



Turning Chatter

Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

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

Edition 140



February 2012

The Next Meeting will be held at Mt Riverview on Saturday 5 February from 10am to 3pm. Be sure to attend as Mike Darlow is demonstrating AND there's a BBQ! Mike has requested that everyone bring a clipboard (if you have one) and a pencil...



Mike Darlow is probably one of Australia's most well known woodturners as a result of the publishing of seven books on aspects of woodturning, with another one in preparation.

His detailed technical knowledge and experience, and his undisputed turning skills will make his demonstration on 4th February a not to be missed occasion. He has advised that he will not be providing a set topic for the event, but will be prepared to face any challenge from the audience on any topic related to turning! The club is heavily subsidising this demonstration, so the cost to members will be the usual general meeting \$5 entry fee.

More about Mike... Mike was born in Birmingham, England in 1943. He trained as a civil engineer at Birmingham and Loughborough universities, and worked on construction projects in Birmingham and Scotland. He emigrated to Sydney, Australia, in 1969 where he continued to work as a civil engineer.

In 1975 Mike was inspired by Peter Child's book *The Craftsman Woodturner* to take up the craft. Mike was able to start the 3-year trade course in



woodturning at Sydney Technical College because it was run by the the School of Building and Mike was a civil engineer. A year later he also started the 3-year trade course in cabinetmaking at the same college, and finished it in 1979.

After completing both courses, Mike started turning professionally in his garage in 1979. A year later he moved to a leased workshop in the inner-Sydney suburb of Chippendale. As the business expanded, eventually employing 5 turners and a cabinetmaker, it moved to larger premises in nearby Alexandria.



Mike Darlow Woodturning undertook every type of turning work including restoration, replacements, patternmaking, and architectural components. The depth and breadth of the woodturning experience thus gained is reflected in the wealth of detail and practical discussion in Mike's publications and magazine articles.

(Words and images from www.mikedarlow.com)

Interested in attending a Guilio Marcolongo workshop on Sunday 4 March? Costs and details will be similar to the Mike Darlow workshop. If so, please let John Krook know as soon as you can as places will be limited...

John can be contacted on 4739 1764.

Pictured at the top is a Gottingen recorder, image from <http://www.bleazey.co.uk/recorderpage.html>



A **Club Tool Sale** will be held at the club starting at 9.00 am on the 1st April meeting day, which is the 14th due to Easter. Members may submit items to be sold at a nominated or agreed price with 10% commission going to the club.

If you'd like to participate, please give your name, the item and price to Paul Treble as soon as you can. The item is to be tagged with masking tape showing the seller and price. Depending on its success, this will be held on a regular three or four month basis. Contact Paul Treble on 4739 2312.

Next Toy Day will be on Thursday 2nd February.



A tool sharpening day will be coming up on a Thursday at the clubhouse. Further details soon...



Testing the grey matter...

The Nova chuck is a self centering four jaw chuck designed for woodturning. Name two other holding devices that can be threaded onto the nose of a lathe?

Club Calendar

February	Sat 4	General Meeting and Mike Darlow Demonstration	10am - 3pm	BBQ
	Sun 5	Mike Darlow workshop	9.00 am - 3.00 pm	Mike Boyle
	Thur 9	Club Open Day/Toy Day	9.30 am - 2.30 pm	Clive Lyle
	Sat 18	Mountains United FC Summerhayes Park	9.00 am - 4.00 pm	Volunteers needed
	Thur 23	Club Open Day Committee Meeting	9.30 am - 2.30 pm 10am - 11am	
March	Thu 1	Club Open Day	9.30 am - 2.30 pm	
	Sat 3	General Meeting Guillio Mocolongolo Demonstration	10.00 am - 3.00 pm	
	Sun 4	Guillio Mocolongolo Workshop	9.00 am - 3.00 pm	John Krook
	Thur 8	Club Open Day	9.30 am - 2.30 pm	
	Thur 15	Club Open Day	9.30 am - 2.30 pm	
	Thur 22	Club Open Day	9.30 am - 2.30 pm	
	Thur 29	Club Open Day Committee Meeting	9.30 am - 2.30 pm 10am - 11am	
April	Sun 1	Springwood Festival	7 am - 4.00 pm	Volunteers needed
	Thur 5	Club Open Day	9.30 am - 2.30 pm	
	Thur 12	Club Open Day	9.30 am - 2.30 pm	
	Sat 14	General Meeting Richard Price Demonstration	10.00 am - 3.00 pm	Note Date Change
	Thur 19	Club Open Day	9.30 am - 2.30 pm	
	Thur 26	Club Open Day Committee Meeting	9.30 am - 2.30 pm 10am - 11am	



The Chess Set DESIGN Challenge Spectacular...

“Tis all a Chequer-board of Nights and Days

Where Destiny with Men for Pieces plays;

Hither and thither moves, and mates and slays

And one by one back in the Closet lays.”

(The Rubaiyyat of Omar Khayyam, c 1150ad)

Over 800 years ago, chess was a metaphor for life. In fact chess dates back to the at least the seventh century. Isn't the Chess Challenge a fantastic opportunity to interpret 21st century by designing an original chess set?

Just as Omar questions the meaning of life, the process of design is always about asking the critical question. Why? Design at the conceptual stage is not concerned with how to do it; detail can be worked out later. If concept is influenced by how, it will never reach its potential because it will never push the limits.

- Why should the object be tall or short?
- Why shouldn't it be non-symmetrical?
- Why does it have to be traditional?
- Why...?Why...?Why...?

The second important aspect for the designer is to be completely self critical.

- What is wrong with what I have already designed?
- What needs to be changed to improve it?
- Would it be better if I started again?



Answer to testing the grey matter...

Engineers (or scroll) chuck, faceplate, cup chuck, and screw chuck.

- Have I really thought about the problem enough? (If I have, the answer should be obvious!)

A couple of tips to help developing ideas and then looking at them critically.

Throw away your 2H pencil or biro, and buy a soft pencil. A 6B is fantastic, but it can be a bit messy. Try a 2B, but nothing harder.

Scribble, doodle, smudge and fudge.

At this stage, deep thought is not critical, just lots of quick, possibilities. Work quickly then move on to another squiggle. Use lots of cheap paper. When you have come up with a drawing, or a prototype or whatever, hold it up in front of a mirror. It will be reversed, and you will not be looking at it directly. This way you can view it objectively, because it is not what you have been labouring over for so long. Try it, you will be surprised, it looks different, and you will see different aspects of it...



Once you have come up with some interesting concepts, the real task of design commences. Next month we will look at the elements of design –line, area, volume, shape, contrast, texture, symmetry, composition etc. Whether you are considering a chess set or a bowl or a candlestick, design surely has to be the starting point.

Design is not quick, it is not easy, but is worth it in the long run. At least try doing some doodles. It can be fun!

Mike



Just a thought...
 “A goal without a plan is just a wish.”
Anon.

Gil and John.

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 Allan Game on 4739 1028 to find out more.

Committee

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Turning & Chatter



Photograph one - Presenting Two sets of O's & X's sets to Eloura (for the Community Programs Division)

Photograph two - Presenting three sets of toys to the Nepean & Blue Mountains Cardiac Support Group (for their annual raffle)



Australia Day Shenanigans!



Jan demonstrating last month

For all your Wood working equipment needs, look no further than Total Tools Penrith. Our store offers a huge product range of professional tools, serviced by knowledgeable and experienced staff who delivers fast, individual attention and professional advice.

5% Discount for Members of the Blue Mountains Wood Turners Inc.*

* excludes power tools



TOTAL TOOLS

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