

Western Sydney Woodturners Inc

Twin Gums Retreat, Corner Northcott Road and Diane Drive

PO Box 4008, Lalor Park NSW 2147

Web Site:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2026

You would have all received an email about our Clean Up day on Sunday 13th September. I appeal to you to help out in any way you can, even if it's only for a short period on that day. We will be providing afternoon tea, but please bring your own lunch. Any cleaning tools (bucket, sponges, etc.) you can bring to use on the day will make things go a lot faster rather than relying on just those in the Club rooms.

I also appeal to you (again) to chip in and help out at the Bunning BBQs. Our next one is the October long weekend.

Maintenance now falls under the purview of the two Vice Presidents. Andrew will be responsible for allocating any maintenance work required within the main Club room, with Maurie responsible for the allocation of maintenance work in the container, garage and grounds. Any maintenance issues need to be written into the book at the front desk, the problem clearly described and identify yourself. Andrew, Maurie and myself will check the book each time we attend the Club. The intention is that Andrew and Maurie will determine who to ask to attend to the work required, rather than it being somewhat chaotic with some members going off and doing the work independently. We often undertake these jobs with the very best of intentions, but sometimes we don't fully understand what has already been actioned or ordered, what spares we have in stock, or if there is already a predetermined plan in anticipation of a particular problem. I also reiterate that under no circumstances is anyone other than a fully licensed electrician to undertake any electrical work as this is against the law – absolutely no exceptions at all.

The tail stock shaft and spindle for Lathe M is going to an engineering company for repair work. Please don't move these parts from one lathe to another – the only way we can gauge the ones starting to giving trouble is by the Lathe identification. If they are moved around, we have no idea which tail stock is which. If you experience problems with the one you are using, describe the problem in the maintenance book please.

The monthly challenge has been hugely successful – thanks to Don for starting this. The members that take on the challenge enjoy it immensely!

Cindy

Club Committee

President: Cindy Kersaitis (0408760131) (JP)

Vice Presidents: Andrew Heffernan, Maurie Knight

Secretary: Andrea McFarland

Treasurer: Andrea McFarland

Club Meetings

7pm second Tuesday of each month except January.

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

CLEAN UP DAY

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

9am to 3pm

Please come along and help.

Bring Lunch – Afternoon Tea Provided

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



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

Librarian:
Rod Brown

Editor:
Bob Ryan
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:
Milli Lenehan
members@westrnsydneywoodturners.com.au

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
879	Ms	Anna	Dawes
3601	Ms	Leonie	Singh
3655	Mr	Malcolm	Harrild
3885	Mr	Angelo	Cella-Sartor
4021	Dr	Silvana	Sarmento-Leite
4087	Miss	Kathryne	Honor
4107	Mrs	Marika	Hager

Welcome to new members

Ken Kersaitis, Pritesh Sharma, Rocky Pizario, Bronwyn Elkin and Andrew Malin

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

Rohan McCardle

We wish everyone a Speedy Recovery.

Sympathy card/s sent this month

No cards sent 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.

Stay Safe ... Viv….Welfare Officer

Forstner Bit Usage – A guide



Using a Forstner bit requires the right technique to cut clean, flat-bottomed holes safely. Because these bits guide themselves using their outer rim rather than a center tip, they must be used carefully.

Forstner bit drill speeds depend heavily on the size of the bit and the hardness of the wood, running much slower than standard twist bits to prevent dangerous heat buildup.

Recommended Speeds by Bit Diameter

- **8–15 mm (small bits):** 1,200–1,800 RPM
- **16–25 mm (medium bits):** 800–1,200 RPM
- **26–35 mm (standard cabinet hinges):** 500–900 RPM (600–800 RPM is the industry standard for 35 mm hinge cups)
- **38–50 mm (large bits):** 300–600 RPM
- **50 mm and above (extra-large):** 200–400 RPM (a drill press is strongly recommended) [1]

Adjusting for Wood Hardness

- **Softwoods (Pine, Plywood):** Run at the higher end of the ranges above.
- **Hardwoods (Oak, Walnut):** Run at the lower end of the ranges to prevent burning the wood and ruining the bit's rim. [1, 2, 3]

Tips for Clean Drilling

- **Look for curls:** Proper speed and feed pressure produce actual wood curls, not fine dust. Dust means you are running too fast or pressing too hard.
- **Clear the chips:** Lift or back out the bit every 1/8 to 1/4 inch (or every 5–10 mm) to clear chips and lower friction heat.
- **Let the bit work:** Do not force or push down hard; Forstner bits cut via the sharpness of their outer rim. [1, 2, 3, 4]

AU hardwood speed adjustment. The RPM table above is based on US/EU hardwoods (oak, maple, walnut — Janka hardness 4–6 kN). Australian hardwoods are significantly harder: jarrah Janka 8.5 kN, ironbark Janka 16 kN, spotted gum 11 kN, blackbutt 9.1 kN. Reduce the table RPM by approximately 30% for AU hardwood work. Direct AU practitioner figure: "*a 2-inch Forstner in jarrah needs about 175 RPM, not 250.*" The harder the timber, the slower the bit must run to

control rim friction and prevent burn. Specialty AU hardwoods like gidgee respond better to **well-sharpened HSS** than to cheap TCT — the premium European HSS Forstners (Famag Bormax 3, Colt Maxicut) outperform budget carbide-tipped bits in these abrasive dense timbers.

The peck cycle rule. For Forstner holes deeper than the cutting wing depth (typically 25mm into hardwood, 30mm into softwood), use a peck-drilling cycle: drill 5–10mm, retract fully, clear chips from the hole, drill another 5–10mm, retract again. Chips packed against the rim cutters cause friction heat that burns the wood and dulls the edges. Direct quote from Sawmill Creek Woodworking Community: "*Go in no more than the depth of the bit then back out, and gently run a piece against the turning bit to knock the chips out.*"

The "let the bit do the work" rule. Forstner bits cut on their sharp rim, not by brute force. If you need to push hard, something is wrong — usually a dull bit or RPM too high. Forum-validated direct quote from LumberJocks: "*Forstner bits should not require any great amount of pressure — if they do, something is wrong.*" Reduce RPM, clear chips, check bit sharpness.

Here a few links worth a look:-

https://www.popularwoodworking.com/tools/forstner-bits/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFe--8Uah_A&t=64s

Cheers,

Andrew Heffernan

FORSTNER BIT RPM GUIDE

SIZE IMPERIAL	SIZE METRIC MM	HARDWOOD RPM	SOFTWOOD RPM
1/4"- 3/8"	6.35 - 9.525	800	2400
1/2"- 5/8"	12.7 - 15.875	500	2400
3/4"- 1"	19.05 - 25.4	500	1500
1 1/8"- 1 1/4"	28.575 - 31.75	250	1000
1 3/8" - 2"	34.925 - 50.8	250	500
2 1/8" - 4"	53.975 - 101.6	250	250

SAFETY HINT AND TIP: SEPTEMBER 2026.
THINK AND ACT SAFELY.
LEAVING MACHINES RUNNING



Your body is **PRECIOUS.** It needs **YOU** to look after it.

Over the last couple of months, I have noticed, and members have bought it to my attention, where machines, lathes, band saws, bench and tool sharpening grinders have been left running after being used.

It is bad enough to leave a lathe for a moment when you are distracted or turn around to change tools but then it gets worse when you stop turning to have a casual discussion with another member

This problem is not restricted only to the above-mentioned machines. It has been reported to have happened on other machines in the club

Please be conscious of your work area and if you are aware of any of these situations take any necessary steps to prevent any possible accidents from occurring. Eddie C.

September Monthly Challenge: Vase

OBJECTIVE

Create a vase using the provided timber square.

CONSTRAINTS

- Use only the provided timber - no additional materials.
- Only one straight bandsaw cut allowed.
- Must be turned on a lathe.

MATERIALS

- This month's blanks are Red Ash.
- Blanks are available on the workbench under the monthly challenge cabinet.
- Using the provided timber helps us see how everyone interprets the same material differently, so please stick to these blanks.

Please only take one if you are participating in the challenge

This month's blanks have been generously donated by Anna Dawes

NOTES

- **Show & Tell:** Place your finished vase in the display cabinet with your name for inclusion in the next newsletter photo.
- **Feedback:** We welcome suggestions for future monthly challenges.
- **Questions:** Please contact Don.

LABELS

Name labels are in the bottom right corner of the display cabinet. If you need some printed please see Milli.

INSPIRATION







August Challenge Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in the second monthly challenge: turning a goblet. We had a great response with members showcasing a wide variety of interpretations.

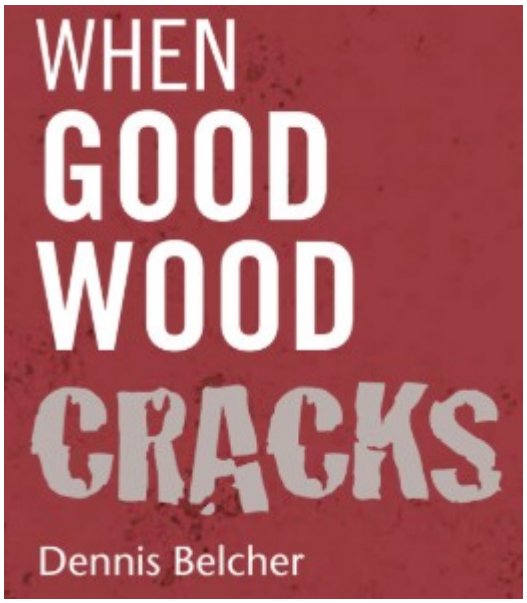
The blank for this challenge was a shallow square of benchtop, which required some creative planning to shape into a goblet.

Entries showcased excellent lathe skills, with designs ranging from classic profiles to delicate, thin-stemmed pieces, incorporating features like twisted stems and captive rings.

We appreciate everyone who took the time to complete the project and share their work

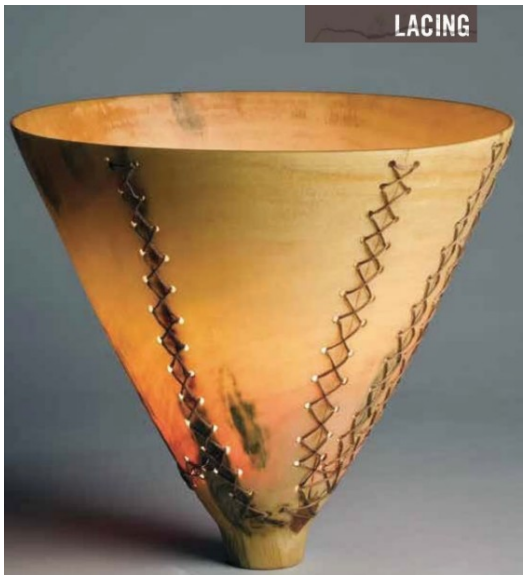






Sometimes, despite our best efforts to prevent it, wood cracks due to natural forces. In woodturning projects, cracks can be viewed as a curse—or as an artistic opportunity. To offer some encouragement toward the latter, I compiled the following gallery of differing creative solutions. In each case, I offer a short description of the technique being used. These descriptions are only intended to get you started (not to provide the entire process) and to prompt you to explore your own creativity.

When Good Wood Cracks.pdf - Google Drive



The creator of this vase accidentally it off its pedestal. The piece broke into three separate pieces. His creative solution was to lace the pieces back together, creating an entirely new look. Small diameter wire is woven into a larger strand, providing greater flexibility and allowing the separate pieces to be cinched in tight. The path of the wire from rim to base and back to rim makes this a unique example of lacing. An inspirational source of lacing patterns can be found in books on leather.

SPLINES



This turner has incorporated splines into his work for many years, having been influenced by early Hawaiian methods of bowl repair. He enjoys focusing on what some would consider flaws in the wood but he considers natural character. Adding splines to cracked bowls strengthens the “flaw,” while emphasizing the character.

His process involves inserting the spline while the bowl is still thick, after it has been rough-turned and dried. Then the bowl is finish-turned and the spline is turned flush with the bowl's surface.



This turner uses a biscuit joiner to create the slots but advises caution in exploring this technique, as a biscuit joiner is not designed to be used on a curved surface.

David Keller of Enid, Oklahoma, also uses splines in his work. In the piece at

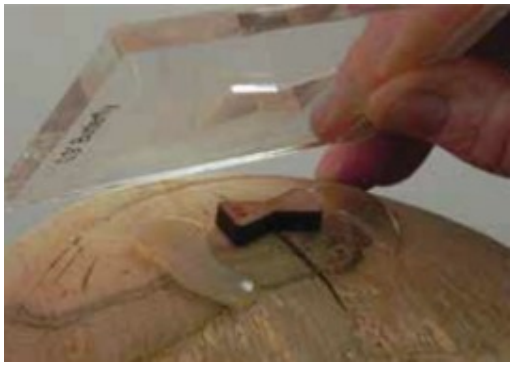
left, David accentuated the vertical ambrosia markings in the wood with horizontal splines of the same species, rather than choosing a contrasting wood.

This subtle design element adds impact to the piece. Like the previous turner, David cuts the grooves using a biscuit joiner.

DUTCHMAN, OR BUTTERFLY INLAY



Sometimes, Dennis Belcher uses a general woodworking method of dealing with cracks in his turned pieces—an inlaid butterfly, or Dutchman. With flat work, a template and a small trim router are used to create both the recess and the butterfly that span the crack and hold the wood together. This



process becomes more difficult when the surface is curved, as in a bowl's profile. The key to using

butterfly inlays safely is to glue the template to the curved surface with hot-melt glue and then rout out the recess, as indicated left.



Joe Dickey of Davidsonville, Maryland, cuts his Dutchman inlays by hand. Starting with a dried bowl blank, he first cuts two parallel lines from the rim downward with a pull saw. The length of the cut is marked on card stock and a curved line is drawn to connect the two end points. This curve is marked on the bowl and on the wood that will be used as the Dutchman. Joe uses a coping saw to hand cut the curve on the bowl wall and the matching curve on the inlay, which is fitted into the opening with chisels and files. Joe's secret to a tight fit is the use of graphite transfer paper, which, when pressed between the inlay and the opening in the bowl, indicates where the fit needs to be refined. When glued into place, the inlay should extend beyond both the outside and inside walls of the bowl so there is sufficient wood to bring the Dutchman flush with the bowl during final turning.



Scott Clark of Santa Rosa, California, uses copper plates to mend cracks in his work, placing one plate on the inside and one on the outside of the piece. He starts with a section of copper water pipe, which he cuts to size and hammers into matching plates. Each plate is bent to follow the curve of the bowl and glued to the wood. Rivets are simulated by using No. 4 cut tacks shortened and glued into pre-drilled holes. The final touch is to patina the copper for an aged effect.





REMOVE AND REPLACE

You can express your creativity by cutting the crack entirely out of the bowl and replacing it with another element—in this case, a cloth zipper. After cutting the opening, I made a groove around its edges to recess the zipper. I glued the zipper into the groove, which allows the zipper to actually function. The “stitches” were added with pyrography.

STAPLES



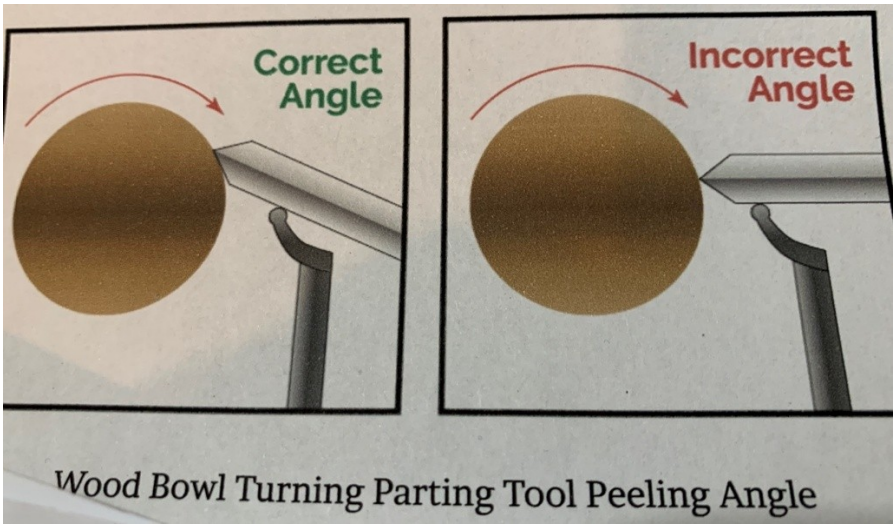
Staples work well for mending cracks in hollow forms that don’t allow sufficient access to the interior for methods like lacing. I form my own staples from wire, as shown *above*. To use a series of staples, drill holes similar in size to the wire thickness you have selected. My preference is to cut a length of wire such that the formed staple stays inside the vessel wall and does not extend into the inside of the vessel. The key is to form a barb at each end of the staple to keep it from pulling out. As a further precaution, put a drop of glue into each hole with a toothpick. When the glue dries, it will form an additional seal above the barb and keep the staples firmly seated.







PARTING.



When parting off remember the basics of anchoring the tool on the tool rest, then rub the bevel and lift the tool into start cutting. As you continue cutting raise the handle of the tool maintaining the bevel rubbing as you go.

This will result in a curve action through to the centre and complete the cut.

Using this method, you will get a nice smooth finish on both sides and at the cutting face.

By using the wrong method as indicated above you will get a tearing action, resulting in very rough sides and a very rough cutting surface.

IN STOCK IN FIVE STORES NATIONALLY

The Swivel Head Wood Lathe is mainly made up from cast iron to provide the rigidity that's required and needed in all good wood lathes. Changing the spindle speed from 500 to 2000rpm is extremely easy via the stepless variable speed control lever mounted on the front of the head.

The lathe comes complete with an outboard tool rest extension which is used to get the bowl rest into the best position when turning with the head rotated. The head and tailstock both have 2 morse tapers and the drive spindle thread is a common 1" x 10tpi. Supplied as standard with the machine is a 4 prong drive centre, revolving tailstock centre & faceplate.



$2,739 (W387)

WL-46A
ELECTRONIC VARIABLE SPEED WOOD LATHE

Ø462 x 1194mm turning capacity | Electronic speeds 100-3200rpm | Cast iron bed, head and tailstock | 1.5kW/2hp, 240V motor

MINI WOOD LATHE



WL-14V $649 (W385)
- Ø356 x 470mm turning capacity
- Electronic variable speed (450-3850rpm)
- Digital readout speed display
- 12 position spindle indexing
- 0.75hp, 240V motor

SWIVEL HEAD WOOD LATHE



WL-18 $759 (W382)
- Ø310 x 900mm turning capacity
- Swivelling headstock
- Variable speed 500-2000rpm
- 0.75kW/1hp, 240V motor



WL-20 $869 (W384)
- Ø370 x 1100mm turning capacity
- Variable speed 500-2000rpm
- Swivelling headstock
- 0.75kW/1hp, 240V motor

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES



CTR-4 Curved Tool Rest Set (W295)



BSS-5075 Bowl Sanding Tool (W305)



WT-3C Carbide Wood Turning Tools 6 Piece Set (W300)



WSC-KIT Scroll Chuck Accessory Kit Suits WSC-100 Scroll Chuck (W375)



Replacement Carbide Tip - 4 Piece Set - Suits WT-3C (W300T)

View and purchase these items online: https://www.machineryhouse.com.au/WTN0109

Specifications & Prices are subject to change without notification. All prices include GST and valid until 30-09-26

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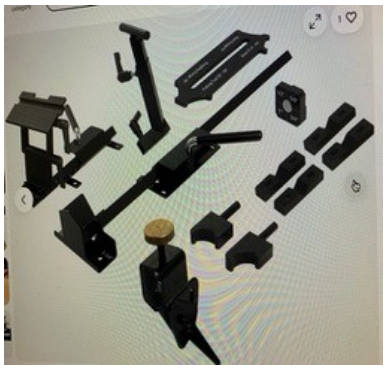
*OUR BRISBANE BRANCH IS MOVING TO 680 BOUNDARY ROAD, RICHLANDS, 4077 (8.8KMS AWAY) FROM LATE SEPTEMBER

THE BACK PAGE

Item 302 Sharpening Systems September 2006.

BASIC BRAND NAME KITS







These systems are simple and basic, they are manufactured under many registered names and all work on the same principle. It has variances in the machine and wheels, but the jig stays relatively consistent.

The machine shown is a slow speed grinder fitted with two white aluminum oxide soft design wheels. These wheels are very effective and relatively inexpensive, they are usually eight (8) inch in diameter and help in low temperature grinding preventing overheating and burning. Over time their diameter is reduced through consistent tool sharpening.

For long time consistency in wear and longevity the fitting of C B N (Cubic Boron Nitride) wheels can be fitted, these wheels are second to diamonds in hardness, They are primary used to sharpen hardened ferrous metals like High Speed Steel (HSS).

Cool grinding CBN conducts heat away from your tools 55 times better than standard aluminum oxide wheels preventing heat damage and burning.

The jig system is generally sold as a complete kit with only slight design changes in some components, but the principle is consistent and never needs any replacement parts.
This system is relatively inexpensive and ideal for the workshop home turner, also very robust and suitable for industrial industries with little experience necessary in the operation.

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