

**Club Meeting**

The Club meeting that usually takes place on the first Saturday of the month will not take place as scheduled because it falls on April 4, Easter Saturday. Instead, a meeting will be held on Saturday April 18. This will also be a preparation day for the Leura Festival to be held on May 2.

**Roman Goik Handmade Tools Demo March 7.**

For our club demonstration on March 7 Roman demonstrated some homemade tools he uses regularly and discussed some approaches you might not have thought of. He also demonstrated silver brazing where two dissimilar metals can be very strongly and permanently bonded.



Roman talks Tools



Pictures courtesy of Andy Georgiou via the BM Woodturners Chat on Whatsapp.

Ernie Newman turns a resin and timber egg.  
Not a tidy job.



## We need your help!

Yes, it is about little boys and girls that do not have toys. As the coordinator of the club's Thursdays and the toys that we make on that day, I have a request to ask of you.

For the past twenty years, our club has made toys to support the families in the Blue Mountains. During this time, we have extended our production and now supply three charities with toys. The task has become mundane but never boring. The wood being construction grade pine is now difficult to obtain because it is no longer UNTREATED.

Being Turners and used to working with wood I am positive that somewhere in the back of your minds you have ideas about wooden toys as well as games and the method of making them.

Please, put your thinking caps on and if you can think of something, or design something, or see something that we can try, let us know.

Thank you and happy Easter.

Clive Lyle

Toys Coordinator



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.



### Hat trick by John Gallo

Recently Roman brought in some “green” timber, and Ernie suggested that the three learners present have a go making toy hats. None of us ever thought we could turn a hat, let alone turn a “hat trick,” however, with Ernie’s enthusiasm and encouragement, we all “threw our hats into the ring” (and threw caution to the wind).



*John's Ring of hats*

The timber was tulip wood, which none of us had heard of, let alone turned before. It comes from the tulipwood tree from the East Coast of North America, where it is also called yellow poplar, although it is not related to the poplars. The wood is light but strong, and is a pale colour, with some light brown pigmentation in the sapwood. It was good for turning, although we needed more than a hat to protect us from the liquid sap spraying from the fresh timber.

Ernie explained that the critical aspect of this exercise is to create a thin-walled hat of uniform wall thickness. The thin wall allows the crown to be compressed in a special jig to create an oval shape. The uniform thickness prevents uneven drying leading to cracks.



*John's Mad Hatter*

First the outer shape of the crown and brim are formed, then the brim is thinned to a thickness of 1.5-2mm. It is important to work slowly from the outer edge of the brim towards the center, checking its thickness frequently with small calipers.

There is a critical point where the brim meets the crown, and one must negotiate this transition point carefully, working close to the inner surface of the hat before moving the gouge centrally to remove timber. A larger caliper allows the wall thickness to be measured deeper into the hat.

Since this is a light timber, similar to radiata pine, one can get an impression of how thin the wall is by shining a light through the wall (a technique called transillumination, which is also taught to medical students when examining various lumps and bumps). One of the most challenging parts of the project is judging the wall thickness of the top of the hat since one does not have the same caliper access to it.

The hat is parted off at the apex and placed in a jig with sufficient pressure to squeeze it into shape without cracking it (this takes some nerve!).

From the above, you can see that this project has multiple challenges. SO...we must take our hats off not only to Ernie but also to John Mulquin, who is a multiple Sydney Easter Show prizewinner for turning full-sized hats. We have a better idea now of the skill involved in those achievements!

Having taught Tony Brewster, Roman Gock and me to turn hats, and including the one he whipped up as a demo, Ernie’s turning school has now deservedly been awarded its four hats status.



*Tony Brewster, John Gallo, Roman Goik and Ernie Newman earned mini hat status*

### Vale Owen Swain

Blue Mountains Woodturners member Owen Swain passed at the end of last year. I met him on during my very first lesson with Ernie when I joined the club and he was a large influence for me staying with the club. He was always happy to see you. He always had a kind word, and he was always willing to put aside his project to help someone else. He taught me how to make snowmen although I have never been able to gain his skill at them.

Owen's family are not wood turners and would like to find homes for his tools. The list below is only some of the items looking for new homes. Brian Coates is coordinating the collection and has more details should anyone be interested.

WL-14V Wood Lathe (approx. 42 months old) Including appropriate stand .....	\$400
Trend Airshield Pro (powered air purifying respirator incorporating eye protection).	\$500
4-piece set Carbatec Carbide Chisels (as new) .....	\$100
1 Robert Sorby HSS 1" skew blank (as new) .....	\$60
1 Knurling Tool 20mm 3-piece set (as new) .....	\$80
1 LH40 Pyrograph machine (as new) .....	\$50
1 Vicmarc Drive Dog threaded M30x3.5 .....	\$45

If you want to purchase or make any enquiries regarding the above or any of the other items not listed that we may have for sale please contact Brian on 0452443316.

Owen's family do not have any photos of him actually doing wood turning. If anyone has a photo, they would be willing to share, please let me know. Bec.

## Clubs Event Diary 2026

April 4: Saturday. Easter weekend. Demo postponed

April 18: Saturday. Demo TBA. Prep for Leura Festival

April 18/19: Saturday only. Iron Festival Portland. Event Cancelled due to road closures and fuel prices.

May 2/3: Saturday only. Leura Harvest

September: Saturday: Springwood Festival TBA

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

November 11th: Remembrance Day; Whitton Park 11.00am Gateway international, Salvation Army & St Martians Purse.

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](mailto:turningchatter@gmail.com)

---

If any member has a story to share or a tale to tell, please send it to [turningchatter@gmail.com](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> 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



*Bec's Cat in a Hat*