

Club Meeting and Demo

Our demonstration at the clubhouse on February 7 will be Alan Game.

Alan will be showing us the correct and safe way to use our wood working machines.

Table saw, jointer drop saw and a thicknesser.

John Cossey will then use these machines to make a picture frame that also uses the lathe.



The Jan Pennell Woodturning Award



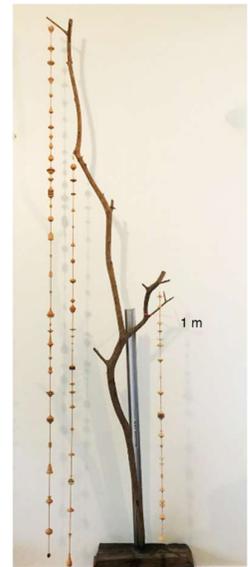
Jan Pennell

As some members will know, Jan Pennell, - a former president of this Club – devoted some of her estate to endow an award for outstanding woodturning. The award sits within the 'Maker of the Year' competition which is conducted by 'Australian Wood Review' (AWR).

The December 2025 issue of AWR (# 129) details the winners of the 2025 Maker of the Year competition with the Jan Pennel Woodturning Award going to a woodturner from Germany. (The inaugural award in 2024 was won by Simon Begg).

I understand that 'Maker of the Year 2026' will open for entries on 1st March 2026. I don't think I would ever have been a contender for an award like this and – with declining eyesight – I certainly won't be entering. Nevertheless, maybe some of our more talented members might give it a go this year? It would be very fitting indeed if a winner of the Jan Pennell Award was a member of the Club that Jan put so much effort into.

Tom Fox



Jan's 2.1m Trembleur



An Apple for the Teacher

by John Gallo



As a progression in learning how to turn hollow objects, Ernie suggested that I turn a small box in the shape of an apple. The specimen that he showed me looked attractive, and even though I had doubts about my ability to make this, I had confidence in his ability to teach me.

It turns out (haha) that Ernie had turned out (haha) quite a considerable number of these boxes, as presents for his wife's colleagues. So he could probably turn one with his eyes closed and standing on one foot! The project was enhanced by having some non-native pine that Steve Ward supplied from a tree in his backyard.

The project commences by parting off a portion of a cylinder, that will be used to make the lid. Both the lid and the base will then be shaped and hollowed-out held in the chuck. A critical part of turning the lid is to ensure that the horizontal surface of its shoulder is completely level, so that the fit with the base will be firm. The base is then hollowed out to an internal diameter matching the lid. Then the box is assembled, using fine paper to create a firm fit, and the lid is steadied with the tailstock. The join between the lid and the base can then be levelled with a detail gouge.



The outer shape of the lid is defined by reducing the tenon at its RHS with a 3mm scraper, then creating most of the outer curve. This is sanded before the tenon is parted off. The indented shape of the lid is then created gently using a small detail gouge, taking care not to go too deep.

The final detail is the apple stalk, created from a small twig, which is glued into an angled drill hole.

Altogether a satisfying project, thanks to Ernie and Steve.



Our club has a significant and growing library of woodturning and woodworking books, magazines and articles that are available to be borrowed for up to two weeks at a time. You can also feel free to scan or copy any article or pages for your future reference as you undertake any of the projects you find. If you need to extend your book loan, just check in with our librarian Clive.

Our library collection is an excellent resource for you to take advantage of. So please feel free to browse through or borrow from the library when you visit the club house.



Clubs Event Diary 2026

- February 7: Alan Game demonstrates the correct use of different machines for woodwork. John Cossey will then use them to make a picture frame.
- March 7: Roman Goik will show us examples of his tea caddies and coffee scoops that he sells at Okaeri Patisserie in Hazelbrook. TBC

Please let us know if you are interested in taking part in these events. Or if there is another event not listed here you think the Club should be involved with. Email: turningchatter@gmail.com

Two Year Progress Report

By Roman Goik



Roman's Tea Caddie

Well, it's a little over two years ago that I joined Blue Mountains Woodturners and started lessons with Ernie. Thanks to everyone that has made me feel so welcome. Of course, special thanks go to Ernie for his patience, guidance and expertise.

Short progress report – Lots of round things from tool handles, eggs, balls and spinning tops to pot handles, coffee scoops, rolling pins and pens.

Lately, I have been making end grain boxes which I really enjoy because of the precision needed. I set myself an even greater challenge recently - two lidded tea caddies as seen in the pictures. If it's a challenge to get one lid to fit well, it's very tricky to get the two lids to fit well.

Last week I also made my first ever cross grain bowl, so, progress indeed.





Ernie Newman models his wooden hat and bowtie

Stories and Questions:

A feature story on Ernie Newman in American Woodturner magazine was published in October 2025. It is attached as an extra PDF in Turning Chatter email. Enjoy.

Follow the link to AAW's website URL to see their latest news. (Note: this link does not take you to Ernie's story. It is the AAW's main website.)

woodturner.org.

If any member has a story to share or a tale to tell, please send it to turningchatter@gmail.com.

Remember: Articles are more likely to be included if they are in Word format and photo's (not embedded in documents) as Jpegs. The cutoff for publication is the 20th of each month.

Please try to get your article in by then to ensure it is included.

Thank you for your help with this. It will make life a little easier.

Until next time, keep those wood chips flying,

Bec

