



Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

Mission Statement: "Promote woodturning as a creating skill for all ages"

EDITION 297

NOVEMBER 2025

Woodies AGM – 10 AM. THIS SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1

Please be advised that our annual general meeting is on Saturday, 1st November 2025, at our club house 19 Calver Ave, Mt. Riverview.

Starting at 10.00am.

All existing office bearers will resign, and all positions will become vacant. All current financial members will be able to offer themselves for election to a position on the committee.

Please see the attached nomination form, complete the form and bring the nomination to our meeting.

Tom Fox will conduct the meeting and provide the obligatory financial statement for the operation of our club.

If you have overlooked the current membership renewal, please EFT the payment to our bank account bsb 112-879 account 495 712 594 and reference your name in the transaction.

A BBQ will be provided after the meeting.

We encourage you to come along, be involved with the continuation of the club to the future in the direction you think best by having your say.

Leura Festival October 2025



Members once again flew the flag, demonstrating wood turning to the masses with aplomb, at the Leura Festival on October 6. Remember, all members are encouraged to take part in these events. You can sell



your items (with a small percentage going to the club). It's a great way to gain confidence and meet members you may not have encountered yet. They are held at various times through the year so there's something for everyone.

Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc
Committee and Office Bearer Nomination Form, 2025--2026

Office Nomination:

President :

Nominated By _____ Seconded By _____

Vice President :

Nominated By _____ Seconded By _____

Secretary:

Nominated By _____ Seconded By _____

Treasurer:

Nominated By _____ Seconded By _____

Committee Member

Nominated By _____ Seconded By _____

Committee Member:

Nominated By _____ Seconded By _____

Committee Member:

Nominated By _____ Seconded By _____

Committee Member:

Nominated By _____ Seconded By _____

Office bearers required and appointed:

Publicity Officer.....

Workshop Manager....

Webmaster.....

Safety Officer.....

First Aid Officer

Club Sales Officer

Site Manager

Member Secretary.....

Public Officer.....

Editor of Turning Chatter...

Facebook Coordinator....

Welfare Officer.....

Entry Officer.....

Catering Officer.....

Show and Tell Coordinator.....

I agree to be bound by the Rules, Constitution and By Laws of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc. Please return your completed nomination form to the Club house or via email to :-

Mjturner @live.com.au or jhmhbm@bigpond.net.au



Blue Mountains Woodies Membership renewal 2025-2026

Due: August 31, 2025

Remember, only current members can stand for positions, or hold positions, if they are current members. Can I encourage you to think about offering your services to shape the way of the Woodies in 2026. Help to continue Woodies service to the community as part of our foundation charter and keep alive the skills of wood turning.

At the moment, these are our office bearers and committee who attend the day-to-day running of our group and help keep Woodturning skills alive and serving the community.

All office bearers will resign at the annual general meeting and ask for financial members to offer themselves for any of the following positions which become vacant

Currently Elected Committee Members September 2025-2026:

President..... John Mulquin

Vice President... ..Clive Lyle

Secretary... .. John Turner

Membership Secretary... ..Ross Norrie / John Turner

Treasurer.....Tom Fox / John Turner

Publicity Officer... .. Steve Ward

Committee Members... .. Ross Norrie

Appointed Officers

Public officer. Tom Fox

Librarian... ..John Cossey & Clive Lyle

Workshop Manager... .. Clive Lyle / Allan Game

Editor of Turning Chatter... .. Glenn Barker/ Bec Higgins

Webmaster... .. Andy Georgiou

Facebook Coordinator... .. Sue Ward

Safety Officer...Clive Lyle and Allan Game

Welfare Officer...John Mulquin (temporary)

First Aid Officers.....Tony Trainer

Entry Officer.....Des Tuck (when available)

Club Sales Officer.....

Catering OfficerCommittee

Site Manager.....John Mulquin

‘Show and Tell’ Coordinator...John Cossey

Committee Members: Des Lane, Phil Brien, Tom Fox, John Cossey, John Mulquin, Clive Lyle, John Turner.

The current committee has been involved for many years and would like some new committee members for rejuvenation, support and encouragement with new ideas from within our club membership. Pick a position which you perhaps consider suits your skills and give it a go, plenty of help to guide you through what’s required. Just give it a go, it’s amazing what eventuates.



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 you 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 2025

The club agenda for the remainder of 2025 is as follows:

1st November 2025 - Saturday AGM

11th November 2025 Tuesday - Remembrance day 11.00am - Glenbrook Whiton park

December.

Clubs Christmas Party & official hand over of toys to charities.

Note: Operation Christmas Child have already taken delivery of their toys.

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

Cherry Tree Update.2



In 2008 Blue Mountains Woodturners organised a huge shindig at the Heritage-listed Tahlia House at Lawson. The catalyst for this venture was an old cherry tree that grew in the grounds of Tahlia House.

The tree had been presented in 1916 to the Tahlia House Girls School by a Japanese business representative in appreciation for the excellent education his two daughters had received. However, by 2005 the tree had to be removed to allow widening of the Great Western Highway (GWH).

Members of Blue Mountains Woodturners made small mementoes out of the wood from the old cherry tree, and these were presented to various dignitaries and to descendants of former pupils of the school. The presentation ceremony on 10th May 2008 was attended by more than 70 people and a new Cherry Tree – provided by the Japanese Consul-General – was planted in the somewhat truncated front yard of Tahlia House.

The new tree is doing OK (see Photo 1) but it is completely overshadowed by ‘wildling’ cherry tree that has sprouted on the verge of the GWH just outside the grounds of Tahlia House (See Photo 2) – not quite the result that had been hoped for in 2008! More glumly, the commemorative plaque (also presented by the Japanese community) and installed near the new tree has gone missing with only it’s mounting post remaining. I did not photograph the plaque when it was presented so have no idea of its wording. Perhaps some long-standing member has an image of the missing plaque?



Tom Fox

November 2025

THE OPAL TABLE – AN AUSTRALIAN COLLABORATION



By Ernie Newman

Take a trip back to 1999 when three of our current members [Des Lane, Brian Smith and myself] belonged to The Sydney Woodturners Guild.

Ask 9 artists, a gem dealer and 38 woodturners to make a table. Give them strict instructions - each leg is to be decorated - any number of people can make a leg - it has to be fun. Sit back and let your eyes widen, except that you can't sit back when there are so many ideas flowing, so many animated discussions, so many elegant, bizarre, kitsch and ridiculous table legs.



I wander around the clubhouse and gape at the legs, one in the form of a saucy doll, another made from 16 species of wood. A reverse-turned leg has a turned 'flower' inside. The stem, which is 170 mm long and only 1.5 mm in diameter, quivers at the slightest touch. There are legs which have borrowed from classical furniture styles: 17th century French, 16th century German, Ancient Greek, Chinese and Egyptian.

A man of fifty is beaming as a young woman paints a mermaid on his turning. 'Come on! Look at this!' he insists, as if we are present at the creation of the world. Another fellow is guided through his first experience of off-centre work to turn a leg on 5 centres, his mentor as dedicated as any midwife.

Nearby, a white-haired elder holds forth to a young man he has cornered, 'I had to turn this leg in 2 parts. My little lathe only takes 6 inches between centres.' The leg has 14 captive rings but as the young man reaches for it his arm is grabbed, and





another leg is thrust forward. This one comprises 15 or 20 interlocking rings that form a wooden chain. 'This is an adjustable leg,' says the older man, raising and lowering the chain, 'It's always just the right length to reach the floor, no matter how high the table is.'

A meticulous turner who normally makes conventional furniture, hands his first reverse-turned leg over to a painter. She is delighted with its refined line and when she hands it back, transformed by colour and pattern, she says, 'The outside is the carnival of life, the inside is the heart.'

A leg in the form of a rolling pin has a written invitation, 'Turn me, burn me, spin me, twirl me, roll me, stroke me, don't stop.' Its

maker, a woman with a hint of mischief in her smile, watches as you spin the rolling pin.

Can this really be a meeting of the Sydney Woodturners Guild? A club with a strong bent towards traditional turning is on the slippery slide to art. Not everyone approves of all this reckless creativity. 'What will we do with the table when its finished?' asks a club stalwart. 'Display it at the woodturning symposium in Newcastle then try to sell it for \$1000...for Westmead Children's Hospital'. This reply is received in skeptical silence. No matter, the pyrography and painting continue, the bleaching, blanching and staining, a rainbow of colour.

A retired truck driver does something he has never done before. He picks up a paintbrush, dips it into a bright red glob and starts to paint his turning.



The rim of the Japanese bronze cedar [chryptomaria japonica] tabletop is textured with an Arbortech carver and then the opal chips in the top of the table begin to glitter as the clear resin above them is polished with finer and finer pastes. The gem dealer who donated the opals is asked how much they are worth, 'Not much.' What does 'Not much', mean to a dealer? The question is repeated and his wife, also a gem dealer, is emphatic, '\$1000 retail'.

The asking price for the table goes up.



As the workshop winds down an artist declares, 'This is the most fun I have ever had painting.' She is grinning. I am curious about a fiftyish man who appears to have spent half the day in a trance and ask him if he enjoyed himself. 'This is the best day I have ever had.' We grab brooms and start sweeping up.

A few weeks later the opal table is finished. It has 42 legs but there are another 20 legs that won't fit so we start on a second table. Six months later the opal table is the centrepiece of the club's exhibit at the international wood turning symposium in Newcastle and wins us first prize for the best club display, an \$800 bandsaw and it was shown in the English magazine, *Woodturning*. Now everyone knows that the turners of Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are bold and clever. But the doubters shake their heads. 'No one will pay \$2500 for that.' They are right but the table eventually sells, for \$2000. The Children's Hospital is better off...and we are too.



2025 Presidents Annual Report

Well, it's that time of year where we all need to make the decision who is to run our club.

This a very important activity that WE ALL need to be involved in decision making of who will run the club. It's your club, you need to be involved in choosing who will run it. It is VERY important that you attend. There will be a BBQ organized by our chief cook, little John.

Yes, it has been a good year, many good things have been done, thank you all who have helped to make it happen. So, please turn up and get involved

On another note, the ground is drying out and the fire risk is increasing.

Please have your fire plan worked out well in advance. Stay or go. If you chose to go do not leave it to the last minute, you may die.

John H Mulquin

President

Blue Mountains Wood Turners Inc

Thanks to Steve (and Suzanne) for doing the last couple of Turning Chatter editions while I was unable to do so. I am back so 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