

TURNOUT

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

President's Blurb – February 2018

Well the hot weather is nearly over (touch wood !) so now we can return to the shed. Anyone who would like to volunteer to clean out my shed please feel free to ring.....on second thoughts perhaps not .

Special thanks to Dave Gilland for his well-prepared demo on off-centre turning. Hopefully we will see some off centre work by other members on the show and tell table in coming months !!

At the 4th Sat meeting we also had a talk by Calandra from Cancer Care to explain the work that they do to support cancer sufferers .

In 2018 we are **celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the foundation of Northern Turners**, so the Committee has decided to celebrate at the **June 4th Sat.** meeting when we will also host the **Biggest Morning Tea**. This will be an ideal opportunity for new members to ask foundation members how things have changed over time. We hope to have displays of memorabilia. Continuing last year's format we would also like to ask members to display &/or demonstrate another hobby they enjoy. Please contact Dale if you would like to participate. Gordon Best and the Publicity Committee have plans to invite special guests to help us celebrate, so we will keep you up to date as plans progress.

You will have received an email with updates on the merry Month of May, which should be a great weekend, thanks to the Committee headed by Ron Allen.

Thanks to Graham and helpers who reorganised the bottom storage area – where would we be without you. We will also be calling for 2 volunteers to help clean up at the end of each meeting to spread the load, so please make yourself available occasionally.

Please note : Tim Skilton asked for a return to 10am opening times to allow for more time for socializing over lunch. This was approved with a show of hands.

Cheers
Jan

Northern Turners Committee

President	Jan Beare
Secretary	Dale Starr
Treasurer	Robert Edge
Member	Bill Elliott
Member	Ken Allen
Member	David Kleinig
Member	Fred McCann
Member	Glen Kutchen

Send all articles to

turnout@woodgroupsa.org.au

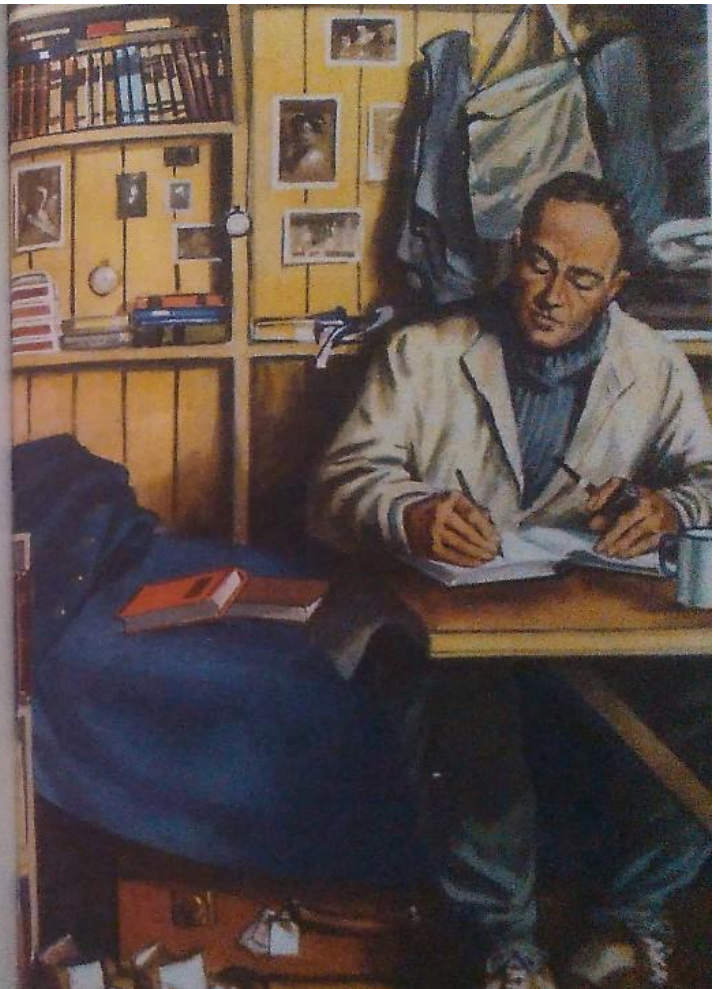
Your Northern Turners

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

This is the explorer Robert Falcon Scott in the most famous shed of all time.

Scott's second expedition to the Antarctic was a disaster, but his shed was a triumph.

"I'm going outside; I may be some time" are inspirational words that men quote to this day, as they unbolt the back door and vanish down the garden path.



The above was forwarded by Bill Elliott—origin unknown.

WATTLE BARK INDUSTRY

From a recent trip to Mallacoota and a visit to the local Airforce Bunker Museum.

Part of the historical local history of Mallacoota at an Airforce Bunker Museum located on the outskirts of Mallacoota, was a display on the Wattle Bark Industry.

From about 1880 early district pioneers relied heavily on wattle bark to supplement their income.

From Mallacoota through to Wangrabelle the stripped and bundled bark was brought by bullock teams to the bark mill situated at Genoa where there was a steam chopper and bagger. This was later shifted to Yambulla and then Nungatta in NSW.

From the Genoa 'bark shed' the bagged bark was rowed in two punts (30foot long and known as flatties), from the Genoa bridge site to Gypsy point which was the loading point for the schooners. Later as the Mallacoota bar sanded up the boats became smaller and were known as ketches.

The bagged bark was sent to Sydney, or by ketch direct to Jackson's tannery at Bairnsdale where the tannin was extracted. As the colonies grew, the demand for tannin supplies increased as it was crucial in the tanning industries for tanning hides.

Wattle bark was also important for the fishing industry as it was boiled in vats for dyeing of cotton fishing nets, the tannin providing a good camouflage and preservative for the nets.

After 1914 when the road was completed Gypsy Point, some bullock wagons were used to transport the bagged bark. In the 1950's wattle bark was a major industry in the Genoa and Maramingo Creek area with the bark being stripped and to the tannery and bark sheds at Eden.

Bark stripping was done in mid to late summer when the bark of the prolific Black Wattle is 'free', that is there is plenty of sap between wood and bark which comes off easily. It was very hard work. A good man could strip up to

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The following is the planned schedule for the 3rd Saturday projects for the remainder of the year.

Please be aware that the club is requesting that preference for access to lathes on the 3rd Saturday is to members who are participating in the project of the day.

March 17	Natural Edge Bowls Required – Part of branch 150 mm dia or bigger with firm bark—or no bark at all Hint – see if you can arrange one side to be fairly straight. Hot melt glue and face plate Super glue if bark looks loose 50 to 70 mm jaws, bowl gouges	George
April 21	No meeting Home show display and demonstrations	
May 19	Turning nuts! A fun event and a chance to attempt some nonsense Required (if possible) – Any hard woody nut or seed case – gum nuts, some Hakea nuts Small tools - 25 mm jaws – hot melt glue – scrap wood for jam chucks	Ron
June 16	Candle Sticks Required (if possible) To Be Announced later	George
July 21	Tall thin stemmed flowers Required (if possible) TBA later	George
Aug 18	Off centre lidded box Required (if possible) – TBA later	Ron
Sept 15	Lidded boxes Required (if possible) – TBA later	George
Oct 20	No meeting Home show display and demonstrations	
Nov 17	Miniatures Required (if possible) – small pieces of fine grained wood (Huon is excellent). Scrap wood for jam chucks – 25 mm jaws. Hot melt glue	Ron

Note that the Northern Turners calendar had been updated with this program.
In case you forgot, it is found at <https://teamup.com/kscfeefc5dc14d24cf>

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one ton a day using a tomahawk and a chiselling technique, starting from the base of the tree, moving upwards along the trunk. Women and children helped with the work mainly gathering the stripped bark.

Leather items were important in the past especially footwear and harness items. The wattle bark was placed in vats to soak the tannin out. Hides were hung in the liquid for a bout three weeks to produce finished leather. The demand for wattle bark has declined and most leathers are now tanned using chemicals by a method called chrome tanning.



A sample of Black Wattle barked with the bag removed ready to be placed in the vats

NOTE: The article has been taken by permission of the staff at the Bunker Museum.

George Pastuch