

WesTurn News

The official organ of Western Sydney

Issue: 297

May 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 lovely weather for the stall at Toongabbie Public School (except for a shower that lasted all of about 60 seconds). While we didn't raise a huge amount on charity bowls, it was a really good PR exercise and it was good company. The next Bunnings BBQ is coming up soon, so please help out and put your name on the sign up sheet if you can commit some time. Unlike the stall at Toongabbie, please remember that this event raises money for our Club.

I was asked to publish a list of events our Club is attending for the year which was a great idea – I should have it on the notice board for you this week, but in short they consist of Bunnings BBQs, Linnwood House, and the Koi show.

We have a fully subscribed Training Course coming up, so it appears that membership recruitment is doing well. Membership forms are available at the front desk and are also downloadable from our website. As requested, I've already put membership renewal forms at the front desk.

A mortiser was donated to the Club and it was decided at the April meeting that this would be auctioned off to members. There is a reserve of $40 on this, and I will have a box on the front desk for putting in a bid. We will draw this at the June meeting.

Please remember to record which lathe you use when you write your name in the daily attendance book.

Cindy

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



Artist: Guy Dutoit





Cutting Inlays with a laser

Artist: John Douglas

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
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Sandra Ongley

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Rod Brown

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augoodtime@hotmail.com

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

A Square Alternative

James Duxbury

As I approach upper middle age, I am finding that between woodturning and arthritis my wrists are really starting to hurt. And since I do a lot of turning and do not intend to slack off, I have been experimenting with tool handle shapes that might be easier for me to grip. It is amazing how many possibilities there are between shapes and sizes and the difference they make when held.



I do not like the feel of metal handled turning tools or on any other equipment handles. Now my lathes all have wooden handles where possible. My wooden handles are larger in diameter, easier to grip, warm to the touch, enhancing, and in many cases slightly longer, requiring less pressure to operate them. This may not sound like much but at the end of a long day I feel a real difference.

As a woodturner/woodworker I have the ability and equipment to make any shape or size wooden tool handle imaginable.

My first thought was larger diameter handles would give more torque with the same amount of pressure but over about 32mm I find my fingers do not wrap around enough to get a good grip. These would be very hard to use for any length of time.

Then realizing that round shaped handles are no longer working well for me, I experimented with different shapes. Octagon and hexagon feel, to me, to be too round. Triangular felt better and I thought that would be the answer but then I tried square. Wow! Can that be?

A woodturner with square handled tools? Imay have to hide them from other turners but they sure feel good --- and



they will not roll off the lathe bed.

Next, I tried various square sizes and I am sure we are all different but for me 30 mm square was perfect. 32mm is not much larger and 28mm not much small but I felt a huge difference in my hand. Amazing what a very small deviance can make for a perfect grip size. You have to experiment which, being square is easy to do on a table saw. My first sample of this

square tool was made from a length of old pine timber. Works great!



Materials required: One piece of timber 30mm x 30mm x 254mm long, an unhandled tool, and a metal ferrule about 22mm ID x 19mm long.

Start by drilling a hole with the aid of a pillar drill or by hand, in the centre of one end, the size of the tool shank.

Mount the handle on the lathe, between centres, with the cone on the tailstock inside the drilled hole.

Turn a tenon to fit snugly inside the brass ferrule and round off both ends.



Place the ferrule on a flat surface, insert the handle tenon and with a mallet tap on the handle end until it seats all the way.

Clamp the tool in the padded jaws of a vise, slip the handle onto the tool and again tap it home.



Now in only a very few minutes the square handle is completed. No finish is



used.

I hope this saves some other turner's wrists and extends their years of turning. It sure is helping me.

Association of Woodturners Great Britain

(AWGB.CO.UK)

This page has been obtained from the AWGB quarterly magazine "Revolutions" with permission and in the interest of promoting and improving the skills of woodturners.

I would like to thank, Bryan Milham and Sheila Hughes of AWGB for making this possible.

I also acknowledge James Duxbury for his excellent article.





Member #	Title	First Name	Surname
2629	Mr	Lawrence	Mifsud
2824	Mr.	Andy	Tappouras
2875	Mr.	David	Searle
3596	Mr.	Lawrence	Benjamin
3616	Mr.	Rodney	Brown
3793	Mr.	Gregory	Sheath
3898	Mrs.	Sandra	Ongley
4025 A	Mrs	Gail	Stewart
4068S	Mr.	Haslehurst	Max
4099	Mr	Mario	Gentile

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Opening Hours
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Public Holidays &
Long Weekends

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

Kim Anderson

We wish everyone a Speedy Recovery.

A Sympathy card was sent this month to

Ian Frith whose daughter passed away

New members this month

Makota Disbray, Bruce Comerford, Vinod Ranachandran and Maree MacDermid

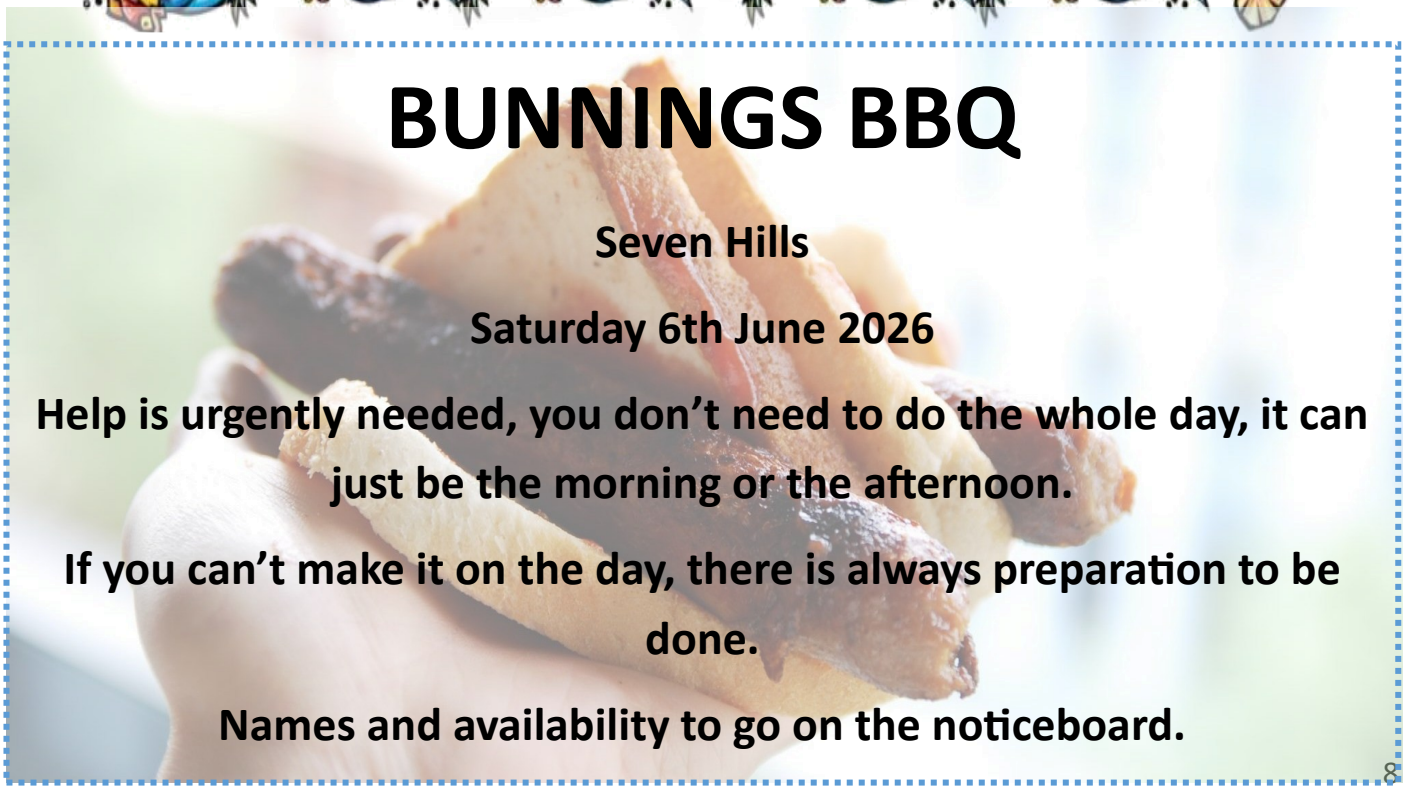
Viv Tabone is the Welfare Officer. If you become aware of the need for get well and sympathy cards, please let her know at her email address:

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.



BUNNINGS BBQ

Seven Hills

Saturday 6th June 2026

Help is urgently needed, you don't need to do the whole day, it can just be the morning or the afternoon.

If you can't make it on the day, there is always preparation to be done.

Names and availability to go on the noticeboard.

A Jig to make Tapered Rings

By Adrian Barendregt

Source: Sydney Woodturners Guild

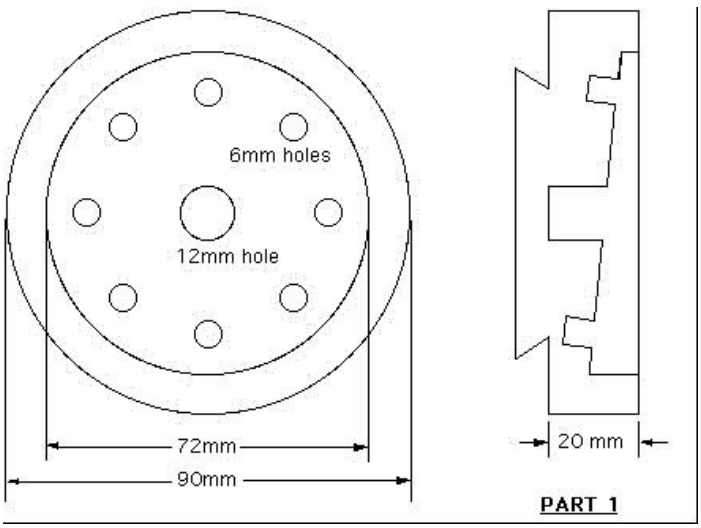
The jig consists of two parts, and rather than telling you how to make one I will make the drawings as clear as I possibly can. I am sure that after you study the drawing, you will have little trouble making this jig. I will however, give a few pointers to make sure that you do it right the first time.
Make the jig out of dense hardwood. I used Melaleuca and Turpentine

1. Make sure to drill the location holes at right angles to the face of the jig

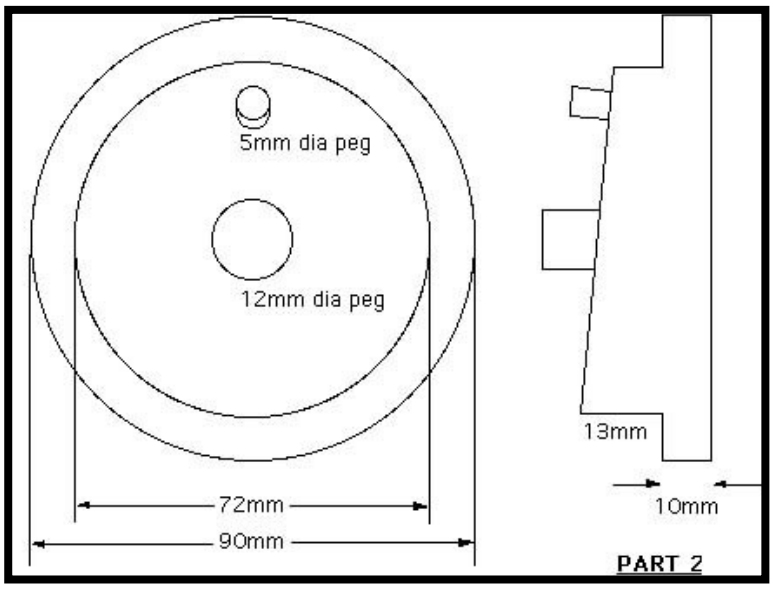
2. All measurements are in mm

3. When part 2 is located in part 1, and by rotating part 2 you will get a different angle every time you put the location pin into the next hole. The reason for this is that you are now in a position to install a blank to the face of part 2 at the angle most suitable for the job you want to do. Say the blank you have is 150 mm in diameter and 25 mm thick. You can now make a ring 25 mm in diameter at the thick end and 10 mm in diameter at the thin end. This can be done by selecting the correct angle. You must now bring the tailstock up and put the live centre in the centre of the blank and apply a fair bit of pressure, keeping in mind that the blank is held on with pressure only

4. Now turn on the lathe and dress the face of the blank to an even surface but only in 30 mm from the outside diameter of the blank. Before you remove the blank you will have to mark it in relation to the jig. Now turn the blank over in the same position and do the same on the other side of the blank .It is a good idea to drill a small hole through the centres so you will have exactly the same centre on the other side. Hey, that was easy. The next thing you must do is to mark a new centre for the inside diameter of the ring 5 mm towards the thin end of the ring so you have 10 mm on the thin end and 20 mm on the thick end. Now take part 2 of the jig away, and put the blank against part 1 again. With the live centre in the centre of the inside diameter and applying



a fair bit of pressure, with a thin parting tool push it just short of halfway through the blank. Do the same on the other side of the blank .I sure hope you understand all this. Now comes the tricky part



5. Put back part 2 into part 1 at the same angle and the mark on the blank in the same position as before now bring the live centre back and put it in the centre of the outside diameter, again applying a fair bit of pressure

6. Now turn the lathe by hand and you can see that only the thick end of the blank will come around once every revolution. If you turn on the lathe and look over the top of it you will notice a shadow. That is the part you will round off very carefully with a small detail gouge. It is a good idea to stop the lathe frequently and examine what you just have turned. Next take the pressure off the tailstock and turn the blank only to the next mark on the jig [do not change the angle on the jig]. Again turn the lathe by hand to make sure that the part you are rounding is coming around at the correct time making sure that you only turn the shadow you see. You have to do this until you have been completely around the job. Make sure that you do not lose the mark on the blank. Do the same on the other side. The next thing you will have to do is the inside of the ring exactly the same as the outside but you have to make sure that the tailstock is in the centre of the inside diameter. You go around the inside on both sides the same as you did with the outside

7. After this is complete put the job back on the lathe with part 2 of the jig removed and it is now time to do some sanding on both sides. Then the next thing you have to do is to part it off. I don't have to tell you to be careful with that because you know. A little bit of hand sanding where you parted off, and you have now completed the project, hopefully successfully.

8. The only thing left to do is to cut the ring in half, and you have two elephant trunks---- well sort of

9. The thing I found the most challenging was to cut the shadow but after several failures it became easier







ASK!

It is important to be conscious that there are many experienced and well-informed members all with their own stories of making the wrong decision simply for NOT asking before buying lathes, wood or tools. So……

If you are thinking of buying a lathe, **ASK** several members what they think is the best.

If you are thinking of buying a set of tools, **ASK** before buying.

If you are buying a sharpening jig set, **ASK** before buying.

If you are buying glue, sanding sealer, friction polish, super glue, sandpaper, pen kits or for that matter anything from the shop **ASK**.

If you are having trouble with using any tool, **ASK**

If you are having problems in sharpening a tool, **ASK**.

If you don't understand how something was explained **ASK** another member.

If you see someone doing something that is new to you **ASK**.

If you are concerned about using a machine, **ASK**.

If you don't know which wood is dangerous **ASK**.

If you are not sure how to mount a work piece, **ASK**.

If you don't. know if there are special tools available **ASK**.

If you want to make up a kit, **ASK** what extras are needed.

As you can see this is a never-ending topic and can only suggest that it doesn't matter what you are doing or how long you have been doing it there is always something new going on and it also may need some explanation, even to the more advanced members.

THE MESSAGE HERE IS ASK. INFORMATION IS FREE AND WE ALL HAD TO LEARN. SO ASK, ASK, ASK AND ASK AGAIN AND AGAIN.

EDDIE C.

Toongabbie Public School Fete











Photos courtesy of Milli Lenehan.

Story: See Presidents report from Cindy

SAFETY HINT AND TIP.

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



THINK AND ACT SAFELY.

Some timber when being used can affect different people.

These effects include rashes, allergies and respiratory problems. To address this there is a red light above the desk that MUST be turned on. If you intend to turn any of the timbers listed below you must advise the convenor of the day. Turn on the light and have discussions with the members who have had previous problems. If a suitable arrangement can't be made, then the convenor will decide if that wood can be used on that day. If it can't then arrangements made for a time convenient to both parties.

Timbers include but not limited to……

Silky Oak, Paduk, Grass Tree, Red Cedar, Mackay Cedar, Black Bean, Pinecones, Banksia and Nuts.

A more extensive list is on the notice board. Eddie C.

Joke of the Month

Three engineers and three accountants are traveling by train to a conference. At the station, the three accountants each by tickets and watch as the three engineers buy only one ticket.

“How are you going to travel with only one ticket?” asks an accountant.

“Watch and you’ll see,” answers one of the engineers.

They all board the train, and the accountants take their seats, while the three engineers cram into a restroom and close the door behind them.

Shortly after the train departs, the conductor coes around to collect tickets. He knocks on the restroom door and says, “Ticket, please.” The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges wth a ticket in hand. The conductor takes the ticket and moves on.

The accountants are impressed by this clever trick. On the way back from the conference, they decide to try the same tactic and save soe money. When they get to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip.

To their astonishment, the engineers don’t buy a ticket at all.

“How are you going to travel with a ticket?” asks one of the accountants.

“Watch and you’ll see,” answers a engineer.

They board the train. The three accountants cram into one restroom , and the three engineers cram into another restroom nearby.

Shortly after the train departs, one of the engineers leaves his restroom, walks over to the restroom where the accountants are hiding, knocks on the door, and says, “Ticket please.”



Membership fees are due by 1 July 2026.

What do you need to do?

1. Complete the Membership Renewal Form which is available on the clubs website at the bottom of the Membership and Fees page (4th menu item). Alternatively, get a form from the desk near the sign-in book.
2. Payment can be made in various ways—instructions are on the form.
3. Return the form and proof of payment to the Treasurer

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11 Valentine St, Kewdale
(08) 9373 9999

Adelaide
Unit 11/20 Cheltenham Parade, Woodville
(08) 9373 9969

Specifications & Prices are subject to change without notification. All prices include GST and valid until 30-06-26

THE BACK PAGE

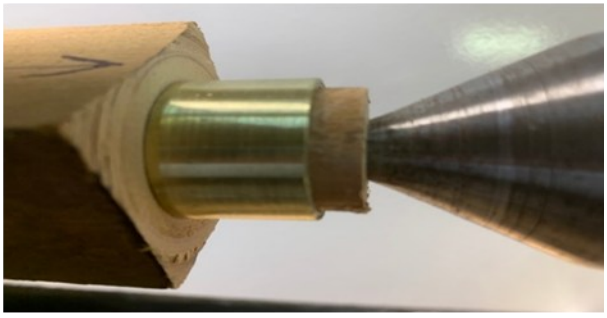
Item 71 Making a Turning Handle May 2026





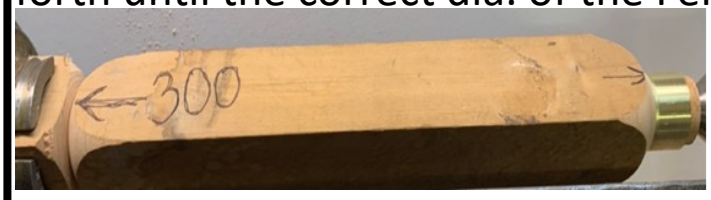
Mount a piece of hard wood 35/40 square x 350mm long in a chuck with the other end having been marked with a center.





Measure the tang diameter or across the flats if the tang is rectangular in shape, drill a hole accordingly 50mm deep.

Turn round end on the tail stock end. Turn the spigot to suit the selected Ferrel. At this point the tailstock can be removed back and forth until the correct dia. of the Ferrel can be determined without





Start to shape the handle to a template if you have one or alternative have your most favorite tool on hand and copy its shape the best you can.

Sand, polish or lacquer to your preference. Part off and fit tool.

Making handles can be made in as many ways as there are turners. Once the wood is mounted using this method it is not removed until it is complete always keeping everything on the center line.

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.

Eddie C