



Turning Chatter



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Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

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

Edition 265

Presidents Report November 2022

December 2022

Greetings fellow turners of wood . It 's that time of year when we run madly around in circles and Achieve very little, except debt and run out of that precious stuff called time.

It's been a year when we have achieved good things, a good Springwood Festival and Leura Festival and came out in front which is always good news. We got the hoop pine from Falconbridge, still trying to get it slabed before it's too late. We have started to build bridges with the men's shed that is a positive move. The toys that have been made for the Salvation Army support. The Amazing Rocking horse that was presented to Katoomba Hospital, you should be very proud of your achievement. Also I am encouraged with our Vice President Clive as he takes on the coordination of the Thursday group. Also I would like to thank the hard work that your Committee does for you during the year on your behalf. Also the troops that meet on Thursday for the great work they do.



Our next BIG thing is our Mini Symposium in March which Mr Ernie Newman a foundation member, life member, a loyal and faithful member of our Club is doing for US and the wood turning clubs around us. It should an amazing experience seeing some of top wood turners in Australia showing off their skills. Thanks to all who have offered their precious time to help in this project.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas get to gathering, See notes in the Turning Chatter for more details, please make the effort to come and bring your partner along to make it a relaxing day.

Have relaxing Christmas with your family and friends. Peace be with you.

Your President
John



If anyone knows of any members that are unwell or in difficulties please contact Barry Robinson

 0408056507

 austin037@bigpond.com

Col Herbert was a founding member of the Blue Mountains Woodturners. He started turning in the 1940s when he trained as a wood machinist and died recently at the age of 99. I gave the following eulogy at his funeral.

COL HERBERT

by Ernie Newman

I met Col in 1989 and quickly saw that he was a man of character and principle, kind and forthright – very forthright. He had a huge impact on the woodturning community in Sydney. What drew me to him first was his speech. He was a walking, talking museum and his exhibits were the yarns and turns of phrase of the 1930s and 40s.



One time he gazed into the past and recalled his life as a timber cutter on the North Coast,

“The Tallowwood, the Spotted Gum, the Flooded Gum, the mighty Red Cedar
The axe, the adze, the froe, the maul, the crosscut saw”.

The trees represented beauty, the tools, aching muscles and blistered hands. He was a 14-year-old boy doing a man’s work.

Col admired the way first three presidents of the Sydney Woodturners Guild built the membership up to 700 from scratch between 1985 and 1995. And he was honoured to take on the job himself. After he stepped down, the membership began to shrink but he stayed on the Guild Committee. In the 40s Col stood up to Hitler and Hirohito at the cost of a broken back. So, he wasn’t afraid to take a beating on the Committee. He was brave enough to take unpopular stands, a staunch defender of the democratic process, stubborn, passionate, mercurial. He leapt to conclusions like a young gazelle. Occasionally the combination of a very quick mind and a bit of industrial deafness led Col to make mistakes but he was big enough to apologise when he was wrong.

Col’s tools were sharp. So were his observations.

“That lot, they’re not worth a spent match.”

He was an acute observer of political shenanigans:

“Smith fires the bullets but Brown loads the gun.”

“If Brown gets a headache – Smith takes an APC.”

One day I described a bloke as a fence-sitter. Col said, “That bloke runs along a barbed wire fence with one foot in each paddock.”

One chap took Col aside, “I’m going to get you life membership in the Guild Col.” “Why?” he asked

“Because you’re my mate.” “No thanks,” said Col.

I wasn’t aware of this and about a year later I said, “I’d like to put you up for life membership, Col.”

“Why?” he asked.

“Because of all that you’ve done for the members – helping new groups get on their feet, taking your lathe to public demos, constitutional reform, you kept them honest, Public Officer, Vice President, President...”

“Well, thanks,” said Col.

Col got his life membership, not because of jobs for the boys but because he earned it. His moral compass pointed to true north. He was a founding member of the Blue Mountains Woodturners and the elder statesman. A great bloke. The best of this world can’t be told. Words are only shadows.

WOOD TURNERS EVENT

DIARY

3rd December Christmas Party

1. Please bring a plate to share as it is a buffet style lunch.
2. Please bring a donation for the hamper a maximum cost of \$5 and receive a ticket to be in the draw for a Hamper.
3. There will be a Show and Tell, but not the usual Turnings, yes, but anything that you think could be of interest, old or new.
4. Buy, swap and sell. Bring anything you like to swap or sell. Even things not associated with woodturning. Please put your name and the price on the item.



Committee

President - John Mulquin
Vice President - Clive Lyle
Secretary - John Turner
Treasurer - Jan Pennell
Membership Secretary - Barry Robinson, Bill Wooldridge
Publicity Officer - Clive Lyle
Committee Members - Andy Georgiou, Barry Robinson, Bill Wooldridge
Public Officer - Tom Fox
Librarians - John Cossey
Workshop Manager - Alan Game, Clive Lyle
Editor Turning Chatter - Glenn Barker
Webmaster - Andy Georgiou
Facebook Coordinator - Vacant
Safety Officer - Jan Pennell, Alan Game
Welfare Officer - Barry Robinson
First Aid Officers - Tony Trainer, Jan Pennell
Entry Admission Officer - Des Tuck (when available)
Club Sales Officer - Barry Robinson
Catering Officer - Barry Robinson
BMWC Site Manager - John Mulquin
Show & Tell Coordinator - Des Lane

Editor - Glenn Barker

Email: turningchatter@gmail.com

web address:

<https://www.bluemtnswoodturners.org.au/>

All Correspondence to:

PO Box 223 Springwood NSW 2777

Please supply any Turning Chatter content by midnight Friday 1 week before the 1st Saturday of the next month

Woodturning Lessons

Allan Game on 4739 1028

or

ernienewman@hotmail.com

Mobile: 0416961063.

**Covid-19 restrictions
Please contact Ernie
and Alan for available
times and dates of
Lessons**

Club Calendar

Day	Date	Event	Time
Thursday	01/11/22	Open day	9:30am Onwards
Saturday	03/11/22	Christmas Party	9.30am Onwards
Thursday	08/11/22	Open day	9:30am Onwards
Thursday	15/11/22	Open day	9.30am Onwards
Thursday	22/11/22	Open day	9.30am Onwards

The next Toy Day will be in 2023