

Saturday April 5, 2025

Blue Mountains Woodturners present a Demonstration of Mosaic Art by
Marion Shapiro



Marion is a multi-award winning artist from Glenbrook and has shown her work internationally.

Mosaic art has a history of over 5 thousand years and can be combined with other art forms as in the picture above - a collaboration between Marion and woodturning.

The demonstration will take place at 10am. on Sat. 5th April at the Blue Mountains Woodturners Hall at Mt. Riverview.

(Parking at Reservoir Park Rusden Rd. Mt. Riverview)

Admission \$10.00



SHOW AND TELL.



Fruit Bowl by Andy Georgiou

Did you know that the Woodies (that's us by the way) have a WhatsApp group?

It is called the B M Woodturners Chat. It's just getting started but it is a great way to ask questions in real time, share ideas and photos and find out what's going on. I do not have a link I can put here but will work out how to share it soon.



Honey Dippers by Andy Georgiou



Andy Georgiou is the admin and he shared a few pictures of his recent work, asking for others to do the same. With his permission I have included them here and am going to issue the challenge (which I have done in the past), what have you done that you are proud of? It doesn't have to be perfect.



Rolling Pins by Andy Georgiou

It doesn't have to be Royal Show ready. If you enjoyed making it, and are proud of your accomplishments, please share them!



Evan's Burl Clock

Steve Ward made his grandson a beautiful clock for his 12th birthday. It is a burl with some very nice grain.

This lovely honey dipper was made from Sydney Blue Gum by Ernie Newman.



Ernie's Honey dipper



Andy's Wine goblet

Andy Georgiou made this wine goblet with 2 captured rings

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.



Correction(s)

Last month we had a feature on the amazing generosity of our member Dick Turner. He gave away a huge amount of quality wood for others to enjoy as he is no longer turning himself.

Buloke Box by Roman Goik



Buloke Box by Roman Goik

Dick Turner has a correction re the Buloke box turned by Roman Goik.

The wood used here is a mixture of Cypress, Mahogany and Buloke. I was unaware of what Buloke was, so I googled it. Unfortunately google didn't know either as it told me it was an ironbark. Instead of referring it to a club member with more experience identifying wood, I went with the google label. I was wrong to do so.

Dick (via Ernie) points out that Buloke is a casuarina not an ironwood and has the distinctive medullary rays seen in Silky oak [*Grevillea robusta*] and European oak [*Quercus robur*].

Thank you for telling me and giving me the opportunity to correct my error. If anyone sees an error in Turning Chatter, please tell me. I am usually doing this late at night and errors happen.

And I should know better than to trust Dr Google.

ANOTHER CORRECTION (I'm on a roll)

In the same article I included a story about egg boxes that I attributed to Roman. It was in fact written (with far more clarity than I am capable of at this point) by Mark Lenic. Here is the article again, with the correct credits (I really hope) and an extra picture or two of the creations in question. I apologise to both Mark and Roman for the mix-up.

My thanks to Dick Turner

As some of you would know, late last month one of our fellow turners, Mr Dick Turner recognised that his turning days were becoming less and less as time progressed. Dick has spent a lifetime working with wood in various ways and had accumulated a mountain of wood in his garage which he



now had to dispose. So, you can imagine the excitement on the students faces when we were contacted and offered the pick of the wood stack.

We arrived at the house and were met by Dick and his daughter in law who were both very happy to spend time chatting about Dick's turning days and his collection of wood. Dick is a meticulous man and made sure he labelled almost every piece of wood so that future users like us would know they type wood by name.

Unfortunately for the group of enthusiastic turners, the names were recorded by their scientific names and none of us had a clue what each one meant ha-ha.

This didn't bother Dick, and he proceeded to tell us all what the common names were as we pulled each piece from their pile.



The note with the box is a quote of Winston Churchill.

"We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give."

Now on the day, we all thanked Dick for his generous donation. Personally, I had very little wood in

my garage and was turning left over building material, so Dick's donation is greatly appreciated. To show my appreciation to Dick and his generosity, I thought it was fitting to turn something from the donated wood...so here it is, two eggs displayed on miniature pedestal. A whole lot of fun was had in turning these two eggs.

Specifications – The eggs are 58mm in length supported on a 32mm high pedestal that has a 2.5mm stem.



You call that a pen!

By Roman Goik



Turned pen, ink and rest

When a friend of mine, a very talented illustrator and cartoonist, heard that I had started woodturning, he asked if I could turn him several dip pen holders for his illustration and comic artwork. He had several commercial versions but wasn't very happy with their weight and glossy painted feel.

Dip pens (sometimes called nib pens), for those unfamiliar with them, are those thin round handles into which you could insert different steel pen nibs. You had to constantly dip them into a bottle of ink as the slit nib could hold very limited ink.

As a young child in school, I remember the excitement of graduating from using slates to using dip pens (yes, I am showing my age). This was just prior to the Biro coming onto the scene, cheaply and in quantity. This despite the Biro being invented by László Bíró in 1938. Fun Fact: First commercial versions of Biro's retailed for the equivalent of \$150 US. Schools obviously couldn't afford Biro's nor fountain pens, so dip pens it was.

So off to the internet to see what was commercially available and get some overall design considerations for turning nib pen handles. Turns out there is somewhat of a resurgence in the use of dip pens - artists, calligraphers, manga artists, cartoonists and illustrators. They like using dip pens for the variable width of line, the ease with which nibs can be swapped and the broader range of ink types and colours that can be used. Dip pens can be used with waterproof, pigmented, particle-and-binder-based inks, such as India ink, drawing ink, acrylic inks, alcohol inks, glitter inks and homemade inks. These inks can't be used with fountain pens, as they corrode and clog up the pen. The other major benefit is that there are hundreds of nib profiles out there and they are pretty cheap (\$1.50-\$3.50)

I made a series of them for my friend to test out from a variety of scraps and longer pen blank materials. I chose heavier woods after feedback that the lighter wood didn't have the weight he was after. I turned shorter and longer variations. The longer ones look impressive and are a great chance to test out small spindle turning techniques but are more difficult to store and transport. 160 mm fits into a pencil case and most commercial ones are around that length but 220mm and longer do look impressive but aren't as well balanced.



Early Prototypes

The most difficult part was finding the nib ferrules that get inserted into 7mm hole drilled into the thicker end. I used half a brass slimline pen barrel as ferrules wear out and have to be replaced occasionally and it makes the pen more robust and something for the live centre to engage with. The wood is pretty thin, and you can easily split the wood

with too much pressure. The only place I could find loose ferrules (pack of 10) was with a very large USA company that is a little in the naughty corner at the moment. I'm sure they come from China anyway but couldn't find them there... yet.

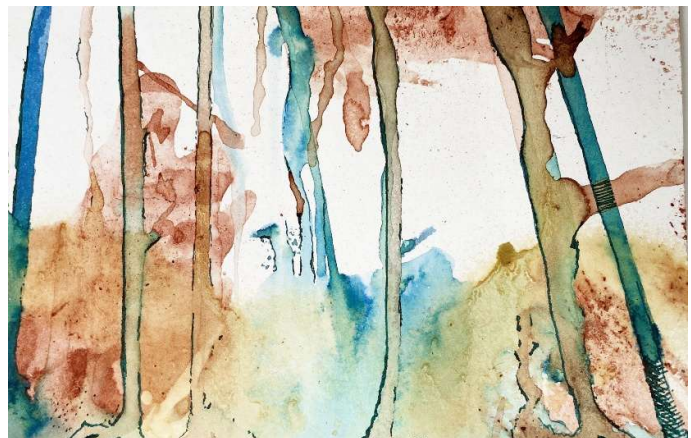
INK

But what about ink, you ask? I have made homemade inks before, my favourites being a brown from the soot in the chimney and a beautiful earthy red from avocado pit. Eucalypt leaves, berries, some tree barks or any vegetable matter could yield a range of subtle colours. How about wood shavings? Maybe? I saved the shavings from pens I turned and set about experimenting.

The process isn't difficult. Take chosen matter, dump into a pot (preferably not one you are going to eat from any time soon) add 1 cup of water, add a mordant (it helps fix it to paper or material if natural dyeing) - 1 teaspoon washing soda should do - and boil for 20-60 minutes. Test occasionally by dipping a small strip of white paper. If it's a keeper (not all are) filter out the solids, stick it in a small bottle. Add Gum Arabic (it's a binder available at art supply shops). I add about 6 drops to 30ml of ink. Beware of adding too much - it makes the ink brittle on the page and hinders flow. As a precaution against mould developing, you can add a clove or two. Label everything, give it a good shake and it's ready to use.



Ink tests



Homemade ink treescape

Anyway, it's been a lot of fun and I have learnt plenty. It has also got me thinking about accompaniments such as pen holders, ink well stands and pencil boxes as further allied wood projects.

There are lots of resources out there, but I would recommend Yoke Pen Company - [Handmade Custom Pen Holders – Yoke Pen Co.](https://www.yokepencompany.com/) (https://www.yokepencompany.com/) - a woodturner who was asked to make dip pens for his calligraphy classmates (sound familiar) and turned it into very profitable company. Who knows where your turning can take you.



Speaking of Pens.....

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

Clubs Event Diary from April 2025

As already mentioned, we have Marion Shapiro doing our April demonstration on Saturday April 5 at 10am. This demonstration will focus on the art of the mosaic rather than the art of wood turning. So maybe you know someone who isn’t a wood turner but would love to come to learn a little about mosaics. This event is not limited to members only so bring your partners, friends neighbours for a wonderful morning learning about this ancient artform.

April 5; Marion Shapiro – Mosaic

May 3rd - Federal election – tbc demo / meeting

May 3: Leura Harvest Festival

May 10: Mike Darlow demonstration and club meeting.

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

June 7: Pen Making Competition (In House)

Coming up later in the year:

Sept: Springwood and Leura

Sept: AGM

Glenbrook markets

Seniors day –Springwood

Makers Markets - Springwood.

Blue Mountains Wood Turners April 2025 Presidents Report

Greetings fellow wood turners,

March is gone and its April, yes time gets away so fast, many things to do and not enough time and energy to do the things we need to do.

Last month was a great demo and waiting to see if anybody has tried to use the skills that were demonstrated to us. Did you make a horse head or a swan? I look forward to seeing your results.

This month looks again to be a very interesting demo that will enhance our art work. I am told Marion Shapiro is a very gifted artist and should be a great day, why not bring a friend, or one of your children, we can all learn new things to enhance our view on life.

After our meeting on Saturday, we will go up to Springwood to look and take some timber kindly offered to us and other wood working groups. Please show respect when you are there. This is a father and husband life's work.

One of our older member Dick Turner is living at Edinglasie at Emu Plains. Ernie has been in contact with him, and he is interested in coming to our monthly meetings. He will need a lift to get there and I am working on that. If some of us could visit him and take him for a walk that would be good for him and us. Getting old can be very lonely, Dick was a member of our club for many years and has a great knowledge of trees and timber. Take down a piece of timber down with you and ask Dick about it. Dick will amaze you with his knowledge.

Our Leura fair is coming up again, so we need stuff to sell and help to run the show. So please put up YOUR hand to help.

I took up the plugs we made for DARE, and they were very pleased and have paid us.

Big day next week for John Krook and John H Mulquin as we enter our turnings into the Easter Show, would be nice to accepted and to win a place.

Ok back to shed and start making more works of art.

John H Mulquin

President



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 goers 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.

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.



Hey! It's out before the end of the month! Thank you to everyone who has sent in articles and pictures for this month's newsletter. I truly appreciate it. Apologies (again) Roman and Mark. I can attribute that to the fact that I always stay up late to finish this. It is now (as I type) 1:03am. So, I am implementing a cut off.

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. There is a photo for the Leura Harvest Festival I was unable to access for this newsletter.

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