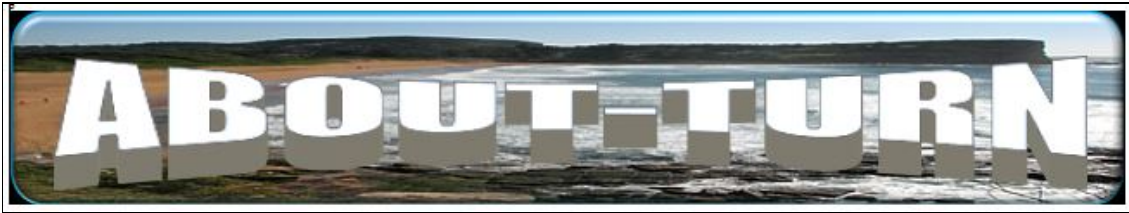


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**Sydney Northern Beaches
Woodturners Inc**

*Sydney Northern Beaches
Woodturners*



Newsletter - November 2025

In this newsletter find out about:

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Important Dates

Thursday 4 December - Bunnings Family Night. We will demonstrate and provide giveaways. May be able to sell.

Saturday 6 December - Bunnings BBQ. More volunteers needed & items to fill the Lucky Dip box

Saturday 13 December - Workshop close and final clean for the year.

Sunday 14 December - Participation in new Frenchs Forest Bunnings Store Opening Day. We will demonstrate & sell. Volunteers needed.

Tuesday 3 February - We will reopen in 2026.

Toys for Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a division of Samaritans Purse which is a Christian international aid organisation.

The toys we make are distributed to three local churches, Frenchs Forest Anglican, Forestville Uniting and Terrey Hills Anglican. The toys are packed in shoeboxes with other items, wrapped in Christmas paper and distributed around the world to children in need.

We have made a total of 180 toys this year, The toys are for boys aged 2 to 4. There are seven models and we made 25 of each.

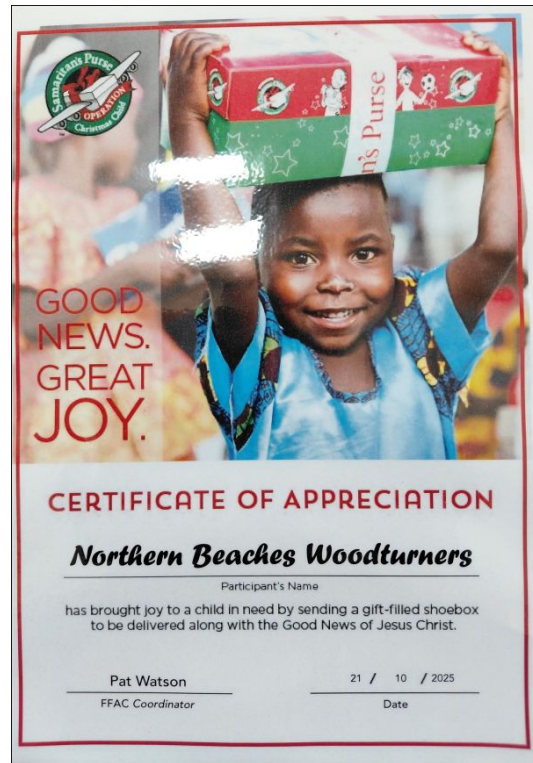
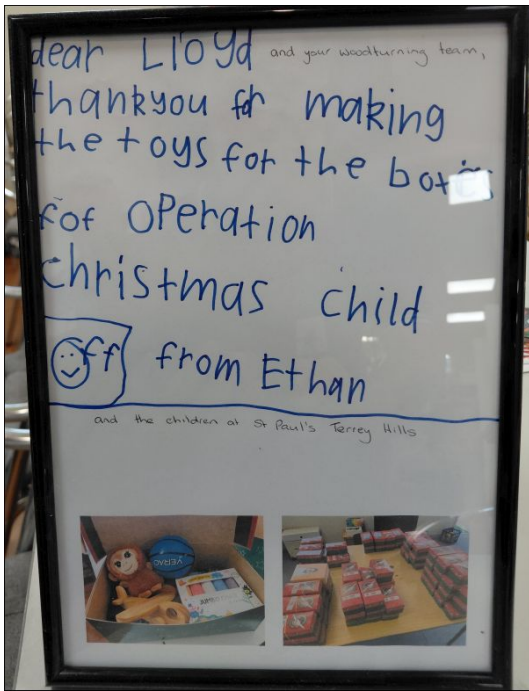
The representatives of the Churches are :-

Pat Watson - Frenchs Forest

Robyn Jacobs – Forestville

Debbie Severino – Terrey Hills





Operation Christmas Child equips and empowers local churches all over the world to share the Gospel. In Australia and 10 other countries, **churches play an essential role in packing and collecting shoebox gifts that are lovingly filled with toys, school supplies, and personal care items by individuals, families, and groups.** Internationally, Operation Christmas Child in-country volunteers are part of leadership teams that identify and partner with local churches to distribute the shoebox gifts. In places where there are no churches, the teams have the joy of introducing the Gospel and sometimes starting churches.

Memories of Narrabeen RSL

For those of you who were members during our occupation under the Narrabeen RSL you may be interested to see what has happened to it.

The Narrabeen RSL Memorial and Recreational Club, which was put into voluntary administration in early 2022, was sold in October 2024 for \$15.4 million to a local property developer. The site is planned for development into a new housing estate. Below is the current status.



Bunnings - 3 Events to join in for our Club in December

Let's not be shy about it. We need your help - we need volunteers to cook sausages, talk to customers and potential members, demonstrate, sell their creations at these events.

The first event is **Thursday 4th December - The Bunnings Christmas Family Night** : It's great fun, lots of kids to entertain. Bunnings put on a good show - free sausage sizzle (we're not cooking!), an entertainer, face painting etc. We've been asked to demonstrate from 5pm-7pm. That means we also need volunteers to demonstrate and man the stand. Also, to get the evening started we need some Christmas themed giveaways We may sell items at this event. Please contact President John on 0418 686 227 or [email](#) if you can assist.

Our next Belrose BBQ is **Saturday December 6**. We expect it will be a very busy pre-Christmas day. We still need volunteers so please sign up or [email Will](#). And don't forget to turn some Xmas themed items for the Lucky Dip. Christmas trees, Santas or the usual spinning tops for December would be nice!

And lastly, **Sunday 14 December is the Grand Opening of the new Bunnings store at Frenchs Forest**. This is likely to be our new sausage sizzle location in 2026. We have been offered, and accepted, the opportunity to demonstrate our craft and to sell items at this event **10am - 2pm**. As well we need some giveaways. Please get turning. Simple things you can turn out speedily. Kids focussed. They love them. And please contact President John on 0418 686 227 or [email](#) if you can assist. We want to make a good impression, particularly if this to be our new sausage sizzle location.

Looking to 2026, we have penciled in the first sausage sizzle: Saturday March 7 2026. We will confirm closer to the date if it will be a Belrose or Frenchs Forest.

Royal Easter Show 2026 - Sales of Member items

Easter Show Starts on Thursday 2nd of April and Ends on Monday 13th of April.

Preview Night for the Arts and Craft will be on Tuesday 31st of March from 6pm - 9pm and we will be demonstrating only.

Dates for the Guild Demonstration will be from Thursday 2nd until Tuesday 7th of April. The Guild needs volunteers for those 6 days. We're waiting to hear what day SNBW are required to demonstrate. The Guild has requested 4 demonstrators and 6 volunteers for each of these dates. The Guild will set up on Monday 30th of March.

If you are putting items up for sale you must be there to either setup, pack up or volunteer to watch the stand at least one day.

1. All items for sale are to be registered, via the registration form, and returned to Dave King on or before **2nd March 2026 (no exceptions)**. Either email dwoodturner2004@gmail.com, hand deliver or snail mail.

To - David King
19/149 Waldron Road
Chester Hill 2162

2. All items **MUST** have a tag or sticker with an identifiable number e.g.Z01. Two or more same items are to have the same identifying marks. E.g. If you have 5 different size bowls but all have the same price give them the same identifiable number.

3. All items must have a tag or sticker attached with your sale price.

4. All items are to be sold via the Guild's receipt invoicing.

5. All monies collected will be returned to the owner minus 10%

6. All items, that are registered, must be at the Easter Show to be advised closer to the time. Therefore, persons must get their items to the show themselves or contact Dave King for information on who will be going.

7. No person can enter the Show Grounds without passes.

8. A contact number should be written on the registration form because some customers may wish to negotiate the price.

9. **PLEASE NOTE** All care will be taken but no responsibility given for any damage or loss, whatsoever caused. **NO PENS ARE TO BE SOLD**

10. If the Items do not have the required tagging they **WILL NOT BE SOLD** They will be placed back into the owner's boxes.

Using a bandsaw for best results

Introduction: This article was prompted by the recent series of damaged bandsaw blades and bearings. Its aim is to make our members familiar with the safety and technical reasoning behind the safe operation of a bandsaw. Most members do not understand the reasoning behind some of the rules believing "I know better than that silly rule". Obviously, the user should become familiar with the machine operation prior to "resetting" it. A separate article will describe the servicing of the bandsaw.

This article assumes the bandsaw has been previously adjusted by the workshop Supervisors or maintenance team in terms of blade tension, bearings alignment, drift compensation and position of the blade on its drive wheels. Many rules are described in the Machine Safety manual issued to new SNBW members. Only the salient safety rules are elaborated here. Please have a bandsaw buddy to ensure safe operation and reduce damage to yourself and the bandsaw.

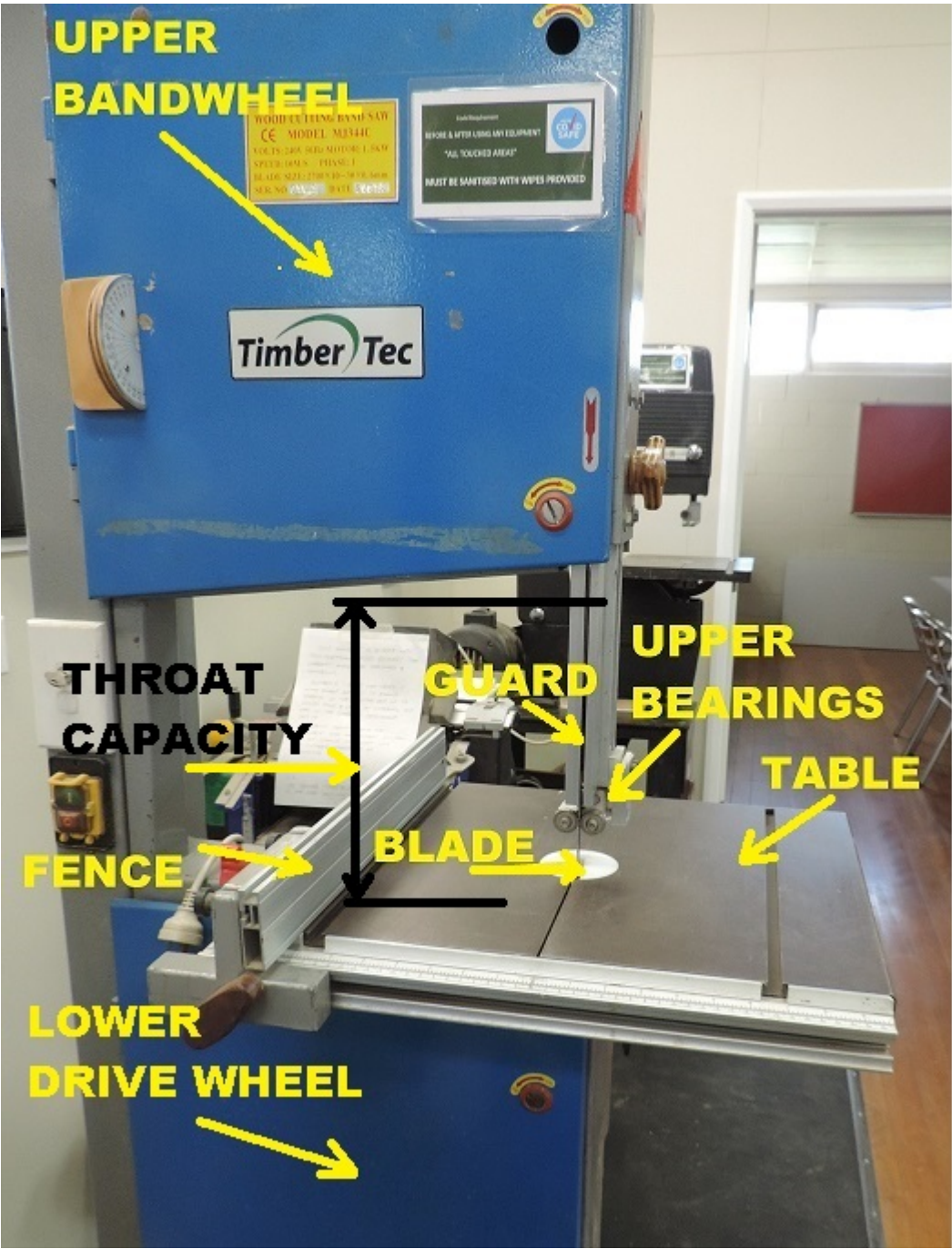
Bandsaw components: A quick recap on the bandsaw fundamental parts are described here.

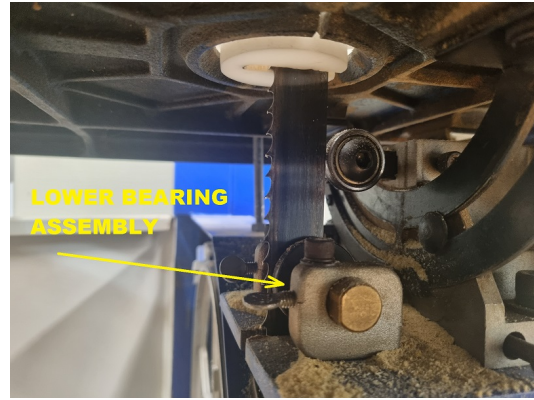
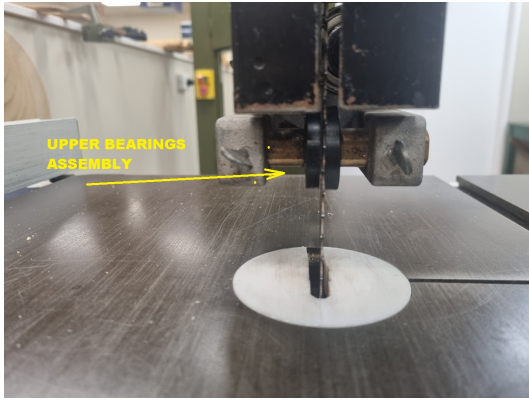
The bandsaw is designed to drive a flexible saw blade to suit the desired cut and purpose (and finish). The blade is driven by the lower motorised drive wheel which rotates around the upper bandwheel to deliver a downward cutting force by the teeth then return to follow the same path thus providing a continuous cut.

The blade is tensioned so that it does not flop and vibrate as it rotates and cuts. The upper bearings ensure that the blade is not deflected sideways or pushed back too hard. These bearings are only guides and therefore the operator should not exert excessive sideways pressure to cut around tight corners or frontal pressure to the blade to cut faster. This is the rule for not applying a piece of wood against the blade at the end of a cut to stop the blade.

Refer to the photo below, blades come in Coarse TPI (2~6 teeth per inch) whereas a Fine TPI would be about 10 and very fine around 14 and above. Different widths of the blades

range from 6.5mm to 25mm (or more depending on the throat capacity of the machine). Blades also come in different thicknesses 0.6~0.8mm. The thickness and teeth offset determine the minimum cutting slot called “kerf”. The gap between the teeth is called “gullet”.





A set of similar lower guide bearings are located under the table (Pic above right) to perform the same function of restricting the blade twisting or deflecting too far.

There are four bandsaws in the SNBW workshop:

BN01: wide blade with coarse TPI. Only used for straight and resaw cuts.

BN02: medium width blade for general straight and large curves cuts.

BN03: Thin narrow blade with fine TPI for straight and smaller curves cuts. For general usage and toy making.

BN04: Small machine with a narrow blade and fine TPI dedicated to the toy makers.

Like all machines in the workshop, the bandsaw should be turned ON or OFF by using the NVR switch on the machine itself and not the wall socket.

Tension: The electric motor delivers its power via the drive wheels to the saw blade. Therefore it is essential that there is a correct tension on the blade to effectively transfer the power to the teeth and cut the wood. So before powering up, check the saw is tensioned. Never assume it is tensioned. Check the tension lever in case a previous user released the tension. The tension lever has two maximum positions so check with your bandsaw buddy.

If started untensioned, the blade will fall out of its drive wheels and there are several possible outcomes:

1. It will/might slip off the drive wheels and sit in its housing. It is highly likely to get trapped resulting in kinks in the steel which are impossible to straighten.
2. The blade might bend/snap and get propelled out onto the table. Because of the bearings, it is highly likely to get propelled sideways. It will need a new blade. Therefore your buddy should never stand beside the bandsaw. The buddy should stand behind the bandsaw.



The Blade: The blade material must be flexible as it rotates around the motor driven wheels but its front teeth section must be hardened to perform the cut and not wear. The gullet's purpose is to collect the sawdust and clear the path so that the blade does not clog up and create a lot of friction causing heat and burning the wood.

It therefore makes sense that fine blades should not be used for sawing thick material. Also it makes sense not to cut green wet wood using a fine blade because the sawdust will quickly clog the gullets. A coarse blade will result in a rough surface finish on the cut face. Fine blades should be used where the stock material is not very thick and a smoother finish is expected. A coarse blade will cut faster because it takes big "chunks of wood" as long as the gullets can expel their sawdust. A fine TPI cutting a deep (tall) log will not have time and travel distance to clear the dust if the wood is wet.



If you push the stock very hard against the blade you cause two things:

1. The blade is pushed back against the rear bearing which will generate sparks (depending on the bearing arrangement). This will slowly damage the bearing;
2. You are forcing the blade to quickly cut a lot of wood thus clogging the

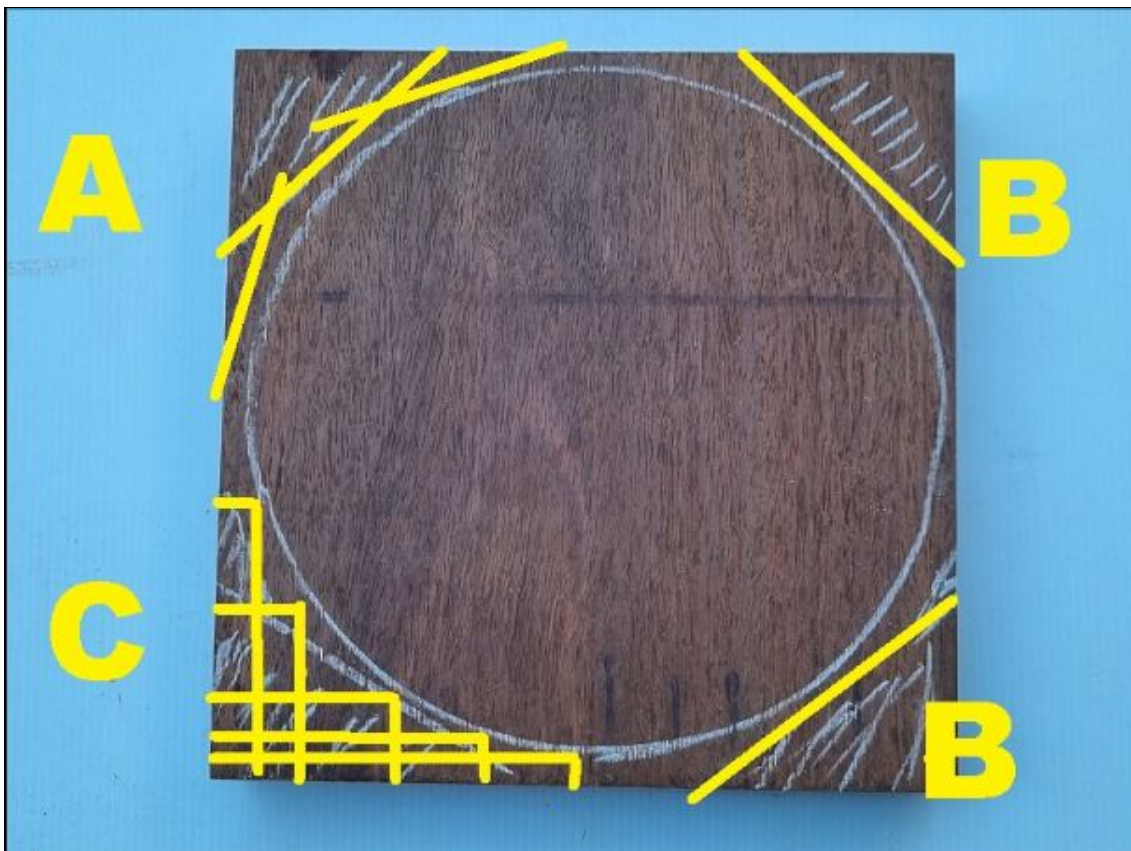
gullet. Therefore the lesson is NOT to push hard on the wood stock, let the machine do the cutting for you.

This also gives rise to a safety aspect regarding how you push the log considering that there may be a soft, rotten or cracks inclusions inside the wood.

(1) If you push using your body weight, the sudden lack of resistance will cause you to unexpectedly fall forward towards the blade and possibly cut your fingers if you were near the end of a cut and not using a push stick.

(2) If your body is fixed on the ground but you use your forearms to push the stock then any sudden loss of resistance will not cause you to lose stability and fall forward.

The blade width determines mainly the stability of the blade during a cut and the turning radius that it is capable of performing, For example a wide blade (e.g. 19~25mm) would be used to cut straight lines much more efficiently but it is limited to very large cutting radii on the stock because the blade cannot twist to follow small radii contours. Narrow blades (say 6.5mm) and thin blades on the other hand are used for tight radii usually required for toys and jigsaw puzzles.



Generally, if you wish to prepare a round from a square blank for lathe turning, you can use the bandsaw in one of several ways depending on the bandsaw and its blade configuration. If a fine blade is available, and your blank is around 25mm thick and 100mm diameter you can get a reasonable circular cut around the scribed pencilled circle. However, if you have

thicker and wider stock for a bowl or lidded box or a platter, then a coarse and wide blade would be more efficient as it will cut faster and straighter, but the downside is that you need to approximate your circle by a series of cuts. Method **A** shows several tangential cuts resulting in a multi-faceted approximation to a circle. Method **B** shows one tangential cut per corner resulting in an octagon. Method **C** if performed on all four corners will result in an even better circular approximation but albeit will take longer time to cut. In all cases, the blank has to be eventually mounted on a lathe and turned to a true circle.

An example of a prepared blank prior to turning is shown here with a label to determine which face represents the appropriate face of the platter to be turned or secured on a screw chuck or faceplate. Obviously the better the circular approximation, the less shudder will be experienced during the initial roughing cuts to obtain the true rounded shape. Use the block's Settings tab to change the caption position and set other styles.



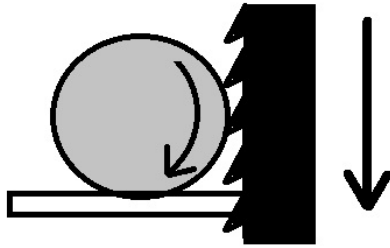
Safety Reminders: Like any machine tool, the cutting process is very fast, and a typical cutting speed is around 40metres/sec. This is often rated for cutting wood whether it is turning or sawing or planing. Therefore, the cutting process is too fast to react, it takes 0.2s for the brain to register i.e. the blade would have travelled 8 metres before your brain says “ouch” or “remove your fingers now”. It is therefore essential to practice safe operation. Rules do apply especially in a small hobby environment where different aptitudes exist. Although some rules appear to be obvious and onerous, the rules are there to minimize the accidental injury.

* SNBW has instigated the Bandsaw Buddy rule which requires that another person (supervisor or experienced member) to attend the cutting process required by another member. It is not a reflection of the member’s ability but a duty by fellow members to ensure that the machine and operator have covered all aspects of the safety requirements before initiating the cutting process. It is easy in the flurry of the moment to forget to tension the blade or locate the bandsaw guard too high thus creating the risk of trapping the fingers into the blade’s path.

* The wood stock must be held securely. I always advocate that the secret of the job is how to hold the material securely and let the machine do the cutting. If you have to apply lots of pressure to cut the wood, then either the blade is blunt or you are using the wrong TPI

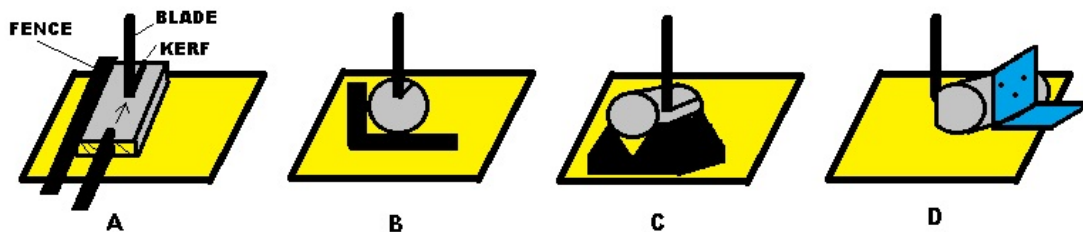
blade. Be aware that using a high TPI (more teeth) just accumulates lots of sawdust between the teeth that must be extracted. So pushing even more for a faster cut just plugs the gullets and prevents the efficient cutting and sawdust removal. So proper TPI selection is essential for a good cut.

* Allow the saw to cut at its own rate. Do not push and apply unnecessary pressure on the wood during the cutting to “speed-up” the cutting. The saw will cut at its own rate and any extra pressure just deflects the blade backwards (if resawing straight cuts) or sideways (if circle or contour sawing). This causes the blade’s spine to dig into the rear bearing resulting in a damaged and seized roller.



* Looking at the adjacent sketch, consider the action of the blade on a round stock if the stock is unrestrained. The moment the teeth come in contact with the stock, the downward motion of the blade grabs the round stock which just rotates in an unpredictable and unexpected motion if not restrained.

It is therefore essential that all round stock be clamped in an appropriate jig as described below. If unsure, always ask your bandsaw buddy or the workshop supervisor.



* Use a push stick (Fig A) to cut wood parallel to the fence, usually for straight cuts. Note the direction of the applied force towards the blade. A Finger saver (Fig B) is useful for irregular or round blanks that need cutting. Fig C shows a V-Slot Sled usually when cutting axial slots or slices from round stock. Fig D is a Right-angle Sled onto which a long log, usually with bark still attached, needs to have an initial flat prepared for subsequent cuts on a bandsaw. All these various jigs are to prevent accidents or round stock rolling away and trap/cut your fingers at the end of a cut, in case your fingers “follow through” the cut. In all cases, ensure the total applied hand-pressure is directed to the blade. Any other position creates a twisting motion to the blade especially if the wood is not secured against the fence and is “free hand” cutting i.e. a circle or other non-linear cut.

* Wear appropriate PPE (eye and hearing); push with your hands and not with your body.

What great information and explanation provided in this article. Huge thanks to Alex Bendeli for providing this expert article.

New Incident Reporting Guideline

New incident reporting forms are in use, to improve recording and analysis of incidents with a view to improving safety.

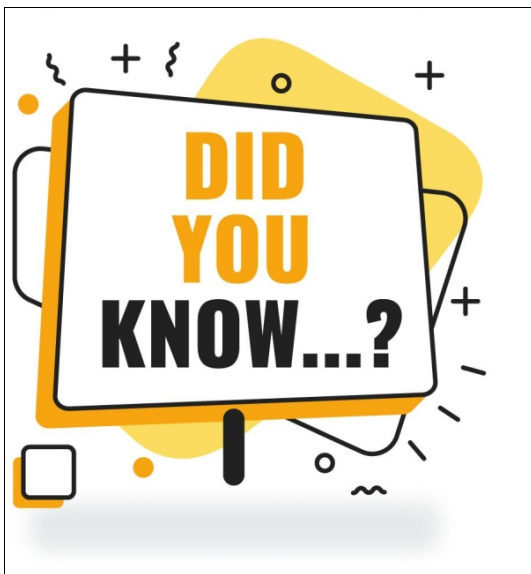
The form is based on templates published by Worksafe NSW, and covers both mechanical incidents and personal injuries.

The hazard/incident/accident report form should be used where first aid is provided by the Club or where a Member required medical treatment; or to report a hazard where someone could have been injured such as equipment breaking (eg bandsaw breakages), failing or being misused, items coming loose and being thrown from the lathe, or electrical shocks, small fires, etc.

The form also includes a 'closing out' section to be completed by the Workshop Manager which records any corrective actions.

Printed copies of the forms, along with membership application forms, visitor badges and similar, are stored in the folder inside the top cabinet of the 'sign-in bandsaw' at the front of the Clubhouse.

Did You Know?



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?....The Club 's history is available to all via our website. It is to be admired and held in high regard so it can be remembered. Check our [website](#) for items that will tell

you about the workshop history, Foundation members and (Honorary Life Members / Past Committees).

Did You Know?....Your Club had new signage on the workshop building to tell people we are there and attract new members.

Thanks to the Committee for organising it.



Did you know?.... If the Club can do something better, we'd like to know? Don't be bashful, let us know. Talk to your Supervisor or contact a Committee member.

Don't ASSUME anything. Most things are possible with the brains trust of our members to help! Start talking about it.

Did You Know?....Due to our Committee being reduced to 3 people and pressed for time there will not be a Christmas Party this year.

A message from our President: "If I, President John - do not see you at the Clubhouse between now and the 13th December may I take this opportunity to wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR from myself and my Committee."

The Future of the Club Shop

As was mentioned in the October newsletter, the Committee plans to use up the stock in the shop and then close it. There are lots of goodies you can take advantage of in the meantime saving you a trip to Timberbits or elsewhere.



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



Happy Birthday to the members who celebrate their birthday in November

Andrew Black, Barry Brown, Vlad Korol, Sal Letts, Steven Sant

We hope you enjoy your day.

Welcome to our new members:

Christopher Knudsen & Richard Clezy

We hope you enjoy your time with us.



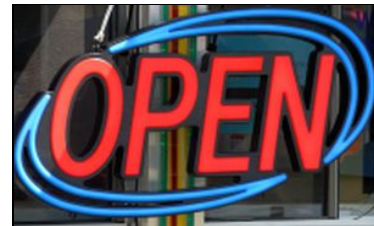
Club T-Shirts

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:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Ian Blume

Editor: Julie Jarvis
E: snbwoodturners@hotmail.com





Secretary:

PO Box 532, Forestville NSW 2087

snbwoodturners@hotmail.com

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



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