



TURNOUT

the Official Newsletter of Northern Turners Inc.
a member club of Woodgroup SA

March 2011

Vol. 2 no.5

Committee		
President	Dennis Murray	82639288 / 0431834472
Secretary / Correspondence	Steve Franz	82871286
Treasurer	Brian Purcell	82626551
Member	Jan Beare	81651543
Member	Barry Victor	85224373
Non committee positions		
Woodgroup SA Delegate	Jan Beare	81651543
Woodgroup SA Delegate	Barry Victor	85224373
Librarian	Anne Kerr	82587607
Equipment Officer	Mick Adley	83963510
Website Liaison	Gordon Best	82634820
3 rd Saturday Coordinator	Ron Allen	82647414
Exhibition Committee Joint Chair	Graham Reed Ron Allen	82618664 82647414
Public Officer	Dennis Murray	82639288 / 0431834472
Turnout Editor	Dennis Murray	82639288 / 0431834472

From the President:



Hello to all again. Mick Adley has been a busy man and we now have a full asset list of all NT property in our storage area, if there are any bits and pieces elsewhere, we don't know about it. You will notice some changes to equipment. The majority of our lathes, and all future lathes, have been numbered and colour coded. Each lathe has a corresponding tool box with the same number and colour code. Each box will eventually contain a basic set of accessories for each lathe.

In relation to new lathes it is our long term plan to rationalise and have all lathes/chucks compatible with M30 threads. We still have the large wooden box with 'odds and sods'. I have had discussions with a few people in regard to the GGHC lathes but as I am sure you will agree we cannot, unfortunately, provide everything and individuals will need to use own chucks etc on these lathes. A suggestion was made that NT keep a couple of sets of tools also. I personally do not support this idea because tools are 'personal'. Grinds are 'personal' and I don't think we would get a consensus on how the tools should be ground. Speaking of which, you will also note that our grinder is on a portable trolley, this has a slide out handle and a box for accessories bolted to the base. I would like to again raise your awareness of the upcoming Merry Month of May. This will be an excellent weekend I am sure and hope it will be well supported by Woodgroup SA and by members of Northern Turners. I have booked my cabin at the Big4 caravan park. Gordon Best has had some meetings with the Woodgroup SA Webmaster, Mike Donnellan, and is hard at work preparing to update our own website <http://www.woodgroupsa.org.au/northernturners> Over the next couple of meetings we will need to decide on future programming ideas so put your thinking caps on. The next meeting Ron Allen will be doing his eggs and has provided some useful info further in this issue. Initial enquiries have been made of us by Woodgroup re this year Home show and whether we are interested in having an exhibition area. As president I will be putting to the committee that we will attend but reduce our size to 2 lathes only. By doing this we will only require a minimal demonstrator roster which should be easier to fill. We have been assured that this year all demonstrators will be provided free entry and car parking.

TURNOUT

Editor's hat: I am slowly getting Turnout on track for a regular edition and it should be correct for April.

Feature Contribution

TURNING WOODEN EGGS

Traditionally eggs were turned between centres using a skew chisel (Hans and Roger still do this very well). The diameter of the egg was unimportant and the egg would come off the lathe with a small point on each end. These would have been pared off with the skew and be sanded by hand. However some traces usually remained.

Today most of us use a scroll chuck so that one end of the egg can be completely finished and the egg 95% formed before parting off the lathe. A simple finger chuck can be used to finish the second end completely. If only to be used once it can be a very simple jam chuck, turned when required and then discarded. However most of us would wish to use the finger chuck several times.

EGG SIZES AND SHAPE

Somebody once told me eggs were 65 x 45 mm and I started making them that size and made a finger chuck appropriate to that size. After measuring several fresh eggs, it seems the maximum size is about 60 x 40, although there is a great variation in size and shape.

Colin Martin, a wood collector friend from Toowoomba, sells many eggs and makes his about 70 mm long. I now make mine about 62 x 43 and think that they look realistic and feel nice in the hand. The tactile sense of feeling eggs seems to be one of the main attractions. By maintaining the diameter at 43mm also gives a little more latitude when turning. I usually start with blanks about 90 x 48 x 48 and grip the square end in a scroll chuck and support the free end with the tailstock until the eggs are roughed out. Turning the blanks between centres to produce a spigot for the scroll chuck would provide a more secure grip. When using branch material, I usually turn spigots on both ends.

FINGER CHUCKS

As stated earlier, my finger chuck was designed to hold 45 diameter eggs and as the photo below shows is slightly tapered and a ring made from acrylic was used to close the taper slightly for extra grip. You may see examples of people using a hose clamp to tighten, but I would recommend not doing so. If you collected your knuckles on it.....I leave it to your imagination.

However, I still use the same finger chuck and don't use the locking ring. I have found that a strip of leather inside the chuck provides plenty of grip. In the case of undersized eggs a thicker strip of felt or even two layers suffices.

I have drilled a 12 mm hole through the finger chuck and use a length of 9.5 dowel through the headstock spindle to push eggs out of the chuck if need be.

If you Google 'turned wooden eggs' you will see some interesting ideas.

I am demonstrating this topic on March 26. Bring some 100 x 50 x 50 material for eggs and 90 x 60 x 60 for a finger chuck.

I will bring some blanks for use as well as some more interesting woods from my collection (for sale).

Ron Allen

That's all folks.