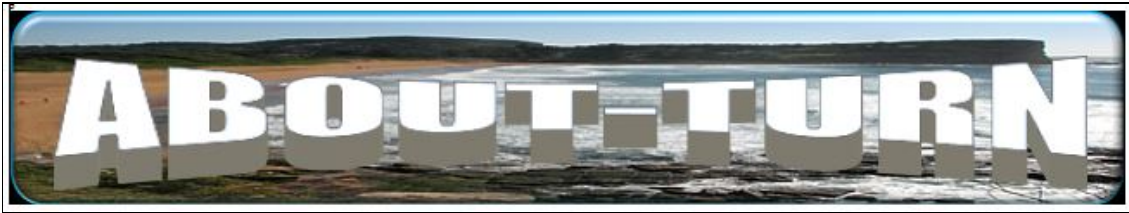


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**Sydney Northern Beaches  
Woodturners Inc**

*Sydney Northern Beaches  
Woodturners*



## Newsletter - August 2025

### In this newsletter find out about:

Monthly Meeting News

Show & Tell

Demo - Adding carving to enhance  
your turned pieces

Show & Tell Challenge - October

Open Day - Sunday 24 August

Bunnings BBQ

Club Shop wares

August birthdays

Welcome to new members

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## Important Dates

**Sunday August 24** - Club Open Day. More volunteers welcome

**Saturday October 11** - Bunnings BBQ

**Sunday October 19** - Next Club Meeting (no meeting in September)

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## August Meeting Notes

The President welcomed the 12 members in attendance at the meeting.

Office bearers reported our Bunnings BBQ on 9 August was a success considering the rain and cold weather that day. Thanks to all who volunteered and especially to Club organiser Will Rogers, and to Andrew Blake as 2IC.

The Bellamy family has contributed John's collection of tools, and finished and unfinished turnings. Finished items will be offered for sale at the Club Open Day next Sunday, proceeds going to Yvonne Bellamy. Club Members are invited to finish other items for sale at future markets/open days when proceeds will go to the Club.

The Club has received an updated Heads of Agreement from Council for a five-year lease extension of the current premises which should be finalised by 25 August with no major changes.

The Wood Bank is full, indeed overstocked. A working bee is needed to tidy the area and further donations of timber are suspended for the time being.

The next Club Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 19 August and will consider finalising life membership policy; the updated lease Heads of Agreement with Council; a number of WHS matters including previously-submitted reports and suggestions from Ken Cooper, Tony Vidler and Jenny Talbot; incident reporting; and new member training.

Our new Treasurer, Ian Blume, thanked Sandra Geraghty for her excellent handover and offer of ongoing support as required. Ian advised consideration was being given to development of an annual budget.

Ian made a particular request to members paying their daily fee by EFT to do so a week at a time maximum. It is otherwise very difficult for the Treasurer to track.

You will notice the Vicmarc lathe from Owen Holden has been installed. The protective screens and dust extraction to be fitted to the two new Vicmarc lathes are work in progress. NVR (no volt release) switches have been installed to the two large bandsaws to prevent inadvertent start-up. If power is lost the bandsaw will not restart until the switch is manually reset.

Workshop is again untidy and dusty. Members are asked to maintain a better standard of cleanliness in relation to cleaning up of wood shavings and dust around the lathes and other machinery including the bandsaws, the drop saw, etc.

Supervisors are asked to remind Members of the need to clean up thoroughly. Members are also asked to empty vacuum cleaners when they are full and not leave them to someone else.

Club Open Day 24 August – Julie Jarvis reported planning was well advanced. A number of Members have volunteered to help on the day, and pre-publicity/promotions have included handing out flyers and putting up posters in shopping centres to help drum up interest. Members wishing to sell items should bring them to the Clubhouse on Friday 22 August.

The President suggested that general Club meetings number six each year to allow more planning for important aspects such as demonstrations. Members can provide feedback to Committee members, or via the Club's [email address](#).

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Club Members will be held on 19 October, 0900 for 0930am.

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# John Bellamy Memorial Plaque

Yvonne Bellamy and Family attended to unveil the memorial plaque to John Bellamy in recognition for his support of the Club and the legacy donations from the Bellamy family and friends.





Thanks to Catherine Ritter for creating such a memorable plaque.

The President also thanked the Bellamy family for their generous donations to the Club and invited them to sit on the very comfortable cushions.

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## **Show & Tell**

No one had attempted Tony Ney's segmented rolling pin. Perhaps later in the year when they have more time. However, we had some interesting work from a number of people.



**Nick Vertes** has recently completed four pieces of work. These include a set of two unique and distinctive, nearly identical shallow bowls turned from *Casuarina*. In addition, he crafted a small, lidded box with resin finish inside, and a larger box made from a species of *Flame Tree*.

The Large bowl, with a nicely decorated edge, is Nick's first turned bowl. It was turned from unknown, very dry, wood.





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### **Tim MacGregor**

Two items turned from Tasmanian Timber. A small Huon Pine platter accompanied by a pear turned from King William Pine. (Others, less formal, know it as King Billy Pine!)



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### **Catherine Ritter**

Two, edge decorated bowls. The larger of the two turned from "found" wood. These bowls had been turned some time ago but Catherine felt they needed some enhancement to give them a 'lift'.



Catherine described in detail her technique for mixing and emulsifying pigments for colouring turned items. With the bowl on the right above the pen below was used.



### Phil Skelton

It would be hard to detect the turned timber in this magnificent example of Phil's skill. Phil has assembled, painted, and commissioned this model of the renowned Flying Scotsman — a locomotive built in 1923 that, in 1934, became the first steam engine officially recorded to reach 100 miles per hour during a historic run between London and Edinburgh.



# Demonstrator - Catherine Ritter

## Enhancing your turning with texturing & piercing



Catherine began her demonstration by explaining the three machines she uses and the burs and their uses. Firstly the Dremel, which most people will be familiar with. However, she emphasised that you need the extension lead in order to have a greater level of control. It was agreed with the attendees that having the Dremel elevated was also easier, rather than at table level as shown here.

Just search the internet for the drawing you want. Print it out, draw it freehand or use tracing paper to transfer it onto your piece of wood. Then you're ready to start.



As you can see there is a huge variety of burs to choose from. For extra cutting power Catherine prefers one with a cross-hatch pattern.

She explained that the bur cuts in one direction and smooths in the other. So if you are wanting to cut, repeat that direction.

Here are two fine examples of Catherine's skill. Below a bowl with a decorative pattern.

Below is a vase Catherine has decorated and painted.



The second machine is the Freedom. It's major advantage over the Dremel is the extension cord which is coiled, giving the user much more flexibility and control.

Catherine advised if the Dremel had this flexible coil lead she wouldn't have bought the Freedom.



Cutting holes: To get the cutting started, it is best to drill a hole, using a hand held drill. You need to make sure the hole size fits the size of the bur you will be using. And the hole needs to be away from the edge as the drill can cause splinters. Most of the time, you use a cylinder bur. Depending on the effect sought, you may angle the bur to produce an angled cut.

Engraving: Most common burs used for this will be ball or cylinder burs. Round burs create engraving similar to using round carving gouges.

Cylinder burs can be used to smooth a surface or to produce cuts similar to using a V tool.

You can also use burs similar to wood files, like the saburrtooth burs (available at S/E Queensland Woodworking). As shown in photo to the right.





Catherine sits comfortably in a chair to carve with a protective cloth over her legs. She would normally sit facing the table so there is no drag on the cord but for the purposes of the demonstration sat sideways.



Here Catherine is cutting a 6mm thick platter with Foredom or Dremel.

This pattern will eventually reflect the coastline of Tasmania!

When piercing, you use the tool at right angles to the surface and cut using a firm consistent motion. It is best to rest your hand on a surface to steady the movement.



The third machine is a dental drill and requires a small compressor to run.



Its great advantage is the use of very fine cutting tools.

Below Catherine is cutting a 2mm thick bowl with the dental drill.



It is important to use the tool at 90 degree to the surface, resting the hand on the surface to steady the movement. You cut against the rotation of the burr to prevent skipping and achieve a smoother cut. No stop and start as this would produce a jagged edge.

The drill can blacken the timber but if you use it in reverse direction with only very light pressure, you can remove the black.



Here you can see how Catherine is using other shapes to outline a humming bird, rather than simply doing an outline of a bird.

When well cut, there should be no need for sanding. But if the cut edge is not smooth, you can use small sanding sticks (see below), diamond burs or a small gouge to clean up.



Lastly and most importantly you will need to lightly sand the edges of your carving if you need to remove tool marks. Catherine does this by hand with a series of small sticks of different widths and grades of sandpaper. When sanding edges it is IMPORTANT to use sandpaper with a hard backing so as not to round the edges.

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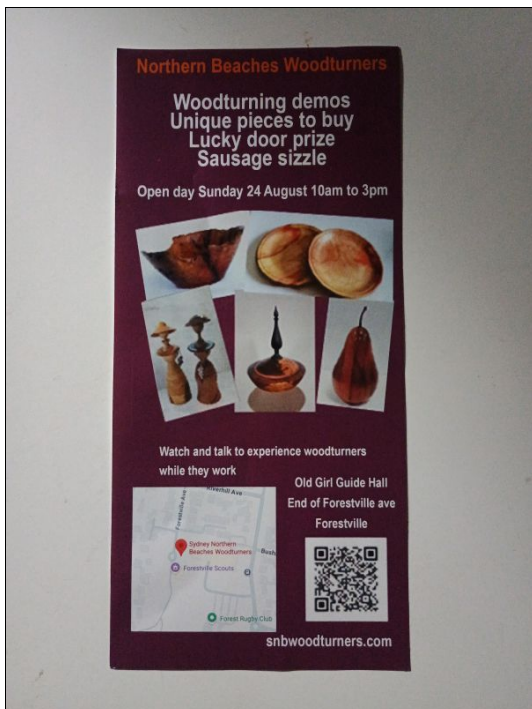
## **Challenge for October Show & Tell**

Your Challenge for the next Show & Tell on Sunday October 19 is to do some cutting or engraving of a piece you have turned. We realise you won't have a handy dental drill but a lot of the work Catherine demonstrated can be done with your Dremel. You just need the right bur. Ask Catherine for some advice.

Of course we always welcome your latest turnings and a segmented rolling pin would be nice to see.

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**Club Open Day**  
**Next Sunday, 24 August 10am - 3pm**



Our first Club Open Day is next Sunday 24 August.

The aim of the Open Day is to improve the Club's engagement in the community, raise public awareness of the existence of our club, encourage members of the public to join the club and increase our membership.

To drum up interest, members have put up posters in retail outlets and men's sheds, handed out flyers in shopping centres, done letterbox drops in the local area.

There will be two lathes for demonstrating. Ken Cooper will be turning a bowl that will then become the Lucky Door prize for one of our visitors. Chris Falvey and Jenny Talbot will take a turn on the other lathe. More demonstrators are welcome to give these three a break.

We'll have a display of turned items for sale in the meeting room. If you have anything for sale please have them at the Club this Friday 22 August. Your items need stickers and prices. If you know your way around a spreadsheet could you please [list your items on this sheet](#) and email them to [Julie](#). If not, don't worry, Julie will do it for you on Friday when you bring them in.

It really helps to have members explain items for sale, what wood it is, introduce them to the turner if they're around. So if you'd like to help out there, please let Catherine or Julie know.

There'll be a sausage sizzle outside the Woodbank doors selling to visitors and passers by. It will operate from 11am - 2pm. We need 3 people to man it at all times so again, please put your hand up if you haven't already. And if you could help peel and slice some onions on Friday, again, that would be great.

Another important role is meeting and greeting visitors. Taking their details for the lucky door prize, telling them about the club, and inviting them to check out the items for sale.

If you're turning on Friday or Saturday we'd really appreciate if you could be extra, extra vigilant in cleaning up around your lathe and the other machines. We want the workshop to be looking its best on Sunday. See you there.

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## **Bunning Sausage Sizzle Saturday 9 August**

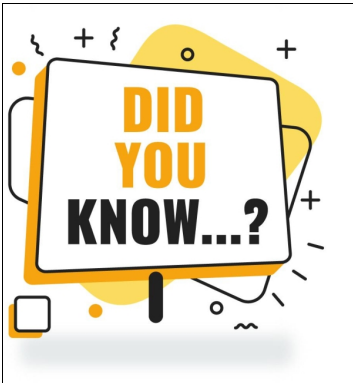
Our Bunnings Fundraising BBQ on Sat Aug 9 was very successful and sales surprising strong for a wet day. An excellent result considering the woeful wind and rain. Luckily when the sun peeked through the car park filled up and orders flowed. We served a total of 650 sausage sandwiches.

A HUGE THANK YOU to the onion slicers and our team of 10 woodturners who volunteered. Your enthusiasm to jump in and handle the till, pick up the tongs and serve with a happy smile does make these long days easier. In addition the day helps build up comradeship in the club that cannot be achieved with a chisel while the wood is spinning.

The Bunnings Events coordinator checked in with us in the afternoon and was pleased with the service we provided and our setup.

Catherine & Julie enthusiastically promoted our Open Day. Many folks looked interested and took note of the date August 24. The chats & flyers helped to raise the profile of our club and woodturning.





This is our segment to introduce new members, and remind existing members, on information about our Club that we might not otherwise think of mentioning to them.

If you have any suggestions on items we could include, please send them to [the editor](#).

**Did You Know?.....**Keeping the workshop clean and tidy is of paramount importance. It's only a matter of weeks since the workshop clean-up and we're letting the side down. Please ensure your workspace is exceptionally clean and don't forget the bandsaws, drop saws, grinders, drill presses. It is imperative you take your shavings home with you.

**Did You Know?.....**It's nostalgia time. As mentioned in the Meeting Notes above, our lease with Northern Beaches Council is about to be signed for another 5 years. Here's two articles that were written about the first leasing signing 5 years ago.

[Northern Beaches Advocate](#)

[Forestville News](#)

**Did You Know?.....**There's an easy way to clean your diamond plates. Thanks to Ken Cooper check out this easy way on [Youtube](#). **Please note:** use good ol' Ajax powder, not the product recommended on Youtube. You'll note the Club ones are sparkling thanks to Ken's handiwork.

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## **John Bellamy's lathe for sale**

Yvonne Bellamy wishes to find a good home for her husband John's lathe.

It's a Cougar with a 1 horsepower motor. Electronic variable speed. Approximately 20 years old. John bought it for \$1900 new.

If you're interested please talk to John Donnelly.

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## The Club Shop

There are lots of goodies in the Club shop. Any Supervisor can help you find what you're looking for. Simply pay with cash or direct debit. A list of the extensive array of items available is kept in the shop cabinets. See some examples below.



*Letter openers*



*Clock parts*



*Cake slices*



*Pot Pourri lids*



*Pen cases*



*Wine stoppers*

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## Happy Birthday to the members who celebrate their birthday in August

Chris Falvey, Jonathan Rabinovitz, Lloyd Ross

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### Welcome to our new members:

Timothy Doherty, Keith Hills, Rod Imber & Sal Letts

We hope you enjoy your time with us.



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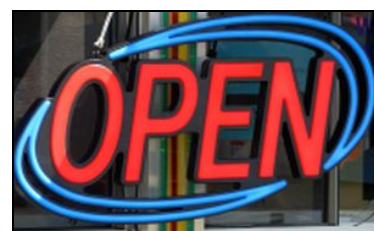
### Club T-Shirts

If you are representing the Club at any event, including a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle we would be very pleased to see you wearing a Club T-Shirt to promote the Club.

We have plenty of stock in all sizes - just \$25. Ask a Supervisor to get one for you.



Tuesdays & Fridays 9.30am - 1pm  
Saturday mornings 8.30am - 1pm  
2nd & 4th Friday each month  
9:30am - 3:30pm



### Your Committee

President:	John Donnelly
Vice President:	Alex Bendeli
Secretary:	Chris Falvey
Treasurer:	Ian Blume

**Editor:** Julie Jarvis  
E: [snbwoodturners@hotmail.com](mailto:snbwoodturners@hotmail.com)



**Secretary:**  
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<http://www.snbwoodturners.com/>



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