

[View this email in your browser](#)

**Sydney Northern Beaches
Woodturners Inc**

*Sydney Northern Beaches
Woodturners*



Newsletter July 2026

Your New Committee

Show & Tell

Demo - Sunday 16 August

Open Day - Sat 22 August

Life Members Inducted

Did You Know?

Member Birthdays

Welcome New Members

New Faces for your 2026/27 Committee

The AGM was held on Sunday 26 July at the Club Workshop.

A new Committee was elected:

President - Catherine Ritter

Vice President - Alex Bendeli

Secretary - Julie Jarvis

Treasurer - Ian Blume

Three Ordinary Members - Andrew Black, Jonathan Livesey & Ken Cooper

To start the day we had a very entertaining and informative demonstration of the Defibrillator by Jonathon Livesey, followed by a Show & Tell. More on the Show & Tell later. After all this we got into the reports from the previous year by the various Office Bearers.

President's Report 2025/26 - John Donnelly

- The Club lease on the premises was signed for a further 5 years with the Northern Beaches Council
- Bunnings BBQ's are continuing as our only source of funding. Volunteers needed please. Next BBQ is 10 October
- Membership fee was increased to \$80pa this financial year on the assumption the Guild would increase the insurance premium. This increase has not yet been forthcoming but still expected

- WH&S. Thanks to Tony Vidler and Tim McGregor who are both retiring from the role. A volunteer is needed to fill this vital position
- Insurance: A revision is needed to the current Certificate of Currency to satisfy Bunnings that the cover is Australia-wide. The incoming President will pursue this
- The first Beginner course was held during the year. Further development is needed to refine the course
- A new dust extractor was bought and installed, additions were made to the Vicmarc chuck range, a Vicmarc 300S purchased and a Vicmarc 200 (the latter from Owen Holden), plus a secondhand Sorby sharpening system purchased for sharpening Club tools
- The Guild will have no representation at the Royal Easter Show in 2027 due to it being the year of the flower and our demonstration area is being dedicated to that. The Guild are hoping to resume in 2028
- We reached a high of 77 members this year. In the new financial year this is anticipated to start at approximately 68
- Congratulation to Chris Falvey & Nick Vertes for cleaning up in the woodturning categories at the Royal Easter Show Woodturning competition
- The WoodBank has been returning funds to the Club. All members are encouraged to purchase timber from the extensive WoodBank. Easy access boxes were installed in the workshop for WoodBank timber. More knobs are required to be turned for the boxes so please consider it a interesting turning exercise. Timber supplied free of charge from the WoodBank
- Storage boxes are now available for members at \$50pa. Currently 6 members have taken up the opportunity. There is still availability
- Thanks to other members who have played their part during the year - Catherine Ritter, Lloyd Ross & Julie Jarvis on the marketing side, Alex & Nick on maintenance, Lloyd Ross and helpers on the toys.

Treasurer's Report 2025/6 - Ian Blume

- The Club recorded a small net surplus
- The dependency on Bunnings for fundraising needs monitoring. Consideration needs to be given to alternative sources of fundraising
- A budget has been formed providing guidance to the Committee
- The Not For Profit annual submission was completed with the ATO. The signatories need to be updated annually
- Club financials are currently on excel, moving away from MYOB
- Term Deposits. Treasurer advised the Club needs a plan for use of the funds and further accumulation to meet the ATO not for profit guidelines. To be considered by incoming Committee and members.

Vice President and Maintenance Report 2025/6 - Alex Bendeli

- Arrangements have been made to print further copies of the George Hatfield Beginners

booklet for sale at the Club

- Bandsaw blades are continuing to be repaired but can no longer be re-sharpened
 - Thanks for Ken Cooper for the repair to the Hatfield lathe
-

Show & Tell

There were two challenges today. The first to help the WoodBank with drawer knobs for the newly installed boxes. The second to use the chopping boards prepared by Nick V to create cheese boards or Trivets. The tiles for the cheese board are available from the Club Shop gratis. Just create and donate the board to the Club for sale at the Open Day and future markets. A win all round. You get the glory, the Club the donation.

And of course, as usual, any items that had been turned in the last month were received with interest.



Nick Vertes had two lovely knob for the WoodBank boxes.



Nick presented a further 3 pieces. His first is a shallow bowl with lots of resin infill and a natural edge.

His second contribution was a speaker turned from Calistemon (green bottlebrush). We wait to hear how it dried, but whispers tell me it is moving a lot.



And lastly, a bowl sculpture.



Lloyd Ross showed us a charcuterie board he had made in 2005. Since then he's been busy with toys and time on the lathe is very limited.



Jenny Talbot created a box from Lillipilli.

There was a lot of discussion over what knob would be most suitable, hence the array of different knobs in the box. Consensus was she chose well.



Paul Moore presented us with a lovely box from Totara, a New Zealand timber. Its previous life was as a fence post. Paul had trouble with the finish. The general view was the wax used accumulated dry in the corners creating a white residue. In addition Paul showed us a very handsome 'Steady Rest' he had made using skateboard wheels among other items.



In addition Paul showed us 2 scrapers with hardwood handles and a neat addition of a drawing on the base of the handle showing the it's purpose.



Julie Jarvis has recently been working on boxes in the shape of clam shells. She presented two. The first, smaller one, from Mahogany and the second from Tasmanian Oak.





A neat item showed by **Phil Drew** was a wooden watch, bought by his wife in Hawaii.

Sunday August 16 is the next Woodies Monthly with Lidded Box demonstration by Ken Cooper

The plan is to get together on Sunday 16 August for a Show & Tell and Demo. Your new Committee will do a 15 minute update, then it's into the fun stuff. First, the Show & Tell. Bring along anything you've been working on recently or you think is of interest to members. We'll have morning tea, then Ken's Demo and finish up with a sausage sizzle.



Ken has chosen to demonstrate a lidded box with a difference. He hopes those members who aren't yet skilled turners will be inspired to create this box along with experienced turners.

The next get-together will be Sunday 20 September. After seeing Ken show you how, if you are interested in trying to turn this box, please bring it along in September and talk to the members about how you approached it. Yes, the **Challenge for September 20** is a replica or adaptation of this lidded box. Alex Bendeli will select the lidded box turner to receive a \$20 Bunnings Gift Voucher

Workshop Open Day Saturday 22 August 2026



Last year we held an Open Day in August. It is great to get us better known in the local community and of course sell some member creations. We might snare a new member or two as well. See photo above from last year's bbq. We publicised it by handing out flyers at the Forestville, Roseville and Forest Way shopping centres on a number of weekends. If you can help us with that this year it is much appreciated. We'd like to exceed last years over 60 people attending, purchasing items, buying a sausage and enjoy the demonstrations.

This year we plan the same arrangement on Saturday 22 August. It's important we are seen to be part of our local community. Ken Cooper has again offered to demonstrate with Jenny Talbot and turn the lucky door prize.

A schedule has been agreed to start getting the workshop ready. Those turners attending on Tuesday 18 August will be asked to do a special clean/tidy up of the bandsaw, toy and tool area and toilets. The Wednesday class the meeting room area, the Friday group, the lathe and sharpening area plus kitchen.

We need more volunteers especially to help us clean up/set up on Friday 21 August and specifically on Saturday morning to set up the bbq ready for 11am.

We'd really appreciate if you have a local shopping centre where you can hand out leaflets or put posters in shop windows, mens sheds, libraries, community notice boards, other suitable places. Please let us know and we'll supply the leaflets and/or posters.

There's a helper sheet on the meeting room table or simply let Catherine or Julie know if you're available to help.

For those that turn on Friday 21 August we need everyone to have cleaned up by 12:30 and hopefully then help us clean up further ready for visitors. We can't have visitors trying to see a demo through a dust covered piece of perspex can we.

If you have something to sell we'd appreciate it being delivered to the workshop by Tuesday 18 August labelled securely and priced. A spreadsheet is available from Julie to complete for the items you have for sale. If you need help with pricing please see Catherine. We also have price tags if you need them. If you're not spreadsheet savvy just write down what you're offering and the numbering and Julie will sort the spreadsheet.

Lastly Nick Vertes has a number of chopping boards that need finishing or turning into cheese boards. One needs two cheese knives (kits available in the Club Shop). If you're interested in helping Nick please let him know. Proceeds of any sales go to the Club.

Here's to a great day with lots of community interest.

Life Members Inducted



At the AGM two well deserving members were inducted into Life Membership of the Club, Lloyd Ross and Alex Bendeli.

Lloyd Ross

There aren't many volunteer roles that Lloyd Ross hasn't filled capably and admirably over the years: Newsletter Editor, Website Editor, Membership Secretary, Returning Officer, Public Officer, Club Historian and of course Coordinator of the Club's Toys Program.

Lloyd describes the awarding of Life Membership as "humbling" but it's also appropriate recognition of meritorious and exemplary service over a sustained period of time.

"It's kept me occupied. I've seen things that needed to be done, or where other people were doing things and have left and I've taken those things over because there were things

that needed to be done,” Lloyd said.

“Whatever clubs, organisations, or businesses that I’ve been in, I’ve always been part of the organisation.”

Lloyd became interested in turning when he and his late brother-in-law, Graham Truelove, saw Club Members demonstrating woodturning at the St Ives Market.

“We got talking and a couple of them said ‘come on down to Narrabeen and have a look at what we’re doing’, so in 2004, Graham I wandered down to the workshop at Narrabeen and they never let us escape,” Lloyd recalls.

“Mainly it was the friendship and the camaraderie of the people there. They were all eager to teach us. I remember one guy would say ‘this is how you do it’, and so you’d start doing it, then he’d walk away and then someone else would walk up and say ‘hey, don’t listen to him, this is how you do it’. So we learnt all the tricks of the trade.

“We’d both been in office-type roles and so (it was an opportunity) to get out and do something with your hands and seeing the beauty of what you could do.”

A draughtsman by profession, Lloyd worked at the old Post Master General’s Department and then with its various successor iterations including Telstra. Those skills were called upon when the Club moved into our current premises when he drafted the layout to meet the Club’s needs when the Club got the lease on the draughty and disused Girl Guides Hall.

There was the first draft, then the second draft, then another ...

Today Lloyd is best known as the driving force and Coordinator of the Club’s Toys program. The Club has always had an active toy-making program directed at supporting local charities and it remains an important element of the Club’s relationship with our local Council (and landlord).

Over the years, Club Members involved in the Toys program have made cubby houses, dolls houses, play kitchens, and even rocking horses.

Today, Club Members involved in the Toys Program make about 50 toys each year for the Womens Refuge at Dee Why, and about 240 toys for Operation Christmas Child, a multi-Church program which helps put smiles on children’s faces in Oceania, Asia and Africa.

Lloyd joined the Club in 2004 when it was operating out of the basement of the Narrabeen RSL. Back then, there were fewer than 20 members, the newsletter was printed (Roneo – anyone?) and the website was a novelty.

“The workshop we have now and the tools we have are away above what we had at Narrabeen or that the Club had had previously,” Lloyd said.

“I’ve made some great friendships here over the years and the friendships that have been made are pretty well-lasting. It’s been great.”

Alex Bendeli

The current phrase is “sliding doors”. Previously it might have been serendipity. Of Greek heritage, he was born in Alexandria (Egypt), arriving in Australia in 1964, fluent in five languages, a UNSW degree-qualified electronics engineer, spent most of his professional

career as a senior experimental officer at CSIRO designing scientific instruments and one of the few Sydney Northern Beaches Woodturners Club Members to have completed the TAFE course in woodturning, Alex Bendeli is our newest "Life Member".

Alex joined what was then known as the Peninsula Region of the Sydney Woodturners Guild in October 2000, when it met at "The Boatshed" in Castlecrag. This was prior to the Club's establishment as an independent entity when Incorporation status was recommended by the Guild (SNBW still remains an affiliate of the Guild).

Always enthusiastic, Alex was a regular columnist and wrote members' profiles, titled "Portrait of a Woodturner", for the Guild newsletter. He routinely volunteered as a Guild demonstrator at the Easter Show and the Working with Wood shows. In 2007, he won first prize for a pyrographed platter at the Easter Show. He contributed several articles in "The Australian Woodworker" and organised the Guild's 2008 "Woodturn" seminar at Meadowbank TAFE.

Alex was the Guild's Vice President from 2007-2011, and has been SNBW's Vice-President since 2021, as well as a long-standing SNBW Guild Representative in addition to being a Workshop Supervisor and Manager for the past two years. He also produced a standardised SNBW yearly activities roster for supervisors.

He devised and retrofitted the No-Volt-Release switches for the bandsaws to prevent the startling dangerous inadvertent "start-ups". He recently trouble-shot the cause of the static electrical discharge spikes on a Vicmarc lathe. The changes have been accepted by Vicmarc as a design improvement for incorporation in their future manufacturing. Similarly, Alex designed and crafted the Club's Life Members Honour Board, which will now also deservedly include his nameplate.

The reversible candlestick that features on the "By Hand and Eye" front page of the Guild Newsletter is the Guild logo. It was turned by Alex under the watchful eye of the Grand Master, George Hatfield, a Guild founder and Club GOAT Life Member.

Woodturning is a means to an end. The candlestick incorporates both artistry and functionality, though Alex states that he uses woodturning as a tool to achieve a desired artefact as demonstrated in the Cammeray Collaboration platter. "I lean towards functional turnings such as breadboards, wobble boards, mortar & pestle, wig stands for members of the legal fraternity, several ceremonial maces including the Federal Court oar mace of Admiralty". He prefers the challenge of turning bespoke parts used in restoration or duplicate heirloom objects.

Alex came to woodturning having tinkered with wood for most of his life. Alex purchased a Teknatool Nova 3000. He initially attended a community college course in woodturning. As a visitor to a Trend Timber Open Day, he met Jim Dorbis and Gorgi Armen who introduced him to the Peninsula Group of the Guild where later Ernie Newman made him aware of the TAFE course.

Alex recalls that the Community course was very informal – "just get a block of wood and start chomping it". There was a very brief discussion about "safe turning" and the students were just let loose to turn! Having later been fastidiously tutored by George Hatfield, Alex

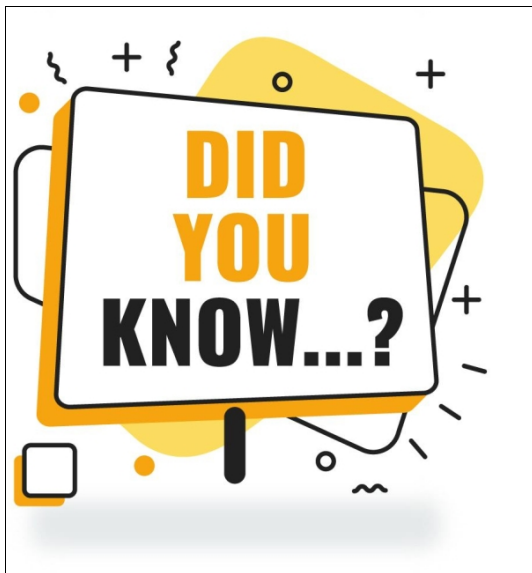
shudders to think of first timers who join SNBW and expect to convert a large chunk of wood into a bowl on the first day of their attendance.

Endlessly patient, a portrait of studied equanimity, Alex is an excellent teacher and is always keen to pass on his skills and knowledge.

“I am just giving back to the Club all that I received from the Club. Satisfied and happy members is what drives me” says Alex.

Thanks to Chris Falvey for these profiles

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?.... We have an Open Day on Saturday 22 August. We need everyone's help in publicising the day in the local community. The aim is to get our Club better known. We have leaflets & posters. Just ask Catherine or Julie. If you can letterbox drop the leaflets, hand them out in your local shopping centre or put posters up anywhere appropriate, please do so.



Did you know?.... The Club is returning to Demonstrations on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Put it in your diary and look out for this newsletter and emails from Lloyd about Demonstration topics of interest to you. If you have a suggestion about a demo you'd like to see, talk to a Committee member or Ken in particular, who's taken on the role of organising demos for you. August 16 topic is an unusual lidded box.

Did you know?.... At the get-together each month we'd like to have a sausage sizzle so members can get to know each other better, swap ideas and participate in Club life in addition to turning. We need volunteers to organise the sausage sizzle and hopefully a Christmas party. If you're interested in contributing please let a member of your Committee know.



Happy Birthday in July to

Sandra Geraghty, Julie Jarvis, Tim MacGregor, Peter Newton, John Redding, Catherine Ritter, Tony Vidler, Edward Zietsch

We hope you have a great day!

Welcome to our new member

Nathan Louey

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.



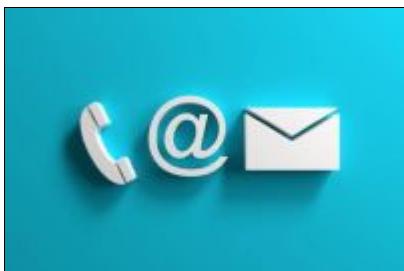
Tuesdays & Fridays 9.30am - 1pm
Saturday mornings 8.30am - 1pm
2nd & 4th Friday each month
9:30am - 3:30pm



Your Committee

President:	Catherine Ritter
Vice President:	Alex Bendeli
Secretary:	Julie Jarvis
Treasurer:	Ian Blume
Ordinary Members;	Andrew Black Johnathan Livesey Ken Cooper

Editor: Julie Jarvis
E: snbwoodturners@hotmail.com



Secretary:
PO Box 532, Forestville NSW 2087
snbwoodturners@hotmail.com
<http://www.snbwoodturners.com/>



Forward to a Friend

Can you think of someone who might like to become member. [Forward](#) them our Newsletter to see if they're interested.

You received this email as a member of Sydney
Northern Beaches Woodturners Inc

[unsubscribe](#)

Our address is:
Old Girl Guide Hall, Forestville Avenue
Forestville NSW 2087

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[*why did I get this?*](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Northern Beaches Woodturners Inc · Forestville Avenue · Forestville, NSW 2087 · Australia

