

TURNOUT

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.



President's View November 30 2015

Another great month for Northern Turners with the very successful 'Neil Scobie Workshop' hosted at Torrens Valley Christian School. Neil demonstrated a unique mix of turning, carving and innovative work practices during the workshop with a really strong emphasis on design and problem solving (or design opportunities). His ability to use traditional lathe tools as well as Arbortech Mini Grinders, Merlin 2, and other tools to create textured, decorated and flowing products, displayed his lifelong learning ethic.

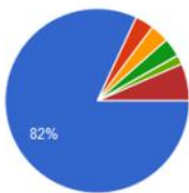
There were new ways to approach jewellery making and off centre turning, with a simple ball turned on the base of your article and power jaws used to mount the work. This allows for quick re-centering and varying effects. A truly inspirational presenter Neil's teaching background is always evident. Thanks especially to Greg Jackson & Tim Skilton for their organization and the many people who assisted in the setup, delivery and pack up of this most successful event.

I recommend to all club members to engage in these Workshops as they are simply too good to miss, and in this current financial climate incredible value for money. There are very few opportunities to access a professional educational program with 12 hours of delivery that is fully catered with access to speak directly to the presenter at the prices offered to the Northern Turners.

All Saturday meetings have continued to be extremely popular especially the 4th Saturday of each month. George & Ron's organization of our 3rd Saturday program as well as Bill's supervision and support of the 2nd Saturday is much appreciated and I would urge members to volunteer, support, or offer to contribute sessions to all programs

The 'Northern Turners Members Profile' survey undertaken during late July & August, by 62 members, reflects

What is most preferred method of learning



Club demonstrations	50	82%
Books	2	3.3%
Video, DVD	2	3.3%
You tube demonstration (online video)	2	3.3%
Other Woodworking clubs (attending)	0	0%
Woodwork Clubs online	0	0%
Woodwork online forums	0	0%
magazines	1	1.6%
Other	4	6.6%

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Northern Turners Committee

President	Lindsay Winen
Secretary / Correspondence	Dale Starr
Treasurer	Robert Edge
Vice President	Jan Beare
Member	Bill Elliot
Member	Glenn Kutchen
Member	Fred McCann
Member	Jake Jacobs

Send all articles to

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Your Northern Turners

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

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the importance of these meetings where 82% of respondents selected club demonstrations as their most preferred method of learning.

This survey also revealed the activities undertaken during these meetings on a scale of 1 to 5 as being highly valued (score of 1):

Value of Activity	1	2	3	4	5
Friendly Chats	64.4%	22%	8.5%	3.4%	1.7%
Demonstration of Techniques	83%	11.9%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
Show & tell	63.8%	24%	8.6%	3.4%	0
Assistance from club members	72.4%	19%	6.9%	0	1.7%

The club meetings obviously play a pivotal role in our personal development as well as NT's strategic direction. The trend of high attendance to these meetings will issue challenges, as a Club, where some members are finding it hard to access equipment (finite resources), others wishing to return to traditional club formats, increasing recruitment and subsequent membership widening the range of experience and educational needs of our members. There has been an observable trend of the changing nature of the 4th Saturday with a Meeting, large Show & Tell participation, demonstration and then a large exodus immediately after where very little hands on turning is performed.

In response to these demands the Committee is considering and discussing all suggestions of Club delivery some of which include:

- The possibility of an extra meeting on the 1st Saturday of each month (hire cost & volunteers to supervise)
A focus of which group is to have priority to lathes at a 'hands on meeting' (eg beginners, intermediate, advanced?)
- Changed format of 4th week (meeting, show & tell, short demonstration, no lathe usage)
- The need for more storage
- Other suitable venues
- Consistency of orientation & safe induction of new members
- The need for more contributors to club demonstrators
- Varying the format of 'large group' delivery to a number of 'small groups' at once

If you have constructive suggestions to resolve or improve our operation please approach any of the Committee members.

In reflection, another remarkable year for Northern Turners with many highlights achieved through the active support of our members.

I wish all members a safe and happy festive season, and look forward to sharing our last function of the year, our Xmas BBQ on December 5th or seeing you in the New Year when our program commences again January 9th

Lindsay Winen

NORTHERN TURNERS WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 7-8 2015

Neil Scobie is a wood turner and furniture maker with a national and international reputation. He returned after 6 years to demonstrate to our members and visitors a whole new range of pieces and designs. Neil is an excellent designer and gives a lot of thought and planning to all his pieces, often inspired by nature, either during walks in his own forest, or on the beach in the early morning.

During the first day, Neil showed how to turn a rolled edge bowl from a piece of NZ kauri, similar to one with a blue decorated edge which his wife Liz had completed. An excellent finish off the tool meant a minimum of sanding.

Next was a seed pod, inspired by the native kurrajong pods. Several examples from gidgee and mulga were on display, with seeds from silver beech to give a contrast. The opened edge of the pod were textured, and the deep groove which held the seeds was created using a variety of tools. During the workshop, a wide variety of electrical tools designed for increasing the rate of removal of wood for carving were demonstrated. It is unlikely that we will all purchase such a wide array!

The seed pod required offset turning, and Neil showed clearly how to set up the centres to turn the required basic shape, fol-

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4th Saturday in November

The morning started as usual with the official meeting. The difference was the introduction of the new equipment. The various reports were projected onto a screen from the club's laptop.

A very informative Show and Tell was followed by a demonstration by George Pastuch on inside/out turning. Sometimes referred to as inverted turning. Two pieces were produced, a four sided item and a fully turned flower in a pot.

George Pastuch



Xmas BBQ breakup.

The 40 degree heat did not deter a few brave souls to the end of year BBQ. The high heat forced all inside while only the cooks, Robert and Tim braved the heat to cook our sausages and onions. There were a number of pieces on a show table which generated considerable discussion.

Tim Smeaton was rewarded for his cooking prowess by winning the door raffle.

A happy atmosphere prevailed for the last event of 2015.



Agenda 3rd Saturday January 2016

Demonstration as requested by a few members—Mushroom turned box. Any branch material 75 to 90mm diameter and 120mm long. With or without attached bark.

Tools—spindle, roughing, parting, skew and scraper gouges

Scroll chuck

The agenda for the rest of the year will be discussed. Come prepared with a few suggestions. Remember that the third Saturday is for beginners and turners with limited skills and the activities should reflect this.

George Pastuch

NEIL SCOBIE RETURNS

Neil Scobie's talents really shine, and we will hear about design,
Which he says really matters more, than turning bowls out by the score,
So in his handouts, well prepared, his ideas were clearly aired,
Don't copy straight from any book – just stand right back and have a look
Is one of his more favoured sayings as he stood among the shavings.

Some kauri left by Terry Scott, I think five years since on the dot,
Was quickly turned into a bowl, with wide rolled edge and on a roll,
Neil turned to seed pods off set spun, inspired by native Kurrajong,
With seeds set in a hollowed space which he could make at frantic pace
Thanks to every tool we're sighting, Proxon, Dremel, Arbotec frightening!

The finished pods were sheer delight, the seeds were nestled out of sight,
They had a spigot quite concealed, the araldite had all congealed,
And with the contrast, gidgee, mulga, pale beech and was no wonder,
That you would bet a tree would grow if those round seeds you deigned to throw.
But next we saw a leaf unfold, and now that story must be told.

Is it a bowl, or is it a platter, surely the name doesn't really matter,
You know when I saw it early this morning, I hadn't a clue how to make such a thing,
But as Neil had the plank starting to spin, turning a leaf which was hidden within,
I saw that his method was easy to follow, you just had to watch the depth that you'd hollow,
And draw simple scallops on the edge of your piece, to carve and to shape it to make it look nice,
But back we returned to this arsenal of tools. Will we purchase them all? Are we really such fools?

Then offset turning was again to the fore, but this time a vase with legs three not four,
Of shaved aluminium the legs would be made, and glued in three holes, and suitably splayed,
But the magic which Neil showed made offset OK, was a ball which you turned at the start of the play,
That ball gave you options, any angle you pleased, and setting the angles as fine as you please,
The masking tape trick, wind it round just the once, and divide it in three, the positions you want,
And so that the vase would be suitably hollow, a modified spade bit was the option to follow.

I note that tomorrow is all about concept, follow it through to develop an object,
Draw thumbnail sketches to clear your ideas, take concepts, explore them, they'll ring in your ears
And you might try texture, or colour to embellish, or is it to hide an occasional blemish?
But since Tim has said that this poem be brief, then I'll stop here to give you some instant relief,
Thank you Neil for sharing your ideas and your talent, for a furniture maker your turning is brilliant,
And thanks also to Tim and Greg and others involved, for all of the knowledge that we've seen unfold.

Tim Smeaton
November 2015

NORTHERN TURNERS PROGRAMME

AT ALL MEETINGS, MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GET ON WITH THEIR OWN ONGOING PROJECTS OR TRY OUT THINGS FROM THE DEMO – USE THE LATHES!

	<u>ACTIVITY / DEMONSTRATION</u>	<u>Demonstrator</u>	<u>Material needed.</u> You are encouraged to bring your own.
DEC & JAN	Burnside exhibition		
JAN 9th	Come and work on your projects. Think of exhibition work.	Bill Elliot	Whatever you need for your project. Enthusiasm
JAN 16th	Mushroom boxes	George Pastuch	Details forthcoming
JAN 23rd	Finishing	Tim Skilton	

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lowed by carving and texturing to achieve the final result.

One of the most unusual pieces was a leaf platter, a thin, undulating shape with short carved legs. A first impression was that this was simply carved, but it was soon clear that much of the initial work was done on the lathe, and then grooves and undulations were created by carving. A beautiful design and very cleverly conceived.

A red gum vase supported on three aluminium legs was also turned off-set. The use of a ball to allow the piece to be turned to the required angle was a new technique to the author (and perhaps many others) and made a very safe platform to turn the three-sided vases to its basic shape, followed by hollowing, carving and finishing. The legs were turned from 6mm aluminium rod and then bent to shape using a simple wooden jig on the lathe, using the tailstock to apply pressure.

On the second day, Neil gave us good ideas and strategies to help us improve our design concepts. He advocated sketches and scale drawings, followed by scale models in plasticine, plastic foam or cheap wood. This allowed modifications before you attempted the final design of your masterpiece.

Giving us examples of how he himself had modified his design for a spiral piece, Neil then set up a block of jacaranda and using two different offsets, and straight turning, showed how the basic turning could be done, followed by an awful lot of carving and sanding. If anyone got to the final stage with this one, they could then elect to texture it in some way.

That naturally led to a discussion of texturing techniques. A red gum bowl was set up, and first an Arbotech was run across the face of the bowl edge to create an interesting texture. About four different angles and speeds all gave different effects. After the final finishing of the top of the bowl, and texturing of the edge, ebonizing of the edge was carried out using a mixture of brown vinegar and steel wool. This blackened the edge and after it dried, a light sanding exposed some of the red timber, followed by Danish oil to finish the top. The spigot was turned and carved off to give a fine rocking bowl.

The final session was about wall plaques. Neil showed a range of his own work, and then showed how to go about making a few examples of sunrise (or sunset) from plane tree and a couple of other light coloured timbers. With carving and texturing, some beautiful effects could be created.

Overall a great weekend provided by an excellent teacher who provided us with good handouts, a load of advice, examples of new techniques, and plenty to inspire all those who attended to go and try out what they had seen. Thanks to the organizers, Tim Skilton and Greg Jackson, and to all the other members who helped to make the workshop a great success.

Tim Smeaton.