



# Turning Chatter



Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Woodturners Inc.

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

EDITION 289

MARCH 2025

## Simon Begg Demonstration

Story by Ernie Newman. Photography by Andy Georgiou



Simon Begg gave a masterful demo on German ring turning at our March meeting. He is a cabinet maker by trade and has been turning full-time for 9 years. It showed. His attention to detail and accuracy were exceptional. He made a



complex process look deceptively easy. He offered dozens of valuable tips which would make it possible for a careful turner to succeed. Simon is an experienced demonstrator with overseas trips under his belt but said that he had never had more than one or two in his audience who had done ring turning. Five out of the twenty present had tackled this difficult technique. Maybe we are advanced - or just gluttons for punishment.



*Australian Animals - sourced from Simon's website*

You can find a lot more examples of Simon's amazing work in the gallery section on his website - [www.simonbeggswoodturning.com](http://www.simonbeggswoodturning.com). It is absolutely worth taking a look.



## Upcoming Demo - Marion Shapiro – April 5 2025

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.



## Blue Mountains Wood Turners March 2025 Presidents Report

Greetings Fellow Woodturners, Artists and creators of many things, some practical, some inspiring but all great master pieces.

Into the third month of 2025, if we sit still the world will pass us by, every day is a blessing, so use it wisely.

Well, it great to see our demonstrations planed well in advance with top quality people, please spread the word to your neighbors and friends, too good to miss. Last month we had a good demo by Ernie how to make spheres and I do hope people went home and tried. Having these top-quality demos is the best way to inspire members and to attract new members. Please spread the word.

We had a request from DARE industries to make some plugs which they sell to the NSW fire and rescue and SES, as their lathe has broken down, they cannot make them, Sadly I over quoted, the real price should be \$5 not \$10 so will adjust on the invoice. DARE support people with disability, a very important role in the community to give encouragement to these people. We have supported DARE over the years in training which is a great joy to support people in our community. So, on Thursday we will make the 20 plugs and deliver them on Friday. Also, I have sharpened up their tools so they can be used when the lathe is repaired

I was very encouraged that 3 lathes were working last Thursday, our next challenge is too tidy up the workshop and make it a workshop not a junk yard. Also, we are looking at build a shelter between the shed and main building to store timber. Then sort out the shed. We need to move not sit.

Yes, it's time to be active and be positive to build up our skills and support each other. To quote my dear friend Mr Trump, let's make our wood turning club great again.

John H Mulquin

President

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### 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 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.



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## Blue Mountains Wood Turners

### Lend a Hand Feb 20 2025

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

Rocking horse will not proceed until the club has made a large dent in this year's toy numbers.

Rocking horse (repair). Joint project with Men's Shed.

This horse is ready to be returned to its owner.

#### Toy program-

Salvo's turn for toys this year. (Target 50 units). Operation Christmas Child (Target 50 units). Let's see how we go). **This is 150 toys. Blanks have been drilled. Turnig is proceeding.**

#### Club safety.

- Make a set of push sticks are being painted yellow. **Push sticks are being painted yellow.**
- Reconnect the suction hose to the extraction fan outside.  
Re rout the dust extraction through the brick wall to the outside.  
A 5 Inch hole is required . A trip to Carbatec is required to check that their 5inch tubing will fit the fans 5 inch. Ventilation ducting is quoted as a nominal size.
- Small lathe Handling. Improve the ergonomics re lifting of small lathes.

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

Design and build a ball turning attachment. To the following requirements.

1. Fit on all the club's lathes.
2. Have an adjustable centre height from 125mm to 300mm.
3. With a turned diameter from zero mm to 250mm. **The toll post has been welded to its mounting plate. Proceeding with adjuster screw for radius adjustment.**

Design and build a profile tracer. To be able to trace a profile directly from the sample onto the template board. **Drawing has commenced.**

Design and build a Universal, Steady wrest

#### Saturday event diary

March 1: Simon Begg – German ring turning. **BBQ Lunch and \$10 entry**

April 6: Marion Shapiro – Mosaic

May 10: Mike Darlow NOTE ITS THE 10th

#### Prospective new middy size lathe for club (Up grading a small lathe)

1. A report covering the differences between the Vicmarc and Nova lathes has been prepared.
2. A request for capex has been presented to the committee. The request puts forward as to why the club should purchase a midddy long bed lathe.
3. Committee has decided to suspend the decision in favour of more urgent needs. Pending further discussion.

Contact: Clive on [s\\_clyle@hotmail.com](mailto:s_clyle@hotmail.com)

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Apology from the editor: We had a complete computer fail. I have lost a lot of information I use to do this newsletter, including membership names and email addresses. If I only use your first name please know it is not personal. In addition if you know any member of the club who is suddenly not getting this email, please let me know, and – more importantly – pass it on to anyone you know didn't receive it. Thank you.

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## Dick Turner – Legend

By Ernie Newman



*Mallet by Barbara using wood donated by Dick*

The first time I walked into Dick's workshop back in the 80s I saw something I had never seen before and haven't seen since. Dick's lathe sat on the concrete floor and spanned a metre deep trench in the middle of his garage. The person who created the trench imagined that it would be used to allow access to change the oil in a car and I am quite sure, never considered that it would provide a space for a turner to stand and produce works of art at floor height.

For over 35 years Dick has identified wood for woodturners from the Blue Mountains and Nepean area, charging nothing for what he did professionally for the Forestry Commission of NSW at West Pennant Hills. For decades he has given wood to local woodturners at the same price as his advice – nothing. Mistletoe has been a passion and Dick's scientific publications have been a boon for botanists.

In January Dick gave away a lifelong wood collection, species both rare and exotic. People doing lessons at my workshop came and filled boots and a trailer with his generosity. It was a moving experience to see the timber and the kindness. Hail Saint Dick of the Mountains.

### **My thanks to Dick Turner** By Roman Goik

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 of. 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.



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.

So many of our members were inspired by the extraordinary generosity of Dick, that we have an amazing array of photos to share. Here are some of them.





Tony made these spectacular pens.



This amazing box was made by Barbara.



Boxes by Roman using cypress, mahogany and buloke (a type of ironwood).

This pen is also made by Roman. It is an absolutely stunning piece of tiger-stripe Gidgee



Many more of our members (including myself) have some very inspirational pieces of wood.

Thank you for your generosity, Dick.



# 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



Again, my apologies for the delay getting this out. I have not been firing on all fours and the club computer had an unfortunate encounter with a thunderstorm. I have lost everything I had prepared (including the membership list) when the computer decided it was not worth continuing. The April version will (with any luck at all) be out before the end of March.

If there is anything I missed for this edition, please send me an email to [turningchatter@gmail.com](mailto:turningchatter@gmail.com)

Keep those wood chips flying.

Bec