Turning Chatter

Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

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

Edition 197

February 2017

February Meeting

The next meeting is on Saturday the 4th of February. Our demonstrator this month is Phil Tonks from the Mt Riverview and Penrith woodworkers. Phil will be demonstrating box making and will be using the Givkin jig.

Some pics from Australia Day

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.

Woodturning Lessons

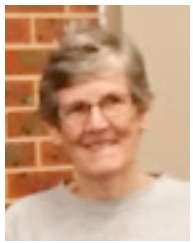
are held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month and are open to everyone. There is currently space available so come and try it. The price is affordable for everyone.

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

Ernie Newman offers lessons on Tuesdays for those interested in a long course. No experience necessary. Contact ernienewman@hotmail.com 0416961063.

Image Top Centre:
Yvonne Arlott - Woodturning Artist
www.yvonnearlott.com

The President's Monthly Report



January Meeting.

The theme for this meeting was planning for the future and we were looking for lots on input on thoughts, ideas and suggestions for the year(s) ahead and we certainly got them. Thank you to all who participated and came up with so much good input for us all. I won't list them here but hope you will see where we will have a go at implementing many of them. Some may work, some may not but let's give them ago and remember, your support is required to get them to work – so dig in. I plan to start with the one for opening the club every Saturday from 10 am to …. whenever in the afternoon that people want to finish. Yes the club demo day is on the first Saturday but that does not mean that people cannot stay on and do whatever they like after the meeting. Turn, share ideas, other projects, or just talk. Whatever.

On the second and fourth Saturdays of the month there are lessons from 9 to 12 so people in the lessons have priority on the lathes but there are more lathes available than is required for the lessons – so come and make use of them. Again, you can undertake a lot of other activities if you wish.

The third Saturday is not given to any specific activity, and the club will be well and truly open for greater use by members. Anything you want to do. There may even be scope to use that day for some special workshops if and when we can get them organised. (Another suggestion on the 'ideas' day last month.) Or if someone has a workshop they wish to pull together, please let us know.

Australia Day 26 Jan 17. Have just got home from there at time of writing. A good day weather wise and we seemed to do quite well with sales. Also a good roll up of members so thanks to all who came along. Well done again.

February Meeting. Following another suggestion from the January meeting to have a demonstration on box making, this is it. We have been able to get a couple of the guys from the Mt Riverview and Penrith woodworkers to do that. You may remember Phil Tonks did an excellent demo a while ago on bandsaw box making. Phil will be back again this time on traditional box making, especially using the Givkin jig. I am sure it will be at least as good as his previous one.

That is it for now. Hope to see you soon and until then, be king, be happy, be careful.
Jan

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Testing the grey matter.... by Ernie Newman

1. Which of the following are native to North America; black walnut [juglans nigra], douglas fir, ramin and white oak [quercus]?
2. Carving tools are often made from carbon steel and turning tools from high speed steel. Why?
3. When is a hand plane used on the lathe?
4. What is a wooden wedding?
5. Is it possible to turn clean, even threads on a lidded box [allowing the lid to be screwed on and off] with only hand held tools and no controlled feed attachment such as those on metal lathes or ornamental lathes?

Answers page 6

Club Calendar

2/02/17	Open Day	9.00am Onwards
4/02/17	General Meeting	10.00am Onwards
9/02/17	Open Day	9.00am Onwards
16/02/17	Open Day	9.00am Onwards
23/02/17	Open Day	9.00am Onwards
	Committee Meeting	10.00 - 11.00am
2/03/17	Open Day	9.00am Onwards

Details of Discussions from the General Meeting 7th Jan. 2017, by Mike Boyle

President Jan Pennell opened the meeting at 10 am, and advised that the new Men's Shed will be in residence from 9 am to 1.30pm every Tuesday.

She extended the club's thanks to Dave Roberts and the Thursday members who have completed the commissioning of the Shed.

To the request for an additional operator of the TV system at general meetings, Tom Fox agreed to learn the system.

The following items were then discussed in some depth -

Format for future meetings – It was suggested that details of the committee meetings be made available at general meetings. It was agreed that a summary of committee meetings would be provided at each general meeting, including things such as the club's financial position, and other items of interest.

Future demonstrators – It was agreed that a survey would be included in the Turning Chatter to enable members to express their suggestions on the type of demonstrations they would like to see. Some suggestions included carving, hollowing tools / deep hollowing basic woodworking skills. Members will be encouraged to fill out the survey which will include a number of other topics as well as demonstrations.

Turning Chatter contributions – Rhys Jones and Catherine Gorrie were recognised for the thankless job they have carried out over the years. All members are urged to contribute to our newsletter. Contributions could include member profiles, hints, for sale / wanted to buy advertisements, jokes etc. It was agreed that Tom Fox and Mike Boyle would liaise on preparing a club history, and any recollections and details would be appreciated.

Show & Tell incentives – The importance of Show and Tell was stressed, and details of the marking system was explained. It was agreed that photos of all items submitted would be kept and included (either individually or in group) in each Turning Chatter. If possible one photo will be submitted to the Gazette each month for publication in the "Along the Highway" segment.

Lucky-dip / raffle fundraising and other alternatives – Timber will be obtained from Lawson and supplied to members for the specific purpose of making a number of small items that can be used for raffles or lucky dips at various festival days. Proceeds will be used to help subsidise events such as national/ international demonstrators, and the purchase of other club equipment. It was further discussed that Bunnings BBQs be considered again. This will be subject to sufficient members making a definite commitment to assist, and this will be included in the TC survey.

Convert main room to a display gallery – There was discussion on the possibility of using the general meeting area as a gallery type display area where members could lend items for a period (say 1 month) so that members and visitors could view them. As a first step, the two display cases will be used. Perhaps the Men's Shed and the Scroll Sawyers may wish to contribute. Future displays at Springwood and Katoomba will be investigated.

Web page development – Andy Georgiou is developing an updated version of the club's web page, and would appreciate articles of interest to be submitted from members.

Back door project – Following discussion on Andy Georgiou's proposed back door project, it was agreed that it be broken into two projects – firstly to reopen the back gate entrance project of a few years ago, and secondly an entrance and roofing to the back door of the clubhouse. Such projects are ideal for the Big Lathe to be put to use. Ideas and

suggestions are requested, and should be submitted to Andy, Jan or Mike.

Repairs / preservation of previous major projects It was agreed that the club would undertake to repair the Big Hand and the Column at the front of the clubhouse in an attempt to preserve them at least for the medium term. This will be carried out in the main, on Thursdays.

New major art/sculpture/turning project – It was also agreed that the club would undertake a new major project to continue the enthusiasm generated from the Big Hand. Mike B outlined a possible suggestion, and is looking for more ideas to create the impossible.

Club opening on 3rd Saturday of the month – The clubhouse is used every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month for training, and could also be used by members to undertake club or private projects or meetings. If there is interest it could also be opened on the 3rd Saturday and after the general meeting on the 1st Saturday. By using the clubhouse frequently reinforces the need for Council to renew our occupancy. This will also be addressed in the TC survey.

Other skills development - Skills such as ornamental turning, carving, gilding, pyrography, photography, painting, welding etc. all could be undertaken if there were to sufficient interest. They could be by way of workshops and or demonstrations, and could be carried out on Saturdays or Thursdays. Suggestions will be canvassed in the TC survey.

Taking Better Photos, by Glenn Barker

Hello to all members, this is the first tip to help members take photos of woodturning projects, family get togethers, holidays, etc.

There are some very simple techniques to improve your photographs, after a while they become second nature.

Everyday we see vast quantities of visual information and cherry pick interesting detail from that scene. It's something we all grew up with but it doesn't necessarily transfer over to photographs and video very well. For example, as I am typing this on my computer I am looking at the screen, and in my peripheral vision can also see the telephone, mug, hard drives etc. The photograph shown below has too much visual information and takes attention from the article on the screen. So many amateur photographs are taken this way which shows far too much visual clutter..

If I was standing next to the person while they were looking at the photo, I could explain what I want them to look at, even though all the extra stuff in the photo is too distracting and confusing.

A simple solution is to move in closer or crop using a picture editing program to remove the extra stuff and bring attention to the subject.

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
Email: catherinegorrie@gmail.com
Tel: 0409 260 916

Club Email: bmwoodies@bigpond.com
web address:
www.bluemtnswoodturners.org.au
All Correspondence to:
PO Box 223 Springwood NSW 2777

Answers to testing the grey matter...

1. Black walnut, douglas fir and white oak are all native to North America. Ramin grows from South East Asia across to Fiji. It is often used for dowels and mouldings such as picture frames.

2. Turning tools are generally made from high speed steel because it is tougher and therefore retains an edge longer than carbon steel tools. Carving tools are not subjected to the aggressive process of cutting rapidly moving wood so don't need to be as tough. Carbon steel is favoured for carving tools because it is cheaper and softer so more quickly sharpened.

3. After a baluster is turned, a raised section generally remains where it was supported in a steady rest. This is extremely difficult to turn away using conventional tools as the slender wood will flex and grab. A short hand plane may be used to remove this section. The plane is held with the right hand and left thumb while the left fingers support the wood. Because the blade barely projects beyond the sole of the plane a very light, controlled cut may be taken.

4. According to tradition, a couple celebrates their wooden wedding anniversary after five years of marriage and on such an occasion it is fitting to give wooden gifts.

5. Neat, workable threads have been hand turned or hand chased with the aid of serrated, hand held thread chasers for at least 500 years. There are still a few turners who keep the art alive.

Survey of Ideas for the Future

Please return at the next meeting, or hand to any of the Committee members.

1. **Future Demonstrators / Topics**
   Do you have any suggestions as to future demonstrators for the monthly meetings, and what types of topics would you like covered?
   - Demonstrators
   - Topics

2. **Fundraising Initiatives**
   Would you be prepared to attend another Bunnings Sizzle?
   - Y/N

3. **Back Door Entry Project**
   Do you have any suggestions for a back door entry project?
   -
   -

4. **Club opening on 2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturdays**
   Would you be interested in the clubhouse being open on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturdays of the month similar to Thursdays and how often?

   - Y/N

5. **Ideas for future projects**
   Do you have any suggestions for future club projects similar to the “Big Hand”?
   -
   -

6. **Skills Development**
   Do you have any suggestions for the club providing training in other skills that may not be directly related to woodturning, but could be interesting and useful?
   -
   -

7. **Any other Suggestions**
   -
   -

Name. …….