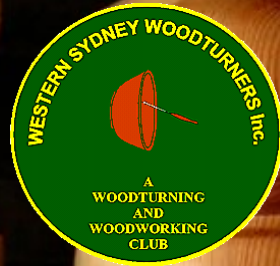


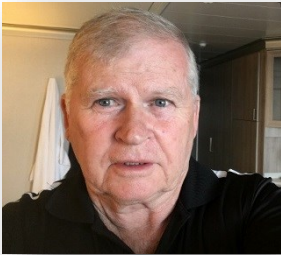
# WesTurn News

The official organ of Western Sydney Woodturners Inc.

Issue: 269



November 2023



**Western Sydney Woodturners Inc**

**Twin Gums Retreat, Corner Northcott Road and Diane Drive**

**PO Box 4008, Lalor Park NSW 2147**

**Web Site: [www.westernsydneywoodturners.com.au](http://www.westernsydneywoodturners.com.au)**

I was reminded the other day, not that I needed it, that Christmas is just 7 weeks away. How time seems to fly as one gets older, or does it just seem that way? Whatever each of us feels about this particular time of the year there is no escaping it and I remind all our members that the Club is closed between Christmas and New Year; that is, from Friday 22nd December until we re-open on Monday 1st January.

As you will be aware that we are closed for daytime turning on Fridays. That will all change in the new year. Don Nixon has approached the Committee to offer his services as a Convener for Friday's day time session and we have approved the request. Starting with the first Friday in January, which is the 6th, the Club will be open for daytime turning with hours from 8:30am until 4:00pm. Friday night turning will commence after this and go until 9:00pm. If you choose to stay after 4:00pm you will have to pay the nighttime fee of \$3:00. The daytime fee is \$5:00. John Kostrzewa (Friday night John) will continue to be the Convener for the night time session.

Last months Bunnings BBQ was a big success and a huge thank you to all that helped as it was constant throughout the day. We recorded a take home profit of a little over \$1500 for the day which I have been told is a record amount for a BBQ. The amount of planning and organisation that goes into the BBQ's is quite extensive and is also very tiring on the members who have taken on the task to purchase and put together all that is needed to ensue a successful outcome. Your help is needed and is much appreciated and although last months BBQ was the last for this year, planning is well in hand for the 5 that are planned for next year. The funds raised are a much needed resource for the Club and every bit of it is used to purchase and maintain equipment and other items used on the Clubs premises. BBQs are planned for February, April, June, August and October and will be on the 3rd Saturday of those months.

The Maxi Days this past year have been of a very high quality and the kudos must go to Anna Dawes who has been tireless in seeking out and presenting quality presenters so that we, the members, can learn new techniques by watching our peers do their thing. This month's Maxi Day will be featuring Anna and a great day will be had by all so please be there.

Until I see you at the Club stay safe and stay well ...

Les Coombes (President)

# SAFETY MATTERS

## A REMINDER ABOUT WORKSHOP SAFETY

We must all keep in mind the importance of WORKSHOP SAFETY. Please THINK and ACT responsibly at all times. It is up to all of us to fulfill our commitment by wearing at all times;

- ◇ Dust masks
- ◇ Protective glasses
- ◇ Suitable clothing
- ◇ Footwear
- ◇ Ear protection

It does not hurt to discuss safety with other members if they are not doing the right thing.

## ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTER

Could I please ask those members who attend our demonstrations, maxi-days etc; if you could take some photographs and a brief description of the event so these can be published in the newsletter I am sure all members would be interested in reading about the events of the day. Thank you.....Editor.



## CUT OFF DATE FOR ARTICLES

Please note the cut off date for articles to be included in the Newsletter is the last day of the month. All members are welcome to submit articles for inclusion.

Please send them to the editor;

Email address: [augoodtime@hotmail.com](mailto:augoodtime@hotmail.com)

## Club Committee

**President:** Les Coombes  
(0408760131)

**Vice Presidents:** John Kostrzewa and  
Paul Collins

**Secretary:** Jen Coombes

**Treasurer:** Andrea McFarlane

**Public Officer:** Sandra Ongley  
sandraongley21@gmail.com

**Librarian:** Rod Brown

**Editor:** Robert Ryan  
ramnet2759@bigpond.com

**Webmaster:** Les Coombes  
wswtpresident@outlook.com

**Training Co-Ordinator:** Greg Sheath

**Trainers:** Graham Dawes (JP), Rod  
Brown, Ron Devine, Greg Sheath, Rob  
Stewart, George Mamou, Bob Taylor &  
Bob Young.

### Shop Manager:

Les Coombes

### Stores, Equipment & Maintenance:

Manny Farrugia, Dave Matthews,  
Graham Dawes (JP), Bob Young, Ron  
Devine, Glenn Freeman and Cindy  
Kersatis.

**Welfare Officer:** Branka Hedges

**Membership Secretary:** Branka  
Hedges

[brankahedges@aol.com](mailto:brankahedges@aol.com)

If you have any suggestions or  
information concerning the club  
please contact any of the  
above committee members.

## Club Hours

**Mon-Thurs:** 8:30am – 4pm....\$5

**Friday Nights:** 5pm – 9pm....\$3

### Saturday Turning

**Ladies Day:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday...\$5

**Contact:** Anna Dawes

0409 460 693

annafdawes@hotmail.com

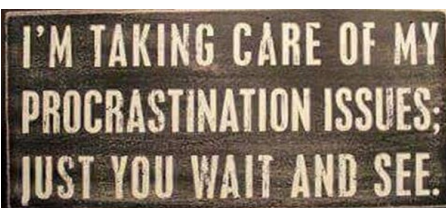
### 4th Saturday of Month

8.30am – 4.00pm...\$5

Every member welcome

**Contact:** Les Coombes

0404 001 562



## Club Meetings

### Shop items

- ⇒ Ozzie Grit
- ⇒ Friction Polish
- ⇒ Sanding Sealer
- ⇒ Sandpaper
- ⇒ Club Shirts
- ⇒ Dust Jackets
- ⇒ Club Badges
- ⇒ Pen Kits
- ⇒ Pen Blanks – Acrylics
- ⇒ Lazy Susan Bearings
- ⇒ Cheese Knives
- ⇒ Salt Mills
- ⇒ Pepper Mills

**Many more items also  
available**



A very big thank you  
to Michelle Rowland MP,  
the Member for Greenway,  
for her continued support  
which includes the  
printing of this newsletter.



# Members Maxi Day Report

Thank you Greg Sheath for contributing a much more detailed piece on John Mulquin's Turning Thin and Turning Hats.



John started off his demonstration by explaining what he was going to do in a light and jovial manner, very easy to listen to. Questions were answered well with good detail. John was using a piece of Claret Ash Hardwood eucalypt, a fairly pale timber. The name claret ash derives from the red blossom of the tree.

Unfortunately for John his fairly green piece of timber that he prepared the day before to use for the demonstration had cracked overnight. However this didn't deter him and he soldiered on and turned a very good looking hat in the end.

Wood selection is extremely important, timber must be as green and freshly cut as you can get, less than a week old is ideal. The tree variety doesn't matter, hard or soft. Size of piece depends on size of hat, either branch or trunk is best. If making a hat for a person, you'll need to measure diameter of head in both directions and add 7% to allow for shrinkage.

You can finish off turning hat straight away, not the next day.

Although John turned a small hat the procedure is the same for a large hat, extra care is required for all hats especially larger ones.

Outside of hat is prepared, roughed out first.

The length of timber needs to be longer than the diameter of the piece of wood, this allows for cutting of timber and to make sure any small cracks that have appeared can be cut away. Cut timber length ways just below centre line of pith. Pencil the shape of hat on end of half log to get some idea of shape and size hat that you can get from the piece of timber, Cut the round shape of the hat out either with the bandsaw or just turn it on the lathe, Green wood is fun to turn, shavings make really long spirals.

Mount timber using a screw chuck on cut side. John used a detail gouge to turn the outside of hat, including a tenon so that the hat can be chucked to turn the inside of the hat. The tenon will be removed at the end so make sure to leave enough room to use a parting tool. At this stage rough out the outside shape of the hat. Clean up the face of the wood which will be the underside of rim.

Turn the hat around and chuck it. The rim of the hat can be turned down to about 3 mm thick at this stage. Don't use any angles on the hat, only curves as angles allow for cracking and checks to occur at the point of angle.

Lathe speed depends on the outer size of the rim of hat. This was a 4 inch hat turned at 1000rpm.

Use a parting tool to hollow out inside and to size the rim of hat (John doesn't use square scrapers but said " yes that would also do"

Turn the rim thinner to about 2mm, sanding will take this down thinner later on, about 1.5mm.

Shape the hat to achieve a good balance between size of rim and hat.

Work on the rim first to size the diameter and thickness, while there is wood inside of the hat.

John used a detail gouge on the rim and slightly undercut the rim as well. To define the inside size of hat a parting tool is used then a detail gouge to finish off, Take your time and go slowly as the hat is getting thin at this stage. Turn hat to 2 mm thin, then sand the inside while still on the lathe.

Before removing the hat from the chuck, shape the top of the hat to desired roundness. Use a lamp on the inside to see consistent thinness before parting off.

Once removed from the lathe after parting off, some light sanding may be required before shaping.

To shape the hat a jig is needed like the one shown which uses rubber bands and screw threads to apply pressure to sides of hat and rim of the hat. Place hat in jig so that grain of wood is running lengthways in the jig. Whilst applying pressure to sides of hat (which elongates hat) you will need to check the hat every 20 minutes or so to adjust degree of distortion.



## Hot Topic From the Internet . . .

(This to encourage discussion. The comments and opinions of others are theirs alone and should not be considered instruction r advice.)

### Short videos on YouTube using Silica Gel to dry wood.

For all those members thinking outside the square and pushing boundaries with plastics and the like, here is something that might interest you. Here is how it works according to the person who posted the video.

The person usually stores rough turned pieces in shavings / dust for about 3 months to dry the item. Using blue silica gel, the same loss of moisture is achieved in 3-5 days.

The other beauty is that silica changes colour as it absorbs moisture and turns orange. At this point, you can put the silica in a flat tray in the oven at 140 degrees Celsius for about 2 hours and its good to go again. The supplier says that you can comfortably do this 4-5 times. The person posting says they have done a dozen rough turned bowls using this method and it has worked way better then expected.

Blue Silica Gel is available from various suppliers and a 25kg tub costs about \$230. To view the videos, go to :

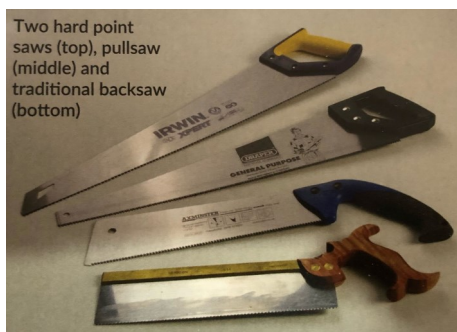
[wood drying experiment - 1: silica gel - YouTube](#)

[How to Dry Woodturned Bowls and Blanks quickly with Dry Fast Drying System - YouTube](#)

**What do you think?** Drop me an email and I will publish member opinions.



Even in the modern world with every conceivable tool with a plug on it, some things still have to be done the old-fashioned way, using skill and ‘grunt’ to get things done. Sometimes this can seem a real burden but it doesn’t have to be. Even if you don’t have a natural aptitude for hand work you can learn and improve your skills and turn hard work into something much more satisfying!



Two hard point saws (top), pull saw (middle) and traditional backsaw (bottom)

1. There are two basic types of saw—the traditional kind with a steel blade that can blunt easily if you aren’t careful and the modern hardpoint variety which can cut through a wider variety of materials, but is disposable when it does get blunt. Choose the former type for fine work such as cabinetmaking and the latter type for general carpentry.



2. The more you pay, the better the tool. Really top quality traditional saws can be quite expensive so they deserve looking after. They come in two basic types—with a ‘back’ to stiffen the blade for joint cutting and larger handsaws without a back, designed for panel cutting. There are many variants though for very specific tasks.



Use a bench hook to hold the workpiece

3. Look after your saw or saws. The teeth in particular are vulnerable on traditional pattern saws, so keep them safely stowed in a toolbox or cabinet. Stop sawblades from rusting with a light wipe of oil.

4. You can’t make accurate, neat cuts without marking out your cut lines correctly. A try square and marking knife or carpenter’s pencil sharpened to a ‘chisel edge’ is the usual method, but an engineer’s square is more accurate. Alternatively, a combination square is adjustable and very handy working on site.

5. Use proper work supports at a suitable height and fix the workpiece so it cannot move while you are sawing. If it keeps slipping around it can be tiring and the finished result rather inaccurate. On a workbench, use a bench hook.

6. Use a sharp chisel to form a slant to your cut line for the blade to sit in.



7. When sawing, place the blade on the waste side of the pencil line and draw the saw back to start the cut, then push forward and keep the back and forth motion going while sitting directly with your eyes down the sawn and marked line. Use your thumb or knuckle to keep the blade on track to start with, but don't get yourself cut!

8. Joints need to be precise to work properly when they lock together, such as a mortise and tenon for example. It is standard practice to start the cut from one side or face of a workpiece and then turn it around and cut

from the other so the cuts follow the marked lines and when they meet, any inaccuracy is therefore halved.



9. If you aren't very experienced don't set to work on your prize project without first doing some trial cuts in waste wood so you can gain some valuable practice learning how to saw properly.

10. Remember force is not needed, let the weight of the saw carry it through the wood and guide it as carefully as possible using hand and eye coordination— a key requirement of woodworking by hand rather than machine. With practice maybe you can produce joints this good!



Accurate joints look good  
and function well





**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Member #	Title	Firstname	Preferred	Surname
2690	Mr	Stephen		Hitcock
2777	Mr	John		De Vos
2794	Mr	Paul		De Belle
2995	Mr	Robert		Smart
3777	Dr	Cara		Danis
3792	Ms	Guyue	Hoo	Liu
4049	Mr	Brian		Lipscomb
3814	Mr	Alan		Piper
3893	Mr	Cody		Catford
4022	Mrs	Clare		Ward
4051	Mr	Siddharth		Jadeja
4050	Mrs	Kathy		Lipscomb
810	Mr	Don	Don	Hughes
2047	Mr	Robert	Bob	Taylor
2324	Mr	Robert	Bob	Young
2545	Mr	Johannes	Hans	Freke
2665	Mr	Paul		Collins



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[www.trendtimbers.com.au](http://www.trendtimbers.com.au)

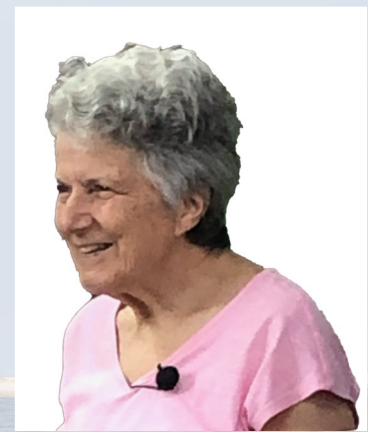
Opening Hours  
**ALL WELCOME!!**  
 Mon- Fri 8am-4pm  
 Sat 8am-11.30am  
 Closed  
 Public Holidays &  
 Long Weekends

# Maxi Day Report

**Presenter:** Viv Tabone

**Date:** Sunday 15th of October 2023

**Subject:** Conversion of Recyclable Plastics



October's Maxi Day was a little out of the box, or should I say bottle. Viv Tabone took on the challenging task of showing her fellow club members how to convert recyclable plastics into turning blanks and then turn them into a range of beautiful items, some of which also involved marrying turned plastics with turned timber. Pens, pendants, jewellery, trinket boxes and drink coasters are just some of the items she exhibited on the day.

Around the time of the Covid-19 lockdown, Viv was clearly getting bored and began experimenting with turning recyclable plastics into blanks for turning on her lathe. I'm sure she would agree that she has redefined the boundaries well beyond wood, polymers and acrylics to now include plastic.



Not just any old plastic though, some don't respond well to being melted and #3 plastics cast off dangerous fumes. So check carefully the recycling logo to ensure that it has the numeral 2.

## So how does she do it?

The process begins with getting friends and family to collect No. 2 plastics—usually bottles for different colours. Sort them into groups of the same colour and then after removing the labels, use a guillotine to

cut the plastic into smaller pieces about 20 to 25mm in size.

### How to remove labels

Most will just peel off but leave a small amount of adhesive attached to the plastic.

Some will be more difficult to remove. Some suggestions from the audience was to use turpentine, nail polish remover or hot water and detergent.

Images and text printed directly onto the plastic (ie no label) are almost impossible to remove.

Viv's advises is that you cut out and discard those printed and difficult to remove labels.

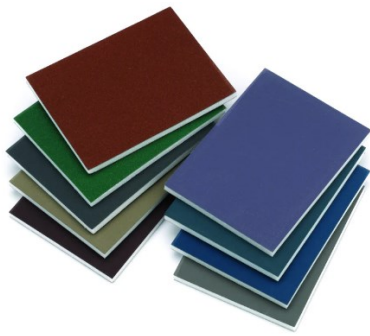
Through trial and error, Viv has worked out how many grams of plastic is needed for each of her many differently sized and shaped moulds. She then writes that number on the size of the mould for future reference.

Making the blank involves selecting a combination of different coloured plastics and, using a set of kitchen scales, weighing the correct amounts of the plastics before melting them together. Viv uses



a sandwich press to melt the plastics together.





'sand' that you use wet micro mesh.

To add shine, Viv uses burnishing cream or a cut and polish cream that you might otherwise use on car duco. This can also be followed by more Micro Mesh sanding.



## Some Finished Products



## YouTube Channel

Robyn Mahoney has produced a Youtube video on creating a marble look pencil holder using HDPE (No 2) plastics. It runs for a little over 10 minutes and can be found at:

[HDPE Marble Look Pencil Holder - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLzGqhSXR6M)

[https://youtube/jLzGqhSXR6M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLzGqhSXR6M)

### Members Welfare Report

The welfare of members and their families is important to our club. Please let me know if you or someone you know is unwell, or worse still, no longer with us.

Get Well Cards have been sent to the following Members and/Or Partners

**No-one on sick list this month.**

We wish everyone a Speedy Recovery.

Let me know at my email address: **brankahedges@aol.com**

or

Text me on: **0422 655 994**

If anyone has been missed, be assured that the good wishes and sympathies of our club are with you and your family.

Stay Safe ... Branka Hedges...Welfare Officer

# Turnfest 2024

22nd, 23rd and 24th March 2024

## Australia's Premier Woodturning Event

Registration includes all meals and 2 nights accommodation at the Sea World Resort, Gold Coast

Turnfest offers 3 days of woodturning demonstrations by many renowned woodturners and carving professionals from Australia and the world.

100 demonstrations and seminars are on offer where each rotation is repeated so attendees can choose from the different styles of turning, carving and pyrography. See the amazing instant gallery of pieces brought to the event by the attendees and presenters. Visit the onsite Tool Shop stocked with a large range of equipment including unique tools used by our international presenters which are not readily available in Australia.

The woodturning clinic will be held in the Tool Shop area on Thursday and Friday to entertain you while we turn the resort into a woodturning haven.

On the closing day, a draw will be held of works donated by many of the presenters and suppliers.



Piece by Ian Moss, Western Australia

## Presenters

### International Presenters

Curt Thebald USA, Kip Christensen USA  
Phil Irons England, Rebecca DeGroot USA, Rex Birmingham USA, Cynthia Carden USA,  
Mark Hancock England / USA

### Australian Presenters

Paul Barton Vic, Gary Field Qld, Len Mengel Qld,  
David Drescher Qld, Jim McConnachie Qld,  
Dave Barden NSW, Robert McKee Qld,  
Jan Palmowski NSW  
Plus Clinic Presenter: Ian Moss WA



## Non Turning Partners

While you may not be a woodturner, there are plenty of activities for you. There is a craft room or you can have a massage and laze around the pool. Partners have full access to Turnfest activities and all meals. All participants are charged the same price to keep the total price to a minimum so no one is disadvantaged.



# NOVEMBER SALE

EVERYTHING IS ON SALE! ONLINE OR IN-STORE

**LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS**  
THUR. 16TH FRI. 17TH SAT. 18TH



**SAT 18th** - FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE  
- EXTENDED TRADING, OPEN TILL 3PM

## schepbach

### PACKAGE DEAL

#### cs-55 - Circular Plunge & Mitre Cut Saw

**Package Includes:**

- cs-55 circular plunge cut saw (W875)
- 1 x 1400 Aluminium guide rail (W876)
- 1 x Guide Rail, Clamps & Stop Accessory Kit (W877)
- 1 x anti fall over saw clamp (W878)

- 160mm
- 1.2kW / 1.6hp 240v
- 55mm



**\$297** (W874)  
**SAVE \$114.40 OFF RRP**

#### TiGer 2000S - Wetstone Grinder

- 200mm stone & 225mm hone wheel
- 120rpm grinding stone speed
- 120W, 240V motor
- Includes straight edge jig, setting gauge & honing paste



**\$189** (W859)  
**SAVE \$31**

#### HS120 - Table Saw

- Ø315mm TCT blade
- 550 x 800mm work table
- 3hp, 240V motor
- Tilt arbor 45°



**\$594** (W443)  
**SAVE \$99**

#### Chisa 7.0 - Chisel Morticer

- 25mm chisel capacity
- 170 x 140mm table movement
- 220mm head stroke
- Magnetic safety switch
- 1hp 240V motor



**\$1,265** (W3465)  
**SAVE \$154**

#### hf-50 - Bench Top Router

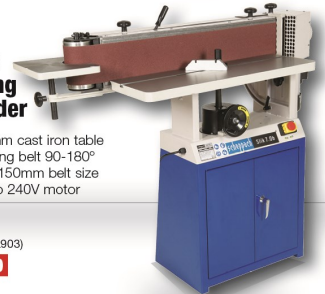
- 610 x 360mm cast iron table
- 11,500 - 24,000rpm variable speed
- 0 - 40mm spindle height
- 1.5kW / 2hp, 240V motor



**\$445** (W846)  
**SAVE \$50**

#### Slik 7.0b Oscillating Belt Sander

- 850 x 300mm cast iron table
- Tilting sanding belt 90-180°
- 2515mm x 150mm belt size
- 2.2kW / 3hp 240V motor



**\$1,749** (L903)  
**SAVE \$220**

### Dust Collectors

#### HA-1000

- 109cfm HPLV system
- 5 micron filter
- 50 litre tank
- 1.5hp, 240V motor



**\$195** (W885)  
**SAVE \$25**

#### HD12

- 680cfm LPHV system
- Large collection area
- 3/4hp, 240V motor
- Includes 4 in 1 reducer & 2M hose



**\$285** (W886)  
**SAVE \$34**

#### Deco XL - Variable Speed Scroll Saw

- 406mm throat capacity
- Variable blade speeds
- 125W / 240V motor



**\$295** (W350)  
**SAVE \$35**

#### OS-58 - Vertical Oscillating Bench Bobbin Sander

- 1/2", 3/4", 1", 1-1/2", 2" & 3"
- 370 x 290mm cast iron table
- Rotating & oscillating
- 450W / 240V motor



**\$285** (W843)  
**SAVE \$34**

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Specifications & Prices are subject to change without notification. All prices include GST and valid until 30-11-23



11\_WTN\_011123

## HINTS and TIPS.

Does your favorite tool all of sudden get out of shape and you start to lose control and you find it more difficult to use.

Then "**STOP**".

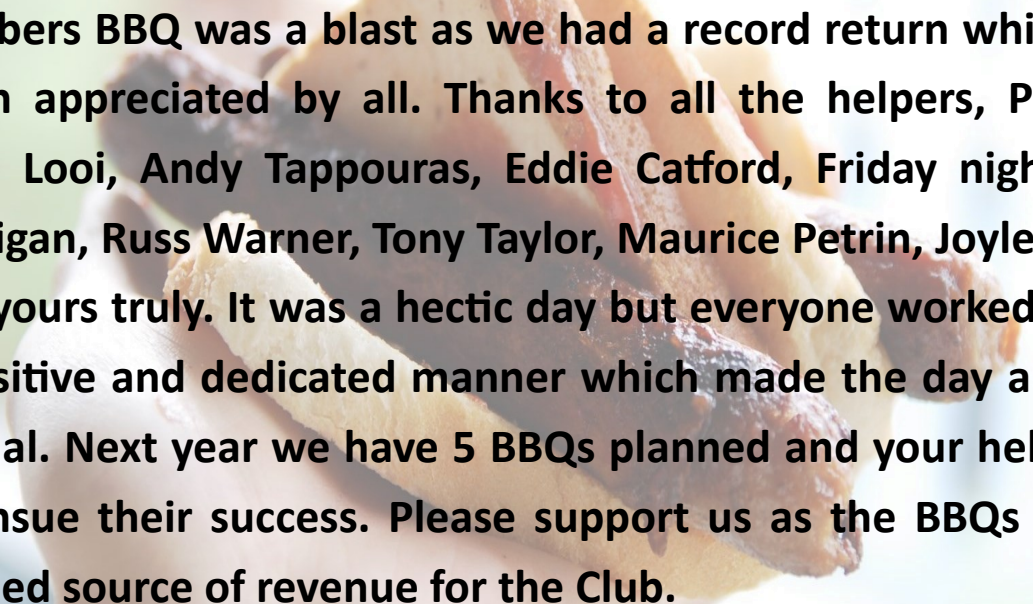
Stop chasing the problem by sharpening over and over again.

It doesn't work.

Take the time, reshape the tool to the correct shape or the one most suited to you, refresh by sharpening solving all the problems and you are again a happy turner.

Eddie C.

## **BUNNINGS BBQ**



**Octobers BBQ was a blast as we had a record return which was very much appreciated by all. Thanks to all the helpers, Phil Grebert, Chee Looi, Andy Tappouras, Eddie Catford, Friday night John, Bill Branigan, Russ Warner, Tony Taylor, Maurice Petrin, Joyleen Clapham and yours truly. It was a hectic day but everyone worked together in a positive and dedicated manner which made the day all that more special. Next year we have 5 BBQs planned and your help is needed to ensue their success. Please support us as the BBQs are a much needed source of revenue for the Club.**

## **FRIDAY TURNING**

**Starting in January 2024 the Club will be open from 8.30am until 4.00pm and 4:00pm until 9.00pm Don Nickson will be the Convener for the day session and John (Friday Night John) will be the Convener for the night session.**

**You will be able to turn all day and into the evening if you so choose but 2 separate fees will be in operation .. \$5 for day and \$3 for night.**

Take a look at our \*\*\* **NEW** \*\*\* website .....

**[www.westernsydneywoodturners.com.au](http://www.westernsydneywoodturners.com.au)**

Please feel free to leave a comment ....

- ◆ Replace super glue with a sanding sealer such as “Big Al’s Sanding Sealer”.
- ◆ Go to Step 3 of Small Spindles and continue.
- ◆ Do not use “Aussie Oil” for large spindles.

### **Finishing Larger Spindles**

(Say up to 150mm diameter. For example, vases; goblets and lamp stands).

Follow same procedure as with Small Spindles with the following changes.

- ◆ Sand only up to 1200 grit abrasive grade.
- ◆ Replace super glue with a sanding sealer such as “Big Al’s Sanding Sealer”.
- ◆ Go to Step 3 of Small Spindles and continue.
- ◆ Do not use “Aussie Oil” for large spindles.

### **Finishing Small to Large Bowls**

Finishing wooden bowls and face plate work is very different to spindle finishing. Here end grain as well as side grain and long grain must be handled. Bowl size can range from small to as large as the lathe will accommodate. Lathe speed will vary according to size and the part of the bowl being worked upon. For bowls up to 150mm diameter a sanding speed of 750rpm is adequate. Large bowls will be sanded at a slower speed. When sanding towards the outer part of the bowl, select a lathe speed for a bowl circumferential speed of around 6 metres per second.

To avoid circular sanding marks on bowls, use a “Rotary Sander”. These are available for use in an electric hand-held drill and handheld manual rotary sanders. Discs of hook and loop abrasive paper are available in 32mm; 50mm and 75mm diameters. Discs come in all grit sizes. Starting grit will depend on the wood finish “Off the Tool” but not usually less than 80 grit. Once tool marks are removed, work up through the grades to 600 or 800 grit.

As with large spindles apply a “Sanding Sealer” and allow to dry.

### **Smaller Bowls (up to 200mm diameter)**

Use a soft cloth to apply a wax paste abrasive such as “Big Al’s Ozzie Grit”. With the lathe stopped, use sparingly and rub it into the bowl surface using a circular motion. Pay particular attention to areas of end grain. Start the lathe and at a medium-high speed of around 1800rpm use the cloth with some pressure to work the paste abrasive into the bowl surface. The cloth will become hot. Remove any excess paste with a clean, soft cloth.

Increase the lathe speed to around 2500rpm and with a clean, soft cloth apply “Big Al’s Friction Polish” or similar to the bowl surface. Apply pressure to the cloth and work over the bowl surface until a glaze is seen on the cloth. Use the polish sparingly to avoid streaks in the finish. Apply a second and third coat if necessary.

Buff lightly with a soft woollen sock to improve the shine. Allow the bowl to cool and then remove it from the lathe.

### **Large Bowls (up to lathe capacity)**

Friction polish is not easily used on large bowls. It must be applied evenly to avoid streaks and dull patches. With large bowls the lathe speed must be varied depending on where the polish is being applied. Higher speed for near the centre and lower for the outer areas at the maximum bowl diameter.

For large bowls other sealers and finishes need to be considered. These include: -

- ◆ Wax finishes.
- ◆ Oil finishes.
- ◆ Lacquer finishes. Varnishes.
- ◆ Two-pack plastic finishes
- ◆ Acrylic finishes.

The application of these will vary and can be either wipe-on; brush-on or spray-on.

The selection of these will depend on the wood species; the bowl size and the intended bowl use. There is no One Size Fits All for large bowl finishes. Always apply these finishes in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

As Woodturners become more experienced they will make decisions on the most appropriate finishes for their work. **These preceding thoughts are intended as a guide only.** With improving skill, it is good to move outside your comfort zone and try new methods and finishes but always with consideration for **SAFETY**.

FINISHING

To a large extent wood finishing depends on **wood species; project size and intended use**. There is no “One Size Fits All” for finishing woodturning. The following is intended as a guide only. As the Woodturner gains experience they will develop their own favoured methods.

To start, there are a few Do’s and Don’ts to achieving a good finish.

- 1) Always turn with sharp tools. Tools should not have to be forced to cut.
- 2) Tools used in a cutting mode will leave a better “Off the Tool Finish”. Where a scraper tool must be used it should always have a sharp burr on the cutting edge (this makes it a cutting tool). Burrs blunt quickly and blunt burrs have to be removed and replaced frequently.
- 3) Avoid sub-surface damage of the wood fibres. These are hard to sand out and will show in the final finish.
- 4) Do not over sand the wood. This will preferentially remove the soft grain and leave an uneven surface. It will also over-heat the wood and may cause it to crack. Always try to get the best finish you can “Off the Tool”.
- 5) Choose the most appropriate finishing method for your project. There are many finishing methods and the following is only a sample. There are others and experience will show what works best for you.
- 6) Do not use abrasive paper that is worn out and blunt.

Finishing Small Spindles

(For example, wood pens; candle sticks and salt/pepper grinders)

- 1) Sand through the abrasive grades. Starting at say 180 grit and work up to 4000 grit. Coarser grades will leave deep and unnecessary scratches in a well-turned surface. These will then need removal with finer sanding. For grades 240 through 400, stop the lathe after each sanding and hand sand in the direction of the grain to remove the circumferential abrasive marks. For grades 1500 through 4000 use “MicroMesh” rubberised fabric. The lathe speed should be around 1000rpm for sanding up to grade 1200 and then 500rpm for the MicroMesh. Light sanding is all that is required when using all abrasive grades from 180 to 4000.
- 2) Remove all surface dust and apply two or three coats of thin “Super Glue” as a sanding sealer. Let dry between each coat. This will improve the final finish for frequently handled items and improve their durability. Depending on the diameter, use lathe speeds between 300rpm to 500rpm.
- 3) Apply a wax paste abrasive such as “Big Al’s Ozzie Grit” sparingly. Raise the lathe speed to around 2000rpm and vigorously rub it in with a soft cloth. Buff off any excess with a clean cloth.
- 4) Raise the lathe speed to around 2,500rpm and apply a friction polish such as “Big Al’s Friction Polish” or “Glow”. Use a small quantity applied with a soft cloth, a minimum of three times. Rub into a high heat until a glaze can be seen on the cloth. Buff lightly with an old wool sock to improve the shine.
- 5) Let the work cool before removing it from the lathe. This method is good for small items up to 60mm diameter and 250mm long.

Do not over heat the wood as this may cause cracks to develop. Only use super glue in this way in a well-ventilated area.

Finishing Larger Spindles

(Say up to 150mm diameter. For example, vases; goblets and lamp stands).

Follow same procedure as with Small Spindles with the following changes.

- ◆ Sand only up to 1200 grit abrasive grade.
- ◆ Replace super glue with a sanding sealer such as “Big Al’s Sanding Sealer”.
- ◆ Go to Step 3 of Small Spindles and continue.
- ◆ Do not use “Aussie Oil” for large spindles.

(continued on page 15)