

June Demonstration with Ernie Newman



Ernie Newman. A man of many talents.

On Saturday June 13, Ernie took the lathe by the pointy end and showed us:

- the tool removing wood inside a hollow form
- how to insert a big sphere into an impossibly small hole
- How to turn an apple shaped lidded box.

Here are some of the photos from the demonstration.



Radiate becomes plastic when boiled so the ball (a ball bearing in this case) can be tapped in then the enlarged hole returns to almost original size after a second round of boiling.



Morton Bay Fig Apple Box - open

Making a point



Morton Bay Fig Apple Box - closed

Club Demo July 4

John Cossey will be demonstrating multi axis tuning. He will turn a piece using faceplate and spindle tuning.

This piece is something that anyone can do if they have basic spindle and simple bowl tuning ability.

Clubs Event Diary 2026

July 23: Thursday. Load trailer for tunnel event.

July 25: Saturday Glenbrook rail tunnel opening. Joint venture with men's shed

August 7: Dave Drake TBC

September 19: Saturday 7am: Springwood Festival-Load trailer Thurs 17

September: Saturday AGM TBA

October 2/3: Saturday only. Leura Spring festival. Labour Day weekend

Nov 11: Remembrance Day; Whitton Park 11.00 am TBA

December: Christmas Party and to hand over. TBA

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



The Jan Pennell Woodturning Award

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' opened for entries on 1st March 2026 and closes on 30 August 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 the next winner of the Jan Pennell Award was a member of the Club that Jan put so much effort into.

Tom Fox

26 May 2026

Demonstrating for Kids

In April of this year the American Woodturners published a story written by Ernie Newman about demonstrating to children.

The full story is being sent to you as an attachment for you to enjoy separately but here is some supplementary material from Ernie, to go along with the American piece.

Spiral painting

This is a simple fun activity and can involve kids. The images here reflect the artistic sensibility of my 3-year-old grandson. He supervised the color choice, mixing and application. We added white to a dry, black base then stopped the lathe a few times adding more in small amounts till we had enough. Next, we added red to the white mix to make pink and applied it to the disk. Then plain red and finally a tiny amount of black.

We used really cheap children's acrylics. You can get superior results with artist quality paints. Add water to the paint till it is sufficiently diluted to fly outwards. Apply the paint to the center of the disk in lots of small increments stopping the lathe to inspect progress. A big blob of paint is likely to create a mess. Each color can be added immediately. It isn't necessary for paint to dry as long as each color is darker than the one before. Protect the lathe by placing a rag over the bed under the disk. Run the lathe at high speed - 3000 rpm works well. If the result isn't impressive, have a second pre-painted disk handy and repeat. But the result isn't important - kids are entranced by the process.

Safety

If kids participate, ensure they

- 1/ stay out of the firing line [perpendicular to the disk]
- 2/ wear eye protection
- 3/ wear an old coat
- 4/ have parental permission



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.





Why is there so much of Ernie in this edition?

He sent me stuff. The story from the American Woodturner in April is something some of us (me for example) can only dream of. He did the demo and people there sent me photos.

Ernie sent me the photos of his work from that day.

Ernie is in the edition because he takes pride in what he does and is proud to share it. And he does.

He shares it.

Want to see less Ernie?

Send me an alternative.

A picture. A few words. It doesn't have to be a masterpiece. It can be something that was a total disaster. Share your stories with me. Please.

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

