

WOODTURNERS  
SOCIETY  
OF QUEENSLAND INC.

# TurningTalk

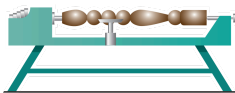
Vol. 39

February 2025

June, 2025.



The table for Queensland Health Children's Hospital staff room is completed. This is the test run before it is delivered to the site for June 6th. Well done to the team for this beautiful production which was designed by Harold Wiltshire. Photo credits to Therese Richards.



## Editor's Note

By Joyce Arnold

June 2025, winter is here finally. The weather makes it easier to do some work in the shed and get ready for the next exhibition. By all accounts the new Belmont exhibition went well for everyone and there will be further reports in this edition from the President and Treasurer. John Carney also reports on his busy weekend in catering for the event.

We have some new demonstrations to put into your diary and an interesting history of pyrography from Roy Smith.

I am writing from my desk in Cluj-Napoca în România where the wood is plentiful and very different to wood in Australia. There are many carvers and turners here with the markets full of finished items.

Happy reading.

If you have any items for future editions, please contact me

Joyce Arnold, 0466650048 or [drjoycearnold6120a@gmail.com](mailto:drjoycearnold6120a@gmail.com).

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## President's Report

by Mike Dunne

### Belmont Showcase

The first-time Belmont Showcase was extremely successful, with strong attendance and impressive member sales throughout the event. The high quality of meals offered in the café was clearly reflected in the increased food sales, contributing positively to the overall atmosphere and satisfaction of attendees.

Raffle sales also saw a significant boost compared to previous events, further demonstrating the enthusiastic participation of visitors and our greeters.

Thank you to all the volunteers whose time and effort made it possible to open the showcase and ensure everything ran smoothly. Their dedication played a vital role in the event's success.

Feedback from the public was overwhelmingly positive, with many complimenting the venue, the thoughtful setup, and the quality of the displays. Such encouraging responses reaffirm the value of these community events and the hard work behind them.

I would like to sincerely acknowledge Janelle, Rex, and Barry from the Belmont Complex for their invaluable assistance and much-appreciated suggestions. Their support played a key

role in the success of our recent efforts. We look forward to the next event at the Belmont Complex on May 29th, 30th, and 31st, 2026.

### Mt Coot-Tha

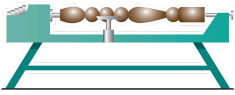
The Mt Coot-Tha Exhibition is on August 8 th 9 th and 10 th . The only change this year will be that pack up will commence from 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Don McMillan will have the sheets for table bookings and volunteers on the auditorium notice board in the coming weeks.

### Charily Table Sales

The Club has a long-standing tradition of supporting charities through the sale of items donated by members at our events. However, we have noticed that the number of items on the Charity Table has been steadily declining.

We ask each member to set aside at least one item to contribute. Your donation, big or small, will help make a difference.

Thank you for continuing to support this important cause.



## Maintenance Monday

Reg Weber and several volunteers completed the general lathe and chuck maintenance earlier in the month. It was pleasing to hear that several of the new members were involved and learned from Reg's knowledge and experience.

## Secretary's Report

by Binny Willis, Secretary

Committee Meeting 10 th May, 2025

Meeting Opened at 7.30am

Attendance: Mike Dunne, Alwyn Clark, Binny Willis, Jan Chapman, Barry Wilson, Reg Weber, Neil Howard, Bob Kennedy, Katherine Ogg, John Donaldson.

Apologies: Nil

1. The Minutes of 18 th April were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.
2. The Correspondence Inwards was accepted and the Correspondence Outwards endorsed.
3. The Finance Report was accepted.
4. The Membership Report was accepted. The Applications for Membership from Marilyn Kunde, Tristan Dash, Shevy Singh and Andy Filak were ratified.
5. Workplace Health & Safety
  - No incident/Accident reports were received from last month.
6. Building & Grounds
  - The Termite Inspection Report noted that there is no new evidence of activity. The routine general Pest Treatment is being organised.
  - A new Exit sign will be installed in the downstairs Workshop.
  - The BCC Electrical Report on Pine St revealed no issues requiring attention.
  - A Grant Applications to the Lord Mayor's Better Suburbs Program has been submitted for the external painting of Pine St.
7. Tools & Equipment
  - A new variable speed drill press is to be purchased
  - The Compressor is now operational with a mechanism in the starter having been replaced.

- Maintenance Monday for the bi-annual servicing of lathes and chucks is scheduled for 12 th May.

- The new sign-in system will be ready for general implementation after an in-service for the Convenors

### 8. Events & Activities

- Belmont Showcase preparation is proceeding well.
- The Tables Project for Qld Health is on track to meet the deadline. The finish will be applied in the Auditorium, so a considerable area will be cordoned off. Members are requested to respect the cordon.

### 9. General Business

- Neil Howard tendered his apology for the June, July and August meetings, John Donaldson tendered his apology for the June meeting and Binny Willis tendered her apology for the June and July meeting. In the absence of the Secretary, Katherine Ogg will take the Minutes and Mike Dunne will deal with Correspondence.

Meeting Closed at 9am

## Treasurer's Report

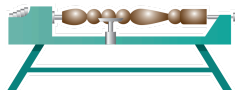
By Jan Chapman

The month of April was another profitable one, with our main income from shop sales - \$2425, another Bunnings sausage sizzle - \$1279, member training - \$1110, membership fees - \$1251, and workshop fees - \$1625.

Overall our expenses were relatively low, with the Club earnings for the month being \$3543.

As Mike mentioned in his report the Belmont Showcase was a success with sales exceeding the results at Mt Coot-tha in November. Further information about our actual earnings for the event will be presented in my next report.

Did you hear about the first restaurant to open on the moon?  
It had great food, but no atmosphere.



## Membership Report

by Allwyn Clark

### **Birthdays for June**

John Dooney  
Paul Thain  
Joyce Arnold  
Christian Curtis  
Mags Bell  
Charlie Edwards

Just a reminder to members to let me know of any change of postal address, email address or phone number.

Also, members please update their medical records if necessary to assist medical services if needed.

### **Pen turning Course.**

Are you keen to learn how to turn Pens?  
A 3 week Pen Turning Course is on offer on either a Wednesday morning or afternoon  
Cost \$70 and you will have 2 pens to take home.

Contact John Carney for further details  
[jscarney83@gmail.com](mailto:jscarney83@gmail.com)



## Report from John Carney

### **WSQ Lathe Maintenance**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May was set aside for lathe maintenance. 14 members attended the clubhouse to perform the biannual event. On behalf of all members, a big thankyou to the 14 who attended and took part in keeping the equipment we all use serviced and maintained. Their efforts equated to a generous 40 hours of volunteer work. Three members took part in an organised session to undertake a programmed lathe and Vicmarc chuck maintenance. They were able to take home a set of notes as a future reference. All the lathes and chucks were fully serviced. The next maintenance day will be towards the end of the calendar year. It is the volunteers that keep WSQ running and many hands make light work.

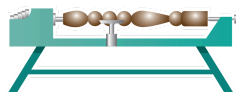
### **Belmont Café 2025**

The very pleasing results of the café at our inaugural event directly reflect the efforts of members pulling together in order to achieve. Yes, it was a hard 3 days but it is behind us leaving us satisfied that we enjoyed the challenge. We worked well together teaching and learning as we went. The organisers decision to have 3 points of sale facilitated a better flow for attendees. The fresh sandwiches prepared by Mike and Gay Dunne were a great addition. The donations of cakes and slices were of the usual high standard attracting many positive comments.

I extend my personal thanks To Alan who stood solidly by my side throughout the three days. To the members who arrived for rostered times and accepted it was quiet and that they could forgo their duties- Thankyou. To those that took charge at the front when we got busy a huge Thankyou for your work and your company, you helped the day pass enjoyably.

We will have a debrief on the event in the coming weeks and I would encourage you all to contribute with what you thought worked and why. Don't forget the negatives too they should also include what and Why.

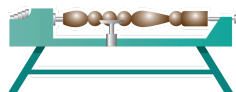
Belmont for me brought home what a strong group of members we have. A special mention to members who were not sellers and yet were on hand doing countless hours of volunteering to ensure the success of OUR Showcase.



## Convenor's Roster

### Mick Phythian – Convenor

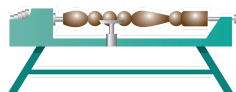
Wk	Date	Day	Time	Session	Convenors	Convenors
1	2/6/25	Monday arvo	2 pm -5 pm	Training course	Mick Pythian	
		Monday evening	6 pm-9 pm	Training course	Mick Pythian	
	3/6/2025	Tuesday morning	8am - 12pm	Open Workshop	Bob Kennedy	John Carny
		Tuesday afternoon	1pm - 4pm	Open Workshop	John Reed	
		Tuesday evening	6pm-9pm	Open Workshop, Pyrography	Mick Phythian	Dan Woodward
		Tuesday morn	8am-12pm	Downstairs Workshop & Toy Group	Harold Wiltshire	Reg Weber
		Tuesday afternoon	1-4pm	Box Making	Reg Weber	Harold Wiltshire
		Tuesday morning	8am-12pm	Shop	Don McMillan	
		Tuesday morning	8am - 12pm	Library	Mike Mason	Peter Wyer
		Tuesday	10.30am - 2.30pm	Pyrography Group	Mike Dodson	
	5/6/25	Thursday morning	9am-12pm	Convenors Workshop	all convenors	
	6/6/25	Friday	8am-12pm	Open workshop	John Randall	John Reed
		Friday morning	8am - 12pm	Open workshop	John Reed	
2	9/6/25	Monday arvo	2 pm -5 pm	Training course	Paul Machin-Everill	
		Monday evening	6 pm-9 pm	Training course	Paul Machin-Everill	
	10/6/25	Tuesday Morning	8am - 12pm	Open Workshop	Bob Kennedy	John Reed
		Tuesday Arvo	1pm -4pm	Open Workshop	Alan Short	
		Tuesday Evening	6pm - 9pm	Open Workshop	Mick Phythian	Dan Woodward
		Tuesday Morning	8am - 12pm	Downstairs workshop and toy group	Harold Wiltshire	Reg Weber
		Tuesday Arvo	1pm - 4pm	Downstairs workshop and Box Making	Reg Weber	Harold Wiltshire
		Tuesday morning	8am-12 pm	Shop	Don McMillan	
		Tuesday Morning	8am - 12pm	Library	Mike Mason	Peter Wyer
		Tuesday	10.30am - 2.30pm	Pyrography Group	Mike Dodson	
	12/6/25	Thursday	9am -12 pm	Project Tuition	Rob McKee	
	13/6/25	Friday Morning	8 am - 12 pm	Open Workshop	Don Randall	Alwyn Clark
			8am -12 pm	Carving group	Keith Greenland	
	14/6/25	Saturday morning	8 am-12	Open workshop	Paul Machin-Everill	
3	16/6/25	Monday arvo	2 pm -5 pm	Training course	Paul Machin-Everill	
		Monday evening	6 pm-9 pm	Training course	Paul Machin-Everill	
	17/6/25	Tuesday morning	8am-12 pm	Open workshop	Rob McKee	Alwyn Clark
		Tuesday Arvo	1pm-4pm	Open workshop	Ron McKee	



Wk	Date	Day	Time	Session	Convenors	Convenors
		Tuesday evening	6pm - 9pm	Open Workshop	Rob McKee	
		Tuesday Morning	8am - 12pm	Downstairs Workshop & Toy Group	Harold Wiltshire	Reg Weber
		Tuesday Arvo	1pm-4 pm	Open workshop and Box Making	Reg Weber	Harold Wiltshire
		Tuesday morning	8am-12 pm	Shop	Don McMillan	
		Tuesday Morning	8am-12 pm	Library	Mike Mason	
		Tuesday	10.30-am- 2.30 pm	Pyrography	Mike Dodson	
	<b>19/6/25</b>	Thursday morning	9am-12pm	Convenors Workshop	all convenors	
	<b>20/6/25</b>	Friday	8am-12pm	Open workshop	John Randall	Alwyn Clark
		Friday arvo	1pm-4pm	Open workshop	John Reed	
		Friday	8 am- 3 pm	Toy group	Barry Wilson	Peter Churchward
	<b>21/6/25</b>	Saturday	8 am-12 pm	Open Workshop	Paul Machin-Everhill	
4	<b>23/6/25</b>	Monday pm	2pm-5pm	Training course	Paul Machin-Everhill	
		Monday evening	6pm-9pm	Training Course	Paul Machin-Everhill	
	<b>24/6/25</b>	Tuesday morning	8-am 12pm	Open Workshop	Rob McKee	Alwyn Clark
		Tuesday arvo	1pm-4pm	Open Workshop	Rob McKee	
		Tuesday Evening	6pm-9pm	Open Workshop	Rob McKee	
		Tuesday morning	8am-12 pm	Downstairs and Toy group	Barry Wilson	
		Tuesday morning	8am-12pm	Shop	DonMcMillan	
		Tuesday morning	8am-12pm	Library	Mike Mason	
		Tuesday morning	10 am-2.30 pm	Pyrography	Mike Dodson	
	<b>26/6/25</b>	Thursday morning	8am-12 pm	Project tuition	Rob McKee	
	<b>27/6/25</b>	Friday morning	8am-12 pm	Open workshop	Don Randall	
		Friday morning	8am-12 pm	Carving group	Keith Greenland	
	<b>28/6/25</b>	Saturday morning	8am-12 pm	Open Workshop	Paul Machin-Everhill	
5	<b>30/6/25</b>	Monday arvo	2-5pm	Training course	Mick Pythian	
			6-9 pm	Training course	Mick Pythian	

Why should you never trust stairs?  
They're always up to something.



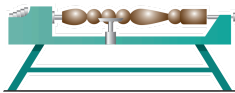


## Date Claimers

**Demonstrations and Show & Tell Forums** All members must sign in and pay the \$5 entry fee. Starts at 9 am.

**Binny Willis.**

Date	Topic	Description
Saturday 7th June	<b>Demonstration Pens-My Way</b>	Keith Greenland will present his take on the business of pen making. A man of considerable artistic flair, Keith will demonstrate some laminating and stringing techniques to ensure that your pen blanks are anything but ordinary. A self-taught pen maker, Keith will go through some of the techniques that he has learned along his pen-making journey.
Saturday 21st June	<b>Show and Tell</b>	Bring along your latest project or acquisition— perhaps a pen or a new piece of equipment or a new tool and share with your fellow Members.
Saturday 5 th July	<b>Demonstration Whistling in the Wind - Mick Phythian</b>	Mick will demonstrate the making of a number of different whistles. He will turn 3 or 4 different styles, maybe more if he has extended his repertoire.
Saturday 19th July	<b>Show and Tell</b>	<p>This is a great opportunity to practice some spindle turning. The added bonus is that they make great gifts for young children and they are guaranteed to annoy their parents and the neighbours.</p> <p>Have you made any pens or whistles? This would be a great time to bring them to Show &amp; Tell and compare them with those of other Members. Perhaps there will be enough whistles to annoy the turners in the workshop.</p>
Saturday 2nd August	<b>Demonstration Dan Woodward</b>	Boxes Part 2.This is a follow up on Dan's May demonstration. This time he will focus on hinges, their fittings and finishing the box.Dan will share his wooden hinge making skills and ideas in this demonstration. He will also be demonstrating carving skills.
Saturday 16th August	<b>Show and Tell</b>	Come along and share what you have been up to in your shed with fellow Members.
Saturday 6th September	<b>Embellishing Techniques Ben Guha</b>	Long time member, now retired,Ben is coming back to Pine Street to show you his embellishing techniques. Influenced by his world acclaimed mentor, the late Binh Pho, Ben will demonstrate piercing, colouring and pyrography techniques and show some of his beautiful work.
Saturday 20th September	<b>Show and Tell</b>	Have you had a go at some embellishing techniques? Bring it along and see what other members have done.



Saturday 4th October	<b>40+ Year retrospective Terry Martin</b>	World acclaimed turner and writer, Terry Martin will present 40 years of his turning life with an amazing collection of his own work and that of others he has accumulated over that time. He will explain techniques and challenge you with ideas that will send you back to your lathe to have a go.
Saturday 18th October	<b>Show and Tell</b>	Come and share a cuppa with your fellow members and show what you have been up to, or simply chat about ideas and techniques.

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## A Brief History of Pyrography Painting with Fire

by Roy Smith

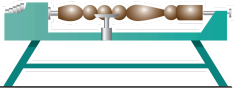
Pyrography is one of the oldest human art forms. As long as humans have been taming fire, they have been drawing with it. It used to be called pokerwork before the term pyrography came to be. Pyrography has a long and varied history. It is thought to have started in Egypt where it was used to decorate pottery and furniture. The practice then spread to Europe, where it was used to decorate furniture, musical instruments, and other items. In the 19th Century, the art form saw a resurgence in popularity and was used to decorate a variety of items. Pyrography became a popular art form to create detailed and intricate patterns. Today pyrography is used to decorate furniture, musical instruments, kitchenware and more.

The process has been used by a number of cultures including Egyptian and African tribes over many centuries. Robert Boyer, the famous pyrographer, says that the art started in pre-history when the artists used the charred remains from their fire. In the Middle Ages, pyrography was done with a portable wood stove with small holes for the pokers to rest in until they were hot enough. Artists would carry pokers, needles and knives with them to heat as needed. In China from the Han dynasty, it was known as 'fire needle embroidery'. During the Victorian era in Britain the invention of pyrography machines sparked a widespread interest in the art. This is when the term pyrography was first used. It comes from the Ancient Greek *pur* (fire) and *graphos* (writing). It can be used with specialised pyrography tools, a metal implement heated in a fire or even with sunlight through a magnifying lens.

There are examples of Western European pyrography from the 15th and 16th Centuries including decorative designs on musical instruments and richly ornamented wooden chests and coffers that can be found in various museums. According to the Sophienburg Museum in Texas, USA, a mechanical tool was invented around 1900 to make pyrography easier. In the 20th Century the development of hot wire electric pyrography, called a wood etching machine, further automated the pokerwork process.

The craft of pyrography enjoyed a surge of popularity in 1880's and 1920's. Young adults were encouraged to keep their hands busy and make small craft projects to beautify their homes. Books and magazines published designs and patterns. Kits became available through mail order catalogues. Over the last few years it has become a more popular art form due to the relaxing effect of the process.





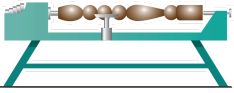
## Show and tell

by Peter Wyer

17/5/25

Don McMillian showed his wands and the drive to turn them. He also brought the the off -centre Saturn bowl he won made by Gary Lowe with his holder to make one





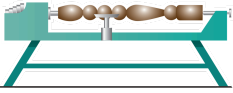
Gary Bidgood had his puzzle box he made in his CNC machine.



Keith Greenland brought 2 Tremblers and the steadies used to make them the cylindrical one made with a 3D printer.



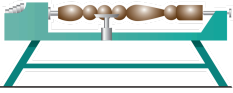
Ron Brown brought Bells blanks and a hollowing tool demonstrated by blind turner Michael Blankenship at Turnfest.



Neil Howard Brought small turned birds one with an aluminium beak.



Rob McGregor a bedside table with a light and dovetailed drawer.



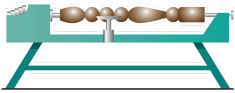
Peter Wyer brought his take on a wobble bowl and a wobblebox as turned by Gary Lowe. He also brought two red cedar turnings painted using a sea sponge.



Terry Martin brought several pieces by other turners he has in his collection including a bowl from a cube by Ray Keys and a trembler by Ernie Newman and a n antique turned flask with brass banding for yak's milk.

A very interesting time was had by all and we combined with the workshop turners for morning tea





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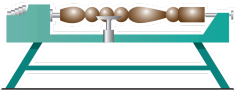
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**LAGUNA**

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### Woodturners Society of Queensland Incorporated Management Committee

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[President@wsqld.org.au](mailto:President@wsqld.org.au)

**Vice President:** Alwyn Clark 0414 622 715  
[membership@wsqld.org.au](mailto:membership@wsqld.org.au)

**Secretary:** Binny Willis 0438 091 053  
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**Treasurer:** Jan Chapman 0403 777 432  
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**Members:** Barry Wilson 0409 260 786  
Bob Kennedy 0400 497 049  
David Williams 0411 126 215  
John Donaldson 0407 022 403  
Katherine Ogg 0431 193 987  
Neil Howard 0409 980 057  
Reg Weber 3206 2325

### Other Positions

Newsletter Editor:	Joyce Arnold 0466 650 048
Membership Secretary:	Alwyn Clark 0414 622 715
Librarian:	Mike Mason 0431 825 571
Assistant Librarian:	Peter Wyer 0402 688 948
Storekeeper:	Don McMillan 0439 704 622
Training Manager:	Rob McKee 0419 735 926
Asst. Training Manager:	Mick Phythian 0413 496 107
Web Coordinator:	Murray Ralph 0427 115 359

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