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**Sydney Northern Beaches
Woodturners Inc**

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Woodturners*



Newsletter August 2026

Committee Items

Show & Tell

Ken's Box Demo

Gift of rare timbers

Open Day - Fabulous day

HSC Student Success

Member Birthdays

Welcome New Members

Committee items

Your new President Catherine spoke for a few minutes to welcome the 18 members present. Catherine advised that all the ancillary volunteer roles had been filled with the exception of WH&S. Ian Blume is preparing a list of duties for the WH&S coordinator which will be discussed with members in due course in the hope that a member will volunteer for the role.

Alex (Vice President) asked members to be considerate of Club property as three items are missing: a wing nut from the Sorby Sharpening System; a large centre; and a centre finder. If you find any of these items please let Alex or Nick know.

Show & Tell

As there was no 'official' challenge for Show & Tell this month, members brought a variety of items to show.



Catherine Ritter had brought in a beautifully turned and finished calistemon bowl.

The finish was hard wax oil (her favourite finish Catherine claims, 'because she's lazy').



Catherine also showed us three birds she had carved. The first one is from a cedar root so full of gravel she could only get a small bird from it. The other two birds are from camphor laurel and have been burnt (Japanese style) and again finished with hard wax oil.

Ken Cooper had been playing with his Eschalon chuck which he hasn't used much. This chuck allows you to change the centre. He had turned two spoons, one from Jacaranda and the other from She-oak.



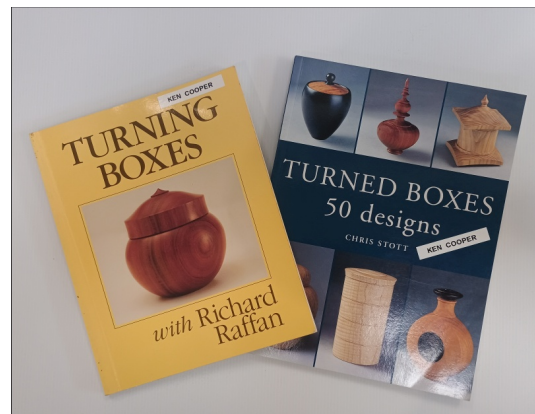
Nick Vertes had been preparing two Camphor Laurel charcuterie board for our Open Day. These will be finished to 600 grit with Tung Oil. The blemishes had been filled with epoxy.



Demonstration by Ken Cooper

An elegant box with clean lines

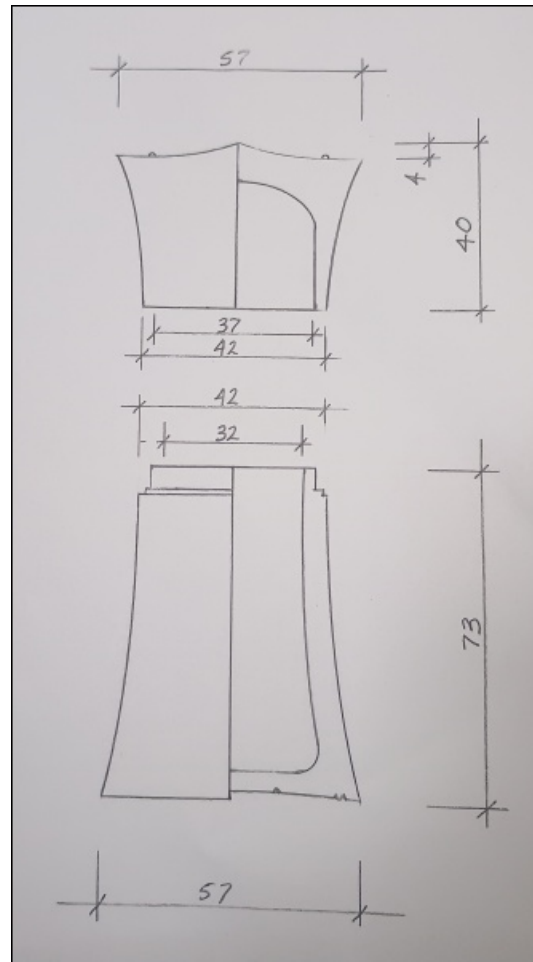
Ken brought along some examples of boxes showing the different styles and possibilities. He also recommended two books for inspiration and reference.



The drawing Ken provided shows a trinket box base of 73mm H and lid of 40mm H.

Ken began by using a roughing gouge to turn a piece of Blue Quandong to a cylinder with lathe speed at 1500 or so. Once round you can turn up the lathe speed. The diameter of the base is 57 so set your vernier to 59mm. Use the skew chisel to smooth the cylinder. Don't worry too much about the centre of the piece as it will be curved in the final design.

Select your chuck. Best size is one with a spigot on your job to match a 2mm gap between the chuck jaws. In this case Ken chose a chuck with 2mm gap so 53mm diameter.

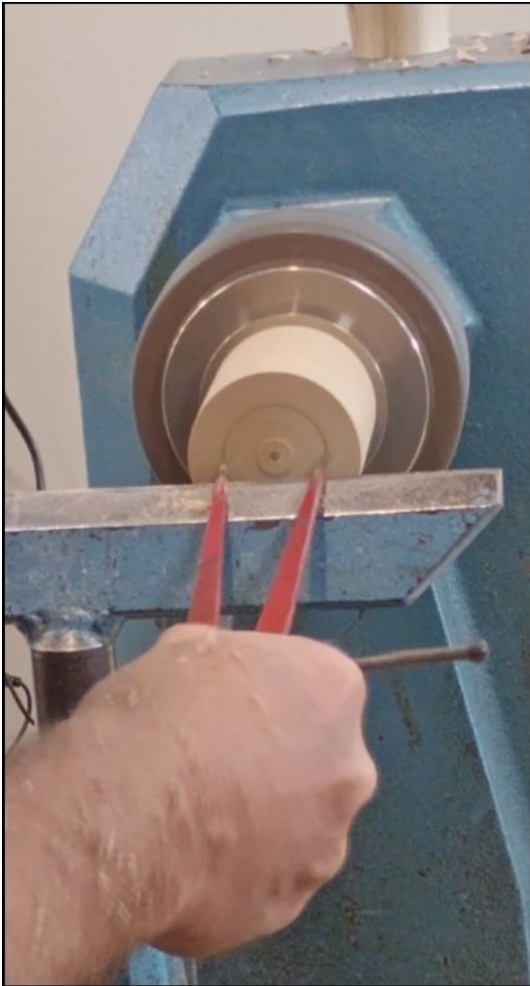


Use a parting tool to turn spigot. Turn the parting tool at a slight angle to get the desired angle for the spigot. Use your Skew chisel to clean up the shoulder as the chuck jaws will be sitting against it. Depth on the chuck jaws is 12mm. You need your spigot to not touch the base so 7 or 8mm is fine.

Then turn a spigot on the other end the same. Set your piece up in the chosen chuck.

Use a very thin parting tool to part off the lid section from the base. Much safer to do this in a chuck that between centres.





With a box you usually work on the inside of the lid first. On this occasion we want a 37mm diam hole for the lid. Use dividers set to 36mm (final will be 37mm). Touch LHS only with calipers and check if RHS line is in line with RHS of calipers.

Now to hollow the lid. You want a depth of 30mm. You can use a small scraper to hollow out. Can put a magnet on the scraper to show the depth you want.

Scrape from inside out. Keep the tool rest as close as possible to the job to reduce the overhang. Have the tool cutting on centre with the handle above centre so that the tool is pointing downhill to avoid a catch. For better support hold the scraper near the ferrule with the remainder of the handle under your forearm, instead of just a single hand grip on the end of the handle. With a scraper to remove the bump in the bottom centre base, set the tool rest so the scraper handle is above centre, lift the handle and move down to remove the centre 'pimple'. Sand with 180 grit, then 240 and so on.





Next turn the outside of the lid. Ensure the lip is 2 mm larger to allow for fitting perfectly. Use your skew chisel to do a final cut on the facing (as shown below).



Check the inside of the lid is straight sided. To do this use the long point of your skew lined up with the line on the lathe bed and gently insert your skew into the hollow to get a straight edge. Leave the lip a little oversize as you can clean it up later so you have the two pieces fitting together. Turn step at base of lid as per drawing. Finish the inside with shellac. Part off the lid.



Insert the base spigot into the chuck.
Clean up the top face.

Mark the diameter with calipers.

Use a drill chuck with a saw-tooth Forstner bit at about 1400rpm to drill the required depth. Saw tooth bits don't get so hot. It's always good to drill to 2mm less than the required depth to allow for finishing/scrapping.



Now you want to hollow out the base of the trinket box. It is best to use a small scraper at a slight angle to match the angle of the drawing. Lastly remove dimple at bottom of base with scraper.

Then sand with 180, 240 and 320 grit.



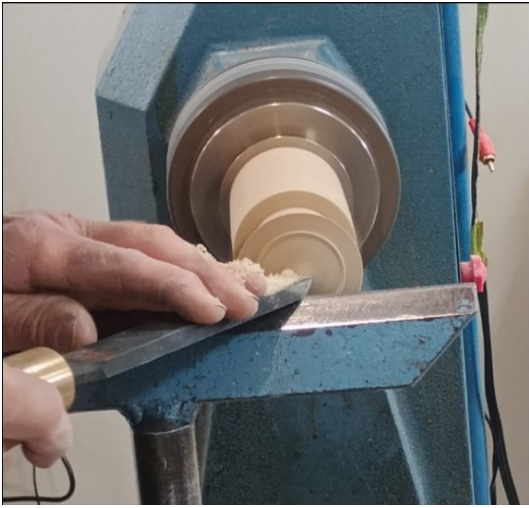
Next, think about making the base lip the corresponding size to the lid. Remove the exterior excess to 38mm diameter to start and clean up the face with a slight downward slope. Check fit with lid, turn to size with skew, and repeat until it fits well but firm. Ken's description was "until it sounds like walking in snow – that crunchy sound" – so it will hold as a friction chuck.



Finalise feature on lid (as shown below). Mark with pencil the line you want. Use a scraper cutting with 1/3 only of chisel at any one time.

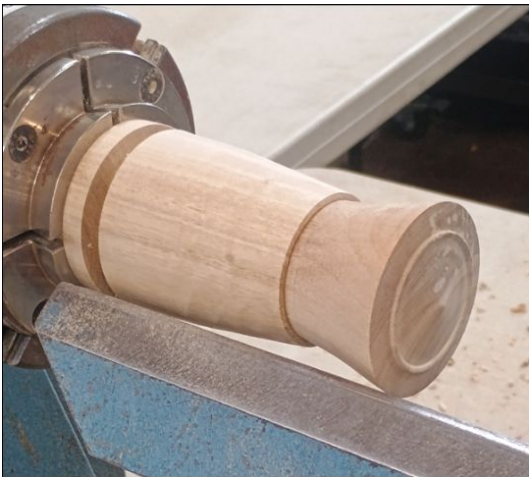
Scrape from inside out initially. Then sand top of lid. Use only a fine grit as you don't want to lose your bead. Turn step at base of lid as feature.

Remove lid so you can turn base.



Mark size of base, then turn with skew.

Fit lid again so you can guage size match between lid and base.



Use tail stock with tail centre and something like a skateboard wheel to put pressure on lid to prevent movement. Use skew to turn outside of lid and base to match perfectly and finalise to shape.

Use 180 then 240 grit sandpaper to sand. Burnish with shavings to remove grit, apply shellac and part off.

Remove base from chuck and turn around so new chuck holds base in hollow. See photos below to show choice of chuck to hold base in hollow throat.



Use skew to give base slight undercut so it doesn't wobble when standing. Use a tiny scraper to put in feature on base, sand and apply shellac.





Gift of some rare and beautiful timbers



We were very fortunate to receive a gift of some rare and beautiful timbers. The WoodBank was tidied up and an initial sort out undertaken in order to be able to accept this wonderful gift.

The phone call came from Trevor Harders who, fortunately for our Club, is downsizing and needed to find a home for his wood stash.

Trevor is an experienced turner but after problems with dust about 10 years ago stopped turning and moved on to learn the art of jewellery making. He is enjoying the challenge.

Our thanks go to Trevor and we wish him all the best in his new home and with his jewellery making.

HSC Student Angus Bowen (Gus) excels under Ken's tutoring

Angus (Gus) Bowen joined Ken's Wednesday night class to learn how to turn the legs of this Billiard table for his HSC project. Ken invited him to join the class despite it being full. Under Ken's tutelage, Gus quickly picked up the skills and after doing a prototype to help him finalise the design, stepped-up to create the final product. The Hatfield lathe came in handy considering the length and weight of these legs. With a lot of help from Ken you can

see the final result was fabulous.

Gus wanted the billiard table to double as a dinner table and added bench seats and a table top. Have a look at the first photo to appreciate his design skill.

He invited his fellow classmates to a showing at St Josephs, Hunters Hill.





Workshop Open Day Saturday 22 August 2026 a HUGE success

It's thanks to you, our members, that the Open Day was so successful. The majority of the over 80 visitors came because of you. You handed out flyers, put up posters, told your family and friends - and they came, watched the demonstrators and bought big-time.

Furthermore so many members helped prior to the day and on the day. A heartfelt thank you from Catherine and Julie. We couldn't do it without your help.

One new member signed up on the day and 3 others took membership forms.

The selection of items for sale showed great variety in both the items on offer and the design and contributed to the large number of items sold - there was plenty for people to choose from. The photo below shows the meeting room transformed into a showroom displaying the craft and creativity of our turners. You should be proud of yourselves.



And huge thanks too are due to our demonstrators. Ken & Jenny held the fort for most of

the day but were relieved by others. Thank you all for your efforts.



A number of people visited the 'Toy Room'. It's great to have visitors understand how the Club contributes to the Community. Lloyd allowed us to sell some of his toys - we sold 6 - now he has to make a further six to meet the requirement for October. If you have time, please offer to assist.



Below are the two bowls Ken turned for 1st and 2nd Lucky Door Prize. At left is an acacia bowl and at right one from camphor laurel. The prize winners were very happy with their wins.



Thanks to Mike Seymour for the great photos

Get Well Soon

We wish John Donnelly all the best with his hip replacement operation in September.

We look forward to seeing you back in the Club at a lathe John.



Happy Birthday in August to

Lloyd Ross, Chris Falvey, Jonathan Rabinovitz and Angus Bowen

We hope you have a great day!

Welcome to our new member

Robin Taylor

We hope you enjoy making shavings 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. 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

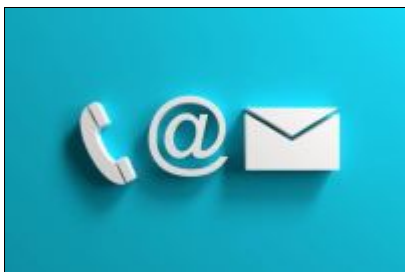


Your Committee

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