



# Woodturners Association of Western Australia

Keith  
McQueen

April 1929  
March 2020



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**Closing Date for Edition 209: Fri 15th May 2020**

[www.woodturnerswa.com](http://www.woodturnerswa.com)

**WAWA  
Committee**

**President**

Jim Cameron ..... 9455 2437  
Email: wawapresident@gmail.com

**Vice President**

Bruce Jackson

**Secretary**

David Milton  
Email: wawa.sealer@gmail.com  
Postal address: WAWA, PO Box 4146  
Harrisdale WA 6112

**Treasurer**

Kerri Nichols

Email: wawatreasurer@gmail.com

**Committee Members**

Barbara Jennings ..... Bruce Jackson  
Peter Cunnington ..... Andy Hill  
Kerri Nichols ..... Lex McLachlan  
Jon Braine ..... John Atkins  
Andrea McCandlish

**Immediate Past President**

Andrea McCandlish

**Membership Registrar**

Barbara Jennings ..... 9752 4302  
PO Box 1446,  
Busselton WA 6280  
Email: wawaregistrar@gmail.com

**Video & Books & Magazines Librarian**

Mike Philips ..... 9342 0449

**Competition Coordinator**

Barbara Jennings

**Shopping Centre Display**

Refer to last page of newsletter

**Web Site**

Andrea McCandlish; Jim Cameron; David Milton;  
Jon Braine; John Atkinson

**Magazine Editor**

Andrea McCandlish..... 0427 427 264  
Email: wawa.newsletter@gmail.com

***Please note that meeting times  
in the next column are  
currently suspended***

**Group Details**

**AVON**

Shed 1, Community Depot, Railway Road, Toodyay  
Sunday 9.00am—12 noon  
Wednesday 9.00am—12 noon  
David Doye, Convenor.....0403 294 181

**BUNBURY**

57 Thomas Street, East Bunbury  
9.00am to 12.00 noon Tuesdays  
7:00pm 1st Wednesday of month  
9.00am to 2.00pm Thursdays  
Les Beaglehole Convenor ...  
wawabunbury2019@gmail.com

**BUSSELTON**

Agricultural WA Building cnr Queen St & Marine Tce,  
(Most) Tuesdays 9.00am to 3.00pm  
Thursday 9.00am to 12 noon  
7:00pm 2nd & 4th Wed., 10:00am - 4:00pm Sat.  
Norman Byrne ...busseltonwoodturners@gmail.com

**COLLIE**

Clubrooms -cnr Wittenoom & Steere Sts  
Wed 9:30am - 3:30pm  
Monthly Meeting on the last Sunday  
Dave Saunders convenor ... dj.saunders47@gmail.com

**GOSNELLS**

Southern River College, T&E Building,  
Southern River Road, Gosnells  
Wed. 8.30 am to 12 noon Thur. 8am - 12 noon &  
6:30pm - 9:30pm Fri. 8.30am to 12 noon  
John Atkinson, convenor ... jwatk@inet.net.au

**JOONDALUP-WANNEROO**

Heathridge Leisure Centre, Sail Tce, Heathridge  
2nd & Last Monday 7:00pm  
Charles Totten, convenor ... totten@westnet.com.au

**MANDURAH**

Falcon Reserve, 27 Lynda Street, Falcon  
Thursdays: 6:00pm - 9:00pm  
Jim Hill, convenor www.mandurahwoodturners.com

**MANJIMUP**

The Shed, Timber Park.  
Wed. & Thurs. 10.00 - 2.00 & Sunday 11.00 - 3.00  
Adrian Bolton, convenor ... ageinbridgy@gmail.com

**MELVILLE**

Maurice Buzacott Reserve, Kardinya.  
David Rechter, convenor ... 0412886500

**MUNDARING**

Old Parkerville Primary School, cnr Dura & Riley Rds,  
Parkerville 2:00 to 4.00pm Wednesday  
Hans Zeilke convenor ..... kapabola@bigpond.com

**SWAN**

Swan Senior Citizens Centre, 1 The Avenue, Midland  
Tues. 1:30pm except 2nd Tues of month 7.30pm  
Brian Mather Convenor: email - swanwt123@gmail.com

**WANDI**

Wandi Community Hall, DeHaer Rd, Wandi  
7:00pm 1st & 3rd Thursdays (Gen. Meeting & Demo)  
Monday 8.00 to 12.00 noon  
Tuesday 6:00pm - 9.00pm  
Wednesday 8:00am - 12 noon  
Convenor ... Allan Williams allan2w@hotmail.com

## *Presidential Ponderings*

Last time, I was hard pressed to find a topic to talk about. This time I am overwhelmed. Where to begin? There has been a lot of talk about this pandemic being 'unprecedented'. I think that a better word is 'unanticipated' for we have all been caught flat-footed. Who would have thought a month ago that we would be in the position we are now in – stuck at home in self-imposed isolation and cut off from routines and friends? I confess that I am perplexed about what to do. And it looks like we have finally seceded from the rest of Australia, nearly 90 years after the last attempt.

Our first priority must be to stay safe and healthy but to do so in a way that we also remain firmly in contact with one another. Learning about wood turning is only one of the reasons we belong to WAWA. Just as important, perhaps even more important, are the interactions we have with our fellow WAWA members. So, while we can get out in the shed and turn to our heart's content, we must keep in touch with one another. A couple of my friends make a point of ringing two or three of their friends every day just for a chat and to see how they're getting on. I'm not really a phone person so I do much the same with email. Both are useful ways to keep in touch and, if you're not using them much at the moment, I encourage you to do so.

Over the last couple of weeks, my children, who are based in Wollongong and Washington DC as well as in Perth have been using Zoom to keep in touch. I have a strong suspicion that they are using Zoom to keep a not very subtle eye on the so-called vulnerable oldies in the family but, even if that is the case, the price of the surveillance is more than outweighed by the returns from the interactions. Zoom has received an unfavourable press in some quarters over the last few weeks but my family takes the view that the risk of our conversations being hacked into is minimal and, anyway, what use can ever be made of the things we talk about. Anyway, we find it a useful tool and we are planning a virtual birthday party this weekend for our nine year old granddaughter. It will be the first time my American grandchildren have had a chance to sing 'Happy Birthday' for their Australian cousin.

Just as an aside, the Committee of Management had its regular monthly meeting today using Zoom. It seemed to work very well and I thought it could be used by Groups to keep their committee discussions and actions going. If they are worried about Zoom, they could use Skype

I note that the embellishers have set up a restricted Facebook site where they can continue to exchange ideas and share their projects. This is a great initiative and I wish them well. It's still very early days but the site shows great promise.

These developments remind us that there is something good and positive in every situation. You probably have more time now to work on your wood turning, or catch up on your reading, or finish off a few jobs around the house. I'm reorganising my bookshelves which is long overdue in the hope that I can find a book when I wanted while my wife is getting stuck into the garden which is showing beneficial results. There are many things we can do to keep active

Anyway, there are a lot of things to ponder. The biggest thing for WAWA of course is where to go from here. We have an opportunity while things are fairly quiet to chart new directions for ourselves and we must do this for an organisation that does not look to the future is at risk of dying. This is not a job for the Committee of Management alone. It is a job for every member of the Association and I encourage you to participate. We will be demanding contributions from you over the next few weeks and months.

In the meantime, do keep active, keep healthy, and keep in touch. All things pass.

*Jim*

JMR Cameron

\*\*\*\*\*

# Registrar's Ramblings

## New Members

We welcome the following members to the Association:

David Nicholls 3180	Mandurah	Ruth Allen 3185	Melville
Gina Lowrie 3181	Melville	Glen Donovan 3186	Bunbury
Glenn Terrel 3182	Melville	John White 3187	Avon
Graham McDonald 3183	Melville	Peter Vincent 3188	Avon
Roxanne de Vos 3184	Melville		

A note to group secretaries and all members requiring a new name badge or cloth badge, please contact me for those items.

Also ... PLEASE remember to advise of **email changes**.

*Barbara Jennings*, Registrar

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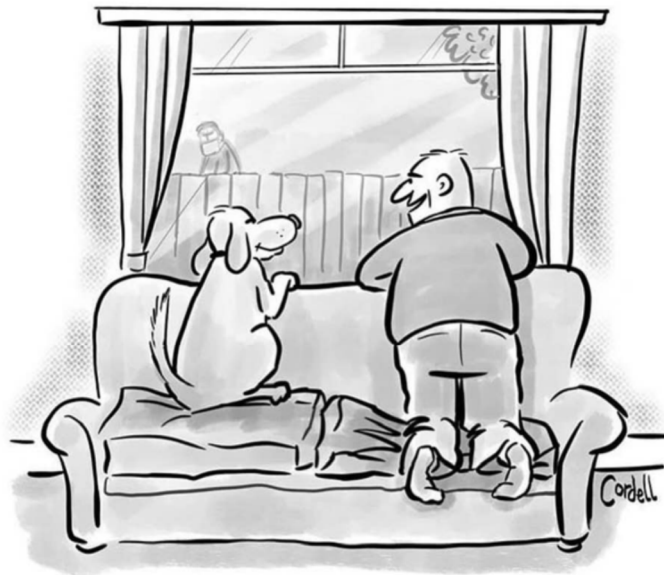
## *Editor's Epistle*

The next few newsletters are going to be somewhat different to the usual publication due to the suspension of usual activities. As for all "usual activities", there is no definite timeline for how long WAWA will be keeping in touch with members through the more frequent newsletter, a regular bulletin and online.

Thank you to all those who have made an effort to contribute content for the newsletter. The plan is to publish a shorter version more frequently, so some of the supplied content will be in the May newsletter. Please keep in mind that I need your continued support in providing content at a personal as well as group level due to the lack of usual activities.

Please read the new competition guidelines carefully. You're all supposed to have lots of spare time on your hands with the suspension of group meetings and weekend workshops, so no excuses for not making the competition items and sending the photos as requested.

Andrea—Editor



*"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house."*

*Keith McQueen, member no.1*  
*Founding Member, Inaugural President*

Profile prepared in 2000

Keith McQueen was born at Goomalling on 17 April 1929. His father and uncle farmed 800 acres three miles north east of Goomalling but this farm was too small for two families, so, in 1929, Keith's family moved to 3300 acres of uncleared land at Yorkrakine. Keith's father travelled to the farm on the EB steel wheeled tractor (not many about in those days) His mother, with their three year old son and three month old Keith as her passengers, drove the T Model Ford car following in the tractor wheel marks for sixty miles to their new home. Clearing the farm was started just in time for the Great Depression.

From early childhood Keith helped his mother and brother run the farm while their father tried to earn enough to sustain the family. One task which the young boys helped with in the early 1940's was the clearing and gravelling of the Cemetery Road: 'shovelling gravel onto a 1928 Chev 4 truck, shovelling it off again and levelling it with a rake!!.' In 1943 Keith's father broke his elbow and was in the Cunderdin Hospital. Keith aged fourteen at the time drove the truck to take his mother to visit his father.

Of necessity Keith learned to do the mechanical repairs to the farm machinery and tractors. He did a Cig. Gas course in welding and went on to teach his neighbouring farmer. Later when the McQueens bought a tractor-pack electric welder the neighbour returned the favour and taught Keith basics of electric welding. Keith designed and built many machines for the farm over the years. He attended a one room school at Yorkrakine, was a foundation member of the Kellerberrin TQ Car Club and of course built his own TQ.

Keith met (his wife) Pam where she worked at the local Machinery Agency, and also at Square Dancing. They married in 1955 and had three sons. In 1963, they moved to a mostly uncleared farm at Dandaragan. Then, in 1966, with their three sons to educate, moved to Scarborough. He started a clover harvesting business in the summer and in winter worked at an engineering shop as a welder making wrought iron balustrade and gates. Keith had always wanted a steel lathe, but could not justify the expense, the next Christmas the decision was a 'Tough Lathe'!! Dad and sons were soon at a local firewood yard. After searching, some 'Jarrah' was selected for their first project, one piece turned out to be Karri and the resulting stack-up nibble dishes has a Karri bowl in the centre that warps with the damp weather even now.

In 1976 saw the family back on the land, this time to a property just North of Eneabba and of course the 'Tough' went with them. They built a Caravan Park near the Brand Highway and at this time the Geraldton Tourist Promotions asked Keith to demonstrate woodturning at various shopping centres in the Metro area. During this time many people asked Keith why did he not 'cut' instead of 'scraping'. Although Keith always asked for a demonstration it was obvious that many had read about the use of the skew chisel. None could use it until Paul Thompson of the ABC in Geraldton asked the question and being offered the chisel he proceeded to demonstrate the skew chisel and so started a whole new side of woodturning in WA. Keith was immediately won over and after a little practice proceeded to teach the skew chisel to every turner he met. Many turners or would be turners met called at the 'Park'.

Keith could see the need for a Woodturners' club where everyone would share their knowledge for the betterment of woodturning. It was at one of these Tourism Promotions that Ivor Bridges (who was a leading hand at Toughs) noticed that Keith's Tough Lathe looked a bit battered and arranged for the lathe to be left at the Tough Factory at the end of the Promotion. It came home looking brand new.

*In the beginning .....*



It was about this time that Keith received great encouragement from Ivor Bridges and John Shinnick in his desire to start a club for woodturners. After compiling a list of interested people he met at Promotions and the Caravan Park he sent out eighty invitations for a woodturning workshop to form a club. On Saturday 21 September 1985, eighteen people turned up, with apologies from a further nine. The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc) was then formed, with Keith as President and wife Pam as Secretary/Treasurer and general hostess. It was mentioned how great it would be to have fifty members, not realising how quickly it would grow.

A WAWA weekend workshop was held on 16 and 17 November 1985 and Pam wondered what to do for the ladies while the seventeen woodturners buried themselves in the wood shed. She decided to demonstrate the spinning of wool, conduct a wildflower walk and generally encouraged the ladies to do their own craft and of course feed the men. So set the pattern of the Association. Membership was by then fifty one.



At a meeting held at John and Kath Shinnick's home in February the following year forty four turners and their partners turned up. All had a great time. Keith was determined that the Association would be state wide sharing knowledge. He carried his Tough Lathe to every meeting and demonstrated from Kalbarri to Albany. A woodturner suggested to Keith that there was something else in the world besides wood turning, Keith's surprised reply: 'Is there?'

*Hmmm.... How would I do that?* After serving as President for three years Keith decided to let others guide the Association. Membership was now over 200. The Association presented Pam and Keith with a Picnic Set as a mark of their appreciation.

Through a chance meeting at an Association demonstration, a person asked if Keith would like a piece of Sandalwood. From this he started up the family business of Sandalwood cutting and exporting to South East Asia. During this time it was decided to visit the Sandalwood buyers of Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, and Malaysia. They had a most enjoyable time but not, as yet, fulfilling their ambition to visit the Great Wall of China.



*Ever the teacher*

Keith proudly received a Life Membership of the Woodturners Association of WA at the Annual General Meeting in September 1992. Keith put woodturning aside and, with the help of his sons, worked on building a mud brick house in Mundaring, as well as continuing with the Sandalwood Business. Now [the year 2000], Keith has purchased a mobile home and a Jet mini lathe that fits in the boot and is planning to go on that long-talked about round Australia trip. Probably an Australia-wide Woodturner visit.

Keith and Pam remained involved with the Association over the years since this profile was written but, sadly, ill health gradually reduced that involvement.

Keith was very proud (and rightly so) of the Association he started and the way so many people have helped to make it the success it is today.

*On behalf of the members of The Woodturners Association of Western Australia (Inc), the President and Committee of Management acknowledge the work, effort and time Keith and Pam put into the establishment and development of the Association.*

*VALE Keith McQueen*

# Interim Competition Arrangements

## Aim

During the time that the Weekend Workshops are suspended due to the coronavirus we would like to keep the competition active in some form. This provides an incentive to members to continue to challenge themselves, to share these turnings with others, and to maintain contact with their clubs and the wider Association.

## Initial proposal.

Initially the competition will continue as a popular vote only, based on photographs of items submitted to the Competition Co-ordinator. These photos will be shared with the membership, and members invited to submit their popular votes by return email.

## Procedure.

Members complete their items, as per the competition schedule, photograph them (see photographic guidelines below) and email their photo to the Competition Co-ordinator ([wawacompetition@gmail.com](mailto:wawacompetition@gmail.com)). Photos need to be received by the Competition Co-ordinator by the due dates shown below. The dimensions of the piece and timber(s) used should be included.

All photos will be labelled with their category (Advanced, Intermediate, Novice) and entry number, and compiled into a "Newsletter" type document

This Newsletter will be distributed by email to all those members with an email address. Groups will be responsible for printing and distributing to their members who do not have access to email.

Members will be invited to select their first, second and third choices for a popular vote, and email this to the Competition Co-ordinator. Members without email may choose to phone their votes to their group contact who will forward to the Competition Co-ordinator. All votes must be received by the Competition Co-ordinator by one week after the photos are distributed.

Results will be announced via email to all members with email. Only the entry number of the pieces will be given.

## Stage 2.

If restrictions are eased sufficiently in the future we will look to re-establish physical judging. This would likely take the form of groups collecting their members pieces, labelled with their item number previously issued. The group entries could then be collected and delivered to the two judges nominated for that competition. The judges nominated may need to be changed to aim for a pair of judges from the same area to facilitate collaboration as they see fit. Only entries which had photos submitted on time for the popular vote would be eligible for judging. As only entry numbers would be announced for the winners of the popular vote the judges would still be conducting anonymous judging. After judging pieces would be collected and returned to the groups.

## Allocation of points.

If the popular voting is well supported enough to be representative then points will accumulate for the Popular Vote award as normal. Likewise, if we are able to re-establish physical judging then points will accumulate for the Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Open awards. Groups would earn points towards the Group competition for each photo entry submitted.

## Website.

If the new website becomes available then photographs could be uploaded for viewing online rather than being emailed to all members. Voting would still be via email.

## Due Dates

Collie item – Goblet.	25/4/20
Swan item – Lidded box	16/5/20
Mandurah – Cup & saucer	6/6/20
Melville – Natural edge vase	27/6/20
Gosnells – Wine bottle holder	18/7/20
Bunbury – Inside out turning	15/8/20
Wandi – Three cornered bowl	19/9/20
Joondalup – Cut & re-assembled	17/10/20
Busselton – Spindle sampler	21/11/20

Depending on whether we get physical judging re-established we may need to revise sizes or other specification of later competitions (after the cup & saucer) to facilitate collection and transport.

### Photographic guidelines.

As the popular vote will be based on photographs alone it is important that competitors take photos which show off their pieces to the best advantage. Only one photo will be allowed for each entry as we are restricted by emailing and/or the website storage.

- ⇒ Place your item against a neutral, plain background
- ⇒ Make sure you have good lighting, but beware of lights reflecting back at the camera.
- ⇒ DON'T use the flash – this will reflect back
- ⇒ Use a tripod if you have one to stabilise the camera
- ⇒ Try to look slightly down on the piece
- ⇒ Final photos for submission should be in the order of 150 to 300kb in size. (When sending, right click on the photo, select “send to” then “mail recipient”. Windows will offer the option to choose your picture size – select “Medium”).



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## News From the Groups

### *Bunbury*

Before suspending meetings, members cleaned and disinfected the club rooms and repainted the floor.

Members are being encouraged to use some of their downtime to make Christmas bowls. This is an annual activity brought forward to keep everyone involved.

Jock MacFadyen has produced an interesting article about design using Photoshop. It is an attachment with the newsletter so you can print it more easily.

### *Joondalup-Wanneroo*

How we're keeping busy

Hi fellow Woodies,

Hope you are all well and keeping yourselves entertained.

I had a fun day last Friday with my chainsaw and cut a stack of logs I have been storing, all of them have been there since before 2007.

The pieces of Jacaranda were up to 300 diameter and after cutting them up they still had 12% moisture – perfect for turning. Mary wants some turned items to do Pyrography decorations on them.

Other logs were silver birch, tuart and an unknown tree donated by a neighbour. As a result I have a bin full of off cuts and chainsaw shavings going out today.

Now it's off to the lathe to see what emerges.

The air outlet on my compressor broke (it's made of some cast stuff the appears to be very brittle) so I ordered a new one on line. The whole thing was assembled using a thread seal glue which is hard to clean off so I ordered a ½ inch BSP tap from Hare and Forbes (as I am following the isolation rules by not going out unnecessarily) but Hare and Forbes have sent it from Sydney and it's been with Australia Post since the 24<sup>th</sup> of March. Must have been stalled at all the road blocks between the states. It should arrive today, and after assembly I should be able to do some spray finishing.

Yesterday Mary and I did 18 holes of golf – on the Wii games machine, OK not the real thing but it did get us off our bums.

Apart from the daily walks with the dogs in the park across the road, we are staying home. Mary won't let me go shopping because I am over 70 and in the high risk group.

Anyway Stay Healthy and keep busy

Cheers

Frank

### *When Things Go Wrong*

For my part, I am preparing for when I get my new tail rest banjo. You may recall I broke it. Norm Hoskins in Bunbury told me he used to manufacture 'Tough' lathes and could make me a better banjo with cam lock mechanisms. He is in the process of doing so and may be able to post it to me in a couple of weeks. John vdB – Norm will be a good contact for you as another 'Tough' lathe owner. He is a most helpful fellow. I have his contact details if you need them. The banjo broke while I was roughing a large, hard and unbalanced log of Olive.

This must also over loaded the motor which would not start again. I took it to Freeman Industries, Wangara, who fixed it in two days. Apparently it had not burnt out, the capacitor was fine, and it had simply tripped. They blew all the dust out of it and replaced the switch base. I was also told to press in the stop switch hard, and failing that to remove the cover and press a

wee black button, to re-set it. So I know what to do if it ever trips again. What a performance getting the motor on and off the lathe. It is a heavy thing but with the aid of the car jack and Pauline balancing it, I managed to line up the bolt holes and secure it. Four of the bolts are tucked in under the motor, between it and the swinging plate it fixes to. It runs fine and I am able to do things that don't require use of the tool rest. A number of bowls I turned a while ago have been sanded and polished, and now await removal of spigots and finishing off their bases.

I am also preparing the cutting lists a nest of segmented bowls. I will cut and glue the segments and assemble them on the lathe, ready to turn when I get the new banjo.

Hopefully all you folk are well, behaving yourselves, not worrying and staying happy and healthy. Pauline and I are both well. I do go to the shops when we need things, but only go in if they are not crowded. Many are controlling how many can go in as others come out and the panic buying seems to have calmed down. We refused to do it, instead finding many ingredients we had forgotten about in the pantry and working out what to make out of them. I made rock cakes and muffins with various nuts and fruit added in for excitement. Don't laugh!

AITON

My current project is another trophy for the yacht club. No turning, but an interesting exercise. Just finished carving the sails which are all 3D compound curves. The concave forms are the most challenging. Easy to rough them out with an Arbortech turbo planer then lots of power and hand sanding to produce the smooth curves.



Hope to get onto some turning soon.

We had 10 days at Busselton before returning to lock down on 22 Mar.

Stay safe and get your flu shots. Free at the GP for us ancients.

Andy

### *Melville Mutterings*

26<sup>th</sup> Feb – Our members today had to turn a wig stand as it was our group's hands on day. Consequently, as a result, a variety of challenges was evident but our members produced some amazing stands. There was some anxious moments but our members overcame these issues and produced some amazing stands.

4<sup>th</sup> Mar – Our very astute turner Russell Nash demonstrated turning a goblet with attached rings. Russell is an expert using a skew chisel and proceeded to round off his piece of timber, then used a parting tool to produce a spigot. Russell using his skew chisel shaped the outside curve for the goblet, then followed by hollowing it out. Firstly, drilling a hole then used a detailed gouge to shape the inside. To secure the goblet end Russell used a tennis ball and proceeded to turn the rings using a beading tool, then turned the stem and base. An excellent demonstration.



Les Small produced our S & T this week commenting on the wig stands from last week's hands on, (these stands are to be given to the Silver Chain organisation[Refer photo]), plus other turned items.

11<sup>th</sup> Mar – Today's Demonstration was conducted by Ray Woodcock showing how to turn a mug with segmented pieces. Each piece was cut at 22.5 degrees the glued together. Ray began hollowing out the inside of mug firstly using a Forstner then a half rounded scraper

constantly checking (using a template) the inside to fit the metal coffee cup. On the lip of the wooden mug Ray shaped it to fit underneath the metal lip of coffee cup. Ray used different sized templates to shape the outside of the mug. Quite an entertaining demo.

S & T was conducted by Rob Shannon on our members' submitted items (2 wig stands, a hollowed burl piece, some vases and other items).

18<sup>th</sup> Mar – Ray Robertson was our demonstrator today and began showing us a number of roses he had previously turned. Ray then turned a small bowl then used forstner to hollow out the inside of the bowl. He then shaped the inside using a bowl finisher scraper. After cutting of the bowl Ray then cut pieces off the bowl and proceeded to shape these pieces to form a petal using a disk/barrel sander. The petals are then glued to stem piece starting from the outside to the inside. Very intriguing demo Ray.

S & T was presented by Jeff Whelan of a wig stand and several bowls.

25<sup>th</sup> Mar – Meeting closed due to Coronavirus issues, future meetings arrangements to be determined by club committee.

#### Future club planning:-

The following was provided by David Rechter as our group's convener.

Complete our Christmas lolly bowls during the forced lay-off. It might be nice to set a target for our members of say 200 bowls (ie. 4 each) by the end of June, which will also cater for next year's requirements. Perhaps we can also suggest a little decorating of bowls if members desire, just to go a little bit up-market."

In addition the following was from Denis Tapley who was asked by the committee to provide guidance on how to best harness the proposed demonstration program capacity for the year in the current situation.

#### Hello members

We can regret losing our regular Wednesday meetings but (assuming you have equipment at home) we can still have a lot of fun in our sheds.

At Wednesday's committee meeting this week, we discussed the continuance of our program, albeit in a modified form.

I will be organising the program and, every week or so, will email details to members through David Milton. We will have a variety of projects with which members might like to engage.

For example, some demonstrations that are already on the program can still be used but with a varied approach, such as being emailed with photos, written details etc. I will be phoning those nominated members to see if they can still offer their demo or project. If they are unable to continue then I can easily substitute it with something else.

WAWA is currently looking at the possibility of continuing the Weekend Workshop competitions. Assuming they can find a way to do this, then I will include demonstrations that will assist those members who like to compete.

I also had an idea that I could suggest that members watch a particular You Tube then follow up with an appropriate project for us all.

Our member, Robyn McLean, has considered the probability that at Xmas time this year there will many more people who need our toys, boxes and lolly bowls. As a result, we are planning to put more effort into our toy groups to ensure we have more to offer in November. This will also be included in our program of work/fun.

Show and Tell will also be continued. After members have completed a project, then they will be invited to take some photos of their work and write a bit about it too. This can be emailed to David who will forward it to our members. That way, we can all see the talented work that has been done.

The first item on our agenda was Frank Dymond's Music Box. Frank is currently preparing this for you all and he will be emailing it out to members soon. His idea is to use these at our Christmas give-away as they would make excellent gifts. Of course, if you want to make one for yourself too, then go for it!

We have lots to look forward to and will continue to enjoy our hobby/pastime and our artistic expression.

*RH*

### *Swan Snippets*

I got thinking about how to keep the interest in the Swan Group and after some discussion I decided we could continue to run with a weekly show and tell. An email was sent to all our members inviting them to send me a photo of an item they had made recently. The dead line was Tuesday 1pm. I collated these photos into a word document and when I had finally received all entries, I saved the word document into a PDF so that it was a smaller size to send. Success, we had fourteen different items in our first week. All items were allocated points towards our end of year trophy.

There was a number of suggestions that we create a Face Book Account for Swan but after consideration I felt that all members have an email address but not everyone has a Face Book Account.

Ian Moss then suggested that we run our Hands-on Competition in the same way. Brian Kirkby is our master of Hands On, so Brian has run with this suggestion and even our WAWA monthly Competitions will run this way by Brian. Points also given to our trophy tally. As this is still in the first stages – we are yet to see how this is supported.

A number of Swan members are contacting others in the group just for a chat. It is good to hear of our members still keeping in touch. The interesting thing that has come out of these phone calls is that we are finding there is a number of changes on our member listing that are incorrect and with Barb Jennings support we hope to get all the contacts details correct.

In the last few years since I have been secretary of the Swan Group, we have had a Gerald Young listed on our membership but the contact details have been incorrect and I have been unable to contact him. Just by persistence I found on an archive thumb drive that his second name was Ian. Google came up with an old document that mentioned Gerald Ian Young being a judge and life member of The Fine Wood Work Association. I contacted them and after a number of emails found that he was now living in a nursing home in Victoria. I have sent him a letter on behalf of the Swan group and if there is anyone who would like his contact details please let me know. I am sure this gentleman would love to hear news from others.

Good luck to everyone and the groups.

*Mary Byers*

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## My Shed - Barb Jennings

Some time ago Jim Cameron and I were talking about how everyone likes to poke their noses in somebody else's shed to see what ideas we might be able to pick up. And we thought that this might make an interesting series for the newsletter, so I offered to start it off.

Like most of us my shed is where I live, and I would love to have one twice as big, but we have to make do with what space we have. Ours is 6m x 8m and I have to share it with my husband who is into metal working.

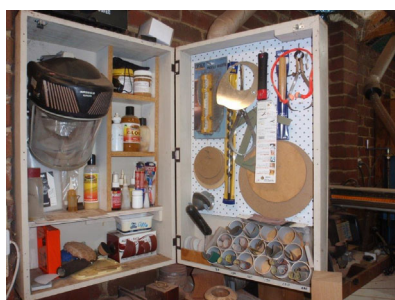
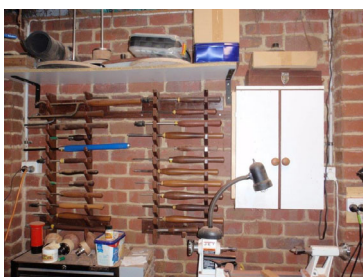
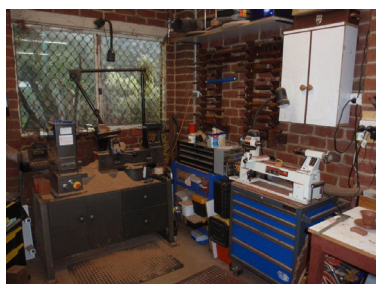
My corner (Photo 1) has my two lathes – my trusty Omega Stubby 750 and a little Jet mini as a portable unit. The Stubby weighs a hefty 270kg, plus the stand under it is another 150kg so I can swing some pretty big and out of balance work and it stays steady. For those not familiar with the unusual Stubby design, the bed is able to slide out to the right to open up a huge swing area close to the headstock (750mm) and allow long turning, or close up to keep it relatively compact when doing smaller work. An air supply line near the lathes is very useful.

As in any shed, storage is at a premium. Cupboards and drawers under each of the lathes are part of this, tools on racks above them (Photo 2) with another shelf above for light or bulky stuff. If you are looking for something to protect the tips of your tools when carrying them in toolboxes try pieces of garden hose or pipe insulation. A small cupboard with storage boxes (Photo 3) holds sanding gadgets and other small tools and consumables. Another cupboard (Photo 4) has measuring and finishing gear. Sandpaper pieces slip into short lengths of poly pipe on the lower right hand door. I never work without my full face shield, also stored here. A pigeon hole rack on the wall (Photo 5) holds plastic storage boxes full of screws, nuts and bolts etc. Sheets of chip-board on the rafters allow more storage up there as well. Luckily I have another shed where I can store my timber supply

Apart from the woodturning are we also have a planer, thicknesser, belt sander, dust extractor (Photo 5), large bandsaw, router table (Photo 6), wet & dry grinding, an overhead air filtration unit and a radial arm saw. That's not to mention all the portable power tools, Mal's metal lathe, milling machine, welder and heat treating furnace. Many of the machines are on wheels so we can park them out of the way when not in use.

On our list of "gunna" jobs is to build a small enclosure outside where we can move the dust extractor and some of the other things not used very frequently. This should free up a bit more space inside, as well as get the dust out.

So that's my shed, as it is, without cleaning up! Now, whose shed are we going to visit next issue? If you want to share yours then let Andrea know.



## **My Life in Wood Turning - Jim Cameron**

We returned to WA at the beginning of 2005 after 30 years away, mainly in eastern and northern Australia but also with a fair amount of time overseas. I'd been in Fiji for the last 2½ years running an Australian government aid project at Lautoka Teachers College and decided to take early retirement to finish off a couple of books I'd been working on and to learn woodturning. The books never did get finished, while woodturning – well that's another story.

I set up the beginnings of a workshop with a lathe and tools bought from Carbatec and took the evening classes that Carbatec offered beginners but still had no clear idea of what I was doing and so attended one of the weekend workshops then being run at Dwellingup with Gordon Ward as the tutor – spindle turning on Saturday and a bowl on Sunday. Before it could be hollowed out, Gordon managed to spin the bowl across the room, so it is no surprise that I concentrated for a long time on various dimensions of spindle turning. I learned later that that was probably one of Gordon's party tricks.

It took me more than three years to discover WAWA. I then joined Wandi and became a regular at its Thursday demonstrations even though my presence in the group went unrecognised for a long time. After some months I felt sufficiently confident to submit something for show-and-tell. I had been experimenting with the design of candlesticks using an abstract human shape and, as always when working on prototypes, used pine as my timber of choice. Using the three examples I prepared, I explained the problems I was having with balance between head, shoulder and body and with finding a pleasing shape. The assessor made no reference to the design issues I was grappling with but, instead, focused on the tearout evident at the base and did so in such a way there was another eight years before I tried another show and tell.

I was beginning to settle down at Wandi when I was given an opportunity to work with principals of secondary schools in Sri Lanka strengthening their management capacities. The civil war there was coming to an end and the country was desperate to rebuild its education system with assistance from the Australian government. As I was finishing up, I was approached by a Japanese company working in Vietnam for the Asian Development Bank to assist the redevelopment of the secondary education curriculum to equip students with practical skills. And, as that project was nearing completion, I moved across to a World Bank project dealing with a major shift in the orientation of Vietnam's primary education. Thus, between 2009 and 2016, I spent a fair proportion of the year overseas, living in lathe-less hotel rooms in Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Kiribati, and elsewhere. My wood turning skills developed very slowly.

They were given a major boost however when Wandi established a Tuesday morning hands-on group under the leadership of Graham Lewis who was later joined by Bob Malacari. Graham was an impeccable trainer, always well prepared and attuned to the needs of individual turners. Indeed I used him as a case study with my Vietnamese students, showing them that he exhibited all that I knew as the best practice in adult training. From Graham I finally learned to ride the bevel, along with the importance of sharp (and shiny) tools, and how to design on paper before ever picking up a chisel. Graham could also see scratches in finished work invisible to the naked eye and insisted that they be removed. Only the best was good enough. Even though my attendance was regularly interrupted, I made real progress and moved from spindles to bowls and platters and then to boxes. That is where I now reside, comfortable with each form, although still with plenty more to learn.

I joined the committee at Wandi representing the Tuesday (now Monday) group becoming, in time, its convener, sharing the duties at first with Rod Cocks because I was still spending a fair amount of time away. When fellow Wandi member Andy Phillips moved to New Zealand I stepped in to take his place on the Committee of Management and wasn't quick enough to avoid being nominated as president. The rest of the story you now know, except you will never know how indebted I am to the many demonstrations at club and Association level that I have witnessed over the years as well as a marvellous range of competition and show and tell items.

My time as president is coming to an end. I never did write the books I had in mind when I started out more than 15 years ago but I do have one close to being finished and have begun work on another, and somehow had a hand in five others along the way. My turning is never better than ordinary but has become an essential part of what I do and what I am.

## BOOK REVIEWS— Jim Cameron

### Boxes! Boxes!! Boxes!!!

If you are into boxes and haven't done so already, I recommend that you get hold of a copy of *Turned Boxes* published in 2017 by the Guild of Master Craftsman, United Kingdom.

The subtitle is the key to its contents: *40 Inspiring Boxes by Expert Makers*. And it is just that. The GMC editorial team that brought together eleven well-known international turners including our own Andrew Potocnik and the late Neil Scobie to produce a wonderful array of great ideas within the reach of all of us. Examples, sometimes in end grain, others in cross grain, include essentially decorative forms as well as boxes that could be used around the house like storage jars or a sugar bowl. Each box is rich with design ideas.

More than half of the boxes are described in great detail with easy-to-use diagrams and a string of photographs with accompanying text. Most of the projects include helpful tips and hints that will help to ensure a perfect result.

Box turning is well served by excellent books including Richard Raffan's *Turning Boxes*, John Swanson's *Turning Threaded Boxes*, and an inspiring segment in Ray Key's *Woodturning with Ray Key*. Chris Stott's *Turned Boxes. 50 Designs*, first published in 2002 by GMC publications, has long been considered the key reference, but if this is the box makers' bible then *Turned Boxes* is a new book of revelations and a great addition.

*Turned Boxes* is available at the moment through Book Depository for \$27.53.

### 30 Minute Woodturning

For any keen woodturners out there who want to do more turning but are short of time, **30-Minute Woodturning** is the perfect book as it has an enticing variety of projects which can all be completed in 30 minutes. Even for those working at an intermediate level, this book provides you with something to aim for without compromising safety and it will help beginners to build their skills.

Each of the 25 projects also has plans for four variations included so there are a total of 100 designs to whet your appetite. Most of the projects require only basic turning tools and workshop accessories that nearly every turner will have. A list of tools and materials required is included for each one, along with drawings with dimensions.

*Projects include:*

*candlestick holder; doorstop; decorative bird box; toadstool ;spatula; honey dipper; bud vase; square edge plate*

This title features 25 practical projects from world renowned woodturning expert. It will appeal to novice and intermediate turners. It includes all the knowledge needed to get started, along with step-by-step instructions and detailed drawings. Build your woodturning skills and confidence with this variety of projects that take between a couple of hours and a couple of days to complete. All of the 25 projects can be undertaken using a limited amount of tools and equipment. Making use of the six basic tools - spindle roughing gouge, spindle gouge, parting tool, bowl gouge, skew chisel and scrapers - the book will introduce a couple of carving tools and a boring tool and explain why and how to use them. Each project will have a list of tools and materials required, drawings with dimensions and a panel on the wood used. Sections on safety and seasoning wood are also included. Projects include: napkin rings, rolling pin, pastry press, meat tenderizer, wall clock, and bud vase plus photographs and illustrations

*Turned Boxes* is a must for all keen woodturners. The fantastic projects include designs to suit all levels of ability as well as taste - from simple boxes to more intricate designs incorporating screw threads and exotic timbers. Most of the projects include helpful tips and hints that will help to ensure a perfect result and all projects include detailed instructions along with either step-by-step photography or easy-to-use diagrams. *Turned boxes* projects include: end grain boxes, kitchen storage jars, offset lidded form, spinning top box, tunbridge ware box.



## **I Can't Remember Everything I Already Know**

I used to be able to make an Acorn Lidded Box complete in just under 12 minutes. I've made hundreds of them using black walnut for the lids and maple for the nut. I even made a DVD and have an Acorn making kit for sale on my website. However, since I haven't made any acorn boxes for a while, I won't remember just how I used to do it and I'm sure it would take significantly longer until I do a few and remember what I already knew before. I'll probably have to stop in the middle to hunt for some of the bits and pieces I used before. The same thing with spinning tops. I could finish one complete with texturing and colour in less than 5 minutes and I've made somewhere well over 10,000 of them.

I'm not just out of practice, the truth is we don't remember all of the details we know if we don't use those skills often enough. That is why, as a very experienced turner, I still watch YouTube videos on turning and, when I can, I still attend turning demonstrations. Although I know a lot, I don't know everything and it is always a good reminder of the things I actually already know.

Besides, there is always more than one right way to do something especially in turning wood. If you asked a group of 5 woodturners how to do something you would get at least 10 right answers. None of those answers might be how you already do the same thing.

In industry, companies often require recertification in certain areas because they understand that we forget what we know over time. Or, we simply might remember it slightly different than what we were taught the last time around. We need a slight course correction from time to time.

Just as it is my habit to quickly sharpen all of the turning tools I plan to use on a particular project before I start, some very experienced turners begin each session with some warm up exercises on scrap wood. My favourite is a 2x2x10 piece of scrap 2x4 to rough down, roll beads and scoop out some coves then bring to a cylinder with my skew. I almost always do this before I am going to turn delicate finials out of Ebony or African Blackwood. Those woods are expensive and I don't want to make a mistake because I was not ready although I have made hundreds, it still pays to warm up first.

Instead of just diving in on the good stuff, when you warm up first, your movements will be smoother, your tools will be sharper and you should have everything you need out and ready to go. Otherwise, you will probably have to stop in the middle to get something you didn't remember you needed or you might even snap a \$10 piece of ebony and have to start over. Stopping in the middle interrupts your rhythm and can easily throw you off.

Our church gave everyone a copy of "One Year Through The Bible" in January of 2019. It has 365 chapters one for each calendar day of the year. If you read one chapter each day, you will have read the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation each year. I've read the Bible from cover to cover several times and I still discover new stuff each time. More often I am reminded of what I already knew but had forgotten. Remember that wherever you go, there you are.

*Ron Brown (with permission)*

## My Self-Isolation Quarantine Diary

Day 1 - I Can Do This!! Got enough food and wine to last a month!

Day 2 - Opening my 8th bottle of Wine. I fear wine supplies might not last!

Day 3 - Strawberries: Some have 210 seeds, some have 235 seeds. Who Knew??

Day 4 - 8:00pm. Removed my Day Pyjamas and put on my Night Pyjamas.

Day 5 - Today, I tried to make Hand Sanitizer. It came out as Jello Shots!!

Day 6 - I get to take the Garbage out. I'm So excited, I can't decide what to wear.

Day 7 - Laughing way too much at my own jokes!!

Day 8 - Went to a new restaurant called "The Kitchen". You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have No clue how this place is still in business.

Day 9 - I put liquor bottles in every room. Tonight, I'm getting all dressed up and going Bar hopping.

Day 10 - Struck up a conversation with a Spider today. Seems nice. He's a Web Designer.

Day 11 - Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge just said, "What the hell do you want now?"

Day 12 - I realized why dogs get so excited about something moving outside, going for walks or car rides. I think I just barked at a squirrel.

Day 13 - If you keep a glass of wine in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face.

Day 14 - Watched the birds fight over a worm. The Cardinals lead the Blue Jays 3-1.

Day 15 - Anybody else feel like they've cooked dinner about 395 times this month?

Hang in there!!!

## Something to make before you forget how to ...

### Belt Sander Jig

It is made from 25mm MDF, With a piano hinge. A lone screw on the bottom sheet is used to trim the belt sander for a 90 Degree squaring to the work surface. Further mods can include an Aluminum track down the centre of the work surface to allow a bevel protractor to be used. Other feature could be temporary jigs set to precise angle to trim up segments. Because the work surface is a separate board screwed to the base board, multiple boards could be manufactured for specific purposes. The old belt sander can be very useful.

Any questions please don't hesitate to ask . *Jon Braine*



# Diary Dates

## Competition Hosts 2020

February 15th—Special Interest Groups (at Wandí)

### March 21st—Collie

**Item:** Goblet with at least 1 captive ring on stem, height 100-150mm, using one piece of wood.

### April 18th—Swan

**Item:** Lidded box, max height 100mm, max diameter 100mm

### May 16th—Mandurah

**Item:** Cup and saucer, life-size

### June 20th—Melville

**Item:** Natural edge vase, height 200—300mm

**July 18th—Gosnells** (may be changed to coincide with school holidays) **Item:** Wine bottle & glass holder, photo example available

### August—Wood Show

**Item:** Open, artistic competition

### August 15th—Bunbury

**Item:** an item including inside-out turning, no size restriction

### September 19th—Wandi (AGM also)

**Item:** 3-cornered bowl with stand, lid and finial

### October 17th—Joondalup-Wanneroo

**Item:** Cut and re-assembled item. Judged on artistic criteria.

### November 21st—Busselton

**Item:** Spindle sample as per diagram in training manual. Length 300mm, **pine**, off-the-tool finish with NO sanding. Judged on turning alone.

## WAWA Shopping Centre Displays 2020

*Dependent on current health restrictions*

Forrestfield Hawaiian Shopping Centre:  
24th to 29th August

Melville Hawaiian Shopping Centre: 19th  
to 24th October

The Park Centre: 26th to 31st October

Brian Fowlie 9310 3161

Geoff Saw 9354 1562

Neil Piper 9399 3723

### REMINDER!

The points accumulation for competition commencing at the AGM in September 2019 and running till August 2020.