

TURNOUT

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For the Second Saturday demonstration George Pastuch showed how to manufacture his miniature bird houses.



Barry Warneke also demonstrating the use of a tenon-making tool that he acquired in a collection of second-hand tools.



From your Editor.

"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley."

'To a mouse' by Robert Burns.



I took my laptop to WA & planned to do the newsletter in the evenings after our days of travel & touring.



... stop laughing, it could have happened.

There was SO much nice wood I wanted to snaffle & bring back ... but couldn't do it this time.



The only timber I brought back was a huge piece of jarrah my son had "saved" from a wood chopping competition & three small scraps of mallee root from the last dregs of my sisters firewood pile.



Now, as we all know, if you start with low quality wood, you're not going to get great results but as someone who is still learning, free wood is the best wood.

I haven't attacked the jarrah yet but I wanted to see if this mallee wood was as interesting as I had been told ... & it is. I will be sending the little bowl to my sister who has spoken to her firewood supplier & he is going to collect some better, larger pieces of mallee root for my next visit.

Cheers, Rob Williams 🕶️ i.am.batman.1959@gmail.com

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Link box

[Valley of the Giants - Tree Top Walk](https://www.treetopwalk.com.au/)

<https://www.treetopwalk.com.au/>

A brilliant place to torture yourself.

Red Tingle (E. jacksonii) & Yellow Tingle

(E. guilfoylei) trees grow only in this tiny

area of national park & is not available for

people who'd really love to try turning it.

There is one person in the local area who

has a few of these trees growing on their

property & they have placed a few turned

pieces for sale at the park visitors centre - I

think to torment other turners.

Your Northern Turners

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

January	Trevor Green	Finials
February	Flora R. Peter Page	Table clocks Miniature bird-boxes (?)
March	Tim Skilton	Bowl-saver with green wood

Upcoming meetings

No meetings in December.

Social family BBQ on 4th Saturday in January 2023, then back to a pre-Christmas family BBQ in Dec 2023.

Show & Tell - 26 Nov 2022

(from Dale Starr & Ed Zahra)

- Tony Davies brought a bowl partially filled with blue resin, fiddlewood root lidded bowl and a palm bowl with painted exterior
- Peter Smith showed a number of bowls and plates.
- Stuart Hunnisett had a mini bird house from olive, a morel mushroom which he intends to further carve and three mushrooms on a stand
- Chris Deguet showed a mini bird house and a potpourri bowl
- Bill Elliott also had a mini bird house, following on from George Pastuch's recent demo
- Barry Warneke showed a home-made sharpening jig for the ProEdge
- Jeff Todd had a woman with a necklace, done by offset turning
- Dave Wills brought his first piece, a bowl with a butterfly on the rim
- Tim Skilton showed us a home for a pygmy blue tongue lizard which only lives near Burra where they are building a wind farm. These lizards live in spider burrows and are being moved. He was commissioned to make 150 of these homes.
- David Rose brought a large segmented bowl and Rambo the ram
- David Hough showed us an excellent model of a steam locomotive.

The halo was awarded to Dave Wills.



4th Saturday demonstration (26 Nov 22)

Turning unusual woods Ron Allen - reported by Ed Zahra & Dale Starr

Monocotyledons:

- Monocotyledons are flowering plants that are generally considered to be more primitive than trees (dicotyledons). Cotyledon refers to the 'first seed leaf', present in the embryo. If it is a single seed leaf, then it is categorised as a Monocotyledon, and if it is a pair of leaves, then it is categorised as a dicotyledon.
- Palms – generally difficult to turn & finish. Sharp shards when turning, so use thick gloves.
- Coconut palms – turns better than most palms.
- Black palm – nice outer layer with a very 'punky' centre.
- *Draecena Draco* (Dragon's Blood) – very light weight. The red sap was used in the varnish of the Stradivarius violin.
- Xanthorrhoeas, or Grass trees (e.g. Yacca, Blackboy) – very messy to turn & carcinogenic.

Burles:

- Cause uncertain. Main theory is that they are generated by some damage to the tree, resulting in a cancer-like growth.

Lignotubers:

- A woody swelling of the root crown possessed by some plants as a protection against destruction of the plant stem, such as by fire – e.g. as in the Malee root. Look out for stones when cutting roots with a chainsaw.

Mistletoe:

- Semi-parasitic. 92 species of mistletoe in Australia.

Spalting:

- The transition lines between the fungus-affected wood and the unaffected wood. Take care not to breathe in the fungus spores, even in dried wood.

Ron told us that palms reach their maximum diameter when young and are really a grass.

Growth is through vascular bundles which are quite strong and can be difficult to turn.

Coconut palm is quite heavy but turns well if you turn in the correct direction so that the bundles don't tear out.

Black palm makes fantastic pens. You can usually only use a thin strip near the edge.

He showed us a piece of Dragon's blood, which is also not a true wood. He had a section which clearly showed the internal structure. He noted that the resin, which is exuded if the tree is injured, was used for many purposes; for example, imparting a beautiful colour when finishing violins.

He next talked about Xanthorrhoeas, of which it is said "you turn a grass tree twice in your life – the first and last", since it is very dirty to turn.

Finally he talked about burls, which are probably caused by damage to the trunks, causing the cells to grow in somewhat random directions.

