



Turning Chatter



Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

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

EDITION 288

FEBRUARY 2025

Blue Mountains Wood Turners Presidents Report February 2025

Greeting one and all,

The New Year is up and running, at times a bit fast for us older people.

We had our first Ex meeting and a few things are set in motion:

- Demonstrators set in place for the next four months, well done team. First demo will be making balls by hand and eye, this is great fun, John Cossey and I have made many balls, mine ended up in a nursing home for the boys to play bobs.
- Making flutes, tile art from a professional artist.

Clive has been looking a new lathe, a mid-range machine.

Tony has been training a member in the art of pen making.

What would be nice if some of our very skilled members could take a less skilled member and train him/her in making a certain project. An example would be in making finials. We have made three over the last three months and it would be nice if we could develop skills in making them. Then a job comes in and a member could make them. I have made 8 over the last two years because the skills were in the club to make them and those who have the skills were too busy. So let's try and upskill each other so we can make many things.

We had a request to make wooden balls but we did not have the skills and those who do, were committed to other projects so the job was given to another club. If we are skilling up it is easier to invite people in show them our skills and encourage them to join our club. You will not attract new members if we are not making things and sharing our skills.

So let's upskill and share. Also don't forget the John Cossey pen challenge.

Be creative, support each other, come and see our demonstrators then go home and practice.

John H Mulquin

President

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 1: TURNING BILLIARD BALLS FREEHAND, MAKING ART OUT OF SPHERES AND MAKING TOYS

Ernie Newman will show how turners made accurate spheres in the 19th century and also toys, some of which have not been shown at BMW meetings. Ernie has demonstrated woodturning in nine countries and in May he will demonstrate in a tenth, Japan.



Simon Begg German Ring Turning

MARCH 1: GERMAN RING TURNING

Simon Begg will be demonstrating German ring turning, an art form that he has revived and has demonstrated in the U.S as well as many other places.

Simon is a full time turner and has demonstrated for us in the past.

Marion Shapiro Mosaic Collaboration



APRIL 5: Marion Shapiro is a world renowned mosaic artist from Glenbrook and will be demonstrating the basics of this art form. Marion attended a woodworking collaboration in the past and produced a piece in collaboration with a Woodturner.

As usual, all demonstrations will be held at the Men's Shed on the first Saturday of the each month when we have the monthly meeting.

QUIZZICAL WOODTURNER Published in the American Wood turner Magazine. Summer 2003

Courtesy of Ernie Newman.

- 1/ Are there more species of hardwoods or softwoods in the world?
- 2/ Which Hollywood actor is a woodworker: Clint Eastwood, William H. Macy or Harrison Ford?
- 3/ What is the problem with turning a piece after it has been sanded?
- 4/ Does a screwchuck [faceplate with central projecting screw] hold end grain work, for example a goblet, as effectively as side grain work, for example a platter?
- 5/ Which woodturning club has required its members to attend church?

NOTE: There is more than one way to turn and there isn't just one right answer to the questions in this quiz. Your comments and corrections are welcome. The answers provided in 2003 are later in the newsletter.

2024-2025 Christmas Tree Project



The Woodies are proposing to make Christmas Trees a part of our toy making programme for 2025.

Phillip Brien has made these samples and we are proposing that you save a 300mm length of your 2024 Christmas tree trunk, paint both ends with water based paint to reduce moisture loss and then sometime in 2025 start making Christmas Trees that we can include in our toy gifts hamper or sell them at the proposed seniors market run by Blue Mountains Council at the Springwood Hub. The funds can be used on your own behalf or as part of Woodies fund raising.

The Christmas Tree design is not restricted to these examples but we are offering to teach you how to make these trees or other design trees at our Thursday Mt Riverview workshops. You will become confident with the product you produce and can sell as gifts or fill the Christmas Community Hamper for distribution in the area.

There is a dedicated section in the BMWT web site on seasoning of wood however you can just contact John Mulquin, Clive Lyle, John Turner or Phil to ask how to get started.

PS alternative timbers you may have are also acceptable, depending the design.



FOR SALE – PREPARED MAPLE TIMBER BLANKS.

45 pieces 450mm long 50mm x 50mm.

\$5.00 each

10 pieces 900mm long 100mm x 100mm.

\$10.00 each

Ideal pieces ready to turn your favourite profile or grinders with a cured, straight rare maple timber.

Available at the clubhouse, any Thursday or at our next monthly meeting on Saturday the 1st February.

Unless sold out prior...

Contact John Mulquin 0407 709 351 to order or make prior arrangement for pick up.

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



If anyone knows of any members that are unwell or in difficulties until a new welfare offer is appointed please contact John H Mulquin. 0407709351

jhmhbm@bigpond.net.au

Blue Mountains Wood Turners

Lend a Hand 21 January 2025

250

Rocking Horse -Robbie (2). (Supporting a local charity)

Have a discussion regarding a program to complete the Rocking horse.

Toy program-

Salvo's turn for toys this year. (Target 50 units). Operation Christmas Child (Target 50. Let's see how we go)

Finials

The large finial. Complete. **Thanks John K.** \$200.paid, split 50/50 between the two clubs. \$ 100.00 to club funds

Two smaller Finials. John M. Completed these. **Thanks John.** Paid \$100.00. \$100.00 to club funds.

Club safety.

- Make a set of push sticks for the Band saws, Bench saw & Thicknesser. Us the 'Men's Sheds' set as templates.
- Improve Ergonomics when lifting the small lathes. Think tank discussion.
- Reconnect the suction hose to the extraction fan outside.
 1. Temporary fix. Install a wooden adaptor flange to the suction post of the Carbatec bandsaw and connect up the vacuum cleaner.
 2. Think tank discussion on long term fix
 3. Re rout the dust extraction through the brick wall to the outside.

Club members making Jigs, Fixtures, Tools and Attachments for the club

- Design and build a universal steady rest. To the following requirements. 1. Fit on *all of the clubs Lathes*. 2. *Support Diameters* from 15mm to 170mm & 3. Have an *adjustable centre height* from 125mm to 240mm.
- Design and build a ball turning attachment. To the following requirements. 1. Fit on all the clubs lathes. 2. Have an adjustable centre height from 125mm to 300mm. 3. With a turned diameter from zero mm to 250mm.
- Design and build a profile tracer. To be able to trace a profile directly from the sample onto the template board.

Contact: Clive on s_clyle@hotmail.com

Hope to see you there.

Clive

A FEW INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

"It is as good as play to watch an apt turner. When he roughly takes his piece down to a round he attacks it with a huge concave chisel and the fragments fly like hail". - Wallace Nutting, 1933.

"There is no jesting with edge tools." - John Fletcher, 1579-1625.

"...like a shower of sparks under the hooves of a galloping horse..." Gustave Flaubert, Madame Bovary, 1857 - on the shavings flying off the tool of a treadle turner.

"...freemen of the Company are forbidden to 'revile, taunt, or use evil or unseemly speeches to one another' "
- Ordinance 24 of the Charter of the Worshipful Company of Turners of London, 1604. Champness p?

MEMBER CREATIONS AND EXPERIENCES.

This month John Gallo was tasked by his daughter, to make some wooden buttons for her woollen jumper. These are his words and pictures. Thank you for taking the time and effort to put this together for us John. If anyone has anything they would like to share, ask or gaze in awe at, please email me at turningchatter@gmail.com.



MAKING BUTTONS with John Gallo

One of my daughters asked me if I could make some wooden buttons for her cardigan. She is an outdoors girl and loves nature. So the existing plastic buttons she had didn't sit well.

She had given me some banksia branches a while back, so I cut a piece that would give me 5 buttons. Her buttons were 22.5mm diameter and 3mm thick. I decided to make mine 4mm thick.

Banksia Buttons

The timber was easy to turn and had just the right hardness. I took it down to the required diameter and marked off a 4mm width. Then it was about remembering what Ernie had taught me about turning a half bead. I sawed each button off with a Japanese saw. (The main difficulty I had was centring the timber in the tailstock centre for the next button).

I made the side of the button with the tailstock centre impression the back of the button, and marked 4 points on the face side for drilling the needle holes. I used a drill bit that fit the holes in the original plastic button.

A fiddly small project, but one which received very positive feedback from my daughter!

Addendum:

Ernie commented to me that the difficulty finding the centre of the cylinder repeatedly could be dealt with by securing it in a chuck. (That's why he's the teacher and I am the learner!).

Grinder Photo 3



Note from the editor: It is fabulous to be having such amazing input from members for Turning Chatter. I am thrilled to be able to include stories and pictures to include in the newsletter. Having people take the time to create a document with pictures and works formatted looks wonderful however... it is difficult to make the formatting done by members fit the formatting of the newsletter. I am a simple gal and am just using word to put this together. If you send me a completed document with as a printed item or a link to a published website I cannot get the pictures across. There may be – and most likely is – a way to do it that I am unaware of. Until such time as I learn things (it may be a long wait) please send your stories as an email with photos labelled but not embedded in the story.

QUIZZICAL WOODTURNER ANSWERS as published in the American Wood turner Magazine. Summer 2003

1/ There are about 750 species of softwoods and about 30,000 species of hardwoods in the world. As Hippocrates said in 400 BC, "The life so short, the craft so long to learn."

2/ Clint Eastwood is a woodturner. William H. Macy [*Fargo and Happy, Texas*] showed his turned bowls on the David Letterman Show. Harrison Ford not only demonstrated his carpentry skills in *Witness* but also worked as a professional carpenter before his acting career took off.

3/ When a turning is sanded, tiny abrasive particles from the sandpaper become embedded in the wood and if the piece is then turned, these particles will blunt the tool.

4/ Screw chucks have great holding power in side grain [platter] but far less in end grain [goblet]. End grain work can be held on a screw chuck, especially if the work is small and the screw is large, however, for most end grain projects, a screw chuck is inadequate. Scroll chucks have far greater holding power. Another way to hold large end grain would be to use a faceplate with several long, deep threaded screws.

5/ In the 17th century the Worshipful Company of Turners of London instructed turners to, "assemble in decent & comely manner at the Common Hall & from thence go to such Church as shall be assigned & there to hear a sermon & abide until the end thereof". Because the Company controlled commercial woodturning in London, members had little choice but to obey. If they refused to attend church or if they left before the sermon was completed, they were fined.

That's all for this edition of Turning Chatter. Thank you for reading it. If you have anything you would like to have included in the next edition, please email me at turningchatter@gmail.com.

One final quote before I go:

"I don't like woodturning - I love it". – Unknown, 1997