

TURNOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

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President's Report 2018

Another year has passed in a flash, and it's time to reflect on the achievements of Northern Turners in 2018. I think it has been a year of celebrations, and transitions. Every year is different in its focus, depending on the needs at the time, and the skills of the team.

We celebrated our association with other Woodgroup member clubs at the Merry Month of May, when a great programme of short talks and demonstrations and "come & try" sessions was organised by Ron Allen's Committee. Thanks to all who contributed to a successful event. The Auction and raffle raised money for Cancer Care, a support group for those with cancer & their families.

June was our regular Cancer Council fundraiser, "The Biggest Morning Tea". This was more of a low key affair this year as we had already had the MMofM. We had displays of wooden toys made by *Toymendous* and Fred's *Men's Shed*. Ken Allen provided the demonstration for the day. Another successful day, with plenty of delicious home-made food, thanks to all for a great team effort.

Our final bit of fundraising for the year involved the demise of a very old *Quercus ilex* the Holly or Holm Oak, at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens in 2016. I managed to rescue some timber and distributed it to members who could make a piece for themselves, if they also made a small piece to be donated to the Gardens for sale at North Lodge, to raise much needed funds for new signage. I think this was a fun way of raising money with no expenditure required by the turner. The card attached to each piece indicated that the piece was made by a member of Northern Turners. We should have raised over \$1000 to be distributed by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide.

Thanks to all those who have demonstrated to the club this year. We do appreciate the time it takes to prepare and the skills to deliver. Members can show their appreciation by making similar pieces & displaying them at show & tell. Ron & George have given years of service & we should realise that they also like to travel. In the future we would like to offer training to other members who would like to pass on their skills to spread the load.

(Continued on page 2)

Northern Turners Committee

President	Ken Allen
Secretary	Dale Starr
Treasurer	Robert Edge
Vice President	Bill Elliott
Assistant Treasurer	David Kleinig
Member	Jan Beare
Member	Fred McCann
Member	Glen Kutchen
Member	Graham Reed
Member	Flora Rumbelow

Send all articles to

turnout@woodgroupsa.org.au

Your Northern Turners

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

(Continued from page 1)

The 3rd Saturday meetings have a demo followed by members attempting to reproduce the same item with guidance available. The 4th Saturday meetings this year have tended to involve other topics: The Q & A session was well received; we showed various decorating techniques; making bandsaw blades as a group (thanks for the prep time & smooth running of this workshop Bill); The Stihl rep from Prospect also gave us lots of tips on chainsaw care which was very useful, great idea Bill !! As you can see we've been very busy in 2018, thanks to our members.

The Exhibition Committee work hard to prepare, set up, manage, dismantle & then distribute funds to members. This is a huge job & it requires the support of all those who exhibit. Some of us help out even though we don't enter, just to support the club.

Sometimes we rely too much on the same people to take on roles within the club year after year, however I think this is changing for the better. New members are stepping up to fill the gaps left when members retire from their roles. eg Mick Adley & Leith Davidson undertook opening & closing and lathe maintenance for many years & did a great job. Chris Deguet & Rob Edge now manage opening & closing, with help from a number of other members, which is great to see. Mick Richer has taken on lathe maintenance with David Kleinig as an apprentice. Supporting new members is very important – thanks to the 2nd Sat training & induction team. We thank all those who are helping round the club to keep things running smoothly. Our Club will remain strong if we continue to support each other.

Special thanks to Rob Edge for setting up all the amazing systems and equipment as Treasurer. You are a legend!! We should not forget to thank Dale Starr who is asked to send out numerous emails.

Ron Young has been a legend of photography for the Club too. Many of the photos for the Silver Anniversary display are taken by Ron, and we have missed him this year while he cares for his wife Julie. He has provided an important pictorial archive, which I used to put together the photographic displays for the Silver Anniversary Celebration. Brian Purcell also gave me a few pics & I raided my files for pics of the November weekends. Praises should also be sung for Gordon Best who has been working on a history of the club as well as the website, and preparing articles for publication, as well as planning the Silver Anniversary Celebration as the driving force in the Publicity Committee.

Last but not least, we should thank the Committee for making the decisions that keep our club running smoothly. May Northern Turners continue to thrive for another 25 years.

Thanks, Jan

Dick Pillar Award

The Dick Pillar award is given annually to a member chosen by the committee. There are no set criteria for the award, but it has usually been given to someone who has made a major contribution to the club.

The winner of the award for 2018 is Chris Deguet for her work opening and closing the building, cleanup up and generally being an exemplary club member. Congratulations to Chris on this well-earned award.



EDITOR'S NOTE

I will be including the article on Northern Turners 25 year Anniversary celebrations in next month's edition of Turnout along with an article about the Vaughn Richmond Demonstration week end.

George

Editor's Note:

The following article has been copied from the February 2007 Woodgroup SA Newsletter

Trees 'n' Timber

Coral Tree

Erythrina indica – (syn *E. variegata*)

During a recent wood collecting exercise with members of the Northern Turners, we decided to follow up on a Coral Tree growing in the Waite Arboretum which had dropped a large branch. When cutting the branch into lengths for bowl blanks, we were surprised to hear the wood crack from the pith and made the assumption that the timber would be unstable and of little value to us. We only took a few pieces. After rough turning two bowls, I was surprised at the very fast rate of drying and its stability – in fact not a single check or crack. During the week after rough turning we had those two days of 40 degrees. The bowl had lost 1/3 of its weight in two weeks. I contacted Jennifer Gardener, but it was too late to obtain any more. The whole tree had been felled and removed. I therefore decided to research the tree and write about it for the Newsletter. It is not a commercial timber but has some interest as an oddity.

Derivation of names

Erythrina from Greek “erythros” – red, referring to the colour of the flowers

indica – from Latin “indicus” meaning from India.

The Tree.

A small prickly branched tree to 12 metres high with an erect trunk having a diameter to 400mm. The bark is greyish in colour lightly furrowed yet quite smooth to touch. The branches have many thorns and form a dense crown. The leaves are large, glossy and are heart shaped. They have deeply marked venation and are sometimes variegated (thus *variegata*) The flowers are spectacular. They are brilliant red and are formed in large bunches (racemes). Individual flowers are curved and are pea shaped. The fruit are legumes containing about three hard, black, glossy bean shaped seeds.



Habitat

From India, although some references state it as being found in northern Queensland. It is successfully grown as an ornamental in cooler regions such as Adelaide

Timber.

Because it is not a commercial timber, little detail is available about the characteristics of the timber. The common Australian member of the Genus is Batswing Coral Tree or Grey Corkwood (*Erythrina vespertilio*), which is commonly cited in reference books. One of my precious books is “The Timbers and Forest Products of Queensland” by E H F Swain, published in 1928. This refers to both species, but less detail with Coral Tree. They are the lightest Queensland and probably Australian timbers weighing about 300 Kg per cubic metre. Compare this with Radiata Pine and even Balsa (500 and 160 Kg per cubic metre respectively) Coral Tree is a white timber with fine medullary rays and little growth ring figure. From my limited experience it dries very well with little degrade. It is said to be reasonably strong but brittle and many references to it as a garden tree refer to it as having a problem with falling branches. It is soft and easy to work.

It is mainly planted as an ornamental tree because of its beautiful flowers. In India it was said to be used for light planking, tea boxes, toys and models. Timber from the Batswing Coral Tree was used by Aborigines for making shields.

Ron Allen



THE SEARCH FOR LIMING PASTE

I have received several enquiries recently, where to purchase Liberon liming wax. The most recent at last week end's demonstration by Vaughn Richmond.

Unfortunately I have not found a dealer in Adelaide that stocks it. The Carbatec web page shows Liberon products but I cannot find Liberon Liming Wax in their product range.

I found one stockist in NSW namely The Wood Works. Their prices are \$51 plus postage for 250ml tin and \$87.66 plus postage for 500ml.

I reverted to Ebay and found one seller in Australia—\$86 for 500ml tin with free postage. But be quick as there is only one left.

If you wish to wait for delivery from the UK Liberon Liming Wax is readily available. However the price stated is increased by the 10% GST plus the postage from the UK. The cheapest I found was \$21.67 + 10% GST + \$26.11 postage for a 250ml tin. Be aware that the dollar fluctuates daily so the price will also.

Of interest I came across a few different brands available overseas. Colron Refined Liming Wax from the UK, Chestnut Liming Wax from Germany, Borma Liming Wax from Italy, Annie Sloan Liming Wax from the UK and Amy Howard Liming Wax from the USA. I have no idea if any are suitable for our application but their description suggests they may be. If any are interested I suggest a product search on the web.

For the members who have no idea what I am talking about, the wax is used to accentuate the grain in open grained timber such as ash. Before oiling, the finished article is first dyed to a dark colour say black or purpled and Liming wax is then applied. I have attached a bowl I completed last month. Hope this helps
George Pastuch



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