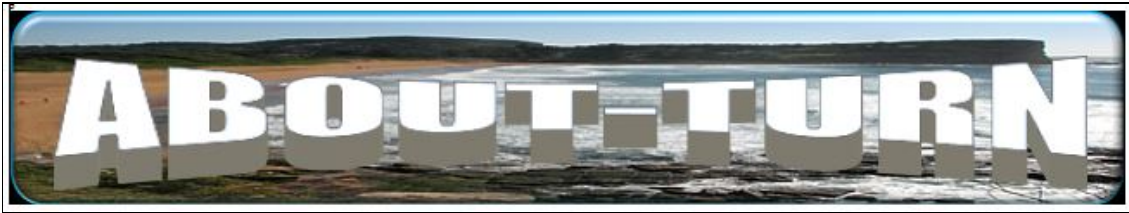


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**Sydney Northern Beaches
Woodturners Inc**

Sydney Northern Beaches
Woodturners



Newsletter May 2026

Notes from Member Meeting held on Sunday 17 May

The President explained the Minutes distributed after the March meeting were incorrect. The correct minutes will be distributed in due course with an amendment requested in the May meeting.

The President also mentioned the Membership fee had increased to \$80 anticipating an increase from the Guild for a rise in insurance cost. Membership Renewal is due 31 May. Please complete [this form](#) and pay by that date.

It was agreed that coffee/tea mugs can now be kept on site. Washing is your own responsibility. Phil S will find an appropriate place to store them.

The President had seen an Eccentric chuck demonstrated at Turnfest and suggested it might something purchased by the Club. No specific model identified. No decision made. The meeting was reminded storage boxes were available for members use for \$50 pa.

Tool Sharpening: The President confirmed that the Club would now maintain two sharpening systems, the recently purchased Sorby Pro-edge for Club tools, and the Unijig for members who preferred this method.

Terrey Hills Market 3 May: Julie Jarvis reported on its success which was attributed to a number of factors: Improved running by the market organisers including the closing of the road making it available for stalls; the Club having a greater variety of items for sale; a larger number of visitors; stall position and improved display.

Thanks to the 10 members who assisted on the day everything ran smoothly. Thanks too are due to Catherine (assisted by others) for creating a fabulous display stand. We need two more. If you can help please speak to Catherine. It was pleasing everyone sold

something and the Club also benefited well financially and we were again able to present the Club as part of the local community. We have since had interest from at least one potential member.

The meeting moved a vote of thanks for Julie and Catherine for their coordination of the event.

Open Day 22 August: The Club will again hold an Open Day with sausage sizzle. This year on Saturday 22 August. Demonstrators, volunteers for the BBQ, meet & greeters, sales helpers are needed. And get turning those items for sale. Some larger boxes would be useful to add to the assortment of items for sale. There was a last minute panic before the Terrey Hills market which should be avoided for the Open Day.

Annual General Meeting: The President reminded Members that the next meeting on Sunday 19 July will be the Annual General Meeting with election of your Committee for the coming year. If you are interested in helping the Club as a Committee member please talk to others about being nominated.

Maintenance Report: Alex Bendeli made a number of important points which are detailed later in this newsletter.

Show & Tell

The two members who stole the Easter Show prizes, Chris Falvey & Nick Vertes, were asked to share how they created their pieces and the secrets to their success. Nick & Chris entered all but one category and together received a ribbon in all categories.

In addition, four other members put forward items of particular interest to Club Members.



Chris Falvey wanted to turn a large Red Gum burl platter. However, the nature of the burl meant it had no defined grain structure. It is more like turning end grain than a traditional 'side grain' platter – but still using traditional 'side grain' turning methods.

Burl often has pockets, randomly dispersed, of concrete-like hardness, relative softness, and even punkiness; interspersed with multiple voids of varying shapes and sizes.

Additionally, you are dealing with an interrupted natural edge which is completely and randomly uneven.

If you'd like to know in detail how he turned it, and it was painstaking and complex, read his [detailed description](#). The BBQ Carver earned him a First Prize at the 2026 Easter Show.



This ring box of Chris' is his own design called 'Eternity.' He makes about 3 per year, an evolving design. A combination of Black bean, Queensland Red Cedar, Tasmanian Myrtle and Huon pine. Extremely intricate. Again Chris has kindly provided a write-up on how he created it. You can download it [here](#). He received a Highly Commended from the Easter Show judges.

Chris also entered an intricate jewellery box into the Easter Show but was not successful in winning a prize. He has promised to give us a write-up and photos of it for the next newsletter.

Winning Tips:

Go Big

Spend a lot of time on your finishes

Have your own design

Disguise how your held the item on the lathe

Nick Vertes had several winning pieces which have been highlighted in previous issues of the newsletter. Four of them are shown below - the 4 sided bowl, fibonacci bowl, emerging bowl and gavel.



For this Show & Tell Nick presented a Banksia Bowl.



Jenny Talbot had created 2 matching boxes with a fabulous off-centre decoration on the lid. A friction chuck was used to turn the lid. The boxes are Pine & Liquid Amber.



In addition Jenny showed us a salt spoon from *Grevillea Robusta*.



On behalf of **Ken Cooper**, Jenny explained Ken had reworked a number of Club tail centres for the members.



Phil Drew gave us a handy tip about getting a great finish. He found that using a really smooth/shiny cloth on this walnut bowl gave him a much better finish than he was able to achieve with a rougher cloth. He has also been exploring with minatures and presented the group with some really cute decorative bird feeders and some other Christmas tree decorations. His tip with the decorations was to hollow them as much as possible to get them much lighter, and use contrasting coloured timbers to enhance the appeal.





Finn Thorvalsen showed us two beautiful Oregon Pears with natural stalks and cloves in the bottom. It is sad that Finn is leaving us as his health has brought his turning to a close. We'll miss his cheerful disposition but he has promised to drop by occasionally for a cuppa.

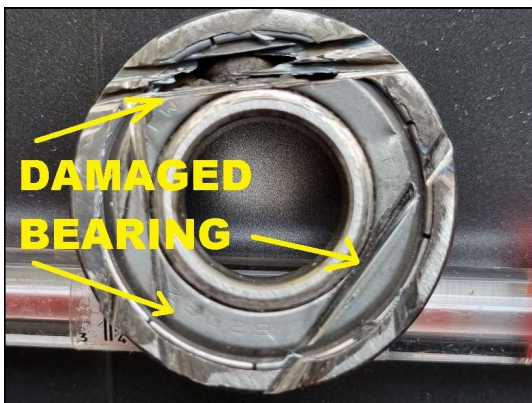
Terrey Hills Market held on Sunday 3 May - heralded a great success



Photo is taken from the back of the stall. There were too many people in the stall at the time to get a decent photo. Nice problem to have.

Maintenance Report - Alex Bendeli

- The **Hatfield lathe** suffered damage to the tailstock bearing and jamming of the 4-prong drive which was inappropriate for turning such a big leg/log. The tailstock bearing is being replaced and its handwheel drive modified by Ken Cooper.
- Bandsaws require cleaning outside AND inside the housing to stop accumulation of sawdust on the wheels' rubber belts. Please remember to vacuum the **lower bearings** under the table. The small tubing attachment Alex made for the vacuums gets into this spot well. Sawdust can get into the balls, causes friction and prevents the bearing from rotating and sliced by the blade's rear edge. (See pictures below)



- It is pleasing to report since introducing the **bandsaw buddy rule** to help the operator and ensure the correct settings, no blade damage has been reported and more importantly, no injuries.
- **Red electrical tape** ring on all the tailstock shafts is a visual cue not to wind it back too far. Some lathes have self eject tailstocks (Vicmarc) while others (Teknatool) do not self eject. Always leave 20mm free play for clearance especially when making tool handles with ferrules, lidded boxes or other jobs that need removing and replacing the wood or testing for fit.

Chris Falvey has created four additional trays for Club tools. The Committee are working towards filling them with tools to cater for our new members.



- A **toolrest stand** is being prepared for the back bench to keep the benchtop surface tidy and toolrests grouped. It will be labelled for Vicmarc shafts (30mm shaft) and Teknatool shafts 26mm (1").
- Many new and seasoned members still leave the **headstock spindle locked** at the end of the day. YES: the first thing you do before starting is RULE #1 ensure the headstock is unlocked and then check the speed is low before mounting any chucks or jobs.
- The new, more efficient and powerful, **ceiling dust filter** was installed. It works with the old controls.
- To all members and especially new members, if you have any question about a job, **please ASK**. Supervisors are available and it will avoid a lot of maintenance issues and accidents.
- Some members believe that running the lathe at low speed is safe. With the exception of drilling holes, you must **use the highest speed** appropriate for the task that creates no vibration. You achieve a better finish and a faster throughput. Colejaws have a maximum 600rpm irrespective! If unsure, ASK a Supervisor.
- Vicmarc Lathe LT02 was found to have an **intermittent speed** control. A faulty electronic component was the cause and has been replaced.
- Members comment that lathe beds or toolrest need lubrication. ONLY rub **solid wax** NO oils.
- Ensure the **grinder aluminium tilt stands are securely in place**. There have been instances when the stand touched the grinding wheel and caused aluminium shards to be embedded in the wheel. This might require dressing to remove these aluminium bits.

Demonstration of Sorby Pro-edge sharpening system by Chris Falvey



Chris demonstrated the **Sorby** reshaping and reprofiling system.

Instructions will be pinned on the wall behind the Sorby shortly.

The rule is: ALL club tools must be sharpened on the Sorby.

For your own tools, you are, of course, free to sharpen using any method you choose.

The Sorby is set up with a 120 grit belt which is used for sharpening. If a tool needs re-profiling please ask a Supervisor as the belt will need to be changed to 60 grit.

The Sorby performs differently from the UNIJIG and other methods of reshaping a woodturning tool. The main difference is shown in the drawing of a finished profile for a skew and a detail gouge. This is due to the flat 52mm wide abrasive belt in a Sorby system or an 8" (200mm) wheel grinding surface typically used in the UNIJIG and several other similar systems.

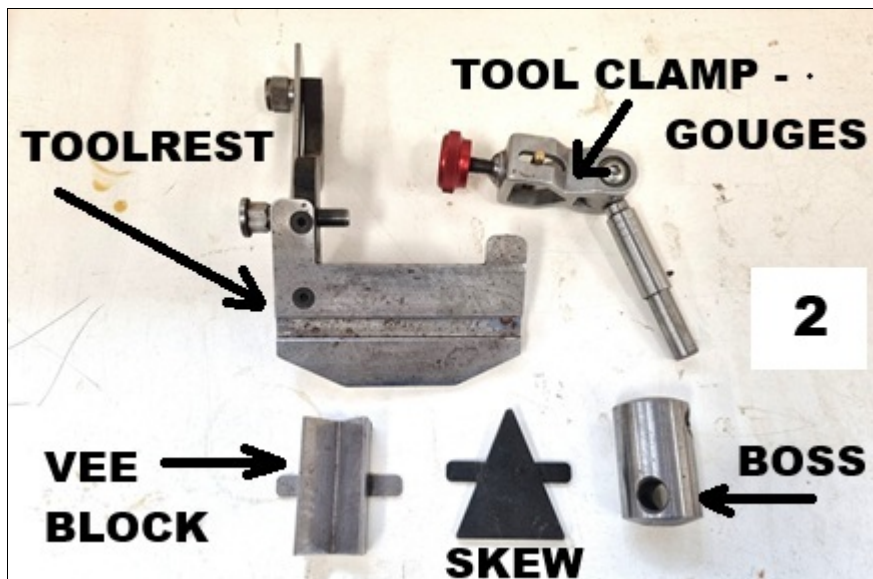
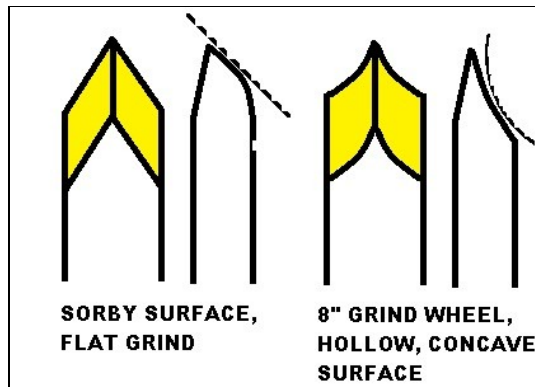


Photo #2 names the various available accessories as required for specific turning tools. The **TOOLREST** is used directly for scrapers and locating some of the other accessories. The Vee Block is for aligning and supporting the roughing gouge while the parting tool must butt against the edge of the Vee Block. The Skew accessory presents a skew chisel along the right edge of the triangle. After

reshaping one side, the chisel is rotated by 180° and presented from the left side of the triangle.

The Tool clamp spigot, when inserted in the Boss, is used to reshape a spindle (detail) gouge or a bowl gouge.

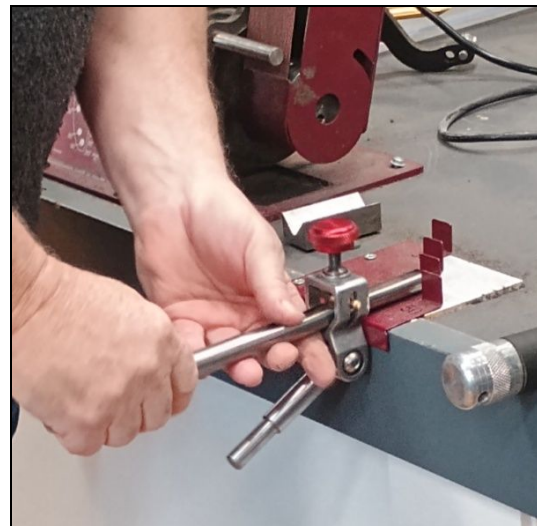
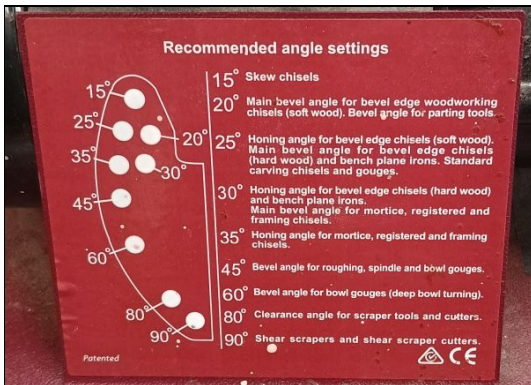


Photo #1 shows the Tool Clamp and Accessory Rod used for Detail (spindle / fingernail) and Bowl Gouges.

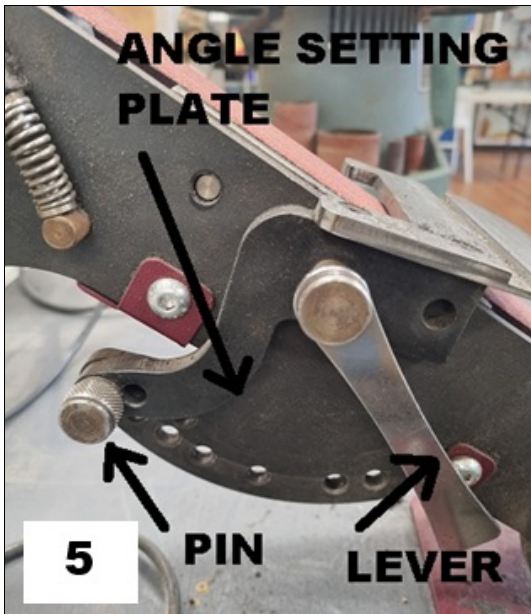
For **Spindle or Bowl gouges**, firstly read off from right-hand side of the ANGLE SETTING GUIDE the correct angle for your tool shape (Photo at left below). Use the Tool Clamp and tool PROJECTION GUIDE (Photo at right below) to adjust the clamp location (projection) on the tool's shaft.

Insert the tool clamp spigot into the Boss' external hole (Photo #1) and insert the Boss into the Accessory rod shown in Photo #1.

A “normal, lady fingernail” shape needs the Tool clamp spigot inserted in the outer Boss' locating hole. An “Irish” grind (shapes a long-swept wing on the tool's edge) requires the spigot to be inserted in the inner Boss' locating hole.



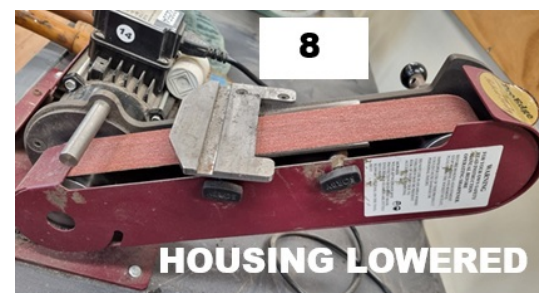
For **Scrapers** set the Toolrest to 80° (or 90°) as per the Angle Setting Guide. The white dots correspond to the holes on the ANGLE SETTING PLATE on the left side of the Sorby (Photo #5). Present the scraper to the abrasive belt and just swing left and right to achieve a good finish with a raised burr, (Photo #6).

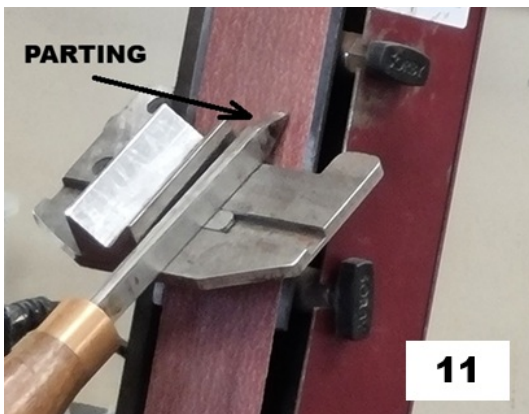


A **Skew** with a larger diameter handle may require the belt housing to be released and lowered to clear the motor body so you can present the skew to the belt at the correct angle. *Caution: The housing is heavy, so always support the belt housing while slackening to adjust its angle position (Photo #8).*

Then set the Toolrest to 15°, and use the triangular accessory. The accessory presents a skew chisel along the right edge of the triangle (Photo #10); the sharp edge should lay perpendicular to the belt motion. After reshaping, the skew chisel is rotated by 180° and presented from the left side of the triangle (Photo #9) and reshape that face.

Take care to secure the triangular accessory with your forefinger or thumb to ensure a straight grind.





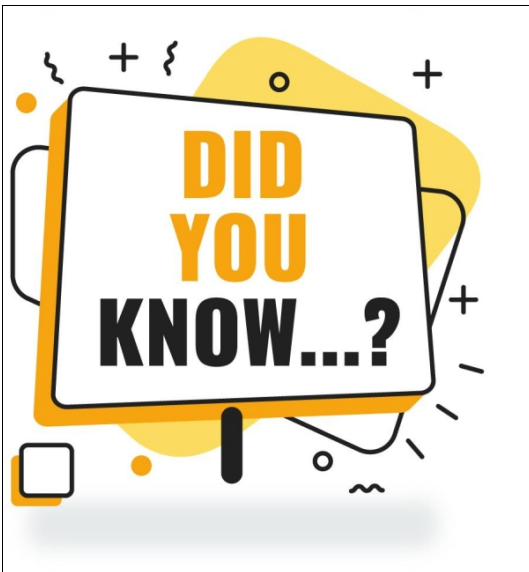
For **Parting** tools use 20° and present the tool as per Photo #11. The tool rests against the vertical edge of the Vee Block and one edge reshaped for a few seconds and then the tool is turned over to reshape the other edge. Take care not to push the tool hard against the belt to prevent the belt getting perforated and therefore destroyed.

For **Roughing gouges** use as per Photo #12. Hold the back of the gouge on the Vee Block, rotate the back of the tool as per photo a few times until the edge is reprofiled.



Thanks to Alex Bendeli for this article

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?.... Lloyd needs 600 wheels for his toy production. Help would be appreciated. Just see Lloyd at the Club on a Tuesday or Friday to get your instructions.

Did You Know?.... A [hot air gun](#) is now available for members wanting to accelerate the curing of glues or dry coatings or soften the hot melt wax sometimes used when making sacrificial tenons. It has 3 heat and airflow rates. It can be found in the steel cabinet.

Did You Know?.... Some equipment was donated to the club: A 6" grinder with several grinding and buffing wheels a home made metal lathe with exposed belt only for very small stuff. Discussions held for their fate. If you're interested in giving them a new home please speak to Alex or John D.

Did You Know?.... The Club has purchased a pen press. This piece of equipment makes assembling your turned pens quick and easy. It will have a home in the steel cabinets.

Did You Know?.... The cutting boards Nick has made are for sale. All proceeds to the Club. A Supervisor or Committee Member will happily take your money. If you would like to purchase some Tung Oil or Orange Oil, Nick is selling them to Members for \$7.50 a small bottle (\$10 for non-Members). Talk to Nick if you would like some.



Happy Birthday in May to

**Joanne Amies, Terrence Black, Brett Dach and
Gordon Scott.**

We hope you have a great day!

Welcome to our new member

Stephen Lodge

We hope you enjoy making shavings with us.



Get Well Soon

Lloyd Ross and Tony Fidler

We wish you a speedy recovery and hope to see you in
the Club very soon.

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.
Or if you need a comfortable shirt you can get dusty
without worrying, we have one for you.
There's plenty of stock in all sizes - just \$25. Ask a
Supervisor to get one for you.



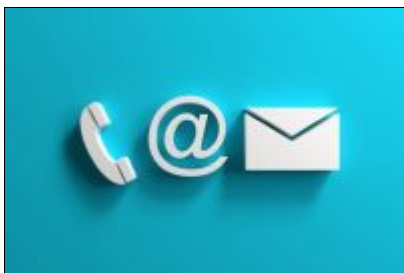
Tuesdays & Fridays 9.30am - 1pm
Saturday mornings 8.30am - 1pm
2nd & 4th Friday each month
9:30am - 3:30pm



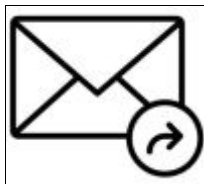
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