

The Pandemic

A supplement to Talking Turning during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Welcome to edition two of The Pandemic.

I hope you are all well and surviving the isolation. I don't know if you are like me and feel as though you are waiting for something to happen but don't know what it is you are waiting for. It is a good time to learn patience waiting for the situation to pass. I am certainly thankful that in Australia we have a government that puts people's safety above making profits and getting back to work, or bows to the pressure and protests of people who only see their own inconvenience rather than the greater good. Once the restrictions are over we will all appreciate the freedom more than before the restrictions.

It is hard to believe that it is a month since the last Pandemic came out. I have been in the fortunate position (currently) of going to work each day. I was rather hoping that there may have been a few articles or other contributions from our members to help fill the pages so if this edition seems a bit thin...

It has been great to see the postings on What'sApp. A few of the items are included later in this edition.

Who am I?

How did you go with last month's Who am I? Were you able to work out the turner? For those who still don't know the mystery person for March was John Wheeler.

Here is another member to identify.

Although I only joined the Koonung Woodturners Guild around 2011 I took up my interest in woodturning over 25 years ago. While at the guild I became very successful in the entries I exhibited at AWTEX taking out prizes and achieving high scores for several items, one of them being a cake bowl. I am now more comfortable turning smaller items such as key fobs and pens as they do not take so long to turn.

Prior to taking up woodturning I did "lab" work breeding and training labradors for 25 years. While I was very successful in the shows this was not my paid job from which I retired in 1987. I worked in several positions and locations and was no

stranger to vice. It could be said that this is still the case although in a different capacity.

In the long time I have been a member I have served on the committee as a general member but due to a need for one of the key committee members I am serving again.

Regarding my woodturning, my favourite timbers come from Tasmania, particularly Myrtle. I am fortunate that I have not become sensitised to any timbers although I do have an aversion to radiata pine, as do many turners. I enjoy spindle work and have recently purchased a detail gouge which would be listed with toy favourite tools, the other being a 12 mm spindle gouge. The part of woodturning that I enjoy most is putting the final finish on and watching the timber transform.

Many members would be familiar with my workshop and have seen my Record lathe.

On the lighter side.

- Q. Why did the chicken cross the road?
- A. To get to the other side.

- Q. Why did the computer cross the road?
- A. It was programmed by a chicken.

- Q. What do you do if your spaceship will not start?
- A. Rocket.

- Q. What did the Spanish fireman call his two sons?
- A. Jose and Hose B.

What have you been up to?

During the isolation period people have been forced to spend more time at home than they would have done otherwise. This has provided an opportunity to do all sorts of things around the house that have been put off for longer than they should have been.

Some people have done a thorough sort out and decided what can go to the opportunity shop. It's a pity they are all closed at the moment so the house remains cluttered with stuff to be taken there.

Some have taken to cleaning so that the house sparkles and there is no dirt to be found in the house.

I heard of one person who was doing Coronavations to his house.

Some have been attending to the garden. I recently took some dead limbs of a pittosporum and found to my delight what a beautiful timber it is to turn.

It is a blessing that we have a pastime that is not restricted. One of my sons likes to go fishing while the other likes to go shooting. Neither of them are able to participate with the restrictions in force.

What have you been up to? Let others in the guild know how you have been passing the time. Drop a line or email to the editor (Richard Jardine) so your insights can appear in the next edition, or phone some other members directly and have a chat and catch up.

Weathering the weather.

The service area where I currently work is located in a warehouse that was built in the 1950s. It has an asbestos roof with no insulation so in summer it can get very hot and in winter, with the doors open to allow access for the forklifts to come and go, (and cold winds) it gets extremely cold.

During the recent cold snap I had to work near the entrance of the building where the wind is strongest. I thought of what it must be like in the Arctic and it reminded me of a story I heard about a polar bear cub during a particularly fierce blizzard.

Mama bear, Papa bear and little baby polar bear were struggling to make headway as they pushed on through a particularly strong blizzard. Something was troubling the young cub as he cried out to his mother to gain her attention.

"Mum... "

No response so he called a little louder.

"*Mum... Mum!* "

Mother bear turned round and directed her attention to her cherished offspring.

"Yes, darling."

"Mum, am I all polar bear?" asked the little one pleased to have finally gained her attention.

"Sorry darling, I can't hear you. The wind is too loud. What did you say?"

The troubled youngster repeated the question as loud as he could. "Am I all polar bear?"

"What do you mean, sweetheart?" responded the puzzled mother?

"Am I all polar bear? Were all of my grandparents polar bears? Were any of them brown bears or black bears?" asked the concerned cub.

Wanting to allay her son's anxiety the mother quickly informed the youngster "Your grandparents were polar bears. My mother Bianca and father Bianco were both polar bear and so were their parents so you can be sure that you are all polar bear. Your father's Mum and Dad were all polar bear, and all his grandparents and great grandparents were polar bear. You can check with your father if you want."

"Thanks Mum," responded the cub hesitantly, his heritage was still troubling him.

"Dad," puffed the young cub after having to run to catch up with him. "Dad!"

"What?" Snapped the father, perhaps a little too sharply as he tried to make progress guiding the family back to the den, his eyes squinting to keep out the snow being driven by the howling wind. He was not appreciating the weather and wanted to be warm and dry in his own home.

"Dad, am I all polar bear?" the little bear asked, struggling to be heard over the screaming wind.

"Speak up son," replied his Father. "I can't hear you."

His father always was hard of hearing and the wind was not helping.

"Am I all polar bear?" the youngster repeated, this time as loud as he could.

"What do you mean?" asked the puzzled father.

"Am I all polar bear? Do I have any brown bear or black bear in me?"

"No son," his father reassured him. "My parents, their parents and their grandparents were all polar bear so you will be all polar bear."

"Is there any chance I could have a little bit of Koala bear in me?" insisted the anxious cub, still doubting his heritage.

"Of course you are all polar bear," responded the frustrated father rather shortly.

"and Koalas are not bears, they're marsupials. Why do you ask?"

The young cub was obviously still bothered and unsure about the situation.

Shouting as loud as he could so his father could hear over the blizzard he asked

"Well, if I don't have any brown bear or black bear in me and there's no koala in me, then *why am I so cold?*"

What members have been up to.

Here are some photos of what other members have been up to over the past month. Enjoy!



Eucalyptus Burl given to Graham Besley by Tom Beswick. Close up of the grain that kept shooting out little balls. Knowing Graham's preferences I am sure the finish would be Danish Oil.



More from Graham sporting a variation from a finial. Twisted 3 cornered box which was the challenge due in April.



Mal produced this almost identical pair. The timber is huon pine with unknown burl lid.

Richard had fun exploring the possibilities with 3 sides. Timber Red gum. Finish Danish Oil.



More from Richard with time on his hands. Still in progress. The mechanism and hands arrived today. The numbers have been done with pyrography.



John Mattar who completed Learn to Turn recently has produced this lidded container. He is not sure of the wood. Any suggestions?



Graham again. Cypress pine hollow form with a jewellery bead incorporated into the finial.





Richard Braun has been busy producing seven pepper grinders.
2 of Tasmanian myrtle, 3 of Huon pine, 1 of spalted myrtle and one of blackwood.
Finished with Danish oil.



Pepper grinders must be popular. Charles Mercer has produced these three. In the background you can see the burl bowl he has also made. With offcuts from his ramp Charles has also produced some bud vases.

On the right is Charles' challenge piece. A nice 3 cornered box with finial.



This camphor laurel plate is also from Charles.



Bruce Black and his wife Sandra participated in their Learn to Turn course. Bruce has really taken to woodturning and has bought himself a new lathe.

He may not have done much woodturning recently as he has set up the lathe on a cabinet he built but I am sure that will all change. We look forward to seeing more of your work Bruce.





As if Graham has not been busy enough with the turned items he has been producing. Graham was asked to put some glass into a door at his house. Could this be classified as a coronavation?

Richard Jardine has made a watch stand slightly different to the pattern given that is on the website. Timber Victorian Ash. Has since been finished with Danish Oil.



A second spindle on the lathe with the original on a copy rest behind.



Richard again exploring off centre work after being inspired by the three cornered box challenge.



John Osborne 2 has made this toothpick holder out of American Maple and Purpleheart. A nice piece of laminated work.

Technical tips

This month's technical tip has been provided by Graham Besley

Drive Centers:

There are two common types of drive centers, a) the four spur, and b) the friction drive.



When to use each type?

The **four-spur** drive center is the default driver included with many lathes and will work for nearly anything provided it can be engaged into the end of the work piece. For dry wood turned on its long axis, this often requires the four-spur to be driven into the end grain. It is useful for heavy duty spindle turning. Four-spur drives tend to spin in green or soft woods.

There are two types of friction drives, the **Steb Multitooth** centre has a spring-loaded center pin with an outer circle of small teeth to engage the work. The **ring drive** has a center point, often adjustable, with the outer continuous ring providing the drive force through friction. Advancing the tailstock center compresses the center pin and engages the teeth or ring into the wood. By varying the tailstock pressure, the drive can be engaged lightly-to-forcefully. It is important to regularly check the pressure during turning as the drives can work their way into the wood and become loose.

The advantage of these friction drives is that they slip against the work in the event of a catch. The turner can regulate the amount of force needed to cause the drive to slip by varying the tailstock pressure. For novice turners, having the work stop while staying securely provides a better degree of confidence.

Both the steb and ring drives are useful when doing offset work such as with the recent three sided challenge item. A four spur drive will generally not engage with the work item for sufficient grip when placed on an angle.

At the tailstock end we use Live centers which run on bearings. Again there are two common types, a) the 60 degree cone and b) the steb or ring.

The cone center is the general workhorse for most applications. It allows turning close to the work end. It can leave a deep hole that has to be taken into account when completing the work.

The cone type center is not useful when holding small diameter or items with paper joints, as the holding force can split the wood. The steb or ring center spreads the pressure on the end grain. As above, the steb or ring is safer to use with offset turned items.

Thats all for this edition of The Pendemic.

If you are enjoying reading The Pendemic please help us by sending in articles, your favourite riddle, stories you have found interesting in fact anything you think others may enjoy. You can email me, Richard Jardine with any articles, feedback or suggestions.

Cheers till next month.

One last question.

Why does a circular saw come packaged in a square box?