



ABN: 78 451 124 248

TURNOUT

The Newsletter of Northern
Turners Inc.

January 2012
Vol. 3 no.1

Committee			
President	Dennis Murray	82639288 / 0431834472	
Secretary / Correspondence	Steve Franz	82841286	
Treasurer	Barry Victor	85224373	
Member	Bob Bauze		
Member	Bill Elliot		
Member	David Rose		
Non committee positions			
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Woodgroup SA Delegate	Barry Victor	Turnout Editor	Dennis Murray
Librarian	Anne Kerr	Equipment Officer	Mick Adley
3 rd Saturday Coordinator	Ron Allen	Website Liaison	Gordon Best
Exhibition Committee Joint Chair	Graham Reed Ron Allen		

From the President:

Hello to all. Another year on and another year older. Once again changes are afoot, most of which will be painless. On the last page of this extremely professional publication you will find the latest program of events. The first thing you will notice is that the second Saturday meeting has now reverted to the Third Saturday; hopefully this will now prevent the many clashes with other events.

Social events: do you want any? Do you have any ideas which could be utilised? Do you want your voice to be heard? Send a letter to the Editor!

What is happening with our club I hear you ask, what can I look forward to this year?

Let us look at the regulars:

The Merry Month of May, this year to be hosted by Copper Coast.

SAturn, still waiting for confirmation, but probably to be held earlier this year.

The Biggest Morning Tea, always a rousing success.

Who will be this years "Special Workshop", I had a great time with Terry Baker!

And don't forget that old favourite our AGM!!!!

What about new stuff:

Rumours abound, but look out for some very special monthly demonstrations!

Competitions. Now let me try and explain, again.

There will be two types of competition. The first type will be held on a regular meeting day, teams randomly chosen will compete, on a set project, for purely bragging rights. These have been very popular in the past, BUT you only join in if you want to! The second Competition will be held

over the year and comprise of monthly set tasks. This is also purely voluntary but the winners will receive a trophy at years end. To make it fair the competition organiser/s (me) have set three grades for judging purposes, Novice, Intermediate and Senior. We had originally asked that all members nominate a grade but based on the feedback I have received, don't bother. Only those who enter the competition will need to nominate/negotiate a grade. So let me reiterate, if you do not wish to be involved, for any of the many reasons I have been offered, that is fine. For those of you who do wish to participate details of the first competition piece appear later in this issue.

Dennis Murray, President NT

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Readers Contribution:

The Perils of Demonstrating.

In November I had the privilege of “demonstrating” to Northern Turners. Apart from a couple of nights at the Triton Owners Club in Salisbury this was my first official attempt at demonstrating. Let us firstly, without looking at the professionals, discuss what is demonstrating. I have been to a couple of shows stood behind a lathe and turned, and apart from the odd question, (mainly from kids asking “watcha doin’ mister?”) haven’t really had to say anything. At the club it is different but in reality not that daunting. You do have to talk and even, at times, make sense. My aim in the demonstration was not to teach my Grannie to suck eggs. My skills as a Turner do not allow me to stand in front of my peers and tell them how to do things. So what was the point? Quite simply, to put over other ideas. My topic was a mantle clock, something I had not seen demonstrated before. I said at the start off it wasn’t about technique and if anyone present didn’t like the way I used my gouges they were polite enough not to say so. I also didn’t bring along some expensive piece of wood and ruin it. I needed three pieces for my clock, the face, the base and the stem/finial. I brought a piece of Beech (probably *Fagus sylvatica*) for the face some 4 ½ (Quattuor hemi) and for the stem and finial that old favourite, Lancewood (*Acacia shirleyii*) (unless it comes from New Zealand in which case it could be *Pseudopanax crassifolius* from the family *Araliaceae*) which in this case was my downfall. Actually it was my 2nd downfall. To ‘prepare’ for my debut I had an excellent article describing in the minutest detail how to create a mantle clock in ten easy steps, the trouble was I could not find it. I then took it upon myself to be creative, after all what could go wrong? The base and face pieces both had holes predrilled to fit my screw chuck, no problem. The face piece, approximately 80 ml diameter by 40ml thick had a whole drilled directly through the centre, side to side, with me?

You should end up with two holes which cross in the centre. All bits ready to go.

So what went wrong?

Nothing.

It was a perfect demo and everyone loved it.

Apart from the Lancewood which was not the best specimen and which decided to blow itself apart at a crucial moment.

Perhaps turning too close to the centre hole wasn’t a good idea.

Breaking off the stem when fitting to the base didn’t help.

But, that said, a perfect demo in every way.

Dennis Murray (yep me again)

The Readers Contribution segment is for you to put in what you will.

Have you had a major success or disaster?

Write a little bit about it (or a big bit)

Meeting Reports:

This section will have a simple report for each meeting including;

Numbers: how many attended how many lathes in use.

Visitors: Names

New members: brief intro

Demonstration: who what etc, with hopefully photo’s

Show and Tell:

This section will have the details re all show and tellers. Including some photos.

On the S&T table will be a form to fill in when you put your piece in, a very simple form, not hard to complete, but it will save me some time in writing things down. All you will need to put on the form is Name, Description of Piece/s, type of wood (common and botanical if known)

And so what was our last meeting?

Our Xmas break up of course!

The day started well. Due to a minor mix up the school was busy refurbishing all the work benches. You couldn’t go in the hall without a respirator!



Luckily for us it was a perfect day for a BBQ.



The Show table was finally assembled.

How many Woodturners does it take to set up an Urn?



The meeting was a success but I would still like to see it held elsewhere next year, perhaps Civic Park?

Social Events:

Do we need a social secretary?

Do we need Social Events?

Do you want Social Events?

On December 4 last I had the pleasure of attending an IWCS meeting (which includes partners) held in the Botanical Park. We had a walk around and Ron Allen gave us an interesting talk on some of the trees in the Park (unfortunately no acacia shirleyi) but a very interesting Burdekin Plum (*Pleiogynium timorense*) (I think). Following the walk we had a picnic lunch, most enjoyable, especially the wine. I thought to myself at the time, what a beautiful place to have our Xmas break-up or even a simple social event sometime during the year. Is there someone out there who would like to take on the role of coordinating an activity of this sort?

Don't rush me.

Committee Report:

This is the bit where we tell you what we are up to. As our 1st meeting for 2012 is on Saturday January the 28th I take this opportunity to say that there is nothing to report but watch this space.

THIRD SATURDAY MEETING – JAN 21 ST

I hope that everybody had a good Christmas and look forward to catching up with you at one of our January meetings.

The topic for January is based on revision of the use of the Skew chisel. The projects are spatulas and spurtles. So what are they?

Spatulas are usually tools with wide flexible blades used by artists to mix paints, pharmacists to mix drugs and plasterers to spread cement render or plaster. The term is also used to describe thin wooden pieces, somewhat like ice cream sticks used by doctors to hold the tongue during oral examinations. However a spatula is also a kitchen tool used to mix food especially in cooking – and this is our project.

A spurtle is a traditional Scottish kitchen utensil used for stirring porridge. The end of a spurtle is usually shaped to represent the flower of a Scotch thistle.

Timber for a spatula – approx 300 x 45 x 25 - Radiata pine is fine.

Timber for a spurtle – approx 300 x 30 x 30 – again Radiata pine is OK – ideally with straight grain and free of knots.

There are many web pages available – simply Google Spatulas and then Spurtles.

PS, I found a web page entitled

www.timsturnery.com but it is not our Tim.

As there are a number of new members we may split into two groups so that they may get more help. For new members coming to the meeting, please bring any tools if you have them, but don't worry if you don't have tools at this stage – there will be some tools for you to use.

Ron Allen

FOURTH SATURDAY MEETING – JAN 28TH

On January 28th David Rose will be demonstrating “tulips”. We will have some spare bits of wood ready to go but if you wish to bring your own then here are the sizes required:

45x45x70 Pinus, 12mm dowel 10 cm long and some shashlik sticks. All will be revealed.

**TERRY BAKER WORKSHOP
HELD ON THE 5TH AND 6TH OF
NOVEMBER 2012
TORRENS VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

A very big thank you to all the Northern Turners who supported the Terry Baker workshop. Without your participation and involvement we would not be able to bring to Adelaide, the likes of Terry Baker this year and Terry Scott, Neil Scobie, Vaughan Richmond, Terry Martin, Vic Wood and Richard Raffan in the past years to share special time, skills, knowledge and tips with us. I for one definitely know that these workshops benefit most if not all that attend them. It may be months or even years after, but the efforts on the show and tell tables at various locations around the state certainly prove that the degree of skill, innovation, design and craftsmanship shared, can become a valuable asset. The inspiration together with motivation gained from these workshops is well worth the cost and time involved in attending.

Terry Baker, like all who have come before him, had a wealth of knowledge to impart with those who were prepared to listen and learn. I must say from the outset, that on this occasion it was a two way street, as Terry willingly acknowledged he had also learnt a couple of tricks and techniques from the group, which he was going to adopt forthwith.

Although Terry's skills in woodturning go without question, he was primarily here to show us his skills in plate making and decorating, whether for everyday use in the home, or to be sold/given away as a presentation plate for birthdays, christenings, weddings etc. We looked at larger forms for both decoration and function, fat forms, square and irregular shaped objects. We were exposed to the importance of keeping a design diary and why. Demonstrations and explanations were covered in detail concerning his decorating techniques using paints, creams, metal decorations (such as pins, nails, studs tacks etc), the dremel, pyrography, burners, polishes and oils to achieve his objectives throughout the weekend. He didn't let us down either.

His idea on the Saturday was to get us thinking out to the edge, try something different, don't be satisfied with what you think other people want – do what you want and experiment – if it doesn't work – try again he says. On Sunday he would get us to think more centrally and concentrate on the inner part of the form, reflecting that the turning is only 10% of the piece and 90% was spent on selecting the timber, the design and finishing the piece – he believes the finish is more important. One of his many mantras was “it must feel perfect and smell good – let your fingers caress the timber to feel for imperfections”. For the smell, he uses his own mix of pure gum turps, boiled linseed oil, beeswax and carnauba, and it is true, the smell does linger on ones fingers and hands. He reflects that if people are attracted to the piece enough to want to pick it up and admire it, they could very well leave the shop but be inclined to return to purchase the item later, because the smell was still on their hand and therefore still in their mind. Good theory and I could see how that would work.

Keeping a journal or a design diary is something not many of us think about, but it is probably worth saying here that once the thought is put into your mind, it keeps coming back at you that perhaps it wouldn't hurt to start jotting things or drawings down in a more formalised, organised way for future use in our work. His journal is full of wonderful drawings, anecdotes, sayings, philosophies, references and stuff that he uses for inspiration and motivation. He utilises any spare time by journaling, be it at airports or just sitting in front of TV. I saw one of our attendee's journaling attentively during the weekend, so he already has a head start. We are also fortunate to have one of our own members with a good knowledge on this subject, so we may be able to get a better insight into this practice by utilising his knowledge and skills sometime in the future.

Terry, who lives and works in Pretty Beach on the Central Coast of NSW, adjacent to Whale Beach and Palm Beach, is a strong believer in Zen Buddhism and appears satisfied with his lot. He has been there and done that, he has had his trials and tribulations but gets the utmost of satisfaction from teaching, helping others,

demonstrating and interacting with people of a like interest. Whales

virtually swim in the ocean past his front door, so there is an abundance of tourists in the area, as well as a heap of surfers. Terry believes you should market what people want, which led him to timber plates and cups from quarter sawn timber for the surfers to use, as they are easy to clean and can be handled fairly roughly. Also he makes whale spatulas from timber off cuts for the tourists to take back home. A ready market as well as a way to utilise those timber offcuts. Another way he uses off cuts is to make boat shapes out of various pieces, then enhancing their appearance by shaping, carving and adding pieces like masts rudders and cabins. A coating of Porter's paints to reflect rust, iron, copper etc makes them into attractive wall decorations that readily sell for \$45.00 each.

The first day flew by with Terry turning several bowls/plates then explaining and experimenting with decorating techniques. If it didn't work then he would try something different a bit later. The dremel type tool is a favourite as was the pyrography unit to enhance and decorate the items. Boot polish, map gas burners, wire brushes were all used to good effect, with plenty of hints and tips on finishes and decorating ideas. Part of the afternoon was taken up with finishing a couple of these items so they would be available at our auction the following day, but it was interesting to see how he changes things if he is not altogether happy with the finished product. "Experiment by trying out on rubbish timbers in the first instance", he says. He is not frightened to share his knowledge and experience. Everything he did and said was to improve ourselves in our own endeavours.

Sunday saw more turning and decorating. A wide rimmed bowl of River Red Gum decorated and oiled, then came information and use of paints such as iron, copper, patination paints, lime wash, Gesso, oil paints, acrylics, watercolours and gold leaf..... remember, most of the time relative to gold leaf decoration, less is more. A previously turned platter then becomes a Valentines day heart made from Celery Top Pine. A square edged Jarrah platter is turned then diagonally decorated and coloured. His techniques are simple but effective, and as he reinforced, if it

doesn't work try something else, don't be afraid to experiment!

A critique of several pieces was appreciated by all and thanks to those who brought pieces in. Terry was more than suitably impressed with the work presented.

The comedy for the day was the banter between Terry and Alex Mulholz. The poetry was prepared and presented by Tim Smeaton. The door prizes were won by Barry Victor, George Pastuch, Anne Kerr and Mike Donnellan. Don Moyse couldn't make the workshop due to ill health and John Girdler took crook on the Saturday night, but we are pleased to say they are on the road to recovery. The Auction of Terry's work raised a healthy sum and pushed us across the line into profit territory and for that, Tim Skilton and I must thank all those who attended for their involvement, interaction and generosity in making this another successful workshop.

Thank you to our sponsors CarbaTec, Leda and Macwood.

Brian Purcell

PINUS PRETZEL (see photo)

I saw this amazing section of a pine tree – thought to be Radiata pine outside an art studio in Kimball, a small town in the South Island of New Zealand. The wheelie bin in the back ground gives some perspective about its size. Most of the trunk was about 600 mm in diameter and has formed a pretzel shaped during its growth.

Ron Allen

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(I'd like to see the beer that goes with it, Ed)



Competition Round 1

OK folks this is it, or, as they say, you have got to be in it to win it!

This is the VOLUNTARY PROGRESSIVE COMPETITION!

As previously stated, unless otherwise specified, each piece will be judged by 3 broad criteria; clarity (is it what it is supposed to be) 10 points individualism (sets it apart from others) 10 points and finish (the difference between good and great) 10 points. You will get a head start on this one because it is the February piece and doesn't have to be finished until 1100 on the fourth Saturday of February (the 25th) Your entry each month will need to be in a box or other protection and marked with your name.

Round 1

Hollow Form, height 200ml.

See, simple, go for it.

The following thanks to Mal Warneke.

Ten Thoughts to Ponder

Number 10

Life is sexually transmitted.

Number 9

Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

Number 8

Men have two emotions: Hungry and Horny. If you see him without an erection, make him a sandwich .

Number 7

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

Number 6

Some people are like a Slinky - not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you shove them down the stairs.

Number 5

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospitals, dying of nothing.

Number 4

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

Number 3

Why does a slight tax increase cost you \$800.00, and a substantial tax cut saves you \$30.00?

Number 2

In the '60s, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

And The Number 1 Thought

Life is like a jar of Chillies--what you do today, might burn your ass tomorrow.

- - - and as someone recently said to me:

"Don't worry about old age--it doesn't last that long."

Northern Turners Exhibition 2011 Port Adelaide

Northern Turners held their exhibition at the Port Community Arts Centre in Port Adelaide from the 10th to the 25th of September. We had 20 exhibitors who displayed 159 pieces in the gallery and 48 pieces in the craft section. Of the 20 members exhibiting 16 were successful on making sales.

Comparing the figures from 2010, this year was a great success and we would believe that a lot of it was due to all the work that Robert Bauze put in with the advertising for our event. In 2010 we had sales to the value of \$2047 and we paid \$361.05 in commission to the arts centre. The visitor numbers were 381.

This year, 2011, we had sales to the value of \$3313 and \$496.95 in commissions, visitor numbers this year were 486.

I would like to point out that our exhibition, not our's as an exhibition committee, but our's as a club, is not on how much we can sell to make this a successful show, it is about displaying what we as club members can do and show off what we have learnt by being in this club. We can all be proud in what we do and this is evident by the comments that visitors pass on to the people that are rostered on during the exhibition, there were several people, 8 actually, who put their names on a list wanting to know more about joining our club, if they joined could we teach them how to turn, can we give advise on buying a lathe, which I think is reward in itself knowing that we have got members of the public interested.

The venue has been booked for next year and the exhibition will be on from the 8th to the 24th of September 2012.

We as the exhibition committee would like to see more of the members who have not been in the exhibition before to have ago, we have seen some wonderful pieces that you guys and girls have done and are worthy of showing off to the public. Several people work hard to put on this exhibition and their reward is the encouraging comments that we hear from club members and the people that visit our show but we can't do it without your support this is a club exhibition for all club members but without your support it won't happen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who helped on the roster, who set up the stands and plinths and also dismantled and wrapped at the end of the show. And there are others behind the scenes that do a lot as well,
THANK YOU

Graham Reed



NORTHERN TURNERS PROGRAMME

Revised – January 2012

	<u>ACTIVITY / DEMONSTRATION</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Material needed.</u> You are encouraged to bring your own.
JAN 21	Skew chisel practice Spatula & Spurtle	GP + RA	Pine 45mm x 25mm x 300mm and 30mm x 30mm x 300mm
JAN 28 DM	TULIPS also <i>Des and Margaret Whitburn from International Time Pieces (Selling)</i>	DR	Pine 45x45x75 and 12 ml dowel 10cm long
FEB 18	Captive Rings practice Childs rattle	RA + GP	Pine or similar timber 45mm x 45mm x 170mm long
FEB 25 SF	Team Competition	DM	Tools and Enthusiasm
MAR 17	Natural edge bowls & Bowl design	RA + GP	Bowl Blank
MAR 24 BV			
APR 21			
APR 28 BB			
MAY 19			
MAY 26 BE	Round Robin <i>Big Morning Tea</i>	Var	
JUN 16			
JUN 23 DR			
SEP 22	Annual General Meeting Round Robin	Com Var	'Think not what your club can do for you, but, what you can do for your club'
DEC 8	XMAS BREAKUP		Sausage Sizzle provided, BYO Salads and Deserts to share, Drinks, Chairs and Tables Possible Venue CIVIC PARK TEA TREE GULLY

