

# TURNOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

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Mid month

From the Editor

Dear Members

As I mentioned in the April edition of Turnout, I will be issuing a mid-month edition until the club rooms are open again and we can rejoin in our club activities.

Why a mid-month Turnout. Our members are missing out of not only one to two demonstrations per month, but the networking aspect where members can bring along their ideas to other members. I am hoping that this mid-month edition of Turnout can provide some of the missing interaction and therefore keep members in the loop so to speak.

Firstly there will be a demonstration of past member demonstrations with pictures. This MAY encourage some of our members to try something different.

Secondly Ron Allen suggested a section where members can forward some of their short cuts, saving ideas, jigs or nit knacks. I am asking members to forward a picture or two with a BRIEF explanation. This can be as little as a small paragraph.

Thirdly an article on trees. I will be regurgitating articles from years past. Ron has also agreed to raise some new articles on trees. This should be interesting to some of our newer members. I have taken it for granted that none of our members will object to their demonstration being published.

Enough for now,

George Pastuch

## Northern Turners Committee

President	Tim Smeaton
Secretary	Dale Starr
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Vice President	Bill Elliott
Member	Roger Coulter
Member	Glenn Kutchen
Member	Fred McCann
Member	Nik Surikov,
Member	Graham Reed
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Send all articles to

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

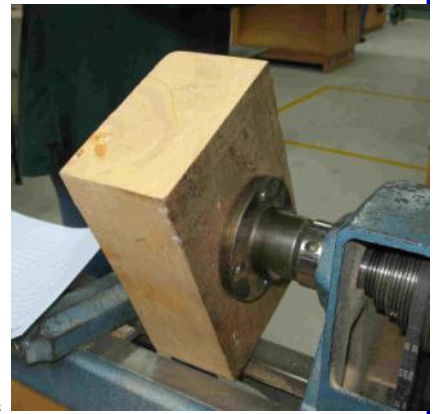
## Your Northern Turners

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

## DEMONSTRATION BY RON ALLEN IN APRIL 2008—OBLONG PLATTER/SHALLOW DISH

The timber used was approximately 200mm x 125mm x 50mm. It should be straight grained and free from knots or defects.

Find the centre of the bowl side and mount the blank using a small face plate. Use small screws ensuring that they will not protrude in the finished article. This can be done by drawing the shape and wall thickness on the long side of the blank and comparing the length of the screw through the face plate with the waste timber. Ron has used a screw chuck instead of a face plate.



Start shaping the underside of the dish just like starting any bowl. Use a bowl gouge with a pulling cut. This is pulling the gouge towards you with the gullet facing the direction of the cut (towards you). You will be cutting in shadow so take your time and remember to cut and not scrape.

When you have a flat base, mark the diameter of the required foot. Ron is using a home made gauge comprising two nails embedded in a piece of wood.



Start removing the waste around the foot of the dish

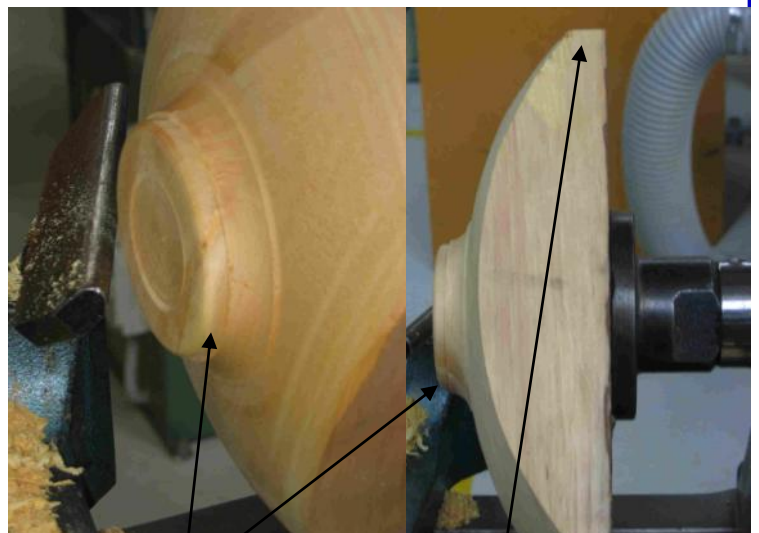
Keep moving the tool rest constantly and rotate the blank every time before turning on the blank to ensure it does not catch on the tool rest.

Shape the required foot. Here Ron has a small rebate inside the base of the foot and a cove joining the foot and the base of the dish. When reversed the scroll chuck will be gripping the foot at the base of the cove. The foot has a slight taper.

Continue shaping the under side of the dish. Leave a little more thickness to the required wall thickness on the corners of the blank.



Sand the underside of the dish. The foot can adjacent area can be sanded while the part is rotating BUT sand the wings while the blank is stationary. If you try to sand while the part is rotating, the leading edges of the wings will become rounded as the sanding pad vibrates in and out of the shadow (gap between the blank as it rotates.).

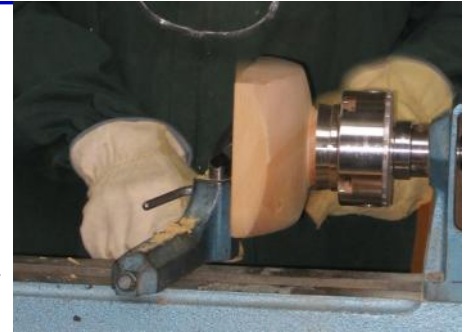


Scroll chuck will grip here

Wall thickness plus extra

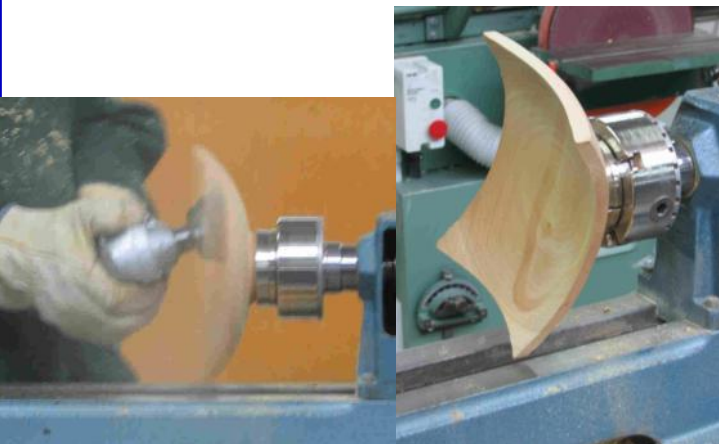
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Rotate the blank and mount it using the relevant screw chuck.



Start cutting out the inside of the bowl similar to any bowl.

Continue removing moving waste. Stop the lathe frequently and check the wall thickness.



When the wall thickness is as required, sand the inside of the dish. The centre area can be sanded while the part is rotating BUT sand the wings while the blank is stationary. If you try to sand while the part is rotating, the leading edges of the wings will become rounded as the sanding pad vibrates in and out of the shadow (gap between the blank as it rotates.)

Check the outside edges. It may be necessary to lightly sand these as well. Beware not to knock off the corners .

## CUTTING ABRASIVE PAPER EASILY AND ECONOMICALLY

When I first started teaching Tech Studies at Golden Grove in 1989, I spent numerous weekends in setting up the workshops. One of the many tasks was to prepare a jig for cutting garnet paper into useful and economic sizes for woodwork classes.

The jig consisted of two fences on a base board, one side set to half a sheet and the other for one third a sheet thus producing 6 pieces suitable for the cork blocks. This reduced a huge amount of waste. The cutting edges are 32TPI hack saw blades. It has proven very durable and still cutting efficiently. The abrasive surface is placed uppermost when cutting. Since then I have modified it to suit my woodturning needs. I reset one of the fences to a space of 35mm. The full sheets are cut in halves lengthwise and then into 35 mm strips which gives 16 pieces per sheet and a size and shape which I find good especially for spindle turning.

Ron Allen





**Blackheart Sassafras**  
**Southern Sassafras**  
*(Atherosperma moschatum)*

Not to be confused with Yellow Sassafras (*Doryphora sassafras*) from the coastal rain forests of Eastern Aust.

**Derivation of names**

*Sassafras* – probably after the Laurels (*Sassafras* spp) of North America, having similar fragrance.

*Atherosperma* from Greek 'athere' (goat) and, 'sperma' (seed) referring to the bearded carpels or fruit.

*moschatum* – from Greek 'moschos' referring to the odour of the bark.

**The Tree.**

A small to medium sized tree, 10 to 25m high. When young, the trees are usually well formed, somewhat conical in shape with straight trunks. Older trees usually have open crowns. The outer bark is thin and often covered with lichens, while the inner bark is thick and is aromatic. The leaves are small (to 1cm long and opposite. They are dark green above and whitish below. The leaves have a nutmeg fragrance. It has small flowers and fruit.

**Habitat**

Southern Sassafras is a widely distributed species in the cool temperate rain forests of Tasmania. There are also scattered distributions in the higher rainfall areas of Victoria and New South Wales.

**Timber.**

The sapwood is grey to pale brown. The heartwood is often darker with blackish streaks. This is the reason for its common name, Blackheart Sassafras, although during my research I could not find many references to this name. The grain is fairly straight, fine, even and smooth. It usually has no pronounced figure, although 'blackheart' provides streaks of striking and contrasting colour.

Southern Sassafras works easily and cleanly. It is a soft timber (490 to 529 kg/cu m), similar to radiata pine. It produces an excellent finish from a sharp plane, requiring very little sanding. It is an excellent timber for bending.

Blackheart Sassafras is much sought after for wood turning. It turns well, takes little sanding and produces a beautiful lustre with most finishes.

*Ron Allen*

