



Turning Chatter

Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

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

Edition 199

April 2017

March Meeting

The next meeting is on
Saturday the 1st of April.

Ernie Newmans's Tuesday Class Revamped

Ernie is offering short term classes on Tuesdays as well as the long course. You can choose from topics such as:
Gifts - boxes, candlesticks, dolls, Swiss trees, bow ties...
Surface decoration on a new or finished piece – carving, burning patterns, chatter-work...
Developing skills – hollow form turning, multiple centre work, natural edge turning...
Design – help with developing designs.
Your projects - help with completing your project.
Suggestions for other topics are welcome.

No experience is needed.
The classes run from 9 till 2 on Tuesdays at 87 St Johns Rd Blaxland.
The cost is \$15 per day which goes to the Blue Mountains Woodturners. Ernie has taught woodturning in 9 countries as well as teaching the TAFE trade woodturning course
Contact ernienewman@hortmail.com 0416961063

*Image top centre by Skjode Skjern of
Denmark, image at right, find out how to do
one of these by searching for Frank Makes
Wood Turned Easter Egg on You Tube*



Committee Meetings

Held the Thursday prior to the monthly meeting.

Open Days

The Club House is open every Thursday from 10am. Come along and chat, turn or work on your own project.

Next Toy Making Day 20 April 2017

Woodturning Lessons

are held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month and are open to everyone.

Booking in is essential. Ring Allan Game on 4739 1028. Please let Allan know if you have booked in but can't make it.





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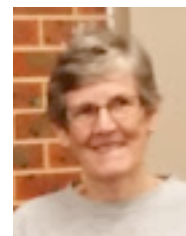
The President's Monthly Report

March Meeting

Another top demo from Ernie with lots of things we can all try either to just have fun or to challenge our skills. Thanks Ernie.

New Member

A warm welcome to Ben Smith from Falconbridge. Hope we see you at the April meeting.



Australian Woodworker Articles

Mike and Ernie both featured in the latest issue of the Australian Woodworker. Mike put together the article on the 'Big Hand' and Ernie an article on Surface Decoration, mainly of bowties, which was featured on the front page. Congratulations to both of you. Excellent.

Springwood Foundation Day

This year it is on Saturday 29 April so we will be looking for many hands to help out, especially for the set-up and pull-down but any time that can be given will be appreciated. ALSO please think about making some articles for raffle prizes. If you need some ideas of what to make, read on.

April Demo

I was coming up with blanks for the next club demonstration (people unavailable) when someone suggested covering some of the items that could be made for raffle prizes at the public demonstrations such as Springwood Foundation Day, so that is what it will be on. Hopefully it will give some inspiration for people to make items for the raffle but apart from that, they are things that can be given to friends and family, including children. Hope to see you there.

Be safe, be happy, be careful, Jan

Testing the grey matter.... by Ernie Newman

1. Two logs are cut from the same tree. One is left round and the other is halved along the grain. Which is more likely to split as the wood dries?
2. Sometimes the lid of an urn or lidded box is fitted to the base with a tight friction fit during turning and is difficult to remove later. Which process will help get the lid off, applying water or heat?
3. All of the following countries, bar one, have a national association of woodturners; Australia, New Zealand, England, Canada, USA, South Africa. Which country doesn't have a national association?
4. One manufacturer sells a range of tools which are 35 cm [14 inches] long, including the handles. Is this a good length for general purpose turning?
5. 17th century English woodturners got a lot of orders to turn 'deadmen's eyes' for the Royal Navy. What were 'deadmen's eyes'?



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WOODFAST SHORTBED LATHE

\$300

1960s – on enclosed stand - heavy duty

300mm between centres - 150mm centre height

Gap bed

1 HP motor – needs 10 amp cord

Sanding disk and faceplates - no chuck

Contact ernienewman@hortmail.com

Ph: 0416961063

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Club Calendar

30/03/17	Open Day	9.00am Onwards
1/04/17	General Meeting	10.00am Onwards
6/04/17	Open Day	9.00am Onwards
8/04/17	Training Day	9.00am Onwards
13/04/17	Open Day	9.00am Onwards
20/04/17	Toy Day	9.00am Onwards
22/04/17	Training Day	9.00am Onwards
27/04/17	Open Day	9.00am Onwards
	Committee Meeting	10.00-11.00am
29/04/17	S'wood Foundation Day	7.30am onwards
4/05/17	Open Day	9.00am Onwards
6/05/17	General Meeting	10.00am Onwards



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Toy Making Day – Thursday 9th March 2017

A good crowd of workers showed up on Thursday 9th March for what proved to be a very productive day. Effort concentrated on turned model cars, clap sticks, skipping rope handles, band-sawn hot rods and painting of finished pieces. A lot of wheels will be needed at the next toy day to fit up the cars and pull-along animals completed this time.

Some people set themselves a bit of homework and took a few blanks when they left.

A supply of blanks is still on hand in the cupboard and can be turned on any old Thursday if you want to – it doesn't have to be a 'Toy Day'.





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REALLY ACCURATE SPHERE TURNING by Ernie Newman

It is possible to hand turn a sphere so all diameters are within 0.1 mm [4 thousandths of an inch].

Make a very accurate pencil gauge

Draw a square on ply or MDF using set squares with side length equal to sphere diameter.

Accurately mark 5 points on the bottom edge of the square so the sphere can be marked out on the lathe.

Mark each end and the middle of the bottom edge.

Set the compasses to exactly the distance from a corner to the middle [half the diagonal length of the square]. Position the metal compass point in the left hand bottom corner and mark a point on the right side of the bottom edge.

Position the metal compass point in the right hand bottom corner and mark a point on the left side of the bottom edge.

Accurately notch the 5 points on the bottom edge using a small triangular file.

Turn a cylinder to the exact diameter of the sphere and use the pencil gauge to mark the 5 points on the cylinder.

Turn the cylinder down to an "octagon" [8 sided] shape.

The distance between the 2nd and fourth points on the bottom edge of the pencil gauge must be equal to the diameter at both ends of the "octagon".

Mount the "octagon" in a friction chuck so that the central line points exactly at the tailstock. Just over half the "octagon" should be accessible and just under half held in the friction chuck.

Set the lathe running and use a pencil to mark a small circle near the middle of the "octagon".

Adjust it till the circle is centred on the central line [by tapping]. This ensures that the central line points to the tailstock.

Turn a half sphere by turning down to the central line. Stop turning about 0.5 to 1mm from the central line.

Reverse the turning and mount in a friction chuck [smaller] so that almost all of the hemisphere is held in the friction chuck.

Adjust the turning till the central line points exactly at the tailstock.

Turn down to the central line as before.

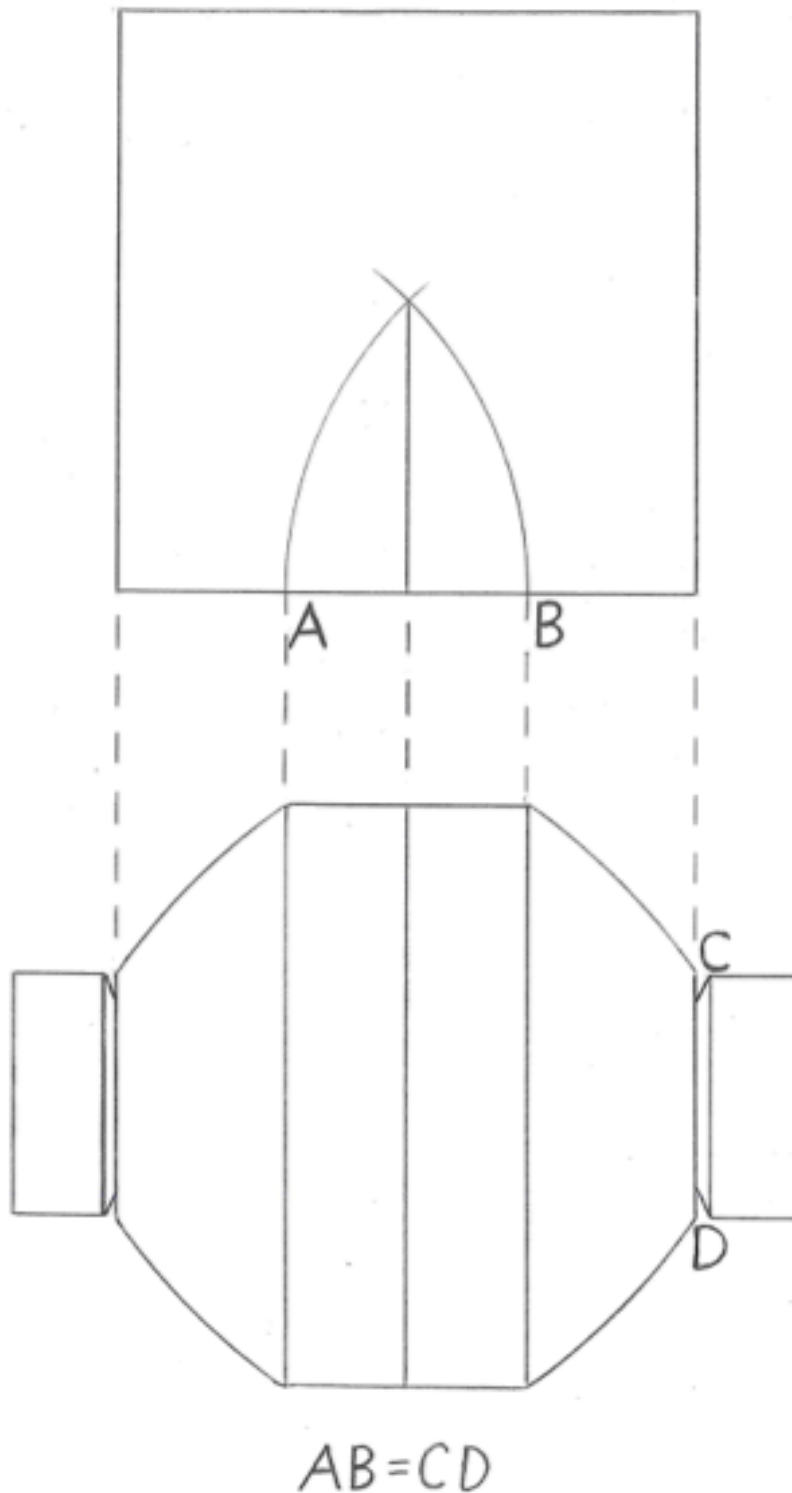
Sand the sphere lightly then rotate it about 1/6th to a new position and lightly sand again. Repeat 5 or 6 times.

Don't sand heavily as side grain is softer than end grain.



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Sphere Template by Ernie Newman





Turning Chatter

Committee

President - Jan Pennell

Vice President - Tony McKale

Secretary - Mike Boyle

Treasurer - Barry Robinson

Membership Secretary - Rachael Murphy

Committee Members

Andy Georgiou, John Craft, Tony Traynor, Bill Wooldridge

Public Officer - Tom Fox

Publicity Officer - John Mulquin

Librarians - Rosie Meharry, John Mulquin

First Aid Officers - Darrell Smith, Jan Pennell, George Keane

Webmaster and Facebook Coordinator - Rhys Jones

Entry Admission Officer - Des Tuck when available

Safety Officer - Dave Roberts, Jan Pennell

Welfare Officer - to be handled by the Committee

Club Sales - Barry Robinson

BMWC Site Manager - John Mulquin

Workshop Manager - David Roberts

Show & Tell Coordinator - John Krook

Editor - Catherine Gorrie

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Answers to testing the grey matter...

1. A log left in the round is more likely to split than a log which has been halved. During the seasoning process moisture leaves the outer part of the round log before it leaves the inner part. The outer section therefore starts to shrink first and this often causes splits. A halved log loses its moisture more evenly and often allows the wood to distort without splitting.
2. Applying water to a tightly fitted lid will cause the wood to swell making it harder to remove. However, if the box and lid are heated then they will lose moisture and shrink. This will loosen the fit of the lid. Short bursts in a microwave will often do the trick but is easy to over heat the wood so test it every few seconds.
3. Australia doesn't have a national association of woodturners.
4. Tools of 35cm in length will doubtless suit some turners but they are too short to allow most people to hold the handle against the hip, a technique which provides a lot of extra support. Short tools also make it difficult to exercise controlled cuts when the tool overhangs the toolrest by even a moderate amount. Longer tools also facilitate the micro adjustments that are needed to turn fine detail. Individual preferences vary so there is no optimum tool length but those wishing to experiment could consider making a handle that gives an overall length of 50 to 55 cm.
5. 'Deadmens eyes' were pulleys. The Royal Navy required that they be turned only from ash, oak, beech or maple. The specifications emphasised that they be 'sound and workmanlike turned'. Turning pulleys was a familiar task to turners as they had to turn them for their lathes.