

TURNOUT

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March 2025

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHERN TURNERS INC.

Hello from El Presidente

Hi All,

As noted in my address on Saturday, we will again be hosting a “Biggest Morning Tea” this year to raise funds for the Cancer Council. I believe the membership has punched well above its weight in the past and would appeal to all who can attend, donate goods and chattels for auction, or rummage through your wood piles to see what you might like to add to the silent auction tables, to please do so. To avoid any confusion, the BMT will be held at the club rooms on Saturday May 24th. Please also note that partners are more than welcome to attend. I will keep you all updated as we progress with our planning and preparations.

I would like to again wish Graham and Dave all the best for their trip across the border and was very pleased with the reaction my silly little going away gift got from them and the general membership. Life should be fun, a point we all sometimes forget.

It was also nice to see some of our newer members achieve this month, with Gavin taking out the Halo for his display of well turned bowls and Graham for his demonstration on “offset” turning. A turning method equally difficult to do as it is to demonstrate. Well done both .

It was noted today by someone of far greater experience than yours truly, that great items turned require two things. They should firstly be functional, but of equal importance is the beauty of the finished piece. With this in mind I would ask all who take a chisel to a rapidly spinning piece of timber to investigate different and experimental forms of finishing and embellishment. We have in our midst immensely talented, and at times a little demented artisans who push the limits of conformity, so take every opportunity to look, listen and learn from those who share your interest.

Finally, please remember that your clubs operating hours are from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Don't be in a hurry to rush off after demonstrations have finished. We are after all a social club first whose members share a common interest in wood turning. We have people who are more than willing to stay around after midday, so feel free to stop a while longer and enjoy all that the companionship of your fellow turners can offer.

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*

Minutes of Northern Turners General Meeting March 22 2025

Members Attending: ~42

Apology: Tim Smeaton, Graham Vawser, Ron Allen

The meeting started at 10:00 presided by our president, Dave Wills.

Treasurer's Report

The bank balance at the end of Feb. was \$37481.

Exhibition Committee

Robert Edge told us that at future exhibitions, the minimum price will be \$60, with 2/3 of displayed items at least \$80. He also noted that Burnside has agreed that we are a non-profit organisation so we will no longer have to pay a commission on sales.

Website

Gordon Best said that the move to the new server is now complete (and we are now on an Australian-based server). The annual cost of \$96 will be shared by NT, Hills Turners, Southern Scrollers and the Fleurieu club.

Rob Williams said he is ready to put the short videos he took onto the website and Facebook. Members will be able to view them for the next few meetings prior to this occurring. If you don't want to appear, see Rob.

From the President

☐ The long process of reporting to ATO has been completed (many thanks to Dave and Vic Damato for the hours they spent on this excruciating ordeal).

☐ Dave told members that he will organise the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea in May. Members should start looking for items to donate to the auction.

☐ An order will be submitted to get club shirts and coffee mugs for those who want them.

☐ Dave will put together a team of people to organise a 2-day weekend workshop like we used to hold before Covid put a stop to things. Tim Skilton has offered to mentor Dave in this task. When asked who would attend, the majority of members present indicated they would.

☐ The president acknowledged Graham Reed and Dave Gilland for the work they do in opening and closing the venue. He said that Graham and Dave were heading to Perth for a Morris Minor national rally in April and presented them with sticks which can be used for Morris dancing.

☐ Members were asked if they wanted to have a meeting on the 3rd Sat. of March, which is Easter Saturday. There was a lot of support for this, Tim Skilton noting that we have always done so. Ron Allen is prepared to give the demo.

Easter Egg Competition

Entries to the Easter Egg competition were judged by Tim Skilton and one of our new members, Priya Chandrasena.

1st – Bill Elliott for his weighted egg on a stand

2nd – Ed Zahra for his dozen eggs of different timbers

3rd – George Pastuch for his resin and large pine cone egg

FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS 4TH SATURDAY 2025

Apr 26th	????????????????????????????	Mystery Turner
May 24th	NONE—BIGGEST MORNING TEA	
June 28th	Using the lathe as a grinder and polisher	Ed Noah
July 26th	Sputnik sea urchin ornament and stand	Dale Starr

SHOW AND TELL Presented by Dale Starr

Murray Hamilton showed a Japanese plane he is making. Sorry – didn't get a photo

Gavin Pink was busy and brought a natural edged bowl (Chinese elm), 3 tea light holders, a Broughton willow bowl, a huon pine bowl and a holm oak bowl.



George Pastuch had a "dinosaur" egg made using a pine cone and resin. He noted that you need to make sure the wood is very dry when using resin.



Ed Zahra brought a carton of eggs made from different timbers and several painted eggs.

Dale Starr brought two Christmas tree ornaments featuring Sputnik sea urchin shells. Stands were made so the items could be displayed all year round.



Colin Slater showed a small lidded box from merbau with a Tasmanian blackwood lid.



Cont from Page 3

Bill Elliott showed us an egg on the stand. The egg was turned in two halves and weights added in the bottom so it would remain upright.

He also had a large Cyprus pine platter which was turned, carved on one side and then flattened using an Arbortech planer attachment.



Peter Page has a lidded box which he said he copied from Tim Skilton, along with a small myall box.

Nik Surikov has a number of eggs on stands.



The halo was awarded to Gavin Pink who told us that he is really enjoying the craft of woodturning and is happy to see his rapid increase in his skill level.

FUTURE DEMONSTRATIONS 3th DATURDAY 2025

Apr 19th	TBA	Ron Allan
Easter Saturday		
May 17th	TBA	
June 21st	TBA	
July 19th	TBA	

Trees 'n' Timber

Western Myall

(Acacia papyrocarpa)

Derivation of names

Acacia from Greek 'akakia', referring to the sharp thorns on some species.

papyrocarpa - from *papyros* (Gr) after the reed from which paper gets its name, and *karpos* (Gr) a fruit. This refers to the papery texture of the seed pods (legumes).

The Tree.

Western Myall is a small spreading tree growing to 7 metres high, often multi stemmed. It is a very slow growing tree. Age estimates of mature trees vary from 250 to 350+ years old. Some old specimens are believed to be more than 600 years old. It is a precious tree deserving to be protected. It is believed to only produce new plants about 4 times per century, requiring ideal seasonal conditions.

The trees have dense umbrageous (umbrella shaped) crowns. Very old trees have branches which bend over and touch the ground.

The bark is dark, almost black, furrowed and very rough. The stems and branches are often convoluted and heavily indented, resulting in deep bark inclusions.

The leaves are phyllodes (flattened leaf stalks) which are long and narrow with a curved point. They are silver-green and the young tips are silky. These form an attractive feature as they shine in the sun and the wind.

The flowers are small bright balls of yellow, and the seeds are contained in papery legumes to 10 cm long.

Habitat

Western Myall grows in a belt north and west of Whyalla, to the Kalgoorlie Goldfields. It grows in areas receiving less than 300 mm of rain annually. In fact, much of its natural distribution is in areas receiving annual rainfall of 150 mm or less.

Timber.

A very heavy timber having an Air dried weight of about 1235 kg per cubic metre. It has small shrinkage rates and is therefore quite stable and can generally be air dried with little splitting.

The colour varies from golden brown to a dark chocolate brown. The sapwood is a clear yellow, however because of its harsh habitat the sapwood is usually only a very narrow band. It often has a rippled or fiddle back grain which provides beautiful figure.

Although a hard timber, it works well, sands to a lustrous finish, and takes oils and lacquers well. It is an excellent turning timber.

The timber is very durable in the ground, and has been much used for fence posts.

White Fly Infestation

Over the past five years, thousands of Western Myall trees have died as a result of a severe infestation of a white fly. The infestation covered an area of 10,000 square kilometres in the Glendambo - Billa Kalina - Roxby Downs Region. Roxby Downs is the southern border of the dieback.

The Western Myall White Fly is an Australian native, but has not been known before. It has been named *Zaphanera papyrocarpae*. It is a sap sucking insect which killed the trees because of its huge numbers. A natural enemy in the form of a parasitic wasp has also been identified. The dieback seems to have now stopped.

It was because of this, that Neville Sanders, Brian Fraser and I organised a field trip to Roxby Downs to collect some of this beautiful timber. We have done this in preparation for an Australasian meeting of the International Wood Collectors which we are planning for September this year.

I would like to thank John Zwar, Environmental Officer for Western Mining Corporation for his great help during our trip.

- Ron Allen

July 2003 Woodgroup Newsletter

3RD SATURDAY DEMONSTRATION—OGEE BOWL DESIGN

George Pastuch conducted an overhead presentation and a practical demonstration to explain the ogee design concept.

The presentation explained the double curve (joining concave and convex curves), its origin and the differences or similarity in the top and bottom curves. From traditional (based on the rule of thirds), subtle and asymmetrical. Examples were shown for all three versions.

To help with the formulation and understanding how to incorporate the ogee shape using the traditional method two illustrations were provided.

The first following the rule of thirds taken from a web site of woodturners from America. The second was by Jimmy Clewes from his inhouse weekend workshop in 2014.

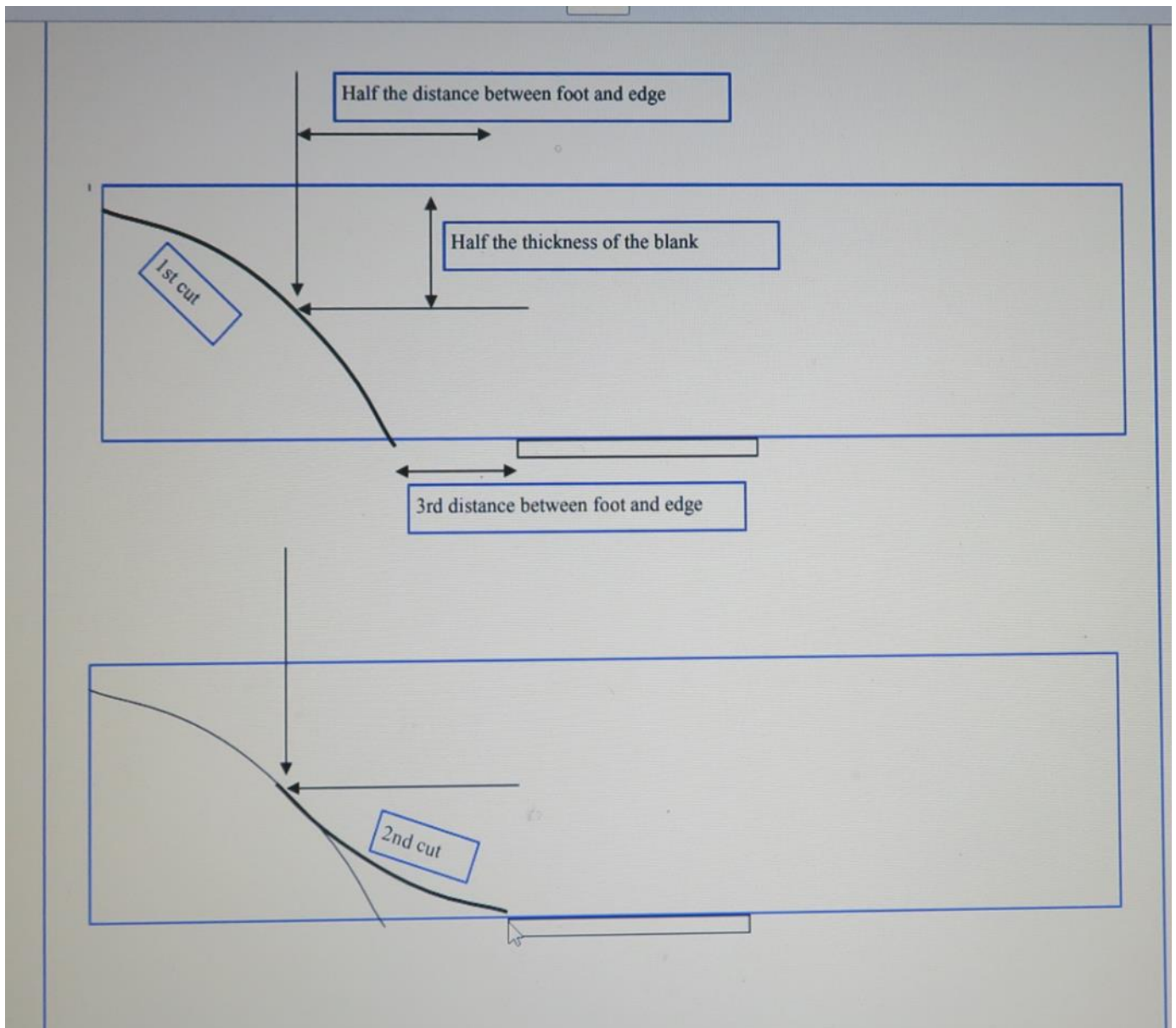
George then conducted a practical demonstration using Jimmy Clewes's version on a bowl. George followed the following steps;

1. Turn the foot
2. Turn the blank circumference round
3. Mark or turn the projected top of the rim (face between the blank and the head stock), and the thickness of the rim.
4. Complete the 1st cut as per the drawing.
5. Complete the 2nd cut as per the drawing.

JIMMY CLEWES VERSION OF TRADITIONAL OGEE DESIGN

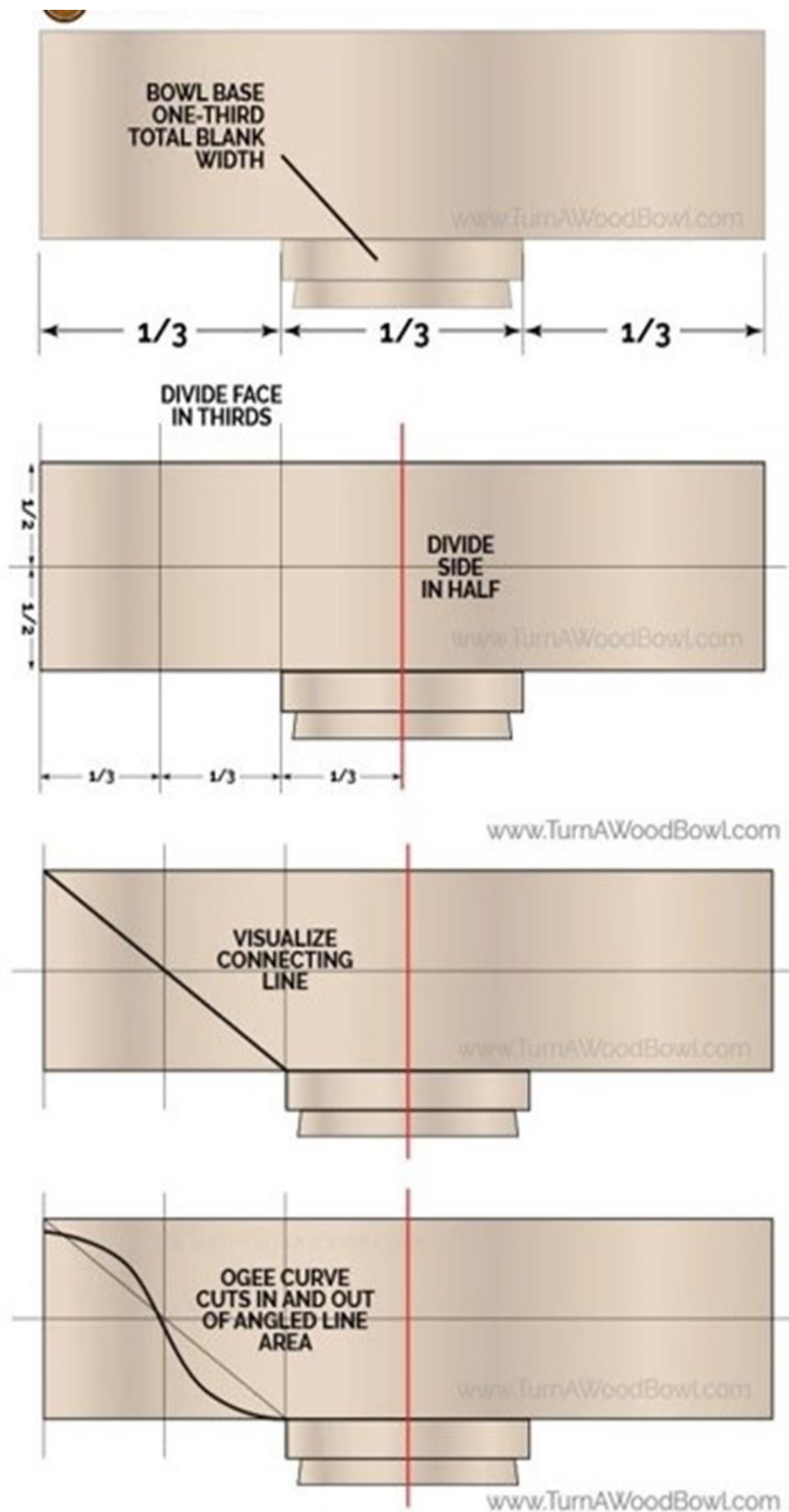
Follows the third rule except for the width of the base

Jimmy Clewes preferred smaller bases from a quarter or smaller dependent on bowl design



TRADITIONAL OGEE BOWL DESIGN ADHERING TO RULE OF THIRDS

Ref:- www.TurnWoodBowl.com



BOOK REVIEW

THE ART OF TURNED-WOOD BOWLS—Edward Jacobson

Dai Nippon Printing Co Ltd. 1st published 1985

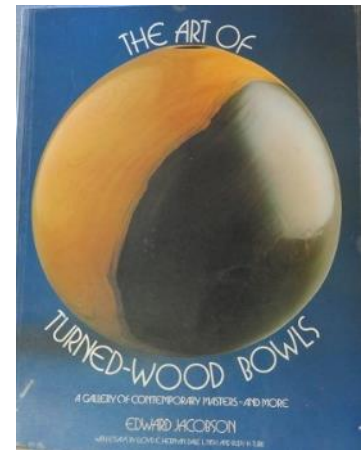
This book boasts as being the only comprehensive collection of wood bowls by contemporary American Turners. This encompasses 21 American Turners with colour illustrated examples of their work and a brief synopsis of their journey into wood turning.

Both Edward Jacobson and Dale Nish write very interesting articles entitled *Preface*, *The Art of Turned Wood Bowls* and *An Overview of the History of Fine Turned-Wood Bowls*.

The collection of photos show a large range of turned vessels, mainly bowls turned in the period between late 1970s to the early 1980s. Viewed critically, similar examples are produced currently by the majority of Northern Turner members. This in no way diminishes the work produced by these turners some 50 years ago, but highlights how far wood turning has progressed. Of course technology has helped with this progress through modern lathes, tooling, jigs and fixtures.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. The turners individual journeys were fascinating and their respective products interesting. This is not *a how to do* book, but a book highlighting where modern woodturning started.

George Pastuch



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



HAMILTON



Murray
Priya CHANDRASENA

EXHIBITION CHANGES

The following is advanced notification of certain changes nominated by the Exhibition Committee to come into affect at the next exhibition to be held at Wayville

The entry fee will now be free. The commission will be calculated post exhibition.

The calculation is as follows:- The costs accrued by the exhibition (ie credit fees, parking, packaging etc) will be totaled and a percentage calculated against the total sales dollars. This figure will be used as the commission percentage per sold piece.

The maximum number of exhibits per exhibitor remains at 30.

However the MINIMUM price per piece is now set at \$60. A third of the pieces entered MUST be between \$60 and \$75 inclusive. The remaining two thirds of the entrees MUST be priced at \$80 and above.

Northern Turners Exhibition Committee

4TH SATURDAY DEMONSTRATION.

Birds using off set turning technique—Graham Camac

Graham started by displaying several birds he had previously turned for members to appreciate the different birds he created.



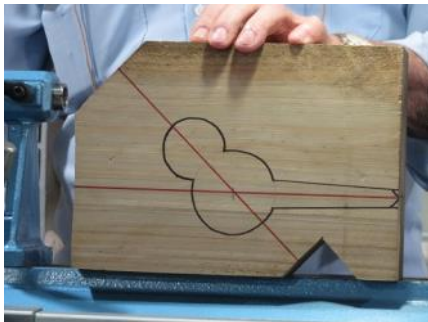
He explained that he was initially interested in how to produce these birds and arrived at his own method.



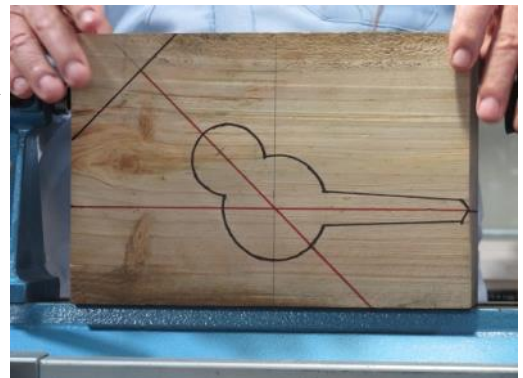
His method created a large amount of waste and he suggested using treated garden pine sleepers as they were cheap and easily obtained.

NOTE: THE NORTHERN TURNERS COMMITTEE MOST STRONGLY RECOMMENDS **NOT TO USE** TREATED TIMBER AS CHEMICALS ARE USED WHICH ARE POTENTIALLY HARMFUL TO PEOPLE. IN FACT ONE OF THE CHEMICALS USED IS ARSENIC.

Graham initially drew the outline of the bird shape onto his timber blank. The two red lines show the centre lines that the blank is turned between centres. The black line across the top left corner is 90 degrees to the centre line through the body.



The two cuts in the photo on the left show the 90 degree cuts required to be able to mount the blank between centres for the body.

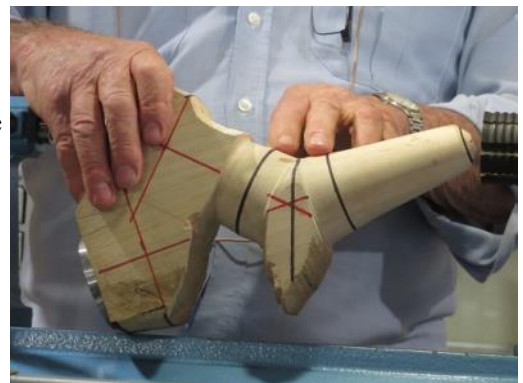


The photo on the right shows the initial removal of the waste material.

The photo on the right shows the



The photo on the left shows the progression in the turning.



Unfortunately Graham could not provide a practical demonstration as the lathe did not have enough clearance over the bed.

The full demonstration is available on USB from the club.