

TURNOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

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Presidents View September 2016

The month of September saw a very varied interesting program delivery at Northern Turners. The 2nd Saturday produced Barley Twists again with Anne's tuition and support for Turners from George whilst Bill is recuperating. Week 3 ear ring stands (George) and Week 4 a team challenge which was very entertaining. Thanks to all those involved for their commitment and support.

Golden Grove High School is supporting Northern Turners with provision of more storage. The School has decided to weatherproof the enclosed verandah area at the end of the delivery road adjacent to our existing store. They have offered us half of the approximate 6m x 4m space which would supplement NT and accommodate all of our existing equipment and exhibition materials. This is an excellent outcome for Northern Turners and we appreciate the stores solutions provided by the school.

In relation to stores I would like to thank the members that have volunteered to open & close each week. This is a very critical service and if others would be willing to join this group please let me know and I will provide access to the shared calendar and a list of the duties to be performed.

The Committee is currently obtaining engraved plaques to fix to machinery that has been provided through donations, bequeaths and grants to identify to members the source of our support.

Our AGM is to be held at the end of October and I urge all members to nominate directly to Dale Starr if you wish to be considered for one of the positions, it is a very affable and focussed NT Committee that meets every 4th week with an efficient and purpose driven agenda committed to improving outcomes for the NT membership.

In relation to our membership of WoodgroupSA as a member club there are a number of issues relating to its current constitution, voting rights and roles which are being actively examined. Some of the other member clubs have instigated a change process to review the existing structure of proportional voting rights and representation. George Pastuch and Ron Allen are representing and consulting with Northern Turners Members and the NT Committee to keep us briefed of the current state of play and the implications of any suggested changes. I thank George and Ron for their ongoing support and commitment to both NT and WoodgroupSA and the future and role of the parent body.

A big reminder of our Wood Revisited Exhibition from the 1st October to the 16th October at Commercial Rd Port Adelaide and the Sunday Mail Home Show on the 6-8 October at Wayville Showgrounds. I hope as many as

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Northern Turners Committee

President	Lindsay Winen
Secretary / Correspondence	Dale Starr
Treasurer	Robert Edge
Vice President	Jan Beare
Member	Bill Elliot
Member	Glenn Kutchen
Member	Fred McCann
Member	Jake Jacobs

Send all articles to

turnout@woodgroupsa.org.au

Your Northern Turners

- *Seeking Excellence*
- *Encouraging Individualism*
- *Fostering Creativity*
- *Teaching Skills*
- *Providing Support*

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possible have submitted exhibits for both of these venues as it is a rewarding experience, not only to sell items but, to hear the general public praise and admiration of the quality of the articles on display.

Our lathes purchased with the Community Grant provided by the TTG Council have finally arrived been quality inspected, badged and prepared for our use awaiting collection (at the time of writing this article) to be available for use in the Week 2 meeting of October. A long wait but I am sure the quality of the lathes, complete with 4 jaw chucks, are worth waiting for as the first of the new production run. Thanks to Graham and Steve from Woodfast.

If you have not already enrolled in the Ken Wraight Demonstration for November 5th and 6th at the Torrens Valley Christian School please contact Greg Jackson to book your spot. It is incredible to access an educational program with a Turner of International repute that lasts 2 days and is fully catered for only \$100. Amazing value. Thanks to both Greg and Tim for their organisation.

Our traditional SHOW and TELL on the 4th Saturday where the Halo is presented is an extremely valued process. Robert Narcissi has proposed through the Committee to compliment Show and Tell with a voting system to reward participation of all members and acknowledge excellence. The Halo Process chosen on individual merit and awarded on the day would not change. The new proposal would be that all attending members could nominate what they believed to be the first to third best pieces (actual number yet to be decided) and a secret ballot could be cast by each member present on the day. These votes would be collected and collated monthly but not disclosed to the membership. At the AGM the President would then issue prizes in relation to their total score possibly 1st to third place in the form of a voucher etc. The actual voting process, number of places and scoring system and prizes are yet to be decided and for implementation at the start of the new year. This proposal was received favourably at monthly Committee and General Meeting without objection and will be further refined before being introduced. Again I reiterate that Halo process will not be altered, this is a supplemental procedure designed not to cause competition but to reward excellence, commitment and improvement. If you have any issues regarding this proposal please talk to any of the Committee members.

A Privacy policy regarding use of personal data has been formulated and ratified by the Committee and copies were made available at the General meeting in August and September. This policy outlines how Northern Turners may use data collected, will not provide personal data to other bodies and will not personally identify any individual in the use of its data. A copy of this policy will shortly become available on our website.

Lindsay Winen

President Northern Turners.

3rd Saturday 17th September

The third Saturday demonstration was conducted by George Pastuch. He first amused members with his colour spinning on the lathe. Much hilarity at the home made paint spray box attached to the lathe.

The serious demonstration was next and George talked about different earring stands and the proceeded to go through the process of making one. Although not many took up the challenge of turning one at the time, there were lots of agreements to have a go at home. We anticipate to see some at the next Show and Tell session.



Week 4 Team Competition.

Week 4 was a divergence from our normal demonstrations to a team competition. The attending members were issued with a challenging design brief :

‘THE GREAT BALANCING ACT’

The Task: You are supplied with 4 pieces of pine

2 of 120L x 42W x 42H, 120 L x 70W x 70H, 90L x 90W x 45H

1 length of 2mm wire 500 mm long

Produce a balancing design that will:

utilise all 4 pieces of wood supplied (you may turn more than 4 items)

contain at least one balancing point

be free standing

Judging Criteria: Experience as Turners, Degree of equal involvement of each team member, Coping with design challenges / difficulties, Number of pieces balancing, Uniqueness / complexity of shape, Design completed in time frame & **Bribery / Corruption.**



Every member of each team had to contribute and points were awarded for individual team experience as turners (the less experience the more points). The ensuing competition saw 5 teams formed with lots of head scratching, collaboration between members, indecision, revision, design adjustments, some friendly peeking over shoulders and some extra pieces of wood and wire suddenly materialising to complete the design. The friendly rivalry and natural competitiveness produced a very engaging and enjoyable exercise with excellent & unique solutions.

Congratulations to all 5 teams for their efforts and especially the winning team of Jan Beare, Chris Deguet, Hal Sneddon, Peter Page & Shaun Young



WANTED TO BUY

I am looking for a few bowl blanks in ASH. Any variation as I want to colour and lime the end result.

Preferably 200mm to 350mm diameter x 55mm to 70mm thick.

Please contact George Pastuch on 0402425450 or see me at the 3rd or 4th Saturday workshops in October at Northern Turners.

Five Big Bowls

I have turned many hundreds of bowls in my 25 years of woodturning. However my ears pricked up when asked if I wanted to make five large bowl forms, 870mm in diameter. These were to be engraved with the names of five South Australian reservoirs and hung on the walls of SA Water's new headquarters in the centre of Adelaide.

When the first blank was delivered to the workshop I began to realise the full extent of what I had undertaken. It weighed in at 68kg and was 155mm thick. I was then informed that they cost \$900 plus GST each, and there were no spares supplied. If I messed one up I would have to replace it. Ken Otto from Otto



Timbers at Magill machined and glued up the blanks using 155mm x 100mm boards and Araldite. He must have used a bucket full! Ken did a great job with the joinery; there was not even a suggestion of a gap in any of the joints.



The timber species was Yellow Sirius, an eastern states rain forest timber. I had no previous experience with this timber and so out of interest I did a bit of research. I discovered from the net that there is a company in America that imports Yellow Sirius to use in the making of expensive hand made guitars. Adrian Clark from Trend Timbers informed me that Yellow Sirius had been banned in NSW schools. An early 1920's book on Australian timbers reported that it caused nasal bleeding in sawmill workers. This meant I would have to take extra care with the dust. I made sure that I used a power respirator, dust extractor and exhaust fans to ensure plenty of airflow through the workshop.

In preparation for this undertaking I dragged my short bed VicMarc VL300 out from the wall so I could access the outboard end. The belt was changed to low gear and the electronic variable speed would enable me to start the lathe at 10 rpm and then turn it up to an appropriate speed. This proved to be about 200 rpm. I was surprised how well balanced the blank was. As it got lighter I was able to increase the speed to a maximum of 500 rpm which was a bit fast for the outside diameter but was a better speed when working in near the centre.

Experience has taught me that with the electronic speed control I wouldn't need to bolt the lathe down. However I made sure the lathe was in firm contact with the ground by using the jacking screws to eliminate any wobble caused by the uneven floor.

A 68kg blank was a bit much to handle by myself, so I drew up a list of mates that I might call on for help. I rang the first name on the list and together we lifted the blank onto the bandsaw and cut it into a circle. The thought crossed my mind that I might run out of mates before this job was finished. As it turned out that they all wanted to have a sticky beak to check on the progress.



A 200 mm faceplate was attached to the circular blank with eight screws. Next came the difficult part, which was getting the blank onto the lathe and the faceplate started on the spindle thread. The large blank had to be offered up and the lathe turned by hand. Success was achieved after a bit of trial and error and one slip, which resulted in a large dent in the blank when it hit the outboard tool post. Lucky it was still a rough blank. Learning from this, I screwed two temporary handles into the waste material whenever I needed to mount or remount the bowl. The use of a Vicmarc faceplate clamp to lock the faceplate onto the spindle meant I could run the lathe in either direction without fear of the blank doing a runner out the workshop door and down the street. I elected to run the lathe in reverse as this would enable me to use a curved Vermec toolrest to cut around the inside bends.

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Because of a previous experience I made sure the clamp was on tight. I once had a heavy blank start to unscrew after I hit the stop button and the lathe applied electronic breaking.

The back of the bowl was turned in the conventional manner using a 13mm Glasser bowl gouge and my favourite gouge, a Woodcut replaceable tip bowl gouge. A bit of sheer scraping improved the slightly torn end grain. A groove 15mm wide by 15mm deep was cut into the back of the bowl to accommodate reverse mounting using a Vic Marc VM120 chuck fitted with 200mm jaws. I normally prefer to use Scroll chucks in contraction mode. However in this instance because there was plenty of bulk in the base I elected to lock the chuck in expansion mode. Either method would have been suitable.

Sanding of the back was done using power sanding pads in an angle drill and a 150 mm Metabo random orbital sander. The big advantage of using the random orbital sander was being able to hook it up to the shop vac and this eliminated most of the airborne dust. I soon found out that normal dust extraction was not very effective on this piece as the large diameter tended to launch the dust into space. Using the random orbital sander and after some experimentation with lathe speeds, I determined that a lathe speed of 100 rpm was the appropriate speed to power sand with. Faster lathe speeds tended to make the random orbital sander bounce on the surface of the work. Grit sizes used were 60 through to 500.



After reversing the blank onto the large Vicmark chuck, I fitted a bowl saver to the lathe in preparation to core out the centre of the blank. I then had second thoughts about the value of the saved material versus the \$990 replacement cost in the event of a mishap. I decided to play safe and abandoned the idea of bowl saving. The waste material was then removed in the conventional manner using bowl gouges. The use of the curved instead of a straight tool rest resulted in less overhang of the tool when cutting around the inside bend.



The specifications called for a large flat area in the centre for the engraving and a final wall thickness of 30mm. The finished bowl weighed in at 15kg, a weight loss of over 50kg. After sanding the inside of the bowl, it was sent off to be engraved and polished. One down and four to go.

I had every confidence in the Vicmarc Lathe and it performed flawlessly. I'm not sure I would have attempted this on any other make of lathe that I have used. I guess a Stubby owner would have a different opinion, but then I have never driven a Stubby. The sheer size of the work presented one of the biggest challenges in my woodturning career and I was pleased with the end result.

The impact of seeing the five bowl forms installed on the walls in the atrium of the new building was personally very satisfying.
Tim Skilton

