



Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

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

EDITION 291

MAY 2025

MIKE DARLOW DEMO MAY 10TH



*A faceplate fully
turned in jelutong*

Mike Darlow is a very experienced turner and has written a number of books on many aspects of woodturning including sharpening tools and woodturning projects...

The following information is sourced directly from his website:

<https://mikedarlow.com/about-mike/>

Mike started turning professionally in his garage in 1979. A year later he moved to a leased workshop in the inner-Sydney suburb of Chippendale. As the business expanded, eventually employing 5 turners and a cabinetmaker, it moved to larger premises in nearby Alexandria. Mike Darlow Woodturning undertook every type of turning work including restoration, replacements, patternmaking, and architectural and furniture components. The two main specialties were columns up to 6 metres long, and lamps. Giftware, gallery and craft items, and pieces for interior designers were also important. The business had twenty-one lathes, both hand and automatic, and much special equipment was developed. The depth and breadth of the woodturning experience thus gained is reflected in the wealth of detail and practical discussion in Mike's publications and magazine articles.

Mike also produced pieces for exhibitions held by the Woodworkers Group of NSW, and two one-man exhibitions: the first at the Old Bakery Gallery in Sydney, the second at Canberra's Red Hill Gallery.

Mike works are included in the collections of the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; the Pinto Collection, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, UK; Rockhampton Art Gallery, Queensland; Boston Museum of Fine Art, USA; and the National Museum of China.

His demonstration for our club will look at the details of turning and the use of chisels to understand how they cut.

Note: this demo will be on the second Saturday of May due to the Leura Harvest Festival, the Federal Election and the artist availability.



Mike's Lopez design of chess set. The objective was to design a set which would be easy to turn. Note how the body of the knight is tilted, so that the piece represents a charger's head and neck



Open day Saturday June 7th 2025

Demo day Saturday 7th June 2025 will be an open day for the club. The theme for this event is: ***Come and have a go at wood turning***

So: Club members put your thinking caps on or consult Dr. Google and let's have your ideas as to what articles could be used for this demonstration.

We look forward to your input.

Thank you

Clive.



MARION SHAPIRO DEMO

By all accounts, the April Demonstration day featuring Marian Shapiro was a huge success. Her amazing presentation of Mosaic Artistry was inspiring. Here are a few photos from the day sent in by Andy Georgiou and Roman Goik.



Marian has finished the bowl she started in our demo and has very generously donated it to our club. It will be raffled at the Leura Harvest Festival this Saturday May 3.



Club House Library

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.



Clubs Event Diary May 2025

May 3: Federal election

May 3: Leura Harvest Festival

May 10: Mike Darlow- Note: Note the third but 10th

May 17: Family event – Bike fix day Mount Riv. Park 10 am to 2.00PM

June - Pen Making Competition (In House)

July- Open day. Three turners demonstrating

August :

Sept: AGM- Springwood and Leura

Other events to consider

Glenbrook markets

Seniors day –Springwood

Makers Markets - Springwood.



Sharing Ideas and Objectives that help, improve and secure the future of our Club.

Fellow Club Members,

At our last committee meeting we resolved to reach out to our members and seek some feedback as to what you see the priorities for the club and committee should be.

The aim is to improve areas such as:

- the physical and social environment
- health and safety
- equipment
- how we use our clubhouse space and facility
- training
- demonstrations
- interaction with other like-minded organisations
- encouraging and retaining new and existing members
- Plus, many more, any suggestions and feedback you may have.

Please feel free to expand on any suggestions or ideas you have, for example, how we can gain increased membership. You can be as specific or general in your feedback as you wish.

We are happy to have as many suggestions as possible and you can express feedback on as many ideas as you wish.

The Committee will then collate the suggestions and ideas and prioritise them in order of the most important and urgent to the less urgent issues, e.g. health and safety would be a high priority.

Your feedback will allow the committee to better represent the wishes and priorities of our members and to better allocate people, financial resources and timelines to achieve this.

All feedback is appreciated, and we thank you in advance for your contribution.

Please send any ideas and suggestions you wish to contribute by email to:

Stephen Ward on email address: ward372@ozemail.com.au

I will be away for the next six weeks, but will assemble and collate the responses for the first committee meeting after I return.

Thank you again in advance for your contribution.

Regards

Stephen Ward

PH:0407494110

CAN YOU CREATE A MIGHTY PEN?

ANNOUNCING THE BLUE MOUNTAINS WOODTURNERS PEN MAKING COMPETITION

win a \$100 Timberbits gift voucher.

We are holding a competition for the: - Best, Most creative Pen The “PEN” “figuratively.

“The pen regarded as the instrument of authorship”

Any device used to record in any way could be considered as “a pen” SO: - let’s put on our thinking caps, think outside the square and start turning.

A few rules: - Must be partially made of wood. Must be partially turned. Collaborations are allowed (share the prize 50/50) Entries close June meeting 2025

Blue Mountains Leura Harvest Festival 3rd May

The Leura Village Harvest Festival is coming up on the 3rd of May. We have made the application to attend and expect we will be invited once again. The day is our usual monthly Saturday meeting so it will be our alternate monthly meeting venue.

The day starts at 9.00am but we always need help to erect the tent, transport the tent and prepare the display, that happens from 7.00 am. The trailer is loaded at the club on the Thursday... We also need members to display their skills which generates interest in our display and perhaps sales.

In addition to our monthly meeting in May we will also have a demonstration by Mike Darlow on sharpening techniques in a second monthly meeting on the 10th of May at the club house, same time same place for your interest. A big month for May.

There is always plenty of interest from the market goes in the turning demonstrations we conduct, and our presence also generates some membership enquiries. The market provides a venue for our members to sell a few of their excess treasures and earn a few dollars for themselves and the club.



Woodies in Action at the 2024 Leura Harvest Festival. Let's hope for better weather this year.

We are usually close to the Red Door Cafe who allow us to connect to their power source. Does anyone have a special turned timber item they could offer as a ‘Thankyou gift’? I think they are sick of plates but maybe a set of honey pot spoons??

Keep it in mind, it’s a great day in the mountains.

Blue Mountains Wood Turners Presidents Report May 2025

Greetings dear brothers and sisters in wood turning.

Yes, another month has passed, and a few more grey hairs have appeared and some have vanished.

I was down the Easter Show this month and it was great to see two exhibits from our club, the two Johns. There was not a lot of wood turning but the standard was high. When I went down on Sunday to pick up my item and I was able to have a very close look, especially the winner was a turned lidded box turned on four centres, the fit and finish top finish, well done. So, my challenge next year (DV) is to make two items, maybe a hat and a merry go round and enter an item in the Bathurst Show, Hawkesbury Show, Penrith Show and the Royal.

In few days we are all off to Leura for the fair, please be ready to give a hand to set up, bring your warm clothes, put your items on display, willing to demonstrate your skills and enjoy yourselves.

Also, we are having top turners coming to our club, please come and support the club and encourage the guest turners. At Leura we will have a raffle of the bowl made Mr. John Cosey and enhanced by Mrs. Marion Shapiro.

Next month the "Pen" challenge is on, trust you have sorted out your designs and ready to show them.

Keep turning and keep ACTIVE.

John H
President

If anyone has something to contribute to the newsletter, please, send it in. the email is turningchatter@gmail.com. In order to get this newsletter out (which I enjoy doing), and maintaining a healthy work/life balance, please have all submissions to me by the 20th of each month. That will ensure that I have time to get everything in – hopefully without doing subsequent corrections – and do so without stress.

Also, I need your photo's to be jpeg format please. Attachments to an email rather than embedded in a document.

Thank you for your help with this. It will make my life a little easier.

I look forward to seeing your show and tell pieces and hearing your stories.

Until next month, keep those wood chips flying!

Bec