

TURNOUT

VOL11 No.01
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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Dear members

The club was back to its normal schedule in February, with 3 meetings. Bill Elliot reported that we needed to see more members coming to the 2nd Saturday, bringing their own projects, looking for advice, and joining in the camaraderie (*"mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together"* according to the dictionary). Graham Reed reported on another very successful Burnside exhibition, with all 25 exhibitors selling at least one of their pieces. Unless there are any new Covid restrictions, we look forward to 2 exhibitions at Wayville during the year. Tim Skilton performed a great banksia nut demonstration, and several members came to Show and Tell with "weed-pots" made from the nuts. Alan Burgess gave an excellent presentation on safe use of tools and sandpaper, and demonstrated how to make a non-rolling dibber. So, members have been busy.

The committee made several decisions:-

The bandsaw and TV with stand are to be offered for sale to members. The bandsaw sees little use, and large lumps of timber should be cut with a chainsaw anyway. A new TV and stand are to be purchased to use with the new demonstration lathe.

A special meeting will be held in May, on the BMT day, to change the Constitution. This will require a quorum of 75% of the membership present to make any changes. Essentially a reduction in the quorum for the AGM to <50%, and use of proxy votes are the main changes proposed.

The new lathe is now complete, with a stand, electronics drawer, monitor stand, camera etc. The "gang of four", viz., Graham Reed, Robert Edge, Tim Skilton and Bill Elliot have put in a huge amount of work to produce an excellent demonstration set-up for the club. A revised plan for projection is to use a new TV rather than the school's projector which had a 2 second delay which could not be overcome with software. This will give a stand-alone set-up which will be very simple to use.

Thanks to those who have volunteered to contribute to the 4th Saturday demonstrations and to those who put up ideas for these demonstrations. A provisional schedule is printed in this issue of Turnout, but there may be adjustments as we proceed through the year.

Keep on making beautiful pieces, and bring them along to Show and Tell

Tim Smeaton

Northern Turners Committee	2021/22
President	Tim Smeaton
Secretary	Dale Starr
Treasurer	David Kleinig
Vice President	Bill Elliott
Member	Rob Williams
Member	Guido Guidi
Member	Fred McCann
Member	Nik Surikov,
Member	Graham Reed
Member	Flora Rumbelow

Send all articles to

turnout@northernturners.org.au

Your Northern Turners

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

BANKSIA NUT DEMONSTRATION

A good crowd of members assembled on February 19th to watch Tim Skilton show us how to make a flask (or weed-pot) from a Banksia nut. The sample was very dry and was a Western Australian variety grown on Kangaroo Island.

First, a quick spray of gold or silver paint highlighted features of the nut.

Setting up on the new VicMarc lathe:- the important part was to centre the largest diameter of the nut between centres. This meant that the uneven surface near the base of the flask, with the open seed-pods, could be preserved. Trying to turn off these edges means splintering and chipping off the edges of the pods.

A spigot was cut, and the next step used a chuck to hold the flask between centres.

The turning, using a small bowl gouge, or similar spindle gouge, gives the basic shape, and before the neck becomes too narrow, a ½" or 12mm hole is bored to the depth of the test tube which will be inserted later.

Using a skew chisel, Tim opened the top of the flask, and then turned the neck to the final dimensions. To finish the base, the drill bit was inserted into the neck and the tailstock used to centre it and give support. Then the spigot could be removed to give a good shape.

Minimal sanding, up to about 120 grit finished off the flask and the recommended finish is spray lacquer or similar. Danish oil tends to gather in the holes and does not work well.

It was very pleasing to see that many of the audience purchased banksias nuts and set to work on the lathes. Show and Tell at the next meeting should produce some excellent pieces.

Thanks, Tim, for an excellent demonstration and good to see our new lathe in operation.



Tim giving advice with the nut mounted between centres.



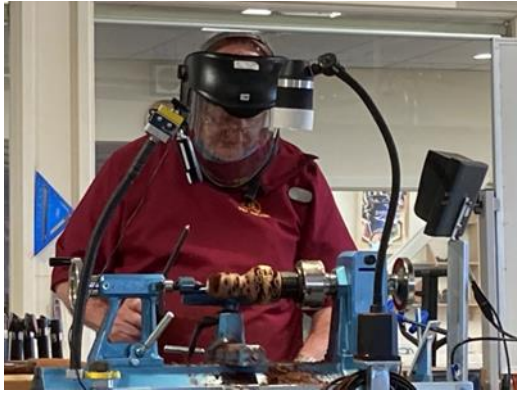
The basic shape is formed



Calipers check the diameter for the foot

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Nut is mounted in the chuck for drilling hole



Reversed and mounted on drill bit



The foot is removed and the flask sanded to complete the job.

The finished product



Members hard at work making shavings

Tim Smeaton

PROGRAM FOR FOURTH SATURDAY MEETINGS

DEMONSTRATIONS FOR 2022

February 26	Safety Non-rolling Dibber	Alan Burgess
March 26	Dove-tailing techniques (Bring along any dove-tailing jigs for Show & Tell)	Dale Starr
April 23	Competition – 3 per team to make 3 mushrooms (Branch timber supplied)	Various members
May 28	BMT with auction of donated goods Special meeting to change Constitution	Various members
June 25	Turning fruit	Bill Elliot
July 23	Hollow flask – concealed lid (Technique demonstrated by Hans Noom)	Tim Smeaton
August 27	Salt and pepper grinders	Flora Rumbelow
September 24	Router demonstration Toymendous turning Pole lathe demonstration	Guido Guidi, Trevor Green, Roger Humphris
October 22*	AGM Decorative work in jewellery boxes	David Hough
November 26	TBA	

PROGRAM FOR THIRD SATURDAY MEETINGS DEMONSTRATIONS IN 2022

March 19	Off centre egg cup	George Pastuch
April 16	Pen and stand set	Ron Allen
May 21	TBA	
June 18	TBA	
July 16	TBA	
August 20	TBA	
September 17	TBA	
October 15	TBA	
November 19	TBA	

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to Tim Smeaton for all the articles in this month's edition of Turnout.
Without these there would be no Turnout for January as I was unavailable interstate.

LATHE SAFETY AND A NON-ROLLING DIBBER

Demonstration by Alan Burgess

Any spinning object is potentially dangerous. In a matter of milliseconds, some part of the operator of a lathe can be wound around the piece of wood, often spinning at over 1000 rpm!

Alan pointed out that every one of us should assess the risk and manage it accordingly. He outlined many of the dangers, particularly if a piece of cloth, or sandpaper, or hair, is allowed to wrap around the wood on the lathe. To reduce the risks, he made the following points:-

Hold both ends of a piece of sandpaper so there is no free end to wrap around the piece.

When applying finishes do not use cloths – they can be drawn in. Paper towel is safer.

Use short pieces of sandpaper applied to the underside of the piece.

If using gloves, do not allow them to go around the lathe – if a glove is drawn around the piece, the hand goes with it, possibly leading to debriding of the hand (a horrible injury).

Two items were presented which helped here:- a sandpaper cutter, and a centering tool which helped to centre non-square sections.



The sandpaper cutter (left) and the centring marker with 45 degree blade

Alan described which tools should be used for particular tasks, whether it be a roughing gouge, a skew, a detail gouge or a parting tool. To demonstrate how to use many of these he proceeded to use two blocks of pine, glued up along the grain and across the grain to make the point that in turning a bowl, inevitably the tool will encounter fibres end on which can easily cause a catch.

As usual, stress was placed on rubbing the bevel, and approaching the work so that the tool initially rests on the surface before being drawn down until the bevel is rubbing, and then the edge starts to cut.

To make the dibber, Alan used a plethora of tools, from detail gouges to skew and parting tool, showing how each tool achieved a different cut.

He mounted the square section piece between centres, using a Steb centre on the headstock and a live Steb centre on the tailstock. This technique gave a secure workpiece.

The feature of the design, the square section, had to be cut carefully to begin with a skew, and deepened with a parting tool. Then a roughing gouge made most of the taper and finished with a skew (this was later marked at approximately 1 inch divisions),.

The handle was formed with both roughing gouge and parting tool, and a couple of detail/spindle gouges, and the piece removed from the lathe for the ends to be cut off with a saw and sanded on a circular sanding pad mounted on the lathe.

Thank you Alan for an excellent presentation, highlighting both safety and good practice.

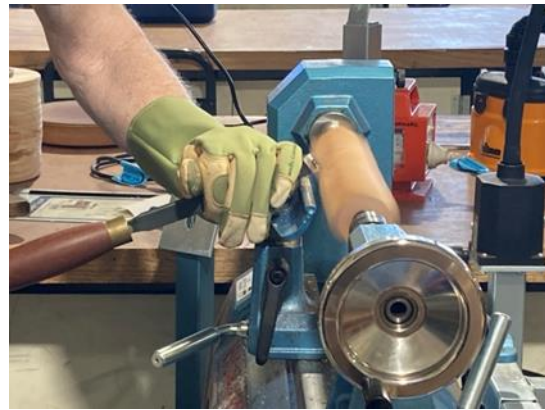
The pictures on the following pages show steps in the formation of the dibber.

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Mounting between Steb centres



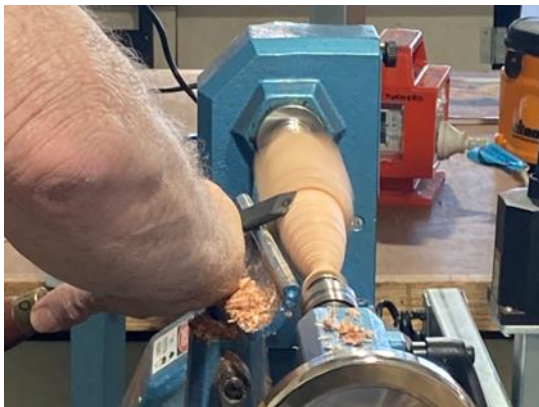
Cutting the edges of the square section



The first cuts on either side of centre



Roughing the taper



Finishing the taper with a skew



Shaping the handle with a detail gouge



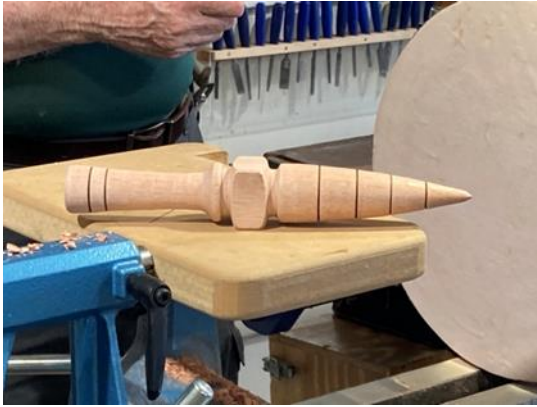
Cutting off the ends in a vice



The sanding disc and platform

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The finished article off the lathe.



The man himself – a picture of concentration

The President thanked Alan for his contribution, and in encouraging members to take away some timber and make a non-rolling dibber, he added the proviso that everyone should try to make the dibber using only TWO tools!! If anyone, and here he was thinking of one of our members who is a master of the skew chisel, is able to make the dibber with only one tool, then even better! Good luck!

Tim Smeaton

The Gang of Four

You may remember China had a notorious Gang of Four
I think that several schemers lost their heads upon the floor
But Northern Turners has its own, a band of four indeed
Who saw that our great turning club had a special need.
So off they went to have a meet with TVCS nerds
Three hours to get the info on projectors so we heard
And then they got together and hatched a real plan
Bring our turning demonstrations to a higher plane.
First Robert presented all requirements needed to update
Our cameras, and computer, everything which relates
To showing pictures on the wall for everyone to see
Three sixty degrees of vision on the school's wall-mounted screen.
Then Graham, Bill and Tim began to present their argument
For getting a new lathe which allowed demonstrators to present
Their skills to all and sundry, with the power to turn large chunks
Of red gum, jacaranda, or even small tree-trunks.
Tim declared his interest, but applauded VicMarc's good machines
And for about four thousand dollars, plus his commission it would seem
We'd get a lathe to demonstrate, one horse-power motor which
Would give us all the power we need, just flick a single switch.
Of course much work was needed, a steel frame to be welded,
And drawers to house electric gear was highly recommended,
So the committee was persuaded, and this gang soon set to task
They're just like little boys with toys, but we never need to ask
This gang of four will give their time, and expertise exceptional
To set up all equipment needs, for turning educational,
With mounted screen so operators keep tabs on presentations
Electronics neatly housed, even fans for emanations
Of heat from black boxes with USB or other connections,
When all is done, Northern Turners wins, and thanks to the gang of four
Demonstrations will be all top class – we couldn't wish for more.

Tim Smeaton
January 2022