Turning Chatter

Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

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

EDITION 306 AUGUST 2026

Club Mystery Demo September 5

Who doesn't love a mystery?

The anticipation. The investigation. The discovery.

Come to the next club demo day on September 5 to take part in this wonderful event.

Who will be demonstrating? What will they make?

All shall be revealed on the day.

(When it is revealed, can someone please tell me what it was? And who did it?

I can't get to the club meetings and I want to know…)

Last Chance! Entries close this week!!

The Jan Pennell Woodturning Award



We have a very special award for woodturners that we present within our Maker of the Year presented by Hare & Forbes competition.

The late Jan Pennell was a remarkable woman, a former servicewoman and passionate turner who wanted to encourage others to enjoy this craft. A bequest from her estate offers AU$1500 to the winner of the Jan Pennell Award for Woodturning.

Entries are invited from Australian and international makers and other techniques may be incorporated into turned works. There are six entry categories in total and an overall prize pool of $20,000.

The December 2025 issue of Australian Wood Review magazine will feature the Top 100 entries. Entry is by uploading four images and a description – the entry fee is AU$49.

It would be amazing if another member of our club could win it. Simon Begg won it in 2024.

Club Demo August

David Drake gave us an amazing demonstration on wood carving in our August meeting.



Dave Drake in action

John Gallo wrote this piece about it.

The demo by Dave Drake this month on wood carving was outstanding and well attended. Dave is just 43 with a wealth of experience in cabinetmaking, woodturning and carving, as well as life. He is a very down-to-earth and genuine character, and we were privileged to hear him share his knowledge and life philosophy.

He brought along some of his work, which gave us a first-hand impression of his skills. He also brought his carving tools and explained how he sharpens them on a basic grinder with one mop wheel and the other mdf coated with green cutting compound. They were immaculate and we were warned not to test their sharpness, unless we wanted to end up with bandaged fingers!

Dave then described his power carving techniques using a nail-technician drill and a range of round ball sabre-toothed bits. Then he described how he adds colour to his carvings with acrylic paints. He brought along a jelutong bowl he had made and asked if anyone would like to take it away and decorate it. When no-one stepped up, Ernie Newman, who had invited Dave, said he would take it for his students to decorate.



This is how I got to play with Ernie's Dremel and acrylic paints. I hadn't used decoration much on my work previously, apart from a little hand carving on a marking tool or burning a line with a wire. Often, I don't even use a finish on my work, preferring the natural wood surface. I guess I have been a bit of a purist, enjoying the natural colour and grain pattern of timber. However, I can see that some texture and colour can enhance the objects we turn, especially if the timber is plain. Ernie has a nice collection of painted turnings, and magazines show an amazing variety of artistic turnings.

So first I brought a small bowl in to practise on. Ernie gave me a Dremel and some rounded bits and advised me to practise on a scrap piece of wood: good advice! After carving a small design, I chose an acrylic paint to finish the job.

Then onto Dave's bowl. Around the rim I carved a pattern using two different size bits, then painted this black, to provide the base for luminescent paints. The next week we tested the colours on a black painted block, then chose a few and applied them to the rim, blending the colours as I moved around the rim. Ernie completed the work on the base.

Dave, thank you for your inspiring demonstration, and Ernie, thanks for the encouragement to move beyond the ordinary to discover new ways of practising the art.



Dave Drake Platter - Raw



Dave Drake Platter with decoration by John Gallo and Ernie Newman



Dave Drake Platter - Rear View



Dave Drake Art



Dave Drake Demon with Pipe



Dave Drake at work



1Dave Drake

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Some Of Dave Drake's work



Photos by John Gallo, Brad Beeby and Andy Georgiou

Clubs Event Diary 2026

September 5: Mystery Demo. Who? What? How? All will be revealed.

September 17: Load trailer for Springwood festival. Volunteers encouraged to assist.

September 19: Saturday 7am: Springwood Festival. Again, volunteers are needed to man the stall and help set up.

October 3: AGM and BBQ.

October 10: Leura Spring festival. Labour Day weekend

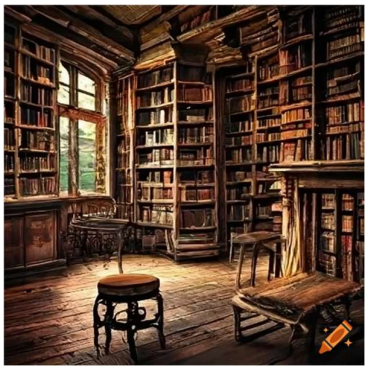
Nov 11: Remembrance Day; Whitton Park 11.00 am TBA

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

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 you 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 SEPTEMBER 2026

Greetings one and all.

Another month has rushed by, think we are getting older.

It has been good to see the good numbers for our meetings and workshop days. I would like to thank Mr. John Cosey for the hard work he has put in for us, getting top quality demos for us. Now the time has come for somebody to fill his shoes. Please consider stepping into that role, without demonstrators we will never move forward in our designs.

Please consider standing on our executive to give others a rest.

Please have some stuff ready to sell at Springwood to show off your many talents

Hope to see you soon

John H

President

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 of 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 _____

<u>Office bearers required and appointed:</u>

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.

If anyone is interested in taking a role in the production of Turning Chatter please put your hand up at the AGM in October.

Until next time, keep those wood chips flying,

Bec