

# TURNOUT

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

## President's Blurb – March 2018

As this is coming out before next weekend (ie 4th Sat) I think we should just put in what is coming up. so the 4th Sat program is below

24th March: Bill Elliott will demonstrate different rim designs. The aim being for members to then make a bowl/platter, then practice the decorating techniques learnt at the April meeting

28th April: Rim decoration. This will involve 3 stations . Members will be divided into 3 groups & will rotate round the 3 stations spending 20 minutes at each. The stations will be Bill Elliott - carving , Ken Allen wood chip inlay, Jan Beare painted finishes, like sponging.

26th May : Merry Month of May. Those members wishing to attend will need to register for the weekend. Please read Ron Allen's Reports for details. This will be a great opportunity to mix with other turners.

23rd June: Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea. Our main fundraiser for the year. Delicious home made morning tea and lunch are provided by members for a donation to the Cancer Council. Displays & demonstrations of "other hobbies" & members work will add interest as well as a celebration of Northern Turners 25th Anniversary with invited guests, and presentations. Lapsed or infrequent members who we will be pleased to catch up with, will also be invited.

(Holm Oak Project will have to wait till Jackie & Tim get back)

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](mailto:turnout@woodgroupsa.org.au)

### Your Northern Turners

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

A man needs a private place to do things with his hands.

What would you do with your hands, if you were alone in a shed?

Wallace has taught himself taxidermy. There are so many dead animals full of sawdust in his shed that the door will not shut.

Wallace needs a new shed.



The above was forwarded by Bill Elliott

#### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

*Last Saturday, I was asked about the use of emersion into detergent for drying green timber. I have read about this method and Ron Allen entered the conversation providing more details. As this Newsletter was a little light on I found an article on drying in a micro oven.*

#### **Seasoning of timber with a Microwave Oven**

It is possible to season timber from green to dry and stable with domestic microwave ovens. The process has been used on banksias as an example because it is more of a problem than the majority of timbers, in fact, many wood turners have considered the timber is too difficult to work with. The method outlined here takes the wood green off the chainsaw to the finished product.

Green timber has just been removed from the tree at the chain saw stage. At this stage it is heavier, but easier to turn because the gouge has a cooler, cleaner cut. And there is no sawdust to complicate the process. You may see the moisture on the end of the block of wood on the lather and can feel the dampness of the shavings removed.

Rough out the shape of the object that you plan to create, whether it is a bowl, platter or vase. Wherever you can, remove the pith or centre of the piece of timber, because the pressures of drying out can create tremendous pressure between the outside and circumference and the centre. Cut the shape so that there is only about one centimeter of wood remaining. So, you have a piece close to the final shape, but there is no need to sandpaper at this preliminary stage of the process.

A suitable microwave has 900 watt power output and a 23 litre capacity. Set the power to 60% of full power but you can try different settings for different stages of drying. The wooden piece is soaked in water, because drying defects are more likely to appear on the outside, or you can place a container of water in the microwave with the wood, so that the drying is not too severe. The microwaves penetrate through the fibres which is a different process from

*(Continued on page 3)*

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.

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>

(Continued from page 2)

drying in the open air. Also keep the piece in a plastic bag for ease of handling because there is considerable heat involved. Set the time to 5 minutes and press the start button then leave for the required time. Leave for a while (up to a week) between 'cookings'. You may need as few as four 'cookings', or as many as seven 'cookings'. A conventional stove will heat the outside first, which is the situation that you need to avoid.

You may wish to keep a special microwave for woodturning because you do not want your meals smelling of Silky Oak or whatever.

Maintain a notebook with the weights of the wood. It is suggested that you draw six to seven columns because you need to record the date and weights after each 'cooking'. This is another situation where it is useful to have the piece in a plastic bag. Each oven treatment will reduce the weight of the piece of timber until there is no difference between the wood after heating, allowing to settle, the reweighing.

There is a formula for determining the moisture content:-

*% moisture content = weight of moisture multiplied by 100, then divided by the oven dry weight.*

You may find many items with 100% moisture content, or, in other words, there was as much water as wood before starting the seasoning.

Failures do occur using this system. A piece of Banksia was too large and had a curved urn shape. The curve was too much influence on the rest of the barrel shaped bowl of the shape turned. Another two pieces that one hoped to turn into a small lidded bowl split all the way down the timber.

If the piece that you working with has been reduced to 12 to 15 % moisture content, then it is table enough to complete. Put the piece back on the lathe, checking for any distortion to an oval shape. Here there is an option, pretend

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

that you were designing an oval bowl, or turn to remove any distortion of misshaping due to the heating and drying process.

After turning to the finished shape then it is ready for any surface or lacquer that you select.

This method gives you more control of the seasoning.

Author Jack Croucher

Berwick District Woodworkers Club Inc.

Ed June 2005

*Note from George Pastuch*

*If using this or any other drying process utilising the microwave, let the piece of wood cool for an extended period before placing it back on the lathe. Any moisture trapped inside the timber is 'super heated' and the release of super heated steam can cause bodily harm through burning and/or can create an explosion shattering the piece as you begin to turn it.*

### **3rd Saturday Fiasco**

Arriving at our club rooms last Saturday found several members standing around as the doors to the workshop were closed and the workshop in darkness. After walking around to the rear of the building the NT committee and other members were congregating. The new fob entry system was not working and we were locked out. At 10.30 the committee advised all that unfortunately we would need to cancel the meet as we could not contact anyone to open the building.

For the members who had not turned natural edge bowls, or wanted more information, I conducted a small session in the car park from the back of my car talking about timber selection, and the methods and pitfalls of mounting the blank for natural edge bowls. Towards the end of this session a school representative arrived and proceeded to open the building. Unfortunately approximately half our members had already left. There was a general agreement that we would continue the demonstration inside.

As the demonstration started late there was no time left for members to start their own bowls.

Ron Allen had prepared a short session on filling cracks and proceeded to deliver this to fill in the time left of the day.

Although the day started badly, the members who stayed enjoyed the two demonstrations and stated that a lot of information was delivered.

Our committee is following up with the school to try to eliminate this happening again.

George Pastuch