



Turning Chatter

Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

Mission Statement: "Promote woodturning as a creative skill for

Edition 213

June 2018

June Demo

What a treat, the June meeting will include a demo from one of the best turners in NSW. Lindsay Skinner will be on deck sharing his wide and unique skills with us. Don't miss this opportunity to witness a skilled and modest turner.

NO PARKING

No parking means **NO PARKING** and this includes the area outside the rear entrance to the RFS next door to the clubhouse. All members are advise to adhere to this sign and park elsewhere. If it involves a bit of walking so be it, the extra exercise will most probably do most of us some good.

CLUB SURVEY

Members are being asked to let the committee know what they want from the club and what direction the club should be following. Please take the opportunity to pass on your ideas and suggestions, the club needs them.

Next Toy Making Day is scheduled for 31st May. Tom will manage the day

Woodturning Lessons

are held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month and are open to everyone. These cost \$18 per lesson which goes to the Club. If you'd like some lessons please talk to Allan Game on 4739 1028 or Jan Pennell on 0417 400 268.

Ernie Newman also has vacancies in Tuesday lessons. No experience is needed. The classes run from 9 till 1 on Tuesdays at 87 St Johns Rd Blaxland. The cost is \$15 per day which goes to the Blue Mountains Woodturners.

This course covers all aspects of woodturning.

Ernie has taught woodturning in 9 countries as well as teaching the TAFE trade woodturning course. Contact:

ernienewman@hortmail.com

Mobile: 0416961063.



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President's Report June 2018

May has gone in a flash and we are nearly half way through 2018. We had a very interesting demonstration on the art of deep boring and drilling by Allan Game at our May meeting. Allan has a wealth of knowledge that he is always willing to share with our members. Thank you Allan from all of us.

We have a few members with various health issues at the moment. Barry Ward is convalescing in Katoomba Hospital. Darrell Smith and Les Carter are undergoing various treatments. Our best wishes go to all of you.

The next toy day is Thursday 31 May. Tom Fox is doing a great job organising the project so come along and lend a hand. Should you have a toy suggestion please speak to Tom, I know he would appreciate your input.

The Armistice Day project is under way. We have had a very productive run over the last two weeks with many of our members docking, assembling and gluing, making templates and turning poppies.

We are hoping to have some part of the project completed for show and tell at the next general meeting. It has been great to see such a hive of activity with so many participating in the project over the last couple of weeks. From myself and Mike thank you. Let's keep the enthusiasm flowing.

We need members to help turn the poppies for the project. Wood is available at the clubhouse and can be collected after our general meeting on Saturday June 2nd. Remember we need 1000 poppies. A drawing of the dimensions of the poppies was sent out by email. If you didn't receive the email please contact Mike Boyle, Jan Pennell or me and one of us will send you a copy.

Barry Robinson has met with Lower Mountains Air Conditioning and received a verbal estimate for the installation of the air conditioning unit in the machine room. We are expecting to receive a written quote soon to put to the members.

There has been a good showing at show and tell lately but don't forget the president's ongoing challenge for you to bring something you have turned to show and tell, be it good or not so good. It is all of interest and contributes to the group.

The Leura festival was held on Sunday 6 May. The festival was a great success with good sales and we made \$95 from the \$5 lucky dip. The lucky dip has been a good earner for the club. However, we need to build the stocks up again as there are only 3 items left so please help by making and donating small items. All of the proceeds from the Lucky Dip go directly to the club.

John Mulquin will demonstrate at the July meeting so come along and watch John turn a hat. He is renowned for his hat turning and I for one am keen to observe his techniques. The Men's Shed has been in discussions with the committee and council for the erection of a shed on the grassed area at the back of the building. We will keep you informed of any developments on this front.

Bill Wooldridge

Vice President

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A PSYCHOLOGICAL TEST FOR WOODTURNERS Published in American Woodturner Fall 2002
Ernie Newman

Sigmund Freud may have been a closet woodturner. His published work makes no reference to woodturning but recently I was looking through my Uncle Stanley's shed for an augur and came across some dusty sheets of yellowed paper. They showed sketches of turnings signed "S. Freud". There were a couple of breast-like vessels [fig.1] and some disturbingly vigorous, masculine candlesticks. I was suspicious because Uncle Stanley is an incurable trickster. Maybe the drawings were fakes, maybe not. Could this really be the work of Sigmund Freud? Uncle Stanley was off on a trek in the wilds of Romania so I couldn't contact him.

One drawing of a vase [fig.2] was obviously inspired by a voluptuous feminine form. It had two intriguing squiggles running diagonally across it. This puzzled me until I deciphered Uncle Stanley's notations near the squiggles. Then it became clear that the sketch showed the nasty spiral cut caused by a violent catch. The first notation read "Freudian slip" and the second read "Jungian archetrip". The sketch may indicate a failed attempt to turn the tricky "S" shaped, feminine curve. Perhaps it reveals a fear of failure, a fear that working with this form might be too challenging.

Some jottings in German strengthened the possibility that this was the work of Sigmund Freud and that he was a woodturner. There were references to "countless catches" and "bloody splits". One page was headed "Wood Turners Malady" and described "an obsessional condition, an addiction to wood turning". The notes mention a letter from John Jacob Holtzapffel, a 19th century English turner, author and maker of ornamental lathes. The letter was undated but apparently written late in life.

Holtzapffel observed that many of the thousands who bought his lathes underwent "a sad transformation". He noted that they quickly developed an obsessive interest in turning, to the exclusion of all other pursuits. Typically they spent "long hours at the lathe" and poured all their money into the craft "to the neglect of family, business and friends". They ignored everyone apart from other turners who unfortunately "shared and reinforced the affliction".

Often they "stopped taking pains" with their appearance and were seen with "wood shavings in their hair and apparel". The shavings continually found their way throughout the homes of these "unfortunates" and, in severe cases, "repeatedly became lodged in their bedding resulting in intense marital disharmony and worse". These turners appeared to be totally mesmerized with the tip of a gouge and incapable of seeing anything else in life.

Holtzapffel's account led Freud, if it was Freud who wrote the notes, to develop a series of psychological tests to explore "wood turning and its discontents". Part one of the tests is translated below. The tests may have been useful diagnostic tools as he writes with excitement, of "light at the end of the tunnel". This phrase is interesting given Freud's views on the imagery of trains rushing into tunnels. Whatever the success of the test, the treatment of these "pitiable addicts" proved frustrating, "All my patients are turning crazy as cut snakes."

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One form of treatment offered hope. Small groups of turners met to encourage each other to give up turning completely. The turners introduced themselves with the words, "My name is...and I am a woodturner" and went on to speak openly of their struggles to pursue a lathe free life.

After reading these notes I realized that quite a few of my woodturning friends exhibit some of the characteristics that Holtzapffel described and I persuaded some to complete the psychological test below. The results were disturbing. A psychiatrist told me that a significant number of her patients suffer from a similar condition known as, "Obsessive Bowl Syndrome". Perhaps the publication of the test may help us gain a better understanding of what appears to be an alarming problem.

THE SIGMUND FREUD PERSONALITY TEST FOR WOODTURNERS - PART ONE

This test has been devised to help woodturners understand their psychological make-up. Tick any answers that accurately describe your own response.

1/ When your tools get blunt do you

A/ Spend more time sharpening them than using them.

B/ Keep using them no matter how blunt they get.

C/ Buy new tools to avoid sharpening.

2/ When deciding which way to start cutting do you

A/ Always cut with the grain.

B/ Take pleasure in successfully cutting against the grain.

C/ Feel paralyzed by your confusion about grain direction and call your therapist.

3/ Do you believe that real men make

A/ Money.

B/ Baseball bats.

C/ Elegant scent bottles.

4/ Do you

A/ Refuse to make a drawing before you turn.

B/ Always make a drawing before you turn.

C/ Prepare two drawings when turning a pair of identical items.

5/ When you see a beautiful tree flourishing in the forest do you

A/ Thank God for nature's beauty.

B/ Chain yourself to the tree and sing.

C/ Imagine it slaughtered, quartered and spinning on the lathe.

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6/ When you see an expert demonstrator making it all look easy do you

A/ Write at least six pages of notes.

B/ Point out that the tool is incorrectly sharpened, presented at the wrong angle and that a Swedish hook tool would have left a better finish.

C/ Sign on for lessons and buy the tool, the book and the dust-coat.

7/ When you strike a hidden void while turning a piece of wood do you

A/ Start again with another piece of wood.

B/ Keep going and talk about, "art", "unique character" and "respect for the organic nature of the material".

C/ Pack a mixture of shavings, sawdust and glue into the gap and swear a lot.

8/ Do you think of your beloved when you see

A/ A sensual "S" shaped Grecian urn.

B/ A bold cigar shape pointing to the heavens.

C/ The shavings you have walked onto the carpet.

9/ When selecting lathe speed do you

A/ Turn at top speed to get the job done quickly.

B/ Turn at a low speed to be sure it's safe.

C/ Spin the lathe by hand to be really sure.

10/ Do any of the these titles appeal to you

A/ Turning Beads and Coves the Correct Way.

B/ How To Have Fun With A Tool.

C/ Texas Skew Chisel Massacre.

If you found that only one or two answers applied to you then you are probably not addicted to woodturning. If three or four answers applied to you then you may be addicted. If you ticked five or more answers then you need immediate help. If you felt that none of the answers reflected your personality then you are not addicted but the fact that you bothered to complete the test is a bit of a worry.

Was the test devised by Freud? Uncle Stanley never did answer any of my questions about the notes or drawings, except to smile and say, "They are what they are." In any case the test isn't 100% reliable. I did it myself and had to tick quite a lot of answers even though I am definitely not addicted to woodturning. To be honest, I do turn quite a lot, every day actually. In fact, since the wife and kids left and I had to sell the house, I sometimes put in all-nighters but I'm not an addict. That's for sure. Absolutely. I'm handling it.

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The previous article and these pix were provided by Ernie Newman. The article was previously published in the American Woodturner.

'TOY DAY REPORT

The club house was a hive of industry once again on Thursday 3rd May with all present working on toy production.

A batch of skipping ropes was finished off and many new handles for skipping ropes were turned. Also turned were sundry knitting nancies, and numerous toy cars. Wheels were fitted to various items and more animal profiles and hot rod bodies were sawn out. The painting squad adroitly coloured the available items and lots and lots of wheels were cut out ready for fitting to more toy cars and pull-along animal shapes.

By finishing time the number of completed toys had been increased from 54 to over 80 with a box full of items part-way to completion.

Many thanks to all those who came along and contributed to the toy-making project. The next Toy-making Day will be on Thursday 31st May. For more information ring Tom Fox on 0427 417 060'.



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Committee

President - Andy Georgiou

Vice President - Bill Wooldridge

Secretary - John Turner

Treasurer - Jan Pennell

Membership Secretary - Rachael Murphy

Committee Members

Des Lane, Barrie Ward, Tony Trainer

Public Officer - Tom Fox

Publicity Officer - John Mulquin

Librarians - John Mulquin, Jan Pennell

First Aid Officers - Tony Trainer, Jan Pennell

Webmaster - Andy Georgiou

Facebook Coordinator - Rhys Jones

Entry Admission Officer - Des Tuck when available

Safety Officer - Jan Pennell

Welfare Officer - to be handled by the Committee

Club Sales - Barry Robinson

BMWC Site Manager - John Mulquin

Workshop Manager - Des Lane

Show & Tell Coordinator - John Cossey

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All Correspondence to:

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Club Calendar

Day	Date	Event	Time
Saturday	2/06/18	Meeting	10.00am Onwards
Thursday	7/06/18	Open Day	9.00am Onwards
Saturday	9/06/18	Woodturning Lessons	10.00am - 12.00
Thursday	14/06/18	Open Day	
Thursday	21/06/18	Open Day	
Saturday	23/06/18	Woodturning Lessons	9.00-12.00
Thursday	28/06/18	Open Day	
Every Tuesday		Woodturning Lessons	9.00am to 3pm