

TURNOUT

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

A Presidential Address, but no I'm not telling you where I live.

As you are probably aware, George Pastuch has generously agreed to again take on the role of Turnout Editor/Publisher. Thanks George. I will endeavour to communicate with you in some way via each publication, so hear goes
volume one.

Happy New Year to you all. I hope your Christmas and New Years celebrations were filled with all you hold dear and dear, whatever form they took.

I feel that last year ended on a high note with our Christmas break up BBQ and this year has definitely started on a high with the results from our Burnside exhibition blowing the previous record dollar value out of the water. I know Robert will report to you in more detail, however for now I'm delighted to advise a new high of \$20,240.00 was reached for the 2024-25 exhibition. A \$3000.00 plus improvement on last years record. Well done to all exhibitors and a special thanks to the exhibition committee members who were instrumental in organising the event.

Continuing on in a positive spirit, I look forward to a wonderful 2025 and have a few different ideas to run by the committee and members in due course. On that subject, it is important to remember that myself and your committee are just the engine of the club, you the members are its drivers. As such, we look to you for our power and instruction so control of our direction etc is in your hands. Please help us steer the club in the direction you all want to go. Just remember, this vehicle is easier to drive forward with a manual gearbox. It doesn't have an automatic transmission.

So enough from me.

Regards,
Dave.

Northern Turners Committee

2024/25

President	Davis Wills
Secretary	Dale Starr
Treasurer	Vic Damato
Vice President	Stuart Hunnisett
Member	Rob Williams
Member	Ed Zahra
Member	David Kleinig
Member	Nik Surikov,
Member	Peter Smith
Member	Flora Rumbelow

Send all articles to

turnout@northernturners.org.au

Your Northern Turners

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

3rd Saturday demonstration.

WEED POTS—GEORGE PASTUCH

George started with his research into the origin of weed pots. Pots or small vases were in use as early as Egyptian and early Chinese dynasties. However the reference to the term “weed pots” was not found in these periods.

Further Googling found a reference to Doyle Lane an American and his ceramic weed pots. So, I believe that he was the first to call these small vases weed pots.

Doyle Lane (1923–2002) was an African-American ceramist known for his innovative, tactile glazes. Lane incorporated these glazes in his small domineering vases and called them weed pots as he intended them to be used for a single stem of a dried flower or decorative weed. All of his pots rose from a tiny foot about an inch in diameter and some were wider than they were tall. However all only had a small diameter opening

He intended these little vases to be seen in groupings of at least three in number, saying that this is how these diminutive examples of California Modernism can be best understood and appreciated. There was also mention that the individual weed pots in any group could be changed depending on one's mood.

Lane's influence in the 70's and 80's art scene where several artists produced weed pots with a few stems of dried "weeds" in a pot shaped with a bulbous body with a very narrow opening on top.

Further referencing numerous woodturning books, only found that the earliest and only 2 articles were from 1980 and 1987.

To start his demonstration George displayed several examples of weed pots he turned previously to reinforce the variety of shapes and sizes.



Two weed pots were turned during the demonstration. Both started between centres and a foot turned to accommodate a scroll chuck. The rest of the turning was completed with the piece held in the jaws of a scroll chuck. Both pieces were examples where the bark was kept intact.



NOTE: A copy of the video of the complete demonstration is available from the club secretary. Please supply a USB memory stick.

Several members subsequently start to turn their own versions of weed pots after the completion of the demonstration.



4th SATURDAY DEMONSTRATION

USING THE PRO-EDGE SHARPENING SYSTEM—BILL ELLIOTT

Bill started the demonstration by introduced the range of accessories that both come with the initial purchase and extras. Each were for specific uses to ensure that each regrind was at a specified angle exactly the same every time. This ensured minimal wastage with regrinding.

This was followed by a practical demonstration of sharpening several tools namely, roughing gouge, bowl gouge, spindle gouge, scraping tool, skew chisel, parting tool and gouge with finger nail design.

Bill explained the use of the two belts he used, a course and fine . Questions regarding belt resulting in the recommendation of using ceramic belts which were more expensive but more economical as they lasted longer. The smallest grit size was 120 grit.

The current purchase price was \$1250 for the basic unit.

Bill completed the demonstration by using a scraper on the base of a bowl.

NOTE: A copy of the video of the complete demonstration is available from the club secretary. Please supply a USB memory stick.



FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS 4TH SATURDAY 2025

Feb 22nd	Using colour and resin on platters.	Franky Pastuch
Mar 22nd	Multi axis birds Easter egg judging	Graham Carmac
Apr 26th	Twists and Turns	Dale Starr
May 24th	TBA	
June 28th	TBA	

FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS 3th DATURDAY 2025

Feb 15th	Ogee shape item. Until I find the timber , it could be a bowl, platter or vase.	George Pastuch
Mar 15th	TBA	George Pastuch
Apr 19th	TBA	Ron Allan
Easter Saturday		
May 17th	TBA	
June 21st	TBA	

MEMBER PROFILE—DAVID WILLS

Describe yourself and your origins?

Born in New Zealand I moved to Adelaide in 1982. I'm Married to Lil (finally got it right the second time around). Have 2 stepchildren and 5 wonderful teenage grand kids through them. I am a perfectionist who sets sometimes unachievable standards for myself and get bitterly disappointed if I don't succeed or meet those expectations. I think I have a good sense of humour but sometimes I need to stop and think (difficult for me) before I open my mouth. So I will apologise in advance if I ever upset anyone with an off the cuff quip.

How did you get into woodturning?

I first saw Woodturning on the internet and from there flung Northern Turners. The rest as they say "is history". Reeled me in hook line and sinker.

What Lathe/s do you current use?

I only have one lathe. It's a Laguna 12/16 "midi".

What was the first thing you turned?

Other than a bowl when I attended Tim Skiltons for a "beginners" course, it was a deep bowl of Blue Gum with a Butterfly I made attached to its rim. Much to my absolute astonishment it earns me the coveted Halo that month.

What is your favourite kind of turning ?

Anything I don't end up cocking up.

What do you find the most challenging to turn and why?

Everything I put on the lathe. Why? Because every piece I turn is a new challenge.

What type of timber do you like turning most and why?

Anything free or I have salvaged from the properties of people I know. Truth be told, I haven't turned enough to develop a favourite.

What do you like best about Northern Turners?

That's simple. The people and camaraderie.

What is/was your favourite piece and do you still have it?

Usually the last piece I turned (if it worked), but if I had to chose it would be that first bowl with the Butterfly. It will probably become ashes at the same time I do.

Describe your workshop

Not big enough!!!! A couple of images attached. 3.5m x 2.0m and shrinking.



Trees 'n' Timber

Drooping Sheoak

(*Allocasuarina verticillata*) (syn. *Casuarina stricta*)

Derivation of names

Allocasuarina – *casuarina* from 'casuarius' (L) because the branches resemble Cassowary feathers. 'Allos' (L) 'other'. Some of the *Casuarinas* have been moved into another genus (*Allocasuarina*).

verticillata – the leaves appear to be arranged in whorls (rings).

The Tree.

A small tree growing to 10 meters tall. It usually has a single, erect trunk with rough, persistent, dark grey bark. It commonly has a compact, rounded, bushy crown, providing dense shade.

The branchlets are long and needle-like, drooping to provide pendulous foliage. Like all Sheoaks, the branchlets appear to be the leaves, but the true leaves are small bracts in whorls around the branchlets. There are 9 to 12 bracts in each whorl.

The flowers are small and insignificant, but the trees flower in profusion in late autumn. The flowers make a showy effect, providing a mass of golden brown or rust coloured crowns, making this one of the most beautiful of the Sheoaks.

Drooping Sheoak is dioecious, (having male and female flowers on separate plants).

The fruit is a typical Sheoak cone. They are dark grey in colour, grow up to 5 cms long and are covered with sharp valves.



Habitat

Drooping Sheoak is quite common in South Australia (Eyre and York Peninsulas, Flinders Ranges and southern parts, including Kangaroo Island). Also NSW, Vic, and Tas.

Timber.

The timber is hard, heavy and very strong. It is pinkish brown to red brown in colour, with a very prominent medullary ray figure. The radial figure makes it an excellent timber for craftwork. The best effects are created when it is quarter sawn, i.e. the face of boards is cut more or less radially and parallel to the medullary rays.

Although hard and tough, it turns well to produce good figure and a fine finish. Like most Sheoaks and other timbers with strong medullary figure, it splits radially. It is difficult to dry without splitting.

- Ron Allen

This article was produced in the Dec 2003 edition of the Woodgroup Newsletter.



Minutes of Northern Turners General Meeting Jan.25 2025

Members Attending: ~50

The meeting started at 10:10 presided by our vice-president, Stuart Hunnisett.

Treasurer's Report

The bank balance at the end of Dec. was \$49539 (this includes Burnside sales, which will be dispersed by the next report).

From the Committee Meeting

George Pastuch is taking over the editorship of Turnout. From now on, the minutes of the 4th Sat. meetings will be included instead of being sent separately. Only a summary of the demonstrations will be provided – if interested in seeing the whole demo, bring a USB and ask for the video to be copied for you.

We have contacted the business who does our club shirts and coffee cups. They will be able to apply the club logo to a table cloth and to provide a screen-printed advertising flag (as approved last year).

The committee thought we should start a lathe replacement plan to replace our old lathes with electronic variable speed lathes. The committee thought we could spend about \$3000 from the funds received from Toymendous to purchase two Sherwood lathes from Timbecon. The membership was asked to approve this expenditure. The approval was unanimous (as far as I could see).

Other Business

Stuart Hunnisett related a recent event where he used a fire extinguisher he keeps in his car to fight a fire in another car near some shops. He was given an extinguisher from one of the shops and the person said they didn't know how to use one.

Stuart then talked about how to use a fire extinguisher and the different types generally available.

Chris Deguet asked what happened to the sheet that was available at the 3rd Sat. meeting asking members to list what demonstrations they would like to see.

Show & Tell

See Turnout for details. The halo was presented to Bill Elliott

Demonstration

Bill Elliott explained and showed how he sharpens his turning tools with the Sorby ProEdge sharpening system.

SHOW & TELL JANUARY 2025



Peter Page showed us a large mahogany platter and a smaller cyprus platter, both featuring coloured resin on the perimeter.

Jan Beare brought a pepper grinder.



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Graham Camas brought a large vase with a number of wooden tulips.



A number of members (Colin Slater, Ed Zahra, Stuart Hunnisett, David Kleinig, Eric Burmeister, Chris Deguet) brought weed pots following from George's 3rd Sat demo.



Graham Vawser brought a bowl made from coloured pencils in resin, warning members not to do it.

Rob Williams showed a platter and two bowls made from almond, pistachio and mulberry.



David Kleinig had a sassafras platter and a large silky oak bowl.



The halo was presented to Bill Elliott.

