoh Hound and Lola, a Cockerpoo.

### Andrew Stevens

Andrew Stevens is a founding member of the AWSA and has been turning wood for over 30 years. He has been typecast as a spindle turner by the AWSA (mainly because no-one else has wanted the gig) but sees himself as an allrounder, enjoying all aspects of turning. He has recently completed the re-engineering of an old Union Jubilee as a big bowl lathe. He also uses a refurbished Rockwell Delta on which he produces large volumes of spindle ware for local markets.



## Ashwin Ramhith

Ashwin Ramhith was born and educated in the sugar town of Stanger located in KwaZulu Natal where he worked with wood in one way or another. After graduate school, he was an educator and then embarked on a business career in Alice before settling down in Port Elizabeth. Ashwin prefers to focus on unique “One-of-a-Kind” wood turned art utilizing different materials to allow him to express his ideas and expose the mystery beneath the bark.



The creative process started slowly in 2002 and sped up with time as new ideas, experiences and technology have always challenged the choice of material and technical ability required in each piece.

He has exhibited his wood turned art in South Africa, Portugal, Brazil, South Korea and Germany. He is currently a member of the Port Elizabeth Woodturners guild. He actively demonstrates various aspects of woodturning because he firmly believes that the art of woodturning must be preserved in present times.

## Carel van der Merwe

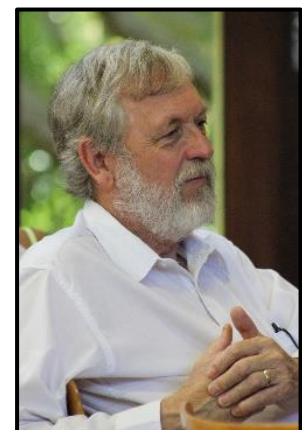
Carel is a qualified Electronics Engineer and became involved with woodworking while still at school. He was introduced to the art of woodturning by At Smit, who is one of the pioneers of South African woodturning. His passion is hollow forms and natural edge bowls. Since 2018, he has been woodturning on a full-time basis, providing training in woodturning, selling specialised woodturning tools and equipment, as well as continuing to create new gallery pieces.



## Chris Briers

Chris retired at the end of 2016 as Director of Projects and Capital Works from UCT. He is an alumnus from Stellenbosch where he graduated as an Electrical Engineer. During his career he was mainly exposed to heavy engineering and is well versed in large workshop machinery and equipment.

He started wood turning around 2010 on a discount chain store lathe and used cheap chisels. After joining WCWA in 2014 he was exposed to decent equipment and expert tuition. At the 2015 Symposium he was conned into a masterclass with Phil Irons and has been hooked ever since.



Chris mainly does technical turning using specialised tools and jigs. As a typical engineer he spends more time making tools than using them!

## **Gerrit van Niekerk**

Gerrit is a chartered accountant from Paarl and has been working for a construction company for the past 20 years. He has been turning for about 16 years and joined the Western Cape Woodturners Association in April 2023. Being part of this woodturning community has proven to be very inspiring and a wonderful source of knowledge and guidance. He enjoys turning decorative pieces like natural edge bowls as well as mosaic vases using wood and resin.



## **Heinz Pospech**

Heinz has spent most of his career in packaging and after he sold his business in 2018, he took over the family business which involves distributing the Autosol range of products in Southern Africa. As polishing products are some of the key products that Autosol manufactures, Heinz was fortunate enough to be trained in polishing in Germany at Autosol head office. Although the polishing techniques learnt were relevant to the automotive industry, Heinz has implemented and applied these criteria to the polishing and finishing in woodturning. Although Heinz has only been turning for 4 years and considers himself a newbie, he will share his knowledge in achieving the ultimate finish, especially on CA and Polyurethane finishes.



## **Leon Ginsberg**

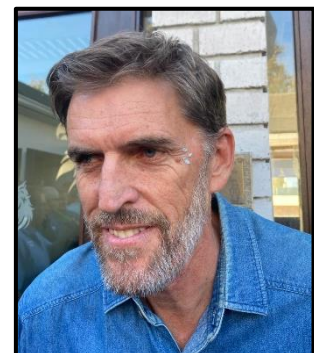
Leon is a semi-retired electrical engineer who has come to woodturning late in life. His first introduction was in 2002 when he persuaded Dave Stephenson to give him an informal course at his workshop in Sedgefield. Turning was on hold until retirement became a possibility, and he joined the Western Cape Woodturners Association in 2017 as a newbie. He has tried many forms of turning, (except for resin work and pepper mills) and finds segmented work very satisfying. He thoroughly enjoys helping newbies getting started!



## **Mervin Walsh**

Mervin is married, has two sons and lives in Cape Town where he heads up the Technology Department at the Diocesan College (Bishops) in Rondebosch. He taught woodwork for several years before this subject was sadly removed from the school curriculum.

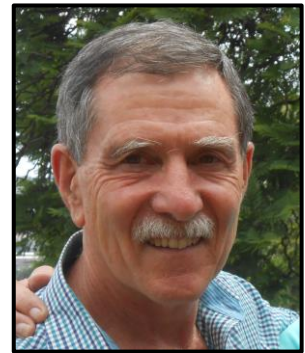
Whilst woodturning has always interested him, it was not until about 10 years ago that he seriously started pursuing woodturning as a hobby. He embraces technical challenges and likes to make pieces that have usage value versus only ornamental value. In this context, he has lost count of the number of pens, caddy spoons and coffee scoops he has made for various Christmas markets!



## Peter Nicolle

Peter is a retired Urologist, with 31 years in private practice in Cape Town, South Africa. He has been woodturning for 32 years and now turns artistic pieces, using exotic woods and other local woods from domestic felling. He enjoys using techniques like carving, pyrography, piercing, resin work, metal-leaf and colour. He is a founder member of the Western Cape Woodturners Association and the Association of Woodturners of South Africa.

He also paints using watercolour and pastels, doing portraiture, figure painting and landscapes. He is a member of the SA Society of Artists and the SA National Association for Visual Arts. He has done watercolour and woodturning demonstrations. He exhibits woodturning and paintings regularly at the SA Society of Artists annual exhibitions, and their merit exhibitions. He established the “Western Cape Doctors Art Group” and participated in exhibitions with this group annually from 2002 to 2023.



## Shane Swiegers

Shane is from Cape Town, a textile technologist by trade, who worked in the industry until 2005. He then bought an embroidery business and has been running it since then. He is an avid cyclist, with 16 cycle tours under his belt and he is a cancer survivor. He started woodturning in August 2020, following an inspirational visit to the Waterfront woodturning store. He enjoys utilizing resin in his woodturning projects.



## Tanya Dreyer

Tanya has always been interested in woodworking and technical drawing but back in the 1980s this was not a subject offered to girls. She has a varied and colourful work experience that started back in the heyday of Sun City - Public Relations being her forte. She started woodturning in early 2021 and hasn't looked back. Her first love in woodturning woods is *Olea europaea* (Wild Olive). Naturally, many others have followed suit.



## Thys Carstens

Thys is a retired pharmacist. In 1985 he took up woodturning and became a founding member of both the WCWA in 1995 and AWSA in 1996. He has been a part of the Waterfront Woodturners since its inception in 2000 and is still going strong. He had the privilege of doing demos both nationally and locally. As a way of passing on his experience he demonstrates for a group once a month in Durbanville (this was before Covid). He also submits work on the World of Woodturners on a regular basis





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