



urning Chatter

Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

Mission Statement: "Promote woodturning as a creative skill for all ages"

Edition 138



December 2011

The Next Meeting

The Club **Christmas party** will be held at Mt Riverview on 3 December from 10am to on 3pm.



There will be no formal meeting this month. All partners are invited, and members are requested to bring a plate and an item for the christmas hamper, and some turned objects (not necessarily recent) for a monster display. There will be a BBQ supplied.

President's Christmas Message...Here we are at the end of the year once more. A lot has happened in this year. On a sombre note, Denis Millard passed away on the 14th November and will be missed by all who knew him. He was an active and well liked member.

We have had our bi-yearly inter club challenge, the Penrith show and Glenbrook Spring Fair. We also provided the trophies for the Lawson beard competition as well as demonstrating at the fair. The big one this year is the training we are providing for Eloura, which is ongoing.

The demonstration by Mark Sfirri was a real highlight and was made possible from monies made at the Bunnings BBQ. The Thursday open day has proven both helpful and enjoyable to all those who attended. Thankyou to all the hard working committee trainers and all the members who helped with all the club's activities. Without support from its members the club could not function.



I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

John Krook

Turning Escape September 2012 - Help Needed from all members...

Here are the tasks associated with the Turning Escape which will need support from our members. Many of these events are fairly simple and help will be appreciated from anyone. Others will need specialist knowledge. Hopefully, the tasks can be shared by as many members as possible.

Tasks:

Auditorium catering and looking after the supply of tea, coffee etc at the auditorium.

Onsite Helpers: A variety of tasks at the auditorium such as giving directions and helping attendees.

Co-ordinating events at the auditorium such as the top competition and charity auction.

Moving equipment around and helping to get equipment from the club house to and from the event.

Tour Planner; Organise the tour including planning places to visit and the general route.

Site Traffic Management; Co-ordinate the movement of vehicles to/from auditorium and into car the park on the Friday.

Signage; Placement/removal of signs throughout site.

Visit Clubs; This clubs are to be visited between now and June: Illawarra, Kiama, Menai, Hunter and Mudgee/Gulgong.

Power Distribution; Assist Barry Robinson with distribution of extension cords and power boards.

Accommodation; Assist attendees to find their accommodation.

Timber; Assist Jan with the sale and placement of timber into the auditorium.

If you are intending to come to the event, then give some thought towards helping out. Your assistance will help make this event the success it deserves to be.

If you think you can help please call me on 0407 395 295 or see me at the club meetings.

Rhys





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Chess Set Challenge by Mike Boyle

I have made four chess sets. On each occasion, by the time I had reached about half way, I said “never again!” Yet I did come back and try again, and again, and again. The first set was about four years ago, from drawings downloaded from the internet, representing what were meant to be traditional pieces. The proportions were wrong, the shapes had no consistency, and to be honest were downright ugly. The overall effect was made even worse by the fact that my turning



were, to be kind to myself, ver basic. To make matters even more embarrassing, the grand kids loved them, and now on

skills

each visit to Brisbane, I am challenged to a tournament using the confounded set!

To redeem myself I resolved to make a new set to my own design, which I did. The result was one set for myself, two for people I could not refuse, and refusals to a number of other people.

A large, display chess set is one of those things that can be classified as a “*must have object of desire*”, and is a challenge every woodturner should attempt.

There are no set traditional shapes for chessmen, and artists have been depicting the pieces as a reflection of their culture and customs, since approx. 600AD. The range is immense as can be seen from sketches copied from Mike Darlow’s book (Turned Chessmen 2004).

I have decided to attempt yet another set, starting with a new design. I hope other members might consider also taking on the challenge to design and eventually make their own set, and in the process contribute their thoughts and ideas as the design progresses. I warn you, it can be soul destroying, but the end is worth it.

There are no right or wrong designs, however there probably are a number of principles that should be recognized. I am hopeful that early ext year, Mike Darlow may agree to give us some of his thoughts on the subject, which he has obviously researched more thoroughly than any of us.

I will provide more details next year, but I hope that I can convince some of you to take up the personal challenge, and to do so in a way where experiences can be shared at each monthly meeting.

At this stage, just think about it and don’t write the idea off.

Mike



Testing the grey matter...

Which job will be moving faster at the rim: a 300 mm diameter disc spinning at 1000 rpm or a 50 mm spindle spinning at 3000 rpm? (Answer Page 3)

Club Calendar

December

Thu 1	Club Open Day-projects	9.30am - 2pm
Sat 3	General Meeting-ChristmasParty	10am - 3pm
Thu 8	Club Open Day	9.30am - 2pm
Thu 15	Club Open Day	9.30am - 2pm
	Committee Meeting	10am - 11am

2012

January

Sat 7	General Meeting	10am - 3pm
Thu 12	Club Open Day	9.30am - 2pm
Thu 19	Club Open Day	9.30am - 2pm
	Committee Meeting	10am - 11am
Thu 26	Glenbrook Australia Day	7am - 4pm Volunteers Needed



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VALE Denis Millard

On Monday 21st November, 2011, a number of our club members attended the Salvation Army Corps in Faulconbridge for a Thanksgiving Service in memory of the late Denis Millard, a valued member of the Blue Mountains Woodturners.

Denis was a very well-respected member of the Salvation Army, and one of the founding members of the Springwood Corps. Hundreds of his family and friends attended the service, where many of us had to stand due to the large gathering.

We heard many stories of his hard, but unobtrusive, work and dedication to the Army. Denis's family was the most important thing in his life, and he is survived by his wife, Pamela, their three children, grandchildren and great grandson. His son, Christopher, a Captain in the Salvos, spoke movingly about his father, with love, respect, and more than a little humour.

Mike Boyle seems to have known as much about Denis as anyone in the club, and here are some of his thoughts.

“As a committee member, Denis was always the one who got the mundane things done — the things no one else could be bothered doing! He would get locks changed, pick up tins of paint, make sure the BBQ gas bottle was filled, and so the list goes on.

Because of what he did and the way he did it, no one in the club noticed until, for whatever reason, the job wasn't done. Then everyone noticed. The milk hadn't been supplied; the clubhouse hadn't been opened on time. This usually happened when Denis was away, and his replacement just forgot.

Answer to testing the grey matter...



The 300 mm disc will be moving twice as fast at the rim.

Denis was always there to help with the Christmas toy making and the turning of chess pieces.

He made his mark in the community generally, and as an example: Sean, one of the students at Eloura Industries, asks every week about "old Denis", his bus driver years ago. He obviously made an impact on everyone he was involved with.

He was interested in marvellous things. He took a course at the University of the Third Age in astronomy, was fascinated by how computers worked, and could give advice on just about anything.

Denis was true to what he believed in, but was never critical of others who did not share his beliefs.”

Denis made many friends through the Woodturners and, sadly, will be greatly missed.

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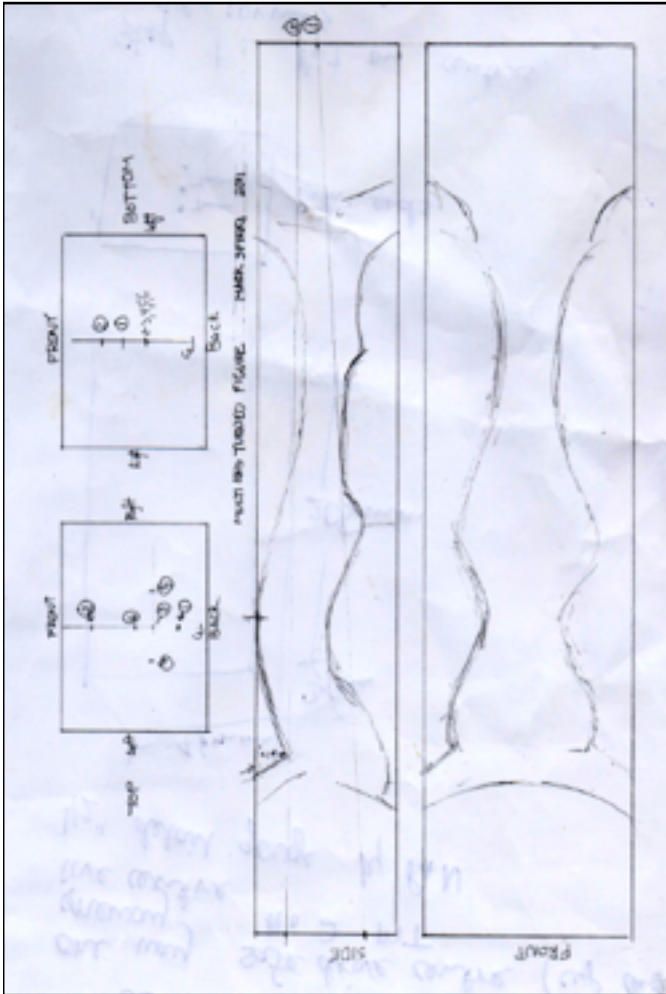
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Here is the drawing for the Mark Sfirri figure if anyone is trying to replicate it. Bit of a challenge, why not have a go?!!



Above: Presenting three sets of toys to Nepean & Blue Mountains Cardiac Support Group for their annual raffle.



Presenting two sets of O's & X's sets to Eloura (for the Community Programs Division).



Mark Sfirri at the October workshop, holding his figure before and after completing the head.



Da da da DAH!!!



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Publicity Officer - Clive Lyle

Committee Members

Clive Lyle

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Calendar

Thursdays will continue to be the club open activities days. Next Thursday will be a toy day, and a follow up toy day on 3 Nov. The committee will consider making another chess set for sale on e-bay, and other possible projects

Club Meetings

1st Saturday of each month at the Blue Mountains Woodcraft Centre,

Calver Avenue Mt Riverview,
10am to 3pm

Committee Meetings

Held the Thursday prior to the monthly meeting

Open Days

The Club House is open every Thursday from 10am. Come along and make some shavings. Just bring your tools!

Woodturning Lessons

are held on Tuesdays and Saturdays and are open to everyone. Call Alan Game on 4739 1028 to find out more.

Classifieds:

WANTED: A chuck threaded to M30X3.5 RH for a 2nd-hand Nova lathe.

Thanks,

Don Barnes

Phone: 47878592 or email donbarnes@lizzy.com.au

Just a thought...

"A hobby is hard work that you wouldn't do for a living"

Turning Chatter is your newsletter. You can use it to sell unwanted items of interest to likeminded woodturners. Lots of people are just starting out with woodturning and would be very pleased to buy your unwanted tool or lathe.

Come across a handy way of doing something? Why not let others benefit? If you've had some good results with a new product, don't be shy, Pass it on!

Just email catherinegorrie@gmail.com and see your item in the next edition of the newsletter!

No email? Ring Catherine on 4759 3403.