

# TURNOUT

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Musings from the President mid July 2020

An article in the Weekend Australian about Paul Hogan would not be expected to have anything to do with wood. However, Paul Hogan was a great admirer of Julius Sumner-Miller of "Why is it so?" It set me to thinking about the colour and structure of different woods.

Desert woods are dense and usually hard, presumably due to slow growth in a dry environment. But why is the heartwood often pale while the heartwood is dark brown or nearly black?

Most conifers are soft, pale woods which decay quickly when left on the ground. By contrast, how can Huon pine lie in swamps for thousands of years and still be turned into a beautiful bowl?

How does Cedar repel moths, and many other insects? It is due to the chemicals produced by the tree as a defence during its life, and camphor laurel has its odour for much the same reason, not just to cause allergies in some wood-turners. It must have taken millions of years for trees to develop effective chemical protection, just as bacteria and fungi have produced the chemicals we call "antibiotics".

Why is ebony black? Why do some eucalypts have smooth bark and others rough bark? Why do some trees race for the sun and have straight trunks such as Sequoias and Mountain Ash yet others branch and remain relatively small? Why don't tall palm trees break in a strong wind? (OK, in hurricanes they do, but they are amazingly flexible)

I am sure you can all think of your own questions (e.g. why did that lovely piece of olive split?), and certainly some of the experts in our club could answer many of them. However, some features of timber will remain mysterious which is a damn good thing.

Keep on finding time to work on your lathes, but protect yourselves from the chemical and physical hazards of your hobby with dust-masks, face-shields etc.

Cheers

Tim Smeaton

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- *Seeking Excellence*
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## FROM THE EDITOR

My apologies to Graham Vawser as his contributions to last months virtual Show & tell were omitted.

### Graham Vawser

Here are two more pieces I've recently finished

One is a Blackheart Sassafras hollow form with a Jarrah lid.

The other is a White Cedar hollow form. I found the piece of timber 'hidden' on my wood shelves. It was one of the blanks I got from the timber that came to Northern Turners after Neville Saunders died (some long-time NT members will remember Neville). The blank had pencil lines which Neville had drawn in anticipation of his turning this shape. I think I've got it the way Neville planned. I also found (in one of those tins full of "might-come-in-handy-somedays" which I've found energy and time to sort through!!) a glass lid to top it off.



### Anne Kerr's marmalade

A big thankyou to the members who responded to my request for citrus fruit. I have been inundated with fruit and jars.

Many thanks also to Bob Bauze for the striking labels he designed and supplied.

I have made over 10 dozen jars of marmalade of various varieties, but now I need help to market them. All the proceeds will go to the Cancer Council in lieu of the Biggest Morning Tea, which unfortunately we were unable to hold this year.

I am now asking if members could drop by my place (or any other suggested collection point) and pick up a few jars to sell. I suggest \$5 for large jars and \$3 for small ones - some kind folk may wish to donate more. The money can be sent to our treasurer to be eventually forwarded to the Cancer Council, or if you prefer, to me. I understand this may be difficult for some Northern Turners who do not live locally but I feel sure we can work something out.

Regards, Anne Kerr

## Ed Zahra

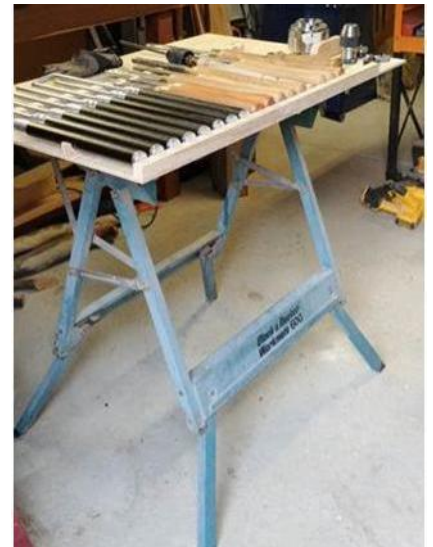
I've finished a couple of projects recently. My chisels were all over the place, so I built a rack.



These next two shots are of the underside.



When I need to use the Workmate, I open up the tabs at the back of the rack and lean it all up against the lathe.



It sits clamped onto the Black & Decker Workmate. Here is a close-up.

The final job was to round-off the corners. Now the chisels and other bits are handy right behind me when I'm at the lathe.





## TURNING SMALL SPHERES

The following demonstration by done by Ron Allen in 2005

Ron used a home made tool made up of a metal pipe sharpened all round at one end and inserted with a handle at the other end.



Mount a piece of timber between centres and using a scroll chuck. Ensure the piece is free of knots and defects. Turn the piece to the required diameter plus five millimetres.

Mark the same length along the turned piece and then mark the centre of the piece.

Using a parting tool, cut a trench along the mark closest to the head stock.

Begin turning the curve from the centre line to reflect the shape of the sphere.

Remove the waste from the centre line on the other side nearest the head stock.



The end result should look like the following.



Using the tube tool as a scraper push the tube onto the timber in a sweeping motion back wards and for-wards and the perfect shape will emerge.

*(Continued on page 5)*

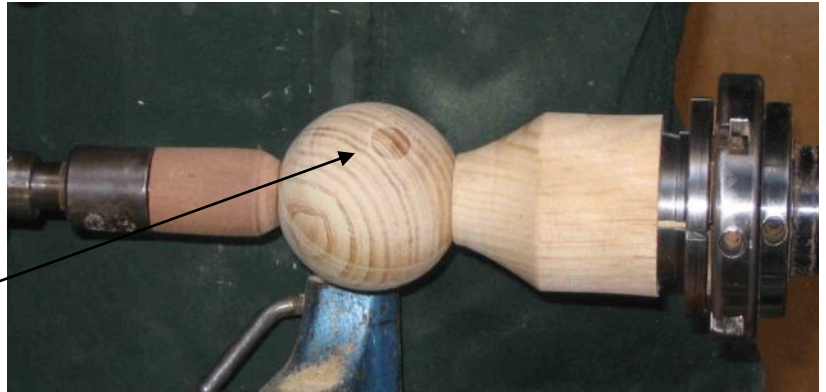
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Part of the sphere. Be careful not to pull fibres from the sphere. Use a skew or detail gouge.

Pressure mount the sphere between centres again using home made jigs as shown.

Sand the piece and reposition the sphere to sand the whole surface.

You can see the parting off area.



If you want a smaller sphere you can use the same method and the same tool.

The only limits is the diameter of the tube. You can only use this method to scrape spheres to the same diameter of the tube tool. If you want to use this for smaller diameter spheres, you will need to make another tube tool.



### ALTERNATE TURNING MATERIAL (from the archives)

At the July 2006 Northern Turners monthly meeting, Roger Humphries demonstrated turning using alternate materials.

And to show that nothing is sacred, Roger glued an apple onto a piece of timber, placed it into a chuck on the lathe and promptly turned a lidded container.

All watching were amazed. The only people that complained were the ones that were sprayed with apple juice!!!

Well done Roger



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