

TURNOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

VOL 12 No. 02

February 2023

Your Northern Turners

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

From your Editor.

Good morning my fellow minions and in the words of the great Andrew Johns, “Yes I’m on drugs, no, you can’t have any.” 🤪

For context and to allay any concerns from those who asked after me back recently - my neurosurgeon has changed my physiotherapy and medication routines and I feel much better for it. Thank you to those who expressed concern.

I have placed our club “goals” inside this section rather than separately to highlight something that I have noticed anew recently, especially on our first Saturdays of the month.

Many of us ‘new’ turners come along with projects and problems and find ourselves the focus of advice, options and assistance from not only the experts and highly experienced turners but other new turners who have had similar experiences and offer support.

Conversations that start with “I’d like to ...” or “How can I ...” and “I had this problem and I wondered if it can be fixed?” are common. Lathes are set up, pieces are secured, techniques are demonstrated once or twice and then the person with the piece is encouraged to try themselves. They might be new skills that are taught but also basic skills and techniques are reinforced. During the process other interested people will come and watch, ask questions, offer encouragement/advice/opinions ... but never criticise or discourage.

Its a piece of wood turning at high speed and with the careful application of a sharp tool, correctly placed and used with care, really amazing results can be achieved by rank amateurs (like me) and the sense of achievement is emotionally lifting ... it really is.

I really encourage everyone to come along to the second Saturday meetings and bring a piece to play with on the club lathes and just enjoy the experience of support and fun. Get Bill and Graham to explain how to do something and enjoy the friendly banter between them about why the other one is wrong 😊 Its excellent.

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

*“Life is mostly froth and bubble,
Two things stand like stone.
Kindness in another's trouble,
Courage in your own.”*

P.S. Last words (& not mine) This is a passage from a **long** poem by Adam Lindsay Gordon that my dad use to quote often and like most children I didn’t see the wisdom in it till many years later.

Adam Lindsay Gordon - (19 Oct 1833 – 24 Jun 1870)
British-Australian poet, horseman, police officer and politician.

Link box

Acrylic Round Centre Finder Compass Circle Cutter for Wood Turners Lathe

<https://www.ebay.com.au/itm/373567946676>

[https://www.amazon.com.au/s?](https://www.amazon.com.au/s?k=Acrylic+Round+Centre+Finder+Compass+Circle+Cutter+for+Wood+Turners+Lathe&ref=nav_bb_sb)

[k=Acrylic+Round+Centre+Finder+Compass+Circle+Cutter+for+Wood+Turners+Lathe&ref=nav_bb_sb](https://www.amazon.com.au/s?k=Acrylic+Round+Centre+Finder+Compass+Circle+Cutter+for+Wood+Turners+Lathe&ref=nav_bb_sb)

Hardware for Creative Finishes

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

Show & Tell Feb.2023 - reported by Dale Starr

Presented by Tim Smeaton

- Ed Zahra brought in a small planer he picked up at a flea market, a piece of “magnetic” blue gum used to pick up dropped metal and an olive bud vase from last week’s demo.
- Chris Deguet also showed a bud vase and a nicely shaped bowl.
- Stuart Hunnisett has another bud vase, an olive scent vase and another olive piece which may be a candle holder.
- Dale Starr showed two pieces based on the American turner John Beaver, featuring curved contrasting parts and a red gum bowl with a beaded edge done with a small beading tool recently purchased from [D-Way tools](#).



- Jeff Todd showed us a conductor’s baton, complete with holder, an olive weed pot and a vase turned using the lost wood process recently shown by Art Liestman.
- Trevor Green brought in a leg for a table he is making, featuring very crisp spindle work.
- Bill Elliott showed us a clock made from a flat piece of burl.
- Ron Allen had a number of eggs made from a range of exotic timbers.

- Jacqui Rae brought a camphor laurel branch topped with a bottle and containing a light.
- Tim Skilton showed us some pieces of black palm, which is quite hard but turns well. He also had a number of pens made from same.

The halo was awarded to Jeff Todd



Northern Turners Committee

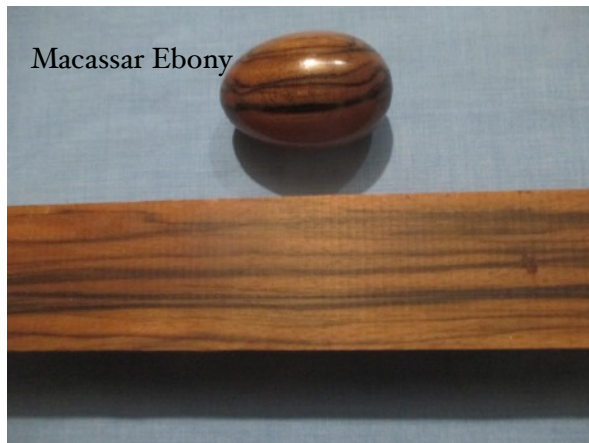
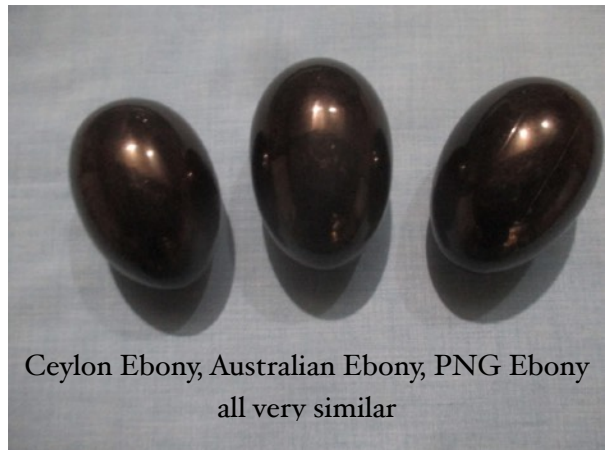
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TREEVIA

BLACK WOODS – Part 1 – EBONIES

The most famous and historic of the Ebonies is Ceylon Ebony from Sri Lanka and India although these days many other species from Africa have replaced it. It has become rare in its natural habitat and in Sri Lanka, it is now illegal to harvest and sell ebony wood.

The word Ebony means dark, hard wood from Greek “*ebeninos*”, ebony. Ebonies all belong to the genus *Diospyros*, a genus of over 700 species of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. The majority are native to the tropics, with only a few species extending into temperate regions. There are about 15 species native to Australia, largely from the tropical areas of Northern Territory and Queensland. Some of the species are noted for their black wood and are commonly known as ebony trees. Other species are valued for their fruit and known as persimmon trees. The globular orange fruit of the common persimmon is about 40 to 70 mm



in diameter and resembles a tomato or an apple in appearance. Although the wood is noted for being jet black, it usually has a brownish grey sapwood. Persimmons usually have brownish grey colour, often with black streaks.

Ebony, often called the Millionaires tree, has become one of the most expensive woods in the world. Due to the rich characteristics and rarity of this distinctive jet-black wood, its price can go up to \$13,000 per cubic meter. This method of pricing is universal but is very hard to

comprehend. Before decimalisation the standard unit for pricing was a Super foot (board foot in America). This was based on a piece of 1 inch timber 1 foot by 1 foot (300x300x25mm) which is something we can visualise. So, ebony at \$13,000 per cub meter is more easily understood at \$30.70 per super foot.

The jet-black ebonies have been traditionally use for piano keys, billiard cue handles, carving (elephants are very common), turning and other decorative pieces. They are hard heavy woods having no obvious grain pattern. The Air-dried weight is about 1150 Kg per cubic meter which is similar to our desert Acacias. They are hard and brittle and are often difficult to work, being a little splintery when turning.

I have turned some Australian ebony (*D compacta*) which I obtained in Katherine and a PNG ebony (*D. lolin*), both of which were jet black. Some years ago, I also purchased some Macassar ebony (*D. celebica*). This is now listed as vulnerable and is very expensive – similar to Ebony. For interest I googled it for sale and saw blanks for tables at \$41,000 each. This leaves us with one inexpensive alternative – use River Red Gum and ebonise it.



An Update to Square's Refund Policy - *received by Robert Edge*

MAR 02, 2023

Beginning next month, we are updating our refund policy so that processing fees will no longer be returned when sellers issue a full or partial refund to their buyers. We are making this change because Square has always incurred processing fees from our network and payments partners on all transactions at the time of sale. Modifying our refunds policy more accurately reflects that Square does not recoup these costs in full in instances of refunds, and matches current industry standards.

For existing sellers, these changes will go into effect in Australia on April 4, 2023; followed by the U.S on April 11, 2023; the U.K, Ireland, France, and Spain on May 2, 2023; and Canada on June 6, 2023. For new sellers signing up with Square on or after March 1, 2023, our new policy takes immediate effect.

Why We're Making These Changes

Before introducing our new policy, we conducted a deep analysis of how this change may impact our sellers. Ultimately, many of the verticals our sellers represent, such as restaurants and beauty & personal care businesses, do not experience high volumes of refunds. For sellers prone to a higher refund frequency, like retailers, we are committed to providing support to help them adjust accordingly. This change helps us further reinvest in our platform to provide sellers of all shapes and sizes with innovative commerce solutions, and our new policy will have no effect on the numerous benefits sellers receive when using Square to accept payments, including:

- One processing rate for all major cards
- Payment dispute management
- Out-of-the-box PCI compliance
- 24/7 fraud monitoring
- Fast payouts and transfer of funds

For any further information regarding how this affect the club and its sales please speak to Robert Edge.

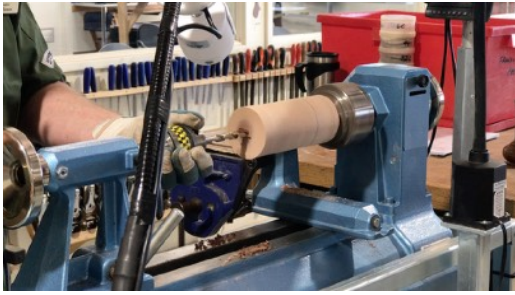
Third Saturday Demonstration Schedule

DATE 2023	DEMONSTRATOR	PROJECT
MARCH 18	George Pastuch	Branch Winged Bowl
APRIL 15	Ron Allen	Tea Measure Spoon
MAY 20	George Pastuch	Needle Case
JUNE 17	George Pastuch	Bangle/Bracelet
JULY 15	Ron Allen	Mallet
AUG 19	Ron Allen	2 pc Mushroom – Banksia Nut
SEPT 16	George Pastuch	Fruit -Apple, Pear
OCT 21	George Pastuch	Xmas Finial
NOV 18	Ron Allen	Tea Candle

Forth Saturday Demos

DATE 2023	DEMONSTRATOR	PROJECT
March 25	Tim Skilton	bowl saved with green wood
Apr 28	Peter Page	mini bird boxes
May 26	None	Biggest Morning Tea
Jun 23	Tim Smeaton	chess pieces

Third Saturday Demonstration - George Pastuch - Weed pot



George demonstrated how to produce a “simple weed pot”.

He said that the base design is an excellent way to practice skills that produces a nicely proportioned piece.



The result is ideal for displaying minimalist flower arrangements like a single paper daisy or a few lavender stems.



The basic design can be adjusted to give different results especially when using branch stock with bark still attached or timber with strong grain .



Forth Saturday Demonstration - Flora Rumbelow - Ball clock



For her ball clock Flora showed her method of making the ball using a circle template made from plywood and also using a Contour / Profile gauge to ensure as close to a perfect ball as possible.



Flora explained the best ways to place a foot or mounting point on the ball and how to install the clock mechanism.

