



VOL 02/21

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020

President's Report February 2021

Summary

Totem Poles.

The totem poles have been finished and installed, to the delight of Caroline and hopefully all the children. A huge amount of work has gone into making the poles from both members contributing items and those who helped assemble the poles.



Easing of restrictions.

It should be possible to meet again in the rooms but with a limit of 20. Otherwise can meet outside. Graham has discussed with Pattie from the cottage regarding our intentions to meet inside subject to numbers.

New lathe.

Several people have been helping to make the stand for the lathe. Thanks to Ian Phelan, Roger Annells, Gary Jenvey and all those who have provided suggestions without whose help I could not have accomplished what was done before I left for my holiday.

Vale Charles Mercer.

I was with great sadness that I received the news Charles' passing on the night of Sat 6th Feb. He was a skilled and accomplished woodturner and a thorough gentleman. He will be missed by many in the guild.

President's trip to Tasmania.

Evelyn and I are having a great time in Tasmania. We have visited a number of mens sheds which has made me appreciate the instruction given and skills learned at Koonung Woodturners Guild. I was shown around one shed (that will remain

nameless) where they had a large old Woodfast lathe that had been renovated (or at least painted) and another home made lathe that looked positively dangerous. They had a selection of no less than 8 scrapers of differing profiles but all equally blunt and a couple of gouges of some description and similar degree of sharpness although I could not see a roughing gouge or skew chisel amongst the selection. My inspection of the tools confirmed what I suspected after seeing some of the spindle turnings that had been saved under a bench. I was told that they did not do a lot of woodturning and the last time someone had tried turning a bowl it flew off the lathe. Fortunately no-one was hurt... on that occasion.

I have been spoilt by the quality of work presented at our show and tell sessions. Perhaps I am overly critical but often when I pick up a bowl at a market stall or information display I quickly put it back and decide the low price is all the item is worth, especially when the bottom has not been turned or the screw holes from the faceplate fixing have been filled with a contrasting putty. It makes the better stuff at the galleries look so much better but even here the quality often could be better.

There is an abundance of Huon Pine and Blackwood pieces for sale. As we drive around it is great to see so much Blackwood growing, usually along side Silver Wattle. I am surprised how little of the Silver Wattle is used for turned items or any other wood craft or furniture. It is tempting to fill the back of the car with timber to bring back home (which was the original plan) but it would make little sense to do this if we are coming back in a few months.

THE TOTEM PROJECT

As you are probably aware the guild was asked to contribute to the community art project arranged by the Koonung Community House.

We received a number of contributions of wood turned pieces prior to Christmas. In January this year, capably led by Graham Besley, a number of members sorted the pieces and designed 2 wooden totems which are displayed in the garden opposite our shed



The items were finished by hand with oil or paint and arranged into 2 totems before being placed on threaded rod set into concrete





THE FINISHED TOTEMS

The totems have been well received by the Community House and they are extremely happy with the result.

A very big thank you to all who made items to be used and congratulations to all those who worked to construct the Totems.

The result is spectacular.

NOTICES

FEBRUARY MEETING

It is planned to hold our next meeting on Saturday 20th Feb 2021.

Given the current restrictions are due to finish on Wednesday it is anticipated that we will be able to hold our meeting out doors at the shed.

Cliff Walsh has kindly offered to do a demonstration, given the quality of work Cliff produces this is a demonstration not to miss.

Please bring “Show and Tell” items and importantly “Masks”

If there is an extension to the lockdown we will have to cancel the meeting and reschedule the demonstration for another time.

SUBS ARE NOW DUE

The Annual Membership Subscription has been set at \$50.00 with a \$20.00 credit for existing members who were financial as of August 2020, to reflect the limited activities due to the Covid19 pandemic in 2020.

Could you please make a direct credit into the clubs account making sure to include your name so Neale can forward you receipt and Membership card.

Bank Details below:

Account Name	Koonung Woodturners Guild INC
BSB	633 000
Account	109 130 674
Please also	Record your name on the payment, so that I know who it is

CARBA TEC 15% OFF

Paid up members of Koonung Woodturning Guild are eligible for 15% discount at Carba Tec. You will be issued with a card when subs are paid.

THE NEW DEMONSTRATION LATHE

The guild has recently purchase a new Laguna variable speed demonstration lathe.

Richard Jardine has constructed a timber stand on castors to enable the lathe to easily moved from the shed to the demonstration area. He put in many hours and has done a terrific job, Richard was assisted by Gary Jenvy, Ian Phelan and Roger Annells

THURSDAY NOVICE TURNING GROUP

Due to illness Ray Smith is not able to return to oversee and assist the novice turners in our guild. The committee has decided to set up a monthly roster of more experienced turners to mentor and encourage this group.

To have new turners coming through is very important to the future of the Guild. If you can assist by giving up 1 or 2 Thursday afternoons a month to mentor, please get in touch with a committee member offer to assist.

Vale Charles Mercer

As most of you are aware we lost a true gentleman and a very dedicated member last week. Charles passed away in hospital after a short illness.

The following is the eulogy given by Tom Beswick on behalf of the Guild

Charles was a quiet man, well spoken and well respected. He was a member of the Koonung Wood Turners Guild, for some 10 years. He was a more than competent craftsman and produced many wood turned objects. He was part of the Wednesday afternoon group who gathered in the Club work shop, where there was a healthy exchange of ideas and ways to improve methods to produce even better turned objects, he participated and imparted his knowledge to others, he was the consummate wood worker. He also participated in the other Club activities and served on the committee where he was active and a keen participant in the Clubs activities. Charles and his wife Jean used to visit Margery and myself and have afternoon tea and a chat. Charles loved talking and was a keen participant in any topic which was being discussed.

Last year, Charles made a clock for his grand daughter who lives in Tasmania. I suspect he was particularly proud of this clock, and it was an excellent piece of craftsmanship. He bought it along to the club and gave us a detailed account of how he made the clock and the problems he had to solve to achieve the finally finished clock.

Charles was a keen gardener and loved his vegetable plot, but was not happy with some of his vegetables disappearing. I suggested to him that a wire enclosure might help, next time [I called around he was quite proud of his cage and was no longer losing his prized vegetables.

Due to the Covid pandemic, the club activities ground to a halt, I frequently spoke to Charles on the phone, and I knew he was not happy with the enforced lock down. The Club in its wisdom, held an out door event, which allowed Club Members to gather. Charles came with me to this event, and I clearly remember how happy he was on the way home, and how glad he was that he had the opportunity to talk to so many members.

Charles will be sorely missed at the Koonung Wood Turners Guild

All members extend their sympathy to Jean and the family.

Charles, Rest in Peace.



Charles' Clock as described in Tom's eulogy

Who could forget the visit to Charles's workshop (factory). What an amazing space and with a wood fired heater

Then there was the feast for morning tea.





Charles demonstrating his method of doing pewter inlay work

A pewter rimmed bowl by Charles. A very fine example of his craftsmanship



More of Charles' fine work and craftsmanship



Charles Mercer
Necklace

Charles Mercer
Segmented Bowl



WORK FROM MEMBERS

Some of the individual pieces in the totem poles



Graham Besley "Rings"

Rick Hillier "Pinocchio"



Mal Jackson



Graham Besley

Mal Jackson “ Eagle”



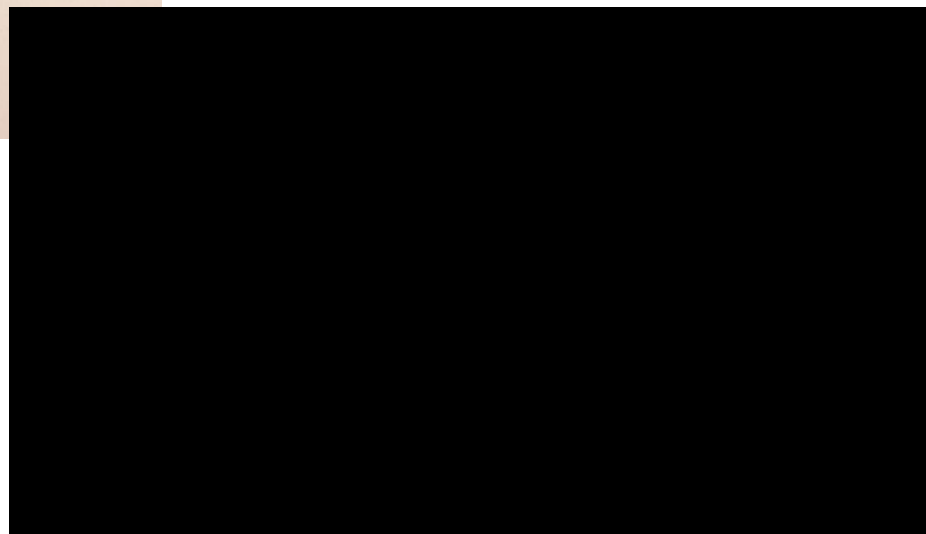
Mal Jackson “ Ballerinas”

Mal Jackson "Flying Ducks"



Di Bermingham "Disc"

John Osborne "Flying Eagle"



Other Items from Members



Gary Jenvy repaired a chair

Your correspondent sent this picture of a carved totem he saw whilst holidaying in Brisbane



Gary Jenvy – 3 of 11 Tea Light Holders in Red Gum



Roger Annells – Christmas Angel
from Camphor Laurel and
finished with Danish oil.

