

TURNOUT

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

From the President

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are already into mid-late February so 2020 is well and truly under way. The Burnside Exhibition was extremely successful and congratulations to all the organizers and the 24 members who exhibited.

The 2nd and 3rd Saturday programs, organized by Bill Elliot, Ron Allen and George Pastuch, are going well. On a brief visit last week it was great to see all the lathes being used to turn beads, coves and other spindle turning techniques. The teaching sessions make a very useful contribution to Northern Turners. I remember when I first joined the club I did not have the faintest clue!! After spending much of my first year attending George's classes, I at least learned the basics but alas have not progressed at the rate of many of our new members whose skills have developed very quickly.

Following lengthy discussion at the January general meeting (I apologise for the time spent but everyone had a chance to express their views), the decision was made to stop spending any money on paid advertising, have flyers available at demonstrations to give details about the club, and improve the NT website. It is very important that our website is current since it is a window for the general public and potential members to learn about the club. The Facebook page, a facility developed by Lindsay Winen, is becoming more and more important to inform people about our activities.

Members were also asked their views on WoodgroupSA. Following that discussion, Bob Bauze and I undertook to prepare a document expressing the views of NT which was forwarded to the WoodgroupSA President, Trevor Molde. Further to that, Bob Bauze, Enzo Bronzi and I met with George Pastuch to discuss the history of WoodgroupSA, its past and possible future roles. We invited Trevor Molde to join us towards the end of that meeting, and expressed many of our views. He has given permission for me to attend the Board meeting on Feb 29th *ex officio*, along with NT reps, where we will address several points. First, the idea of paying an editor or exhibition organizer is fraught with peril and we will vote against it. Second, we have proposed that a small committee should look at the role of WoodgroupSA and whether or not it should be dissolved. This committee would report back to WoodgroupSA within a short time. These proposals will be voted on by club reps and the results of that meeting will be discussed by the NT committee in March.

Since I do not know many of the officers of other woodworking clubs, I will have the opportunity to meet some of them and have informal discussions to know their views.

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Northern Turners Committee

President	Tim Smeaton
Secretary	Dale Starr
Treasurer	David Kleinig
Vice President	Bill Elliott
Member	Roger Coulter
Member	Glenn Kutchen
Member	Fred McCann
Member	Nik Surikov,
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

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George Pastuch has suggested that the minutes of the general meeting might be added to TurnOut so that a single on-line site would carry both the newsletter and the minutes. The committee can decide on that idea. Concerning Turn-Out, it would be good to see more articles from members. If you can send them to George by the 3rd Saturday of the month, they can be included in the next issue.

As with all clubs, it is up to members to make everything work, so to paraphrase JFK – “Ask not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club”.

Cheers
Tim Smeaton

4th Saturday February 22nd

There were two activities for the day, a discussion on SAFETY IN WOOD-TURNING and finishing by Graham Reed and Bill Elliott.

Robert Edge discussed the issues specifically relating to our SOPs etc. Fred McCann then talked about safe operation of the bandsaw. Ron Allen informed everyone about the toxicity of many of our native tree species.

Graham Reed and Bill Elliott discussed what “exhibition standard” means and how to achieve this. This was supported with several methods of finishing. Different finishes includes waxes, lacquer and oils, but Bill emphasized that sanding to 500 grit and use of Proof-seal was necessary no matter what finish was used. Buffing with swansdown gave a final touch to the piece.



Show and Tell conducted by Peter Page. The Halo was awarded to Guido Guidi for his large burl bowl in the centre. He was grateful to Greg Jackson for use of his lathe and tools for such a large piece.

4TH SATURDAY PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT 5 MONTHS

This program is provisional and there may be changes as we go forward.

Date	Demonstration	Presenter/s
March 28	Suggestions and advice for demonstrations at Wayville and other sites Small and large items, multiple stations	Flora Rumbelow Roger Coulter, Tim Smeaton and others
April 25	Bowl-savers – lots of noise and shavings Finished bowls	Tim Skilton David Hough
May 23	Opportunity to use lathes for any current project.	Members
June 27	Biggest Morning Tea and Auction Raising funds for Cancer Research – let’s aim for the best ever total!	Anne Kerr, Lindsay Winen and helpers
July 25	Scroll-sawing – have a go at this skill! Opportunity to observe and learn Bring a scroll-saw if you have one	Members of South Oz Scrollsawers

2020 DEMONSTRATION WORKSHOP – NOV 7th and 8th

Hosted by Northern Turners

Coordinated by Tim Skilton and Robert Edge.

We are very pleased to confirm that we have retained the services of Neil Turner as this year's world-renowned demonstrator.

Neil Turner, Timber Artisan is based in rural South West Australia:

Woven through all of Neil Turner's artwork is a deep respect for the material and the natural forces that have acted upon it. He looks for the quiet ripples eroded in soil by wind, the delicate eddies left by water, and the swirling lick of flames.

Neil works in negative, observing the subtle interplay of light and shadow and creating fluid forms from solid wood.

He primarily uses Australian timbers and works in a highly sympathetic way with the material, the natural features of the timber informing the finished piece.

There will be many new skills for you to learn from Neil.

So, to ensure your place at this year's wonderful demonstration, enter the dates into your calendar today.

Some examples of Neil's work



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Editor's Note: The following was received from Gordon Best. Hope you find them amusing.

Woodturning Snippets from 19th Century Newspapers:

Observer 30 July 1892

Work by Prisoners Aid Society and Prison Gate Brigade

Woodturning and carpentry have so many possibilities for the ingenious and skilful mechanic, and the employment is healthful and attractive in every way. However, there are other classes of work also for the men according to their taste. Near the workshops the poultry-yard stands, and not far off the cowshed and piggery, for the Salvationists are eminently practical and believe in variety and profitable occupation, not excluding bee-keeping. The Prison-gate Brigade possess a splendid lot of fowls

Old Times, Ipswich Herald & General Advertiser 17 Aug 1872

WILLIE MILLER, THE POET.

The Literary World, in an article upon a minor poet whose writings have afforded pleasure to a great many readers, remarks that nearly thirty years ago a notable little book was published in Glasgow by one of the worthiest bibliophiles that city has ever known--the late Mr. David Robertson. The book was quaintly named 'Whistle Binkie,' and was wholly composed of new Scotch songs. Bound up with these was a collection of lyrics for the nursery which have never been surpassed.

.... The best of the pieces so highly praised by the great critic were from the pen of a wood-turner named William Miller. Unlike some of the little band of lyrical writers, he was a man who embodied in his life the spirit of his songs. He was sober, industrious, independent in his character, without any tendency to self-conscious pride, and God-fearing. He is still alive, and is now getting to be an old man.

Miller wrote 'Wee Willie Winkie,' the most felicitous and popular of all our modern nursery rhymes. This two piece is sure to live as long as the language. (and for those who were born too late, here is the original, followed by the English translation:)

Wee Willie Winkie rins through the toon,
Up stairs an' doon stairs in his nicht-gown,
Tirlin' at the window, crying at the lock,
"Are the weans in their bed, for it's now ten o'clock?"

Wee Willie Winkie runs through the town,
Up stairs and down stairs in his night-gown,
Tapping at the window, crying at the lock,
Are the children in their bed, for it's past ten o'clock?

This last piece shows they were just as interested in international news in those days, but at least this story is less confronting that today's stories of American school children being gunned down indiscriminately:

Yorke's Peninsula Advertiser 9 Jan 1885

ALL ABOUT AN UNBORN BOY

What shall we do with our boys? A problem as perplexing for French as for English parents. A case which has just been before the Paris Correctional Tribunal will show what great importance some French parents attach to the future trade or profession of their offspring. Mons. and Mme. Paneton during the fifteen years they have been married have had but one quarrel or rather the same quarrel. For the motive of it is always the same, Here is how it usually begins: Paneton, a journeyman mason, comes home every night at seven, for dinner, as they say here; in England we should say supper, Paneton's brow is

clouded; he throws himself into a chair and says – 'What a dirty, trade? How can parents be so stupid as to make masons of their sons? My son shall NOT be a mason; oh, no, not if I know it', 'Oh, you're right there', replies Madame Paneton while cutting the bread into the soup. 'he shall be a cabinetmaker,' continues Paneton 'Never while I live'. Replies Madame; 'He shall be a wood-turner.' 'A wood-turner? retorts Monsieur; 'Catch me making a woodturner of my boy. I know ten of my chums who made wood-turners of their sons, and every one of those ten lads turned bad characters. Rubbish, our boy shall be a wood-turner.' 'I tell you he shall be a cabinetmaker.' 'My son a paste pot I would rather strangle him with these hands' 'You heartless woman. You are not the mother of the boy, you are a stepmother.' At that point Paneton seizes the first thing that comes to hand and hurls it at Madame's head. She returns the fire; and the row is renewed every night.

The curious circumstance in the case is that they have no children though they have been fifteen years married. To be brief, cries of 'Murder' are heard. The neighbours rush in, restore peace and go away, knowing they will keep

quiet for the next twenty four hours.

The nuisance, however, has become so intolerable that we find them at length summoned

before Correctional Tribunal. The first witness. M. Blanchard, deposeseth – 'Paneton and his misus are the nicest people you can wish to see. But they are always going on with the same quarrel, and sometimes they spend the whole night fighting. Just imagine, your Worship they are not very young, and they can have no family, which embitters their moral qualities; but that is not the fault of the neighbourhood, which has often said to them – if you keep up this racket, we will go and complain to the police commissary; all the more your Worship, because the older they get. the less hope they have of a posterity.'

To that Madame Paneton replied – 'It is you mistake, Monsieur Blanchard; you must not talk of what you don't understand.' Here the judge interfered and said'— 'You disturb the tranquillity of your neighbours by a daily scandal, and that a propos of the trade to which you are to put a son who is not yet born. 'He then sentenced each spouse to a fine of 5F for nocturnal disturbance. 'I'll pay it when you like,'cried Paneton; 'but he shall be a cabinetmaker.' 'He shall be a woodturner, I tell you.' retorted Mrs P.

'Turn them out, usher. Are they going to begin again here?' exclaimed the judge in amazement. It is evident that the future child will be either a cabinetmaker or a woodturner, if it is a boy: but supposing it is a girl.

And, as if to answer that question, *The Handbook of Turning* was published anonymously in 1842, but it is generally attributed to a Miss Gascoigne of Parlington Park, near Leeds, England, who apparently practised Ornamental Turning as a hobby.