

WesTurn News

The official organ of Western Sydney

Issue: 295

March 2026

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

We had a Training day last month which was well attended – thanks to all who came. Rod Brown demonstrated the techniques that are taught during a scheduled Training Course and explained why these techniques are used – thank you Rod. If you are think you might like to help out during a Training Course, please contact me by email, phone, in person, or leave me a note. I'd like to point out here that members of the training team are not necessarily "trainers" but assistants, so don't assume you need aeons of experience.

Please use the trailer booking sheet on the notice board if you intend using either of the trailers, so that we know when they are in use. Similarly, anytime the Club is being used outside of the routine Mon-Fri sessions, please write it up on the white board.

Lathe toolboxes are ready except for an internal paint job, which I will get to eventually, but it won't be a high priority. Please check the contents (listed on laminated sign) when you clean up and rectify any anomalies. Hammers are no longer part of the tool box – they go in the new tool cabinet.

The library has been cleaned up and room made for the books that were in the cabinet that collapsed recently – thanks to those members who made this happen.

If you experience an issue with any of the equipment, please make an entry in the maintenance book (and identify yourself) – this is the only way we get a full picture of machine performance. Similarly, if you find a problem and fix it – still put it in the book please. I have booked a company to service our drum sander and thicknesser. These machines are quite heavily used and need maintenance.

Those of you who have been a member long enough will be aware that the 2 person rule for the

Continued on Page 5. . .

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

Club Committee

President: Cindy Kersaitis (0408760131)

Vice Presidents: John Kostrzewa and George Manou

Secretary: Andrea McFarland

Treasurer: Andrea McFarland

Club Hours

Mon-Fri: 8:30am – 3pm….$5

Friday Nights: 5pm – 9pm….$5

Please note: these hours are approximate and the Club will not remain open when fewer than three members are present

Saturday Turning

Ladies Day: 2nd Saturday…$5

Contact: Robyn Mahoney

0411 845 776

robynmahoney@hotmail.com

Club Meetings

7pm second Tuesday of each month except January.

All members welcome



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



Today on a drive, I decided to go visit my childhood home. I asked the people living there if I could come inside because I was feeling nostalgic, but they refused and slammed the door in my face. My parents are the worst.

CLUB CONVENORS

Monday	Bob Young	Thursday	Eddie Catford
Tuesday	Bob Young	Friday	Don Nixon
Wednesday	Greg Sheath	Friday (PM)	John Kostrzewa

OTHER CONTACTS

Public Officer:
Sandra Ongley
sandraongley21@gmail.com

Grants Officer:
Sandra Ongley

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Rod Brown

Editor:
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Webmaster:
Matthew Keen
mkeen21@gmail.com

Training Co-Ordinator:
George Manou

Trainers: Graham Dawes, Rod Brown, Ron Devine, Cindy Kersaitis, Robyn Mahoney, George Manou, Don Nixon, Greg Sheath, Rob Stewart, & Bob Young.

Liaison and Contact Officers
Security— Eddie Catford
Insurance—David Searle
Craft Alive—Andrea McFarland
Linnwood House—Dave Matthews
Koi Society—David Searle
Bunnings BBQ—Andrea McFarland

Shop Manager:
Cindy Kersaitis

Equipment Maintenance Coordinator
Bob Young

Maintenance Officers: Rod Brown, Eddie Catford, Graham Dawes, Ron Devine, Manny Farrugia, Cindy Kersaitis, George Manou & Bob Young.

Welfare Officer:
Viv Tabone
0414557776
mrsparky1@bigpond.com

Membership Secretary:
Viv Tabone

Catering Coordinator
Vacant

Maxi Days
Vacant

Kitchen & Cleaning Supplies
Ian Frith

Ladies Day Coordinator
Robyn Mahoney

First Aid Supplies
Robyn Mahoney



Member #	Title	First Name	Surname
3599A	Mrs.	Jill	Catford
3662	Mr.	Benjamin	Reardon
3909	Mr.	Phillip	Grebert
3865	Ms.	Yo	Whybrow
4086	Ms.	Barbara	Davis
4084	Mr	Michael	Palmer

President's message continued . . .

bandsaw was never about safety – it was about preventing machine misuse. While this rule served its purpose at the time, it has run its course and at our February meeting we voted to remove this rule. Common sense however, must prevail – if you are cutting something big, make sure you have someone help you. Members must still be signed off in the bandsaw book before they can use it.

Bunnings BBQs. Our major fundraising event! Helpers are desperately needed – please put your name up on the notice board if you can help out. We just can't continue to cross our fingers and hope people will turn up to help. Many of the members who have been managing these BBQs have done it for years, are getting older, and understandably want to step back. I fully appreciate that many of us aren't able to help at fundraising events, so adding more events to the calendar just increases the burden and goodwill starts to wear thin. However, if you can think of alternative (not additional) ways to raise funds, by all means speak up.

Cindy

Joke of the Month

After getting all of the Pope's B luggage loaded into the limo, (and he doesn't travel light), the driver notices the Pope is still standing on the curb. He says , Your Holiness, Would you please take your seat so we can leave?'

The Pope says, 'they never let me drive at the Vatican, and I'd really like to drive today.'

'I'm sorry, Your Holiness, but I cannot let you do that. I'd lose my job! What if something should happen?' protests the driver, wishing he'd never gone to work that morning.

'Who's going to tell?' says the Pope with a smile.

Reluctantly, the driver gets in the back as the Pope climbs in behind the wheel. The driver quickly regrets his decision as the Pontiff floors it, accelerating the limo to 200 kph.)

'Please slow down, Your Holiness!' pleads the worried driver, but the Pope keeps the pedal to the metal until they hear sirens.

The Pope pulls over and rolls down the window as the cop approaches, but the cop takes one look at him, goes back to his motorcycle, and gets on the radio.

'I need to talk to the Chief,' he says to the dispatcher.

The Chief gets on the radio and the cop tells him that he's stopped a limo going 200 kph.

'So bust him,' says the Chief.

'I don't think we want to do that, he's really important,' said the cop.

The Chief exclaimed,' All the more reason!' 'No, I mean really important,' said the cop with a bit of persistence.

The Chief then asked, 'Who do you have there, the mayor?' The Cop replies: 'Bigger'.

The Chief says 'Is it a politician or the Prime Minister?'

Chief: 'A senator?' The Cop says: 'Bigger.'

'Well,' said the Chief, 'who is it?'

Cop: 'I think it's God!'

The Chief is even more puzzled and curious, 'What makes you think it's God?'

Cop: 'His chauffeur is the Pope!'

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

Nil

We wish everyone a Speedy Recovery.

A Sympathy card was sent this month to

nil

New members this month

Viv Tabone is the Welfare Officer. If you become aware of the need for get well and sympathy cards, please let her know at her email address:

mrsparky1@bigpond.com

or

Text her on: **0414 557 776**

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

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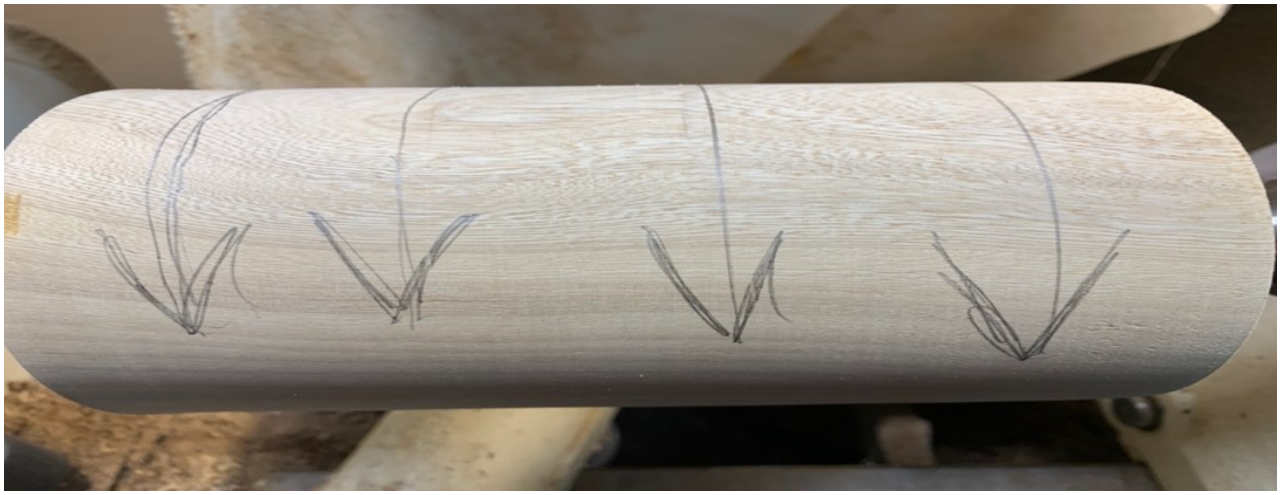
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Opening Hours
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Mon– Fri 8am-4pm
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Public Holidays &
Long Weekends



SANDING BEFORE POLISHING



Sanding has been a big discussion point recently and what has been evident is the original explanations of going through the grits in order, depending on the finish off the tool that being 120, 240, 320 then finish with 400. All this sanding in the direction indicated above, across the grain. In normal circumstances this is what most accept. However,…….



Discussions with members and non-members who have exceptionally high finishes indicate they put a little extra effort and continue with grades 400, 600 and 800. All while the lathe is stationary, in the direction of the arrows, along the grain. This not only gives a lot finer, smoother finish but also sands any high areas over the length of the work piece.

I have formulated this information on an average but maintaining basics with differences only in speed, paper brand and types of wood which all require minor adjustments to individual applications. Eddie C.

HAWKESBURY SHOW

https://hawkesburyshowground.com.au/

- **ENTRY FEE**: Open $3.00 per class/item, Junior $2.00 per class/item unless otherwise stated. Payment can be made by cheque (to Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association), EFTPOS, Credit Card, or cash ONLY. CASH not accepted through mail
- **ENTRIES CLOSE**: **TUESDAY 7th APRIL by 4.00pm**
- **NO LATE ENTRIES**
- **DELIVERY OF EXHIBITS:** to be delivered to the **PHILIP CHARLEY PAVILION** on **FRIDAY 17th April SATURDAY 18th April** between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm. **ENTER VIA GATE 2**
- **JUDGING: as per section details. SUNDAY 19th April MONDAY 20th April or TUESDAY 21st April** commencing at 9.00am.
- **PRIZES:** Open 1ST $6.00 2ND $3.00, Juniors 1st $5.00 2nd $2.00 unless otherwise stated, plus ribbons & cards
- **COLLECTION OF EXHIBITS: MONDAY 27th APRIL** between 10am & 4.00pm. Prize vouchers should be collected from the Steward and presented for payment either during the Show at the Cashier's Office or after the show at the Secretary's office by **FRIDAY 29th MAY 2026**
- **AGE CLASSES**: Exhibitor's age will be taken as on the **24th April 2026**

The President's Choice - Showcase of Excellence Award

In honor of Mrs. Lilian Matheson- Honorary Life Member of the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association and Life Member HDAA Auxiliary.
Lilian Matheson Perpetual Trophy retained by HDAA
Winner to receive a Rosette, Trophy and $100 donated by Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association

- Champion Exhibits from each category within Section 16 – Craft will be displayed within the Showcase of Excellence, and the winner will be selected by the President from these exhibits

WOODWORK

Please use entry form on page 36 for all Craft entries
Please see page 41 for closing dates and general entry conditions
CONTACT STEWARD: Stephanie Shaw 0488 406 662. **STEWARD** : Lee Gratton
ENTRIES CLOSE: on **TUESDAY 7th APRIL by 4.00pm**
ENTRY FEE: $3.00 per class/item, unless otherwise stated
Please read the Conditions of Entry

- Limit of **one entry per class except** where otherwise stated
- Articles must have been completed in the last twelve months.
- Please ensure name of exhibitor, if on work, is COVERED
- **Novice** is defined as an exhibitor who has never won first prize in a similar class.
- **Senior** is an exhibitor 70 years or over. Age will be taken from the 1st day of the Show- state DOB on entry form

- MAXIMUM size for ALL articles 60cms wide x 40cms deep x 60cms high (due to restricted display space - unless otherwise stated)
- MAXIMUM weight for all articles must not exceed 10 kgs. (W H & S)
- **OVERSIZE ARTICLES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

WOODWORK NOVICE
Class 16600 Woodwork Novice Turned article
Class 16601 Woodwork Novice Article made by hand
Class 16602 Woodwork Novice Scrollsaw piece
ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN WOOD WORKING BY A NOVICE ENTRANT – Certificate and $20 donated by Hawkesbury Woodcraft Co-Op Inc. in memory of Neville Durrington.
BEST EXHIBIT IN NOVICE WOODWORK Ribbon and $20 sponsored by Hawkesbury Woodcraft Co-op Inc.

WOODWORK Senior 70 yrs. & over - One entry per person per class NO laser or C+C work permitted.
Class 16603 Woodwork Senior Turned article
Class 16604 Woodwork Senior Article made by hand
Class 16605 Woodwork Senior Scrollsaw piece
BEST EXHIBIT IN SENIOR WOODWORK – Ribbon and $25 donated by The Hair Family

WOODWORK OPEN - One entry per person per class NO laser or C+C work permitted.
Class 16606 Woodwork Open Turned Article
Class 16607 Woodwork Open Article made by hand
Class 16608 Woodwork Open Scrollsaw piece
Class 16609 Woodwork Open Hand carved Article
Class 16610 Woodwork Open miniature piece or toy no bigger than 13cm x 13cm x 13cm (No kit)
Class 16611 Woodwork Open Box for any purpose.

PYROGRAPHY (2 entries are permitted)
Class 16612 Pyrography
Class 16613 Wood Inlay work
BEST EXHIBIT IN OPEN WOODWORK – Ribbon and $25 donated by The Hair Family

WOODWORK AND RESIN
Class 16616 Wood and Resin chopping board or bowl
Class 16617 Wood and Resin Lamp
Class 16618 Wood and Resin novelty Item
BEST EXHIBIT IN WOOD AND RESIN - RIBBON
CHAMPION EXHIBIT IN WOODWORK – Ribbon, medal & $50 donated by Mrs Del Swain
Please see Community Kindness Section on page 42 & 43 for additional woodwork classes



SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

Entries for 2026 closed while we were on our Christmas break. So the best I can suggest is you put a reminder in your diary for November 2026 to enter next year.

You can still go between 2nd and 13th of April to look at the amazing works from other entrants.

SAFETY HINT AND TIP.

Your body is **precious.** It needs **you** to look after it.



THINK AND ACT SAFELY.

Duck Boards



In a workplace where machines are installed at different working heights it is necessary to have a means for the operator to use the machine in a comfortable manner.

Not over stretching or leaning in an awkward manner while working on the machine

A common method is the use of “Duck Boards” While these are very useful and successful they themselves are a safety hazard and have been known to cause trips on the raised corners.

The workshop has adopted the dowl mounted tennis balls located on the corners highlighting an existing danger area and should be treated with caution.

SANDING FOR WOOD TURNING

Original Article by Rod Stewart (2015)

Sanding is the generic term for the treatment of the wood surface with sheet abrasives after turning with cutting tools and before the surface finish is applied. The purpose of sanding is to remove the small ridges and marks left by chisels, gouges and scrapers. Sanding is not intended for the shaping of woodwork. The degree of sanding required is dependent on the skill of the wood turner and the end use of the work being produced. A turned garden peg does not require the same finish as a turned art object.

Sanding is influenced by the following

- **Timber Selection.** Some timbers turn and sand better than others. Look for medium to hard close grained timbers. Soft and open grained timbers such as pine can easily be over sanded resulting in an undulating surface with the winter growth ring standing above the softer summer growth.

- **Turning Method.** Turning can bruise the sub surface timber fibres as the surface is cut. Some timbers are more prone to this than others particularly when cutting end grain. Bruised areas of the surface will reflect light differently to the remainder when it is polished. Always try to turn with a cutting action and where this is not possible use a sharp (IE fresh burr) scraper with light strokes across the surface. The removal of bruised fibres by sanding is difficult.

- **Turning.** Always turn to minimise the amount of sanding that will be required. Try to achieve the best finish off the tool that you can. Sanding is tedious and the less that is required the better. If sanding can be minimised it will help preserve the turned shape and any sharp detail work. Side grain will generally sand more quickly than end grain on bowls and platters.

Abrasive Papers and Cloths

- **Grit Size.** Abrasive papers and cloths are available in a wide range of grit sizes. Typically from 60 (very course) to 12,000 (very fine). From 100 to 1,200 should suite all wood turning with 100 to 400 being the most commonly used. □

- **Type.** Look for papers and cloths with Aluminum Oxide coatings. Those marked "open coat" or "non clog" are the best for wood turning. These finish at 400 grit and for finer grits use Silicone Carbide (wet and dry) coated abrasives. These are commonly available in 600, 800 and 1,200 grit sizes and even finer can be purchased from specialty suppliers.

- **Abrasive Pads.** "Mirlon" market a range of non woven abrasive pads for fine finishing in the following grit sizes. Red colour for 360 grit (aluminum oxide); grey colour for 1500 grit and olive for 2500 grit. These last two are silicon carbide. 3M also market abrasive pads. These are useful for finishing up after abrasive papers and can be rinsed before reuse.

- **Micro-mesh.** "Micro-mesh" makes a range of abrasive rubberised cloths for super fine

finishing from 1,500 to 12,000 grit sizes. These are only applicable for very hard timbers (IE Gidgee) and will polish the timber surface in preparation for an oil finish. Use "Micro-mesh" with a sponge rubber sanding pad. 15

- **"Working through the grits"** is a term used to describe sanding timber. The first grit to use is dependent on the turners finish "Off the tools". It is not always desirable to start with 60 grit. Typically it is 100 grit and with a good turned finish you can start at 180 or 240 grit. This saves time and does not damage an already well turned surface. Each grit size is designed to remove the scratch marks left by the abrasive one grade more coarse. If starting with 100 grit follow this with 120, 180, 240, 320, 400 grit and on up until the desired finish is achieved. This will vary with timber grain and hardness. As the finer grit sizes are being used, surface defects may be exposed (bruising and scratches being most common). When this occurs go back two or three grades and work them out. This will not always be possible with bruising as it can extend well below the surface. In these cases consider returning the object.

- **Lathe Speed.** This depends on the diameter of the work. The peripheral speed should be around 4.5 to 5 metres per second. For most club turnings it will fall in the 300 to 700 rpm range. Even lower speeds can be beneficial for the finer abrasives. Using a speed that is too fast will cause clogging of the abrasive and burning of the timber and fingers. If the abrasive is too hot to hold comfortably the speed is too fast. Hot sanding will cause the timber surface to dry rapidly and show surface cracks and in extreme cases crack thin turnings.

Abrasive Use.

- **Cloth Tapes.** These are useful for applying even pressure around a larger section of the work circumference. This helps maintain the round shape when sanding side and face grain.

- **Abrasive Sheets.** Typically paper, (280 mm x 230 mm) cut these into quarter sheets and fold in three from a short side to form a pad. This will provide some finger protection from heat and have edges for sanding into fine detail. Light to medium pressure is all that should be required. The pad can be curved or rolled to sand inside coves and tight curves. Take care not to lose any crisp turned details.

- **Blunt Abrasives.** When abrasive becomes blunt, discard it and get a new piece. Do not apply more pressure or use it in place of finer grades.

- **Finger Risk.** Do not wrap abrasives around fingers and put them into small spaces. Always ensure that if the abrasive grabs it will be pulled away from fingers and cause no injury. Make an abrasive holder for use where there would otherwise be a risk of injury.

- **Hand Sanding.** When sanding between centres finish up the last three or four grits by hand sanding along the grain with the lathe stopped. This will remove the last of the visible circumferential scratch marks.

- **Rotary Sanding.** Rotary sanding can be beneficial in preventing circumferential scratches, particularly on bowl and platter work. Use either a hand held rotary tool or

electric variable speed drill. Abrasive disks in all grades are available in 50 mm dia. and 75 mm dia. sizes for hook and loop attachment to foam rubber pads on the hand tool or drill. With the lathe running at normal sanding speed apply the hand tool so that the abrasive rotates. With the drill, apply the abrasive rotating at a slow speed in the opposite direction to the timber rotation. Brush off dust between grit grades. 16

- **Reverse Sanding.** With lathes equipped to run in reverse this can be used to produce a finer finish by removing grain fibres that have been laid over by the first sanding. Ensure that the turning will not come loose on the lathe. See that chucks and inserts are secured with lock screws when operating the lathe in reverse.

- **Aids to Good Sanding.** Some timbers will sand well and others not so well. In this latter case the following are beneficial in achieving a good surface.

    1. Wet the timber surface to raise the grain and sand when it is completely dry.

    2. Use a Cellulose sanding sealer before sanding to hold the grain. These are fast drying and can be applied on the lathe.

    3. Use thin Shellac as a sanding sealer. This is less expensive and will sand cleanly.

    4. Use a crack or grain filler. These can be purchased in varying colours or made using timber dust and glue.

Sanding Safety

- Be aware of your own and others sensitivity to some timber dusts. It is a natural substance and will contain chemicals that cause allergic reactions in some people. This can be by skin contact and by breathing fine dust in the air. People can become more sensitised to timber dust with each exposure until it becomes critical. There is much information regarding dust allergies in literature and on the internet.

- Where dust extraction is available at the lathe always use it.

- Where there is no dust extraction use a powered filter hood or at least a good quality dust mask.

- Always remove the tool rest before sanding. If this is not done fingers can be pulled into the gap while sanding and injured.

Further Reading and Practice

There are many good Wood Turning manuals available that cover sanding for turners such as those published by Mike Darlow; Peter Child and others.

There are many web sites that have guidance on sanding for wood turners such as :- www.woodcentral.com/russ/finish2

As in all skills, practice is required to become proficient. Well finished timber shows the grain to best effect. These notes are based on my own experience and some research. I make no claim that they contain the only sanding methods for wood turners.



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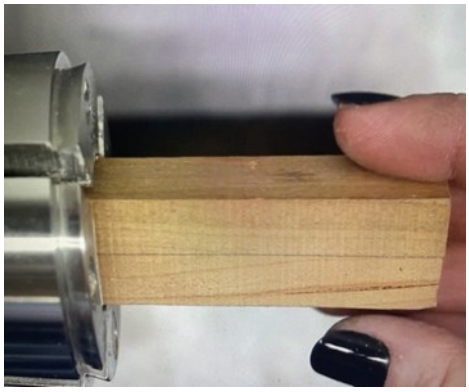
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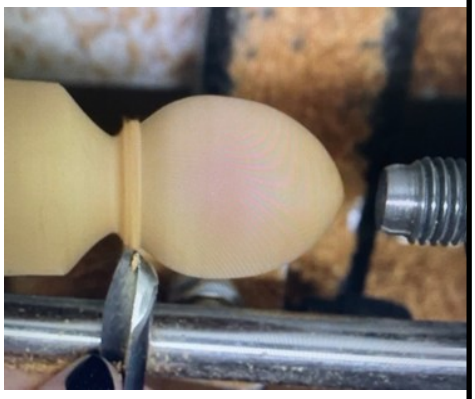
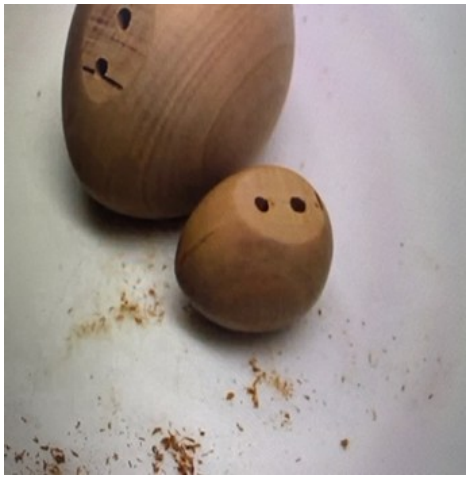
Item 69 EASTER BUNNIES MARCH 2026

In keeping with the egg theme, it might be interesting to incorporate it with “EASTER “and the Easter Bunny.

As this is a simple exercise in making 2 eggs and sanding flat areas to accommodate the gluing of the body and head together and a base to sit on.

Make an oval piece from two pieces that have been either glued, paper joined or double-sided taped together. When separated they will form the shape of the ears. Not forgetting a ball for the tail now lay all the pieces out and glue them together forming the “EASTER BUNNY”








Note. As in all professions there are many and varied opinions and ways of doing things. This is true of wood turning. These articles are the results of my reading article publications. A special thanks to You Tube demonstrator Rebecca De Groot Eddie C.