

TURNOUT

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

From the President December 2021

Dear members

As the end of the year approaches I would like to say how well the club has operated through 2021. This is due to the sterling efforts of a relatively small number of members who offer their time and expertise to keeping the club running. Whether it is opening and closing the tech centre for meetings, performing demonstrations, helping to set up exhibitions, dealing with committee matters, cleaning up after turning, making sure our IT is working, producing Turnout, and all the other tasks which are vital to a successful year, I want to thank you all – the quiet achievers. If any members feel they could play a greater role in organizing events, helping with finance or other matters, or making their own contribution to Northern Turners, please volunteer your services in 2022.

I visited the Burnside exhibition this week, and once again I was very proud to see the beautiful pieces on offer, the work of 25 of our members. I hope the public appreciate the quality and purchase from every one of you. The pictures below give some idea of the pieces on display. Well done to all of you.



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Northern Turners Committee	2021/22
President	Tim Smeaton
Secretary	Dale Starr
Treasurer	David Kleinig
Vice President	Bill Elliott
Member	Rob Williams
Member	Guido Guidi
Member	Fred McCann
Member	Nik Surikov,
Member	Graham Reed
Member	Flora Rumbelow

Send all articles to

turnout@northernturners.org.au

Your Northern Turners

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

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Finally, I wish you all a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Think of those who are less fortunate, and help others in any way you can.

Cheers

Tim Smeaton

DEMONSTRATION SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021

HOW TO MAKE A WOODEN EGG– Ron Allen

Several of our members have made eggs which they have sold, sometimes as a “dozen”, and Ron Allen has probably made hundreds of them. As a member of the international wood collectors, he has made eggs from many rare timbers, a nice way to display the properties of a particular species.

First, take a piece of timber about 15cm long, and if needed glue a block of pine or similar wood if your sample is too short. Best to turn a spigot (for 35mm jaws in this case) so that the partly turned egg can be put back accurately on the lathe. Roughly turn a cylinder and then mark the 3 points – the two ends of the egg and the largest diameter. Generally, the eggs are 63mm long and 43mm at their widest. The widest point is about 30mm from one end. This gives a realistic copy of a hen’s egg which varies with the chicken anyway.

Using a parting tool and an aluminium measure, he cut a groove to the 43mm diameter and turned down the cylinder to this dimension. Then he marked the ends and 30mm from the outermost end. Using a bowl gouge and rolling it to keep the bevel rubbing, the hemispherical end of the egg was shaped. The pointed end was partly shaped down to a narrow stem. The egg was then sanded, first with a power sander, then by hand to about 320 grit.

A coat of Stylewood lacquer (diluted with methylated spirits) was applied and quickly rubbed off. This was set aside for a few minutes to dry. Next a second coat was applied, allowed to dry, then cut back with steel wool and buffed with lambswool.

To finish the egg, it was pushed into a chuck made from timber (see pictures below) with slots cut into the sides with

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a tenon saw. To protect the surface, a strip of leather was placed in the chuck, then the egg pushed in. It was centred by hand, and then with careful cutting and sanding, the “pointy end” of the egg was finished. Lacquer was applied as before. Note the chuck has a hole in the centre so a dowel can be used to remove the egg if it can’t be removed by hand.

A number of those present got busy on the lathes and produced some quite satisfactory eggs. George Pastuch showed me his slightly different approach, finishing off the pointy end first, and then with the egg still attached to the base he could centre it in the chuck before turning off the round end. George partly finished about 6 eggs while others struggled with one!

The pictures below show many of the steps involved.



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Thanks Ron for a very good demonstration and we hope to see a lot of eggs being “laid”.

Tim Smeaton

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 2022

Sat 8th January — Same format as the 2nd Saturday 2021. Coordinator B Elliott

Sat 15th January — Demonstration by Ron Allen—Surprise subject. Ron to forward more information if necessary

Sat 22nd January — 9am Committee meeting
10am General meeting

Safe practices on the lathe – Alan Burgess

Demonstration –“ the non-rolling dibber” – Alan Burgess

REMEMBER—ONLY DOUBLE VACCINATED PERSONS ALLOWED TO ATTEND.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PROVIDED DETAILS TO THE CLUB, BRING A COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE WITH YOU.

NOVEMBER WORKSHOP 2021

Or “How to outwit Covid-19”

Despite the restrictions on travel which prevented the appearance of an interstate or international turner to the annual workshop, Tim Skilton and Robert Edge managed to set up a very successful one-day workshop on November 13th with two local demonstrators, our own Bill Elliot and Simon Bagshaw from Southern Turners.



Bill Elliot (left) and Simon Bagshaw (Southern Turners)

With 50 members and guests from other clubs, we had a great day, and I want to thank everyone who helped to make it happen, from setting up lathes and lighting to moving benches and serving lunch. Thanks also to all who contributed to Show and Tell with their stories, all of them deserving of a prize, and congratulations to Alan Burgess who won the \$50 voucher (donated by Tim Skilton) for his enormous Huon pine bowl which he rescued.



THE DEMONSTRATIONS

Bill Elliot

Bill chose 2 items:- a red gum platter with a decorative rim and an acorn box. Using a nicely figured red gum blank donated by Mountain River Timber, Bill first finished the bottom with an ogee (a “double-S-shape”) design. The secret to an ogee was to have a curve from the rim to about half the base, and then blend in the inner one third to the base (if this makes sense!). Rustin’s Danish Oil was his favoured finish, with about 4 coats applied daily, with a final coat rubbed off with #0000 steel wool. If using a sealer, Proofseal (Feast and Watson) works well.

After turning the rim and the inside of the platter, Bill decorated the rim with the fearsome Arbotech attachment to an angle grinder (\$339 for those who want to get one). With the lathe turning fairly slowly, he gripped the grinder very firmly and passed it once across the whole of the rim. After brief sanding, he then applied stain made from steel wool immersed in vinegar. Some of the Show and Tell items, with their very interesting stories.

which reacts with tannin in the wood to blacken the surface. Further sanding then exposed wood on the highlights, leaving the deeper pattern black.

Next, Bill turned a small acorn box using two contrasting woods. He



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demonstrated hollowing using a method developed by Richard Raffan which is quick but takes a great deal of practice. This little box is a good exercise using reverse chucking to finish the top of the acorn, and the shaping of the cup allows some variation in style. The finished article got lost in the crowd so I didn't get a picture of it!

Bill's platter he made and examples he brought are shown below:-

Simon Bagshaw



Simon gave us a really interesting and skilful demonstration of two items, a dainty box with square base and lid, and a variation on a winged bowl with a vase in the centre (that is what I am calling it anyway).

With the lidded box, Simon stressed the importance of sharp tools and careful cutting near the corners since they can be chipped or broken easily. A tenon on each end of the block allowed both the box and its lid to be shaped while held in the narrow jaws of the chuck. The base of the box was given a neat shape with a collar, and a tenon for the lid. He emphasized that too tight a fit could

mean the corners of the lid may break off in the future. For temporary fitting, he used his secret formula (1 part H₂O to 3 parts water) to expand the tenon.

The lid was first hollowed and then given an upward curve and a small finial at the top. At the base, with its four triangular legs, the tenon was removed and finished off neatly.

Simon's second piece required some careful measurement. First held between centres, a central line was drawn, then two shallow cuts about 10mm on each side. Then each end was tapered down towards these central cuts. The centre piece was shaped into a "rounded triangle". Next two shallow Forstner bit cuts were made on opposite sides of the centre, and the piece turned through 90 degrees and re-mounted between centres (see screen picture below).

The base was turned down to a spigot, developing the wings of the bowl/vase. When this was finished, the piece was reversed and the upper part turned. The two wings appeared, and here care needed to be taken to avoid tear-out. The upper curved surface was formed, and a Forstner bit made a hole about 50mm into the centre. This was hollowed out using a tool made from a chisel. The piece could be used as a bud vase, or various options were offered for the centre to finish off the piece. His pieces are shown below.

Simon did an excellent job, and we thank him for coming to this workshop and demonstrating his skills. It was much appreciated.



A great day with an excellent lunch and first class entertainment.

Tim Smeaton