

# TURNOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

VOL9 No.06  
June 2020  
Mid month

Notes from the President.

Dear members

Here we are in mid-June and still a long way from starting our meetings. As you would have heard from the Treasurer, Golden Grove High School must await a decision by the Education Department upon whether and when our club can return to the school. Therefore, any date for having meetings is out of our hands.

Also, the reduced annual fees from \$30 to \$20 does, in part, address the lack of meetings for members. It is important that members are financial after June 30<sup>th</sup> to ensure that insurance cover is maintained for any activities. We on the committee are aware that at present you are not getting value for money, but there will be opportunities to make up for that later. Perhaps for one month, the attendance fee could be waived, or a particular demonstration which would be popular would also have attendance fees waived. Just ideas to think about.

I circulated some thoughts about how we might organize gatherings to the committee and several "old hands", and they raise all sorts of potential difficulties for us in a Covid-19 environment. If we restrict numbers, how do we decide who can come to any particular meetings? Must all members have their temperature taken, and if not at 36.7C, are they sent home? Who will sanitize equipment and benches etc? These questions raise the problems of policing any requirements which may be mandated by either the club or the school.

As you can see, a limited re-opening of Northern Turners meetings does have difficulties, but we can only hope that we can return to normal activities before we all forget each other's names and particularly, forget how to hold a gouge!

I would like some more entries for Digital Show and Tell please. The material provided so far has been excellent, but I do need more, so take a few pictures and send them to me by email with a brief story.

Enough for now, and keep on working in your sheds on pieces so that there will be plenty for the gallery at Wayville in October.

Cheers

Tim Smeaton

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## Northern Turners Committee

President	Tim Smeaton
Secretary	Dale Starr
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Member	Roger Coulter
Member	Glenn Kutchen
Member	Fred McCann
Member	Nik Surikov,
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## Send all articles to

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## Your Northern Turners

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

## COVID CHALLENGE (Feijoa root)

Two years ago I removed a Feijoa tree from my garden. Over the years it had developed quite a large root ball which took some effort to remove. Since then I have moved it from place to place with the idea that some day I might do something with it. The isolation caused by Covid 19 made me take the plunge. I have enjoyed a number of you tube sessions by Al Furtado, an American woodturner who has often turned irregular pieces between centres.

So, after trimming some of the roots with a chain saw I set it up between centres and turned it enough to produce a tenon for the chuck (see below) and then was able to reverse it and turn a tenon (spigot) on the other face and then turn it normally. I used a cone centre in the tailstock in a well defined mark and a

pronged centre in the headstock. The important thing is to make sure that the driving centre is well imbedded. To do this remove any bark near the position of the centres and tighten the tailstock as much as you can. Move the work to and fro to set the driving prongs. Tighten the tailstock again and repeat the process until a good grip is achieved – and of course use a slow speed and full face shield. To see his videos simply google the Rebel Turner. Caution – some off his practices are not traditional and may not be the safest way to operate, however somewhat entertaining to watch.



Above is also the finished piece – and you might say “Why Bother” and the answer would be - because you can.

**Ron Allen.**

## WAYVILLE GALLERY IN OCTOBER?

Graham Reed , Northern Turners Exhibition Coordinator has been contacted by the Kym Jones company who organise the Wayville Home Show Exhibitions, among others. Graham was advised that preliminary plans have started for The Home Show Exhibition for a time possibly in October this year.

This is a very positive sign and Northern Turner members who exhibit have lots of time to produce some new and exciting pieces.

In fact, what about the remainder of our members? Become a first time exhibitor in the first exhibition out of the Covid 19 shut down.

Cheers

The Editor

George Pastuch

## DOES YOUR SHED GET SHOWERED WITH WOOD CHIPS AND SHAVINGS

Not a Show and Tell but I think a handy lock-down chore which I've just done. It keeps my bench clear of the turnings and chips and most of the dust. The gouges need to be outside the curtains on a trolley otherwise you have to keep cleaning your arms and tools when reaching behind the curtains. I now need a trolley!

2 curtain rails (2700mm – you can get 3600mm) and 2 shower curtains (1800x1800). From Bunnings with fittings. You can see the glass sliding door that I penetrated last year.

Bob Bauze



## HINTS FOR THE BANDSAW

You have probably had difficulty making straight cuts on your bandsaw – especially when the blade becomes dull. The usual experience is that the wood runs away from the fence or binds against the fence. I think this is generally caused by the teeth being blunted on one side or the other, thus ruining the set. Bark is usually quite abrasive and cutting any branch material tends to shorten the life of the blade. One way to help overcome the problem is to use a short 'fence'. As the photo shows a narrow piece of wood is clamped to the table so that the work just contacts the fence before the blade. When the blade is dull you can control its contact with the fence even if you slightly change the direction of the cut as you may see in the photo when cutting pen blanks. The guard has been raised to improve the image.

*Ron Allen*



## RED IRONBARK, MUGGA (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*)

Earlier this year, through an offer by Terry Smith, I had the chance to get some Ironbark from street trees which were being felled in the Salisbury area. Whenever I have had the opportunity collect some Ironbark with its bark intact, I have taken it up to turn my favourite natural edge bowls.

### The Tree

Some of the northern suburbs of Adelaide have used Red Ironbark as street trees. It is usually quite striking with its deeply furrowed bark and orange through to pink and red flowers. The bark is probably the blackest of all barks. Its natural environment is from northern Victoria to southern Queensland especially on the western slopes of the ranges. It is usually a medium sized tree from 10 to 25 metres often having a poorly shaped trunk with branches starting less than half its height. However, street trees in Adelaide seem to grow quite tall with a slender erect form. There is an outstanding specimen in the Australian Forest section of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens which was measured in 2009 with a height of 32 metres and circumference of 3.44 metres, see National Register of Big Trees where it is one of the 4 largest specimens.

<http://www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au/pages/tree-register-view>

### The Wood

The sapwood is pale yellow to straw and the heartwood from pinkish red to bright red. The bark is thick furrowed and black in colour with many blackish deposits of kino. It is the contrasts between each of these in a natural edge bowl which I think is beautiful.

The wood itself is hard and dense – stated as 1170 kg per cubic metre, making it one of the heaviest of the eucalypts. The wood is extremely durable but is liable to end checking if not treated. I always turn it wet without issues of end checking or splitting. The photo on the right shows a section which was not treated with end seal with the resultant splitting. Note also the amount of exuded kino and the bark starting to separate.

I turned several bowls almost on the day the tree was cut and was surprised by the amount of sticky gum (kino) around the inner bark. The wet fibres formed a sticky fibrous mat on my gouge and created some issue with the adhesion of the bark. However once partly dried after wet turning, the bark solidified.



I was also surprised by the amount of kino present in the huge gum pockets. The kino had dried out and formed very large hard and glossy deposits which separated the bark from the wood (see photo). Unlike gum, kino is soluble in water which was very useful. After carting the wood home, I found deposits of black sticky goo on my car mats which thankfully washed off with a pressure hose.

When turning the outside of the bowls the bark was supported by the wood and stayed intact, but when removing the centre of the bowls the bark is unsupported, brittle and although very hard somewhat fragile. I needed to wrap several layers of masking tape around the outside to support it.

When dried (about 3 months) the bark stabilised, although I did use quite a bit of superglue to ensure stability.

This bowl is interesting in that it was made from the V shaped scarf cut when felling the tree. Because it was from the base of the tree the bark is very thick (up to 60 mm) as is the sapwood. (There is very little heartwood). The flared form was determined by the shape of the scarf.

**Ron Allen**

