

# TURNOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

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## From the President end of October 2020

Your committee members have been working behind the scenes to find new premises for Northern Turners. A recent check with GGHS confirmed that we would not be able to use the Tech Centre before the beginning of 2021, and there would have to be negotiations concerning the cleaning required after each meeting, with the possibility of paying professional cleaners. Therefore we have been looking at alternative locations.

A shed at Parafield Airport was offered at a very fair annual lease by Sue Trussell and she has been very helpful to the club. Graham Reed has been our chief negotiator with Parafield. Unfortunately, a visit by several members confirmed that it was too small, mainly because it was divided into 3 separate rooms. Ms Trussell was informed of this, and thanked sincerely for her work on our behalf.

A shed at Greenwith was offered by Tea Tree Gully Council but was both a bit small and offered only a very few parking spaces. Therefore it was also discounted. Felicity Birch of the Council has worked very hard to find somewhere suitable, and will continue to keep her eyes open.

In the meantime, Tim Skilton has approached the Torrens Valley Christian School with whom he has been associated for more than 15 years. We have held our annual Workshops there in November, so most members will know of the facility. Although negotiations are still in progress, the business manager is very keen to have Northern Turners use their technical centre and offers several possibilities for storage of our lathes and other equipment. Since only one school is concerned, rather than three at GGHS, arrangements would be much simpler and we could begin meetings as soon as practicable. We will keep you informed about this development, but it could be a very exciting prospect for the future of our club.

Other matters:-

### Meeting to determine future of WoodgroupSA

On October 31 there will be a meeting to decide whether WoodgroupSA should be dissolved. For the motion to succeed, 75% of the eligible votes must be cast in favour of dissolution. Northern Turners representatives will be voting in favour of dissolution. We await the outcome of that meeting.

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

#### Your Northern Turners

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

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### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will be held at the Community Hub at Para Hills Shopping Centre from 9.30am on Saturday, November 7. We have a Covid-19 safe program in place, and we will follow sensible precautions at that meeting. It will be our first opportunity in a long time to get together, so come along and catch up on all the gossip and look at the pieces created at home by our members. If you have a cough or snuffle, please do not come.

### **End of year Picnic**

**See below**

Stay well and looking forward to seeing you all soon

Tim Smeaton

## **END OF YEAR PICNIC FOR NORTHERN TURNERS**

Dear Members

To allow members and their families to gather together for a picnic, Northern Turners will be meeting as follows (weather permitting):

**Date:** November 28

**Time:** 12 noon

**Location:** Stockade Botanical Park, Howard Road, Northfield

Directions: Turn east off Briens (Bridge) Road on to Howard Road and follow this to Park.

Note from Wikipedia:

“The area that was to later become the park was initially the Stockade railway station, which was first opened in 1857 and built to service the colony's prisoner camp (then known simply as "The Stockade"). After a century of service, the station was closed in 1961, and the train line's terminus was moved back to the Northfield railway station and the area redeveloped.”

The Club will provide barbecues and sausages and onions.

### **Covid-19 restrictions:**

Advice from SA Health is being followed.

***Social distancing of 1.5 metres to be practiced as far as is reasonable.***

***Only cooked sausages and onion will be provided and served to individuals. All other food and beverages must be provided by members and not shared outside family groups.***

At the end of a difficult year, it will be good to meet in an informal setting, and there are opportunities to investigate the Botanical Park and wander along the Dry Creek Linear Park.

Please come and join us.

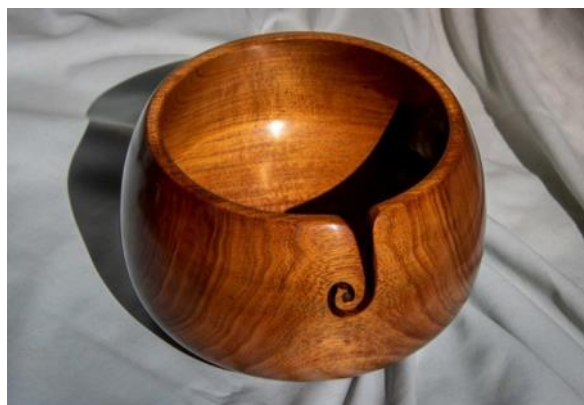
Tim Smeaton

For the Committee of Northern Turners.

Alan Burgess

Here are pictures of some of the items I've finished turning since we last met.

The first is a large "Yarn-bowl" made of Tasmanian Blackwood and designed to hold large wool balls (210 x 135).



The next is a Huon Pine cheese platter (350 x 40) with a cutting board in the centre. The latter is made up of small pieces of Tasmanian Blackwood and Tallow-wood, and Western Australian sheoak. The pieces are all aligned with the end-grain positioned vertically in order to form an end grain cutting board, like the way they used to make butcher's cutting blocks.

The top and bottom of the side table (360 x 490) are made of Arizona Cypress which came from a salvage operation at the Waite Institute Arboretum some years ago to retrieve a fallen tree. (I think it was organised by Ron Allen - so many thanks Ron!). The legs were machined on my normal lathe as well as a specially modified old router lathe to get their shape right. They are carved from fine birch plywood, selected for strength, after first fabricating a polygonal plywood tube to ensure the wood grain is circumferential all the way around. The link-plates are made of huon pine to provide a bridge between the different wood textures and allow for concealed fixings.



The last item is a piece of Cypress (200 x 80). This is my effort to "have a go" at a turning challenge mentioned in the UK Woodturning Magazine a while back. It is called a "torus bowl" by the originator, after the topological shape; the pure mathematical shape does not have a slot in the top but I thought it was a sufficient challenge in this form. This version can safely hold small items like memory sticks and keys. It took a while to figure out how to hold it during the making of it, but I think it "turned out" nicely.



*No doubt about it – the Virtual Halo goes to Alan!*

*Some very interesting pieces and VERY challenging.*

*Hoping to see these and other pieces at the AGM at the Community Hub, Para Hills Shopping Centre on November 7.*

*Tim Smeaton*

## ANCIENT TREES OF THE WORLD

### THE SISTERS

The Phoenicians are thought to have been responsible for introducing the Olive tree on their merchantile travels across the Mediterranean region. An action that had far reaching consequences, shaping the region culturally and culinarily.

In the small village of Bechealeh, high in the Mount Lebanon range, grow what could be the oldest Olive trees in the world. Equidistant between Becchari and the ancient Phoenian port of Byblos, stand a grove of 16 ancient Olive trees (*Olea europaea Baladi/ Ayrouni Genotype*) planted in rows and estimated to be around 6000 years old.

These could be the oldest individual trees on the planet. Gnarled, twisted, perforated and hollow, it is impossible to date the trees by ring count, but a French archeobotanist visited the region alledgedly ascertained their age by carbon dating their old growth wood.

What ever their age, it is remarkable that the tress have survived so long on mountainous terrain open to the elements, in an often war torn area. ... the Sisters still bear fruit. The olives are cold pressed in small quantities into grade olive oil. ...

The ministry of tourism and culture has recognised the Sisters as a site of national importance, and the trees havw since featured on Lebabese stamps and currency.

Ref:- *The World Tree Story*. Aithor Julian Hight . published in UK in 2015

According to local folklore, the trees are at least 5,000 years old, perhaps even 6,000 years old or older. If this is correct, they may be the oldest non-clonal living trees in the world. The age of any of The Sisters has not been

determined by dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) and possibly cannot be due to deterioration of the inner tree ring structures over time.

Folk legend also ascribes The Sisters as the source of the olive branch returned to Noah's Ark at the waning of the Biblical Flood. The trees still produce olives, and a preservation effort was undertaken by the non-profit

organization Sisters Olive Oil, which marketed oil from these olives.

Ref:- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sisters\\_Olive\\_Trees\\_of\\_Noah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sisters_Olive_Trees_of_Noah)

*George Pastuch*



*NOTE FROM THE DEITOR—the following article was first published in October 2005. Please be aware the article mentions members who are now deceased.*

## TOXIC TIMBERS

At the September General Meeting, John Edyvean raised a serious question seeking information about the most effective dust extraction system available. Further discussion led to the topic of 'dangerous timbers'. The following list of Australian timbers is reprinted from an earlier article written by me in a Woodgroup Newsletter. However, there are much more comprehensive lists available. I would refer serious enquiries to the International Wood Collectors Society publication "Australian Trees and Woody Shrubs", pages 66 to 69. This list contains details about Toxic Australian and Imported wood, and details information on some 200 species. If taken literally it may seem somewhat scary, and may encourage woodies to take up chess as a safer past time. However, common sense should prevail. If you are working a wood which may cause some reactions, additional care is needed. We are all individuals and will react differently to various toxins. The easy example is the resistance or susceptibility to bee stings. What may be benign to one person can be dangerous to another. Thus we must approach some timbers with caution. Most of us have little difficulty with Blackwood, but it is listed, and I have a friend who cannot / will not turn any species of Acacia, as he develops a strong reaction. I remember Neville Sanders saying that 10 minutes of turning Blackbean caused him problems. So, caution is the safe way. Effective dust extraction and plenty of

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ventilation will help, but if you develop a reaction to a particular timber, common sense should direct you to use a different timber in the future.

In the IWCS list referred to above is the following interesting reference:-

Coolamon Tree, Shitwood, - (*Gyrocarpus americanus*) - Can cause blindness.

This is a good example, because the list contains many timbers which we will never see. However, I would encourage members to study the Australian list.

PS - a plug for the IWCS. The above publication is an Australian one.

**Australian timbers known to cause some unhealthy reactions.**

Common Name	Botanical name	Possible reactions
Alpine Ash	<i>Euc. delagatensis</i>	Irritation to nose, eyes and throat
Blackbean	<i>Castanospermum australe</i>	Irritation to mucous membranes, nose throat, skin, genitals, armpits.
Blackwood	<i>Ac. melanoxylon</i>	Skin reactions, dermatitis, asthma
Blue Gum	<i>Euc. globulus</i>	Dermatitis, irritation to nose, throat
Brigalow	<i>Acacia harpophylla</i>	Irritation to eyes nose, throat, groin
Coolibah	<i>Euc. microtheca</i>	Skin irritation (bark and wood dust)
Grass Tree	<i>Xanthorrhoea spp</i>	Dermatitis, possibly carcinogenic
Grey Box	<i>Euc. microcarpa</i>	Eczema Irritation to mucous membrane
Grey Myrtle	<i>Diospyros pentamera</i>	Skin eruptions (splinters)
Gutta Percha	<i>Exocaria parvifolia</i>	Blindness (temporary) from milky sap
Jarra	<i>Euc marginata</i>	Irritation to eyes nose and throat
Lemon Scented	<i>Euc. citriodora</i>	Dermatitis
Miva Mahogany	<i>Dysoxylum muelleri</i>	Irritation to eyes and nose, nose bleeds,
Mountain Ash	<i>Euc regnans</i>	Dermatitis, Irritation to nose and throat
Mulga	<i>Acacia aneura</i>	Irritation, headache, vomiting
Nthn Silky Oak	<i>Cardwellia sublimis</i>	Dermatitis (green timber, dust)
Queensland Ma-	<i>Flindersia brayleyana</i>	Dermatitis
Tea Trees	<i>Leptospermum spp</i>	Dermatitis, skin eruptions
Red Cedar	<i>Toona ciliata</i>	Headache, giddiness, asthma, dermatitis
Red Silky Oak	<i>Stenocarpus salignus</i>	Irritation to mucous membranes,
Red Siris	<i>Albizia toona</i>	Irritation to eyes nose and throat, derma-
Rose Mahogany	<i>Dysoxylum fraserianum</i>	Nosebleeds, headaches, inflammation of nose, eyes.
Silky Beech	<i>Citronella moorei</i>	Irritation to nose and eyes
Southern Silky	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Skin eruptions, eyelid inflammation,
Spotted Gum	<i>Euc. maculata</i>	Dermatitis
Stringybark	<i>Euc. obliqua</i>	Dermatitis, asthma, sneezing
Turpentine	<i>Syncarpia glomulitera</i>	Irritation to mucous membranes
White Cedar	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Nosebleeds, headaches, dermatitis
White Cypress	<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>	Dermatitis, swelling of eyelids, asthma,

Ron Allen