



Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

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

EDITION 305

JULY 2026

The August Meeting will be The Second Saturday of the Month.

David Drake will be demonstrating woodcarving for Woodturners.

David has been a professional Woodturner in the past and is now an accomplished woodcarver.

He taught at Turnfest, an international turning symposium.

This will be one not to miss.

That is August 8. Usual time and place. Be there to learn new things and watch a master work.



Club Demo July 4



John Cossey demonstrated multi axis tuning. He turned a piece using faceplate and spindle tuning.

This piece is something that anyone can do if they have basic spindle and simple bowl tuning ability.

Andy Georgiou thanked John on the Woodies WhatsApp page and provided the photo you see here.

Thank you John, for sharing your expertise. We look forward to practicing it ourselves.

Clubs Event Diary 2026

August: Dave Drake demonstrates woodcarving for wood turners.

September 19: Saturday 7am: Springwood Festival-Load trailer Thurs 17

September: Saturday AGM TBA –The September meeting will be the AGM and so there will be NO demonstration that month... but we would like ALL members to bring along some piece or pieces that they have turned in the past, it doesn't have to be a recent piece. Even if you have only recently started turning or if you've been turning for decades... we would love to see what you've done.

October 2/3: Saturday only. Leura Spring festival. Labour Day weekend

Nov 11: Remembrance Day; Whitton Park 11.00 am TBA

December: Christmas Party and to hand over. TBA

Please let us know if you are interested in taking part in these events. Or if there is another even not listed here you think the Club should be involved with. Email: turningchatter@gmail.com



The Jan Pennell Woodturning Award

As some members will know, Jan Pennell, - a former president of this Club – devoted some of her estate to endow an award for outstanding woodturning. The award sits within the 'Maker of the Year' competition which is conducted by 'Australian Wood Review'(AWR). The December 2025 issue of AWR (# 129) details the winners of the 2025 Maker of the Year competition with the Jan Pennel Woodturning Award going to a woodturner from Germany. (The inaugural award in 2024 was won by Simon Begg).

I understand that 'Maker of the Year 2026' opened for entries on 1st March 2026 and closes on 30 August 2026. I don't think I would ever have been a contender for an award like this and - with declining eyesight – I certainly won't be entering. Nevertheless, maybe some of our more talented members might give it a go this year? It would be very fitting indeed if the next winner of the Jan Pennell Award was a member of the Club that Jan put so much effort into.

Tom Fox

26 May 2026

What's been on my lathe lately?

By Roman Goik



Wooden Tealights

There has been lots on my lathe in the last few months but here are some highlights.



Resin tealights



Lidded Boxes

My brother and sister-in-law commissioned all sorts to take with them on an upcoming trip to Germany. Small bowls, lidded boxes, resin and wooden tea lights amongst the items requested. They liked the idea of taking Australian timber items made by someone they know.

In addition, my brother also commissioned 30 draw pulls for the new kitchen they are installing latter in the year. A good exercise to have to make many items with some semblance of being the same. Made a template and a few jigs to help with getting shape and the screw inserts in accurately.



Doorknobs



Barometer

A while back I finally made a casing for a barometer I've had lying around for ages. I took the opportunity to burn the wood after first dying the pine with a sunburst pattern using U-Beaut water based dyes. I liked the way some of the pine burnt readily while other sections resisted the burning allowing the colour to come through.

Most recently I joined an online Tai Chi class to help develop better posture, mobility and balance (as I'm getting on a bit). Imagine my delight when I discovered they use a lot of wood turned aids (no they are not weapons) to help develop correct posture and form. Pictured are a Tai Chi ruler (curvaceous one) and two different Tai Chi sticks. Next, is a 15cm wooden ball also used in practice. Probably going to have to laminate some timber to get to the final dimensions. If you know anyone practising martial arts, check with them as many arts use such aids to practice. They will love you all the more if you can make them bespoke aids from beautiful Australian timbers.



Tai Chi Equipment



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.



BLUE MOUNTAINS WOOD TURNERS

PRESIDENTS REPORT AUGUST 2026

Greetings sister and brother woodturners, the year is rushing on and would you believe we are all getting older and slowing down, well most of us. I have been encouraged by the constant number of members who attend our Thursday gathering, working on projects or having a quiet chat. Walked into the workshop last week and all the lathes were in action, well done.

The Springwood festival is coming up and then the Leura Spring Festival. These are important advents in our annual program, so it is important we have plenty of high-quality items to display, so keep on turning.

Also in September, (date not finalized yet), we have our AGM to elect members to our committee. We would love to SEE MANY HANDS PUT UP TO FILL OUR COMMITTEE, John Cossey will stand down and we need you to raise YOUR HAND to fill his position as the organizer of demonstration, a very important job which needs to be done.

To my wood-turning family, we all need to support each other, keep pushing on

John H Mulquin

President



Generous gift

Des Lane donated a stack of blanks for bowls, boxes etc for our students - some expensive, some very beautiful. Des collected it over the last 40 years. He was a founding member of the club, our first president and a great supporter over the last 25 years. Des is the man!

Take advantage of Des's generosity by picking up some wood from Ernie during classes on Tuesday, Thursday or by appointment.



Blue Mountains Woodturners

End of Year membership renewal and new office bearers 2026-2027

August 31 is fast approaching. It is officially our annual membership renewal date with the annual general meeting following, tentatively scheduled for September 5 or perhaps October 19 after the Leura festival. Existing office bearers will retire and hopefully members will offer themselves to accept official duties to help the club thrive into the future.

Membership fees are due by the 31st August and all financial members are eligible to offer themselves for official committee duties following the annual general meeting. The charter of the club is to foster and keep alive the skills required for woodturning to the future. We need our members to embrace the challenges of maintaining membership, sharing the skills with others but also to administer the day to day requirements of maintaining a compliant club in regard to finances, work health and safety in our activities and workshop, up to date equipment and interesting teaching demonstrations at our monthly club meetings.

John Cossey has been terrific in his role of arranging and advertising our guest presenters this year. John is looking for a break this coming year so I hope an enthusiastic apprentice will take on the task towards the future and perhaps suggest some alternate concepts.

The individual roles of committee members are not all that onerous, but it always helps to have more hands to lighten the load and provide inspiration for the future of our club. The annual membership fees are unchanged \$35.00 per year and for new members add a \$15 one off joining fee.

The fees can be direct deposited into our account: -
St. George Bank BSB: 112-879
account no. 495 712 594

Keep it in mind, put your hand up!

Keep Turning.

John Turner



Below is the official nomination form for our AGM with all the positions available. Some of our current officers are not standing again for the next term. All members are welcome – and encouraged to, apply.

Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc

Committee and Office Bearer Nomination Form, 2026--2027

Office Nomination:

President:

Nominated By _____

Seconded By _____

Vice President

Nominated By _____

Seconded By _____

Secretary:

Nominated By _____

Seconded By _____

Treasurer:

Nominated By _____

Seconded By _____

Committee Member

Nominated By _____

Seconded By _____

Committee Member:

Nominated By _____

Seconded By _____

Committee Member:

Nominated By _____

Seconded By _____

Committee Member:

Nominated By _____

Seconded By _____

Office bearers required and appointed:

Publicity Officer...

Public Officer.....

Workshop Manager....

Editor of Turning Chatter...

Webmaster.....

Facebook Coordinator....

Safety Officer.....

Welfare Officer.....

First Aid Officer

Entry Officer.....

Club Sales Officer

Catering Officer.....

Site Manager

Show and Tell Coordinator.....

Member Secretary.....

I agree to be bound by the Rules, Constitution and By Laws of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.
Please return your completed nomination form to the Club house or via email to :- Mjturner @live.com.au
or jhmhbm@bigpond.net.au



If any member has a story to share or a tale to tell, please send it to turningchatter@gmail.com.

Remember: Articles are more likely to be included if they are in Word format and photo's (not embedded in documents) as Jpegs. The cutoff for publication is the 20th of each month. Please try to get your article in by then to ensure it is included.

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

Until next time, keep those wood chips flying,

Bec