



# Turning Chatter

Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

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

Edition 214

July 2018

## July Demo

When's a hat not a hat?? When it's made of wood and turned by the hat expert - John Mulquin. One of the best in hat turning, John will demonstrate just how simple (NOT) it is to create and wooden "Akubra". Don't miss this opportunity to see the expert "Mad Hatter" at work.

## WORKING with WOOD SHOW

It's winter and, more importantly, time once again for the Timber and Working with Wood show. This year the show is being held on 20 - 22 July at the Rosehill Garden Racecourse. There are opportunities for you to get cheaper tickets available so a bit of research can save you a few dollars.

## 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 2nd Aug. Klaus 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@hotmail.com](mailto:ernienewman@hotmail.com)

Mobile: 0416961063.



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## President's Report July 2018

Unfortunately our demonstrator for the June meeting had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances. I would like to thank John Krook for coming to the rescue with only a week's notice. Thank you John. John's demonstration on turning a lidded box was very well received by all at the meeting. The lid fitted nice and snug, the design was petite and simple (some of us newbie's may be encouraged try one) and well proportioned. John's demonstration had something for new and experienced turners alike.

The demo was turned on the small Vicmarc which was mounted on the new bench purposely made to perfection by Allan Game. Thank you Allan.

The Armistice Day project is starting to take shape. The first segment for the 600mm nurse's hat was turned last Thursday and more will be turned in the next week or so. The team are hopeful of having the hat ready for show and tell at the next meeting. At the last count we have 120 poppies made but still require another 880 so we all need to get busy making poppies. We won't know if we have been successful with our submission for the Armistice Day grant until July and are reasonably confident we will be successful.

Jan Pennell has spent a few days in hospital, is now home and we wish her a speedy recovery.

The latest news we have on the Men's Shed development application (for the building of a shed at the back of the club) is still with council for approval.

Our President has returned from his holiday overseas looking refreshed and we welcome Andy back to the fold.

There was a good number of interesting items for show and tell at the last meeting and it was good to see Chloe, one of our new members, put some of her turnings in.

Remember we have John Mulquin doing the demonstration at the next meeting making a hat and I for one am very much looking forward to seeing how it's done.

As always stay safe and enjoy your turning.

Bill Wooldridge

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## Instant Art and the Customs

Ernie Newman

An Australian friend, Stanley, passed on some stories of the kindness and cunning of American Association of woodturners members. He swears that they are true accounts in every detail but I have changed his name to preserve his anonymity.

During a holiday in the U.S.A. he stayed in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and was befriended by a fellow named Dick Failing. Dick is a generous man and gave Stanley several pounds of pink ivory in the form of small off-cuts. This wood has a distinctive, sometimes bright, pink color and, at \$75 a board foot, is one of the most expensive species available.

Stanley decided to share his bounty with the woodturners he met during his holiday but he wanted to take a little back to Australia for miniatures. He knew that without the requisite paperwork, the Australian customs officers were likely to impound the wood as a possible source of contamination. This was galling as the wood had already been approved for import into the UK and the USA.

Stanley came up with an ingenious ruse. Hoping that Customs would not question a work of art, he glued some of the off-cuts together randomly, with a minimum of glue so that they could easily be separated later, and asked Dick to suggest a title for his five minute sculpture. Dick immediately wrote 'Early Flight' on the base in a bold hand and signed his name with a flourish.

On arrival in Australia Stanley was pretty tense and felt was sure he looked guilty as he explained to the Custom's officer that he had a sculpture to declare. The officer glanced at the piece and waved him through. Shortly after Stanley grabbed a hammer and smashed the sculpture into its more valuable state.

A few years later Stanley saw Cholla for the first time, in the high desert of New Mexico. It is a woody bush in the cactus family with a striking skeletal appearance. He was staying with artists, Bob and Jane Clancy, and they offered to send some Cholla to Australia. Stanley explained that the Australian Customs were strict and recounted the story of the pink ivory.

Bob and Jane quickly started throwing ideas around. They collected ten sticks of Cholla and micro-waved them to ensure that any bugs were destroyed. Jane bound them together into a tapestry with leather strips and red cord then Bob added an abstract pine 'platter' that he had turned. The ensemble was titled 'Homage to an Ancient Pinon'. Three months after Stanley returned to Australia he received a parcel of cholla, or a piece of art, depending on your point of view. Stanley was very keen to start working with the cholla but 'Homage to an Ancient Pinon' was beautiful and it took weeks for him to find the will to dismember it.

On another trip, Gary Smith of Boise, Idaho gave Stanley two small blocks of African ebony and

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On another trip, Gary Smith of Boise, Idaho gave Stanley two small blocks of African ebony and Bill Haskell of Los Angeles added three of pocate. Stanley asked Bill to unleash his creative spirit and to incorporate them into a sculpture so he could get them through Customs. Bill pondered for a while then stood the five blocks on end and glued them 'shoulder to shoulder' in an irregular line. He named the piece, 'California Stonehenge - Cosmic Interlude 3' and attached a label pricing it at \$180.

That done, Bill tackled another problem – how to combine three slender pieces of weathered driftwood from British Columbia so that Stanley could get them back to Australia to carve. Bill's solution was half way between whimsy and pure corn. First they were micro-waved then Bill glued two pieces horizontally to form a base for the third piece which was positioned vertically. He attached two doll's eyes near the top of the vertical piece and named it 'Lone Bloke'.

Back in Australia the Custom's officer quickly okayed 'California Stonehenge - Cosmic Interlude 3' but made a prolonged inspection of the weathered driftwood. As the seconds passed Stanley began to feel nervous and started to sweat. What if the officer was suspicious? What if he investigated the origin of the piece? Could he do that? The officer eventually looked up, waited a beat then said, "This, 'Lone Bloke', its.....great. I really like it. I am a woodworker myself and I think this is terrific."

After Stanley's heart stopped hammering he decided that he liked it too, liked it way too much to break it up. He also decided that next time he wouldn't ask an artist to whip up a sculpture, not if he really wanted to get his hands on the wood.

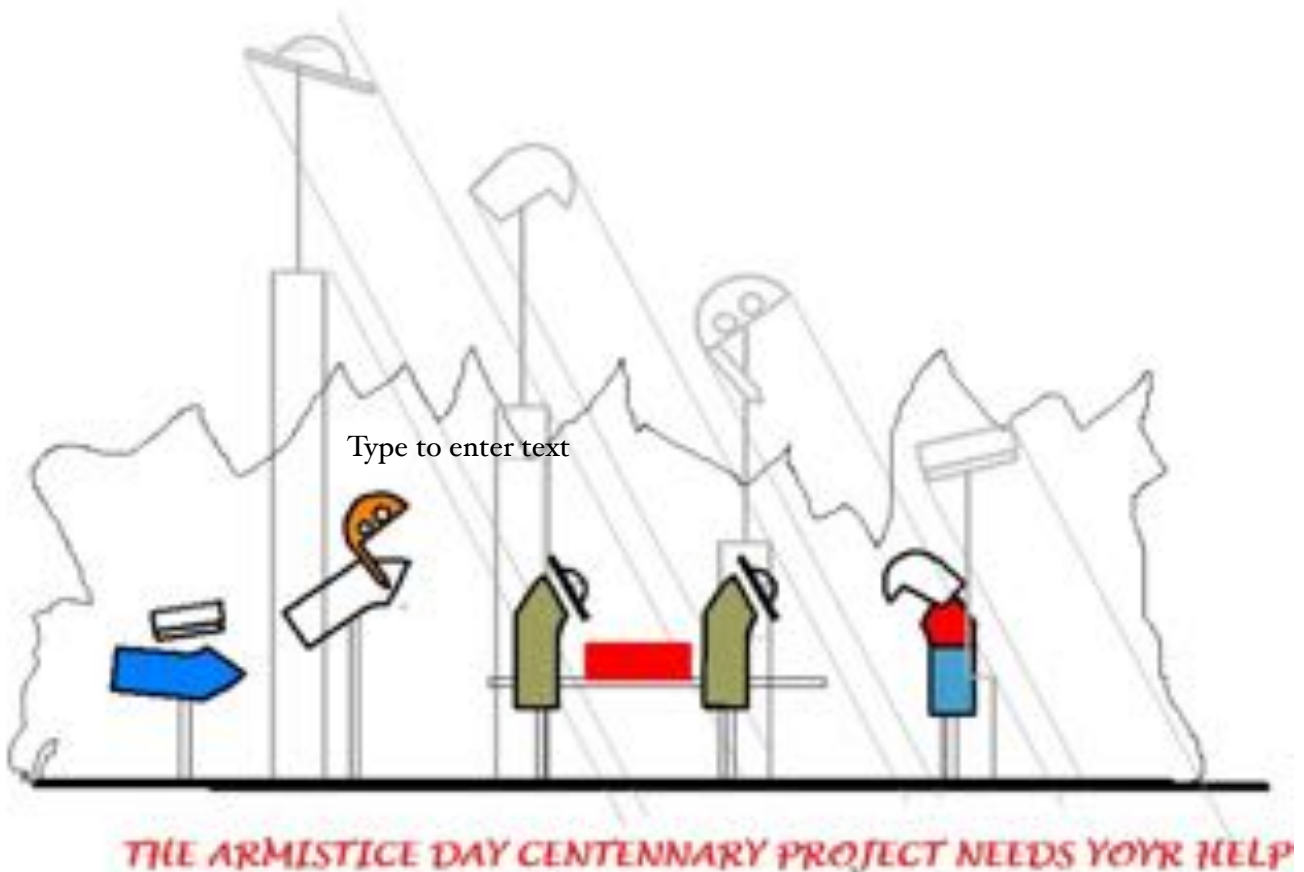


Lone Bloke



Cholla

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## NEWS FLASH

**Our submission for an Armistice Day grant has been approved. Now the hard work commences**

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## 'TOY DAY REPORT

Since the last update, Toy-making days have been held on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> June. A great deal of progress was made on these days and the number of finished toys is now over 150. Almost 40 items were completed on 21<sup>st</sup> June and several more are part-way to completion.

It is apparent that the majority of the Club's efforts over the rest of 2018 will need to concentrate on the Armistice Centenary Commemoration Project so it is helpful that the toys program is already very advanced.

Two more toy-making days in the second half of 2018 should deliver enough items to achieve our usual target of 200 plus.

Sincere thanks to all those who came along on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> June and contributed to the toy-making program.

Assuming that it does not interfere with work on the Armistice project, it is planned to have another toy-making day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018. For more information ring Tom Fox on 0427 417 060'.





# Turning Chatter

## 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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## Club Calendar

Day	Date	Event	Time
Saturday	7/07/18	Meeting	10.00am Onwards
Thursday	12/07/18	Open Day	9.00am Onwards
Saturday	14/07/18	Woodturning Lessons	10.00am - 12.00
Thursday	19/07/18	Open Day	
Thursday	26/07/18	Open Day	
Saturday	28/07/18	Woodturning Lessons	9.00-12.00
Every Tuesday		Woodturning Lessons	9.00am to 3pm