

Economics of wood turning - an examination by Rob Williams

As wood turners, be it professional, experienced or amateur, we are aware that it can be an expensive pastime but have you ever paused to consider what those expenses are?

Initial purchase and any subsequent upgrade to major items (lathes, bandsaws, gouges) is an obvious outlay but these are limited in their frequency. Also, once a comfortable 'fit' has been realised, these major purchases cease (potentially) and we keep the equipment we prefer, not buying any more unless it is to replace something that has worn out, usually with the same thing.

Consumables i hear you say. Yes, good timber, finishing oils & Estapol, glues & resins, all cost and don't last forever but these are all items you know are going to be part of your experience.

I'm talking about a huge expense that no one thinks to mention when we start.

Band-Aids

Ah, that's right, now that it's been said out loud you are all nodding and saying "Oh my goodness, of course. I never thought of that."

We all have at least one box of adhesive, small wound dressings in our shed / workshop that inexplicably empties without us seeming to touch them. A new box of 40 or 50 is placed on a convenient shelf and then a day or so later, when you go to grab one, the box is only half full, or worse, empty.

AND that tube of antiseptic cream you bought at the same time similarly becomes thin, wrinkled and with only the smallest amount of sticky paste reluctantly squeezed out when you know it hasn't been touched by you?

Let's not get started on the contents of that "workshop first-aid kit" that you conscientiously purchased when you first set up your "safe space". How is it that now it's only contents is a triangle bandage and a pair of safety scissors that are covered in resin?

And, of course, you have to buy special latex band-aids if you get a cut, split nail or cracked cuticle on your index finger because normal band-aids won't work with your smart phone will they?!?

NO, no they won't!

cough cough sorry, I didn't mean to yell.

So, band-aids.

My advice is to buy them in bulk.

Maybe by the carton, from the \$2 shop on your way home from Carbatec ... just a thought.

Your Northern Turners

Seeking Excellence

Encouraging Individualism

Fostering Creativity

Teaching Skills

Providing Support

[From the cyber safety awareness desk of Robert Edge](#)

There is a website “Be Connected” [Be Connected - Every Australian online \(esafety.gov.au\)](#), which is an Australian government initiative committed to increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians, and aims to empower everyone to use the internet and technology to thrive in our digital world.

The Be Connected website and learning content are managed by [eSafety](#).

If you sign up, you will get emails with different topics that may interest you relating to on-line and phone or tablet safety and also one of many helpful hints, just like this...

[How to search like a pro | Cyber safety tips | Be Connected \(esafety.gov.au\)](#)

This is a very safety conscious and helpful site with many topics that you can spend hours on learning the safe way to do things electronically at your leisure.

Happy and safe exploring!

Regards,
Robert Edge.

Monthly demonstration schedule.

As you can see our demonstration schedule is a bit ... blank.

I have been assured that, despite what I thought, my demonstration of alternate ways of mounting & finishing “bowl-saver” blanks was quite good (despite not actually doing any turning).

For that reason (& to give Ron & George some time to go on holidays) I will be putting myself up for a demo sometime this year - just let me try what I’m planning at home first. 🤔💣💥

So what about you? If I’m going to give it a try (walking disaster that I am) won’t you give it a try too?

Third Saturday Demonstration

DATE 2024	DEMONSTRATOR	PROJECT
17 February	George Pastuch	Ring Post
16 March		
20 April		
18 May	Tim Smeaton	Spurtling
15 June		
20 July		
17 August		
21 September		
19 October		
16 November		
21 December		

Forth Saturday Demonstration

DATE 2024	DEMONSTRATOR	PROJECT
24 February	Tim Skilton & Tim Smeaton	2 Tim’s challenge (plan to buy a bowl blank)
23 March	Graeme Aistrope	CPR demo
27 April	Ed Zahar	Epoxy resin demo/dandelion in epoxy/turning wood & epoxy blank
25 May	Jeff Todd	Inside out turning of flowers for weed pots.
22 June		
27 July		
24 August		
28 September		
26 October		
23 November		
28 December		

Show & Tell – Jan.27 2024

Details supplied by Dale Starr

Show & Tell was run by Ed Zahra



•Ed showed a carved tree spirit and a platter.

•Hal Sneddon brought a thin bowl, turned wet from weeping myall, a small bowl (also weeping myall) and a tiny bowl from pistachio.



•Tim Smeaton had some more chess pieces and a bowl from wadi wood.

•Keith Lane showed some modern chess pieces made from olive.



•Jan Beare had a bottlebrush vase in a female shape.

•David Kleinig brought a thin vase made from purple heart wattle

•Stuart Hunnisett showed a lidded box in the shape of a bee hive (from olive)


•Eric Burmeister had a couple of clocks, one made with a slice of Banksia nut and the other from NZ paua shell. 😎



The halo was awarded to Keith Lane.



Turning Beans - Ron Allen

Ron gave a demo of turning stylised human figurines (human beans ). The process is an exercise in spindle turning to a plan (Printable copy below).



- Before starting you need to determine the height of your figure as this will affect the maximum &, to a lesser extent, the minimum diameters.

- A tall figurine will need proportionally wider shoulder & hips with the corresponding head, waist & ankle dimensions to keep symmetry.



- The blank is turned down to a spindle with the widest part of the figure (shoulders) being the outer diameter.

- The template is used to mark the spindle at the highest and lowest parts of the figure.



- After setting a set of callipers to the correct diameter the required diameter is cut using a parting tool.

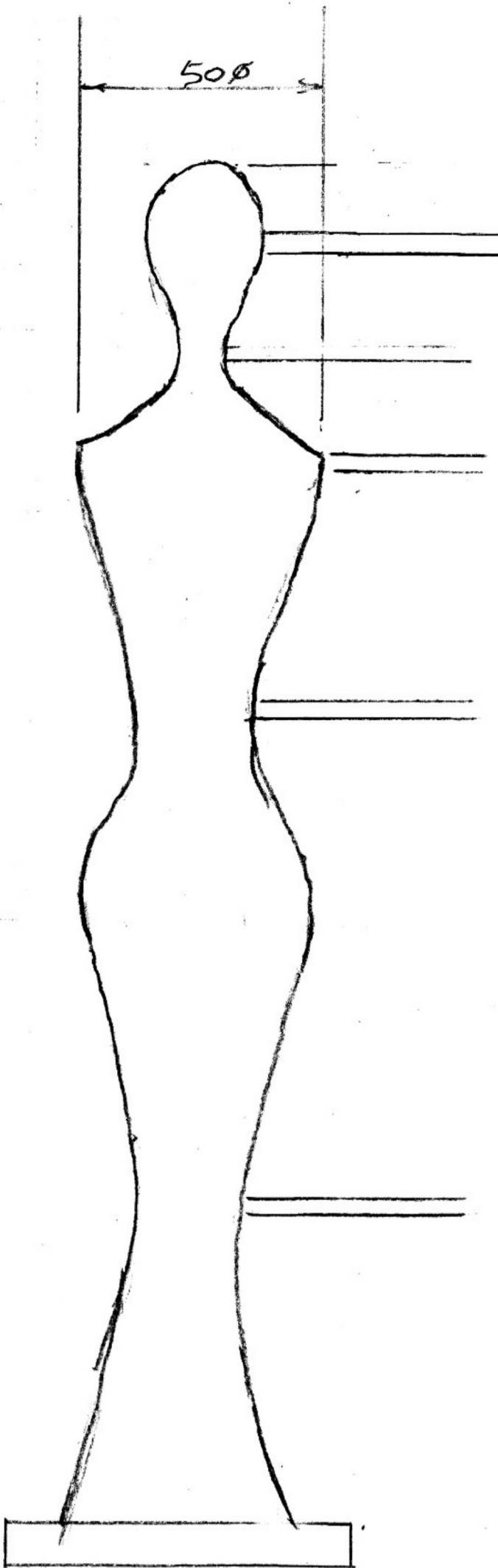
- The lower diameters are then blended to the higher using an appropriate tool - spindle roughing gouge, spindle gouge, Tim Skilton sanding discs (don't you judge me).



- Once the desired shape is achieved the piece is sanded.

- Finally a suitable hat is turned from a complimentary coloured piece of timber.





Northern Turners Committee

President	Peter Smith
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Treasurer	Vic Damato
Member	Stuart Hunnisett
Member	David Kleinig
Member	Flora Rumbelow
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Member	Rob Williams
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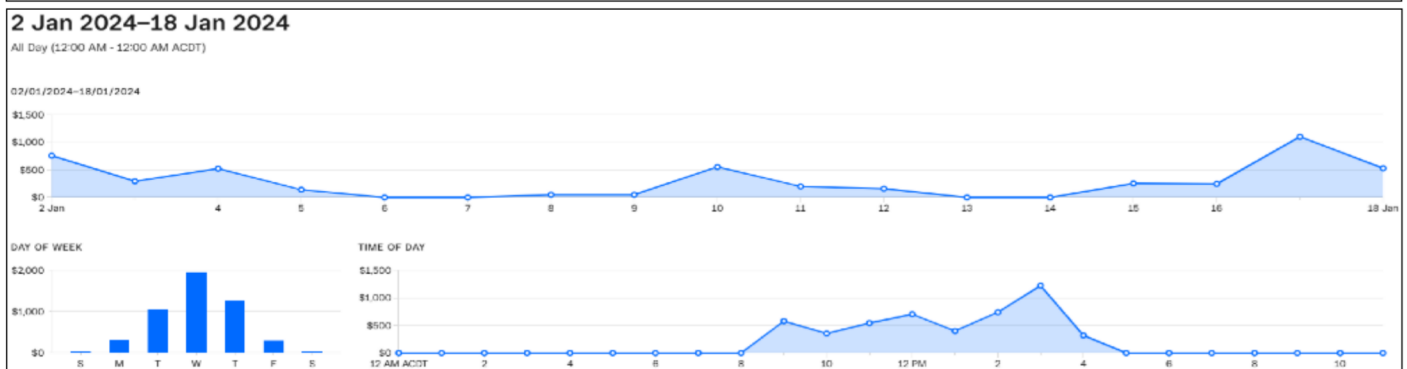
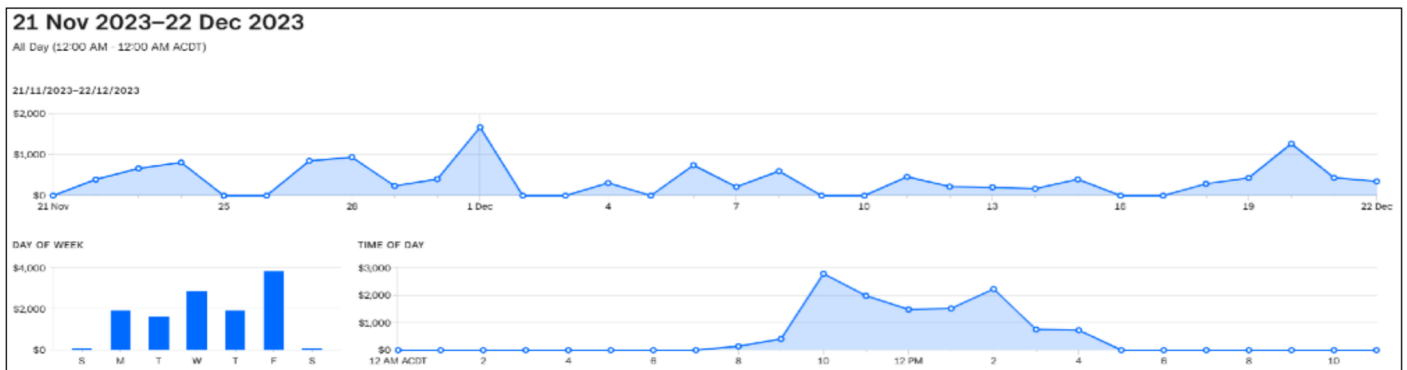
Links - Interesting wood turners.

Ken Wraight

<https://sawg.org.nz/sawg/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Wraight-2-pages.pdf>

Square graphs for Burnside exhibition.

For those of us who like visual representations of statistical data (& we all know who we are), here is the nuts & bolts of our Burnside exhibition sales trends.

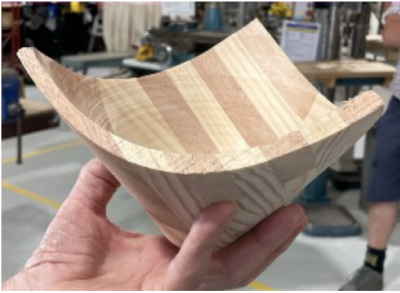


Sales Detail	
Product Sales	\$16,950.00
Returns	-\$50.00
Discounts & Comps	\$0.00
Net Sales	\$16,900.00
Gift Card Sales	\$0.00
Tax	\$0.00
Gross Sales	\$16,900.00
Tip	\$0.00
Refunds by Amount	\$0.00
Cash Rounding	\$0.00
Total	\$16,900.00

Payments	
Total Collected	\$16,900.00
Cash	\$865.00
Card	\$16,035.00
Fees	-\$305.79
Net Total	\$16,594.21

From Robert Edge

Three point bowl - Ron Allen



This project requires a cube as the blank. To get a blank large enough (rather than sacrificing a large log) Ron created one by laminating finished pine & meranti boards.

Mounting is done by placing one of the cube corners into the head-stock spindle, held in place by the live centre (stebcentre or cupcentre) being applied to a small sanded-flat area of the opposite corner.

Initially the outer turning is done "in shadows" & great care is need to avoid contact with hands - gloves are a good idea.

A face shield is also recommended rather than safety glasses.

**Safety note* Keep the tool handle down as far as possible to rub the bevel when ever the tool comes in contact with the timber. This is vital as "turning in shadows" increases the chance of a catch if the tool starts scraping.*

Once the outer shape is completed a foot is turned onto the base.

The bowl is then turned around & mounted into a chuck.

It's "trueness" is checked by aligning the corner that was in the headstock with the point of the live centre.

While turning the inside of the bowl care needs to be taken (again) of the points of the bowl - gloves again maybe?

Once the inside of the bowl is finished, if a lid is going to part of the project, a small lip will need to be turned to allow for the lid.

