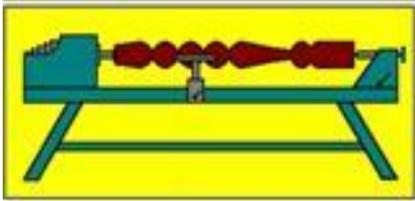


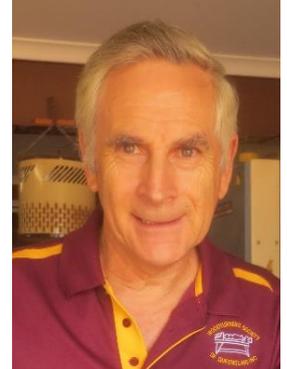
# Turning Talk

Volume 34 Number 3

April 2020



## Presidential Words *For April 2020*



### **WSQ Shutdown during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

As notified to most members by e-mail on Saturday 24 March, the Management Committee decided to shut down all WSQ events and activities for at least 4 weeks, in line with the Government's restrictions on non-essential gatherings to limit the spread of coronavirus. The Committee will review the situation after that time and consider what happens next.

The Committee is considering various options for staying in touch with members during the shutdown, including teleconferencing in lieu of the Tuesday morning 'smoko' meetings, WSQ Forum group on Facebook and videoconferencing. Members should check their e-mails regularly for updates on these non-contact activities. Members without e-mail are encouraged to keep in touch by regular telephone contact with other members

If you would like to join the WSQ Members Forum group on Facebook, please send your e-mail address to [brian.creese@bigpond.com](mailto:brian.creese@bigpond.com). If you do not currently use Facebook, you will receive an invitation to sign up to Facebook, then an invitation to join the WSQ Members Forum.

A total of 12 members dialled into the initial Tuesday morning 'smoko' teleconference on 24 March. The teleconference will be repeated at the same time (9.30 am Tuesday) each week until further notice. The dial-in number is (07)56606012, access code 476830.

### **Management Report presented at the AGM (17 March)**

Welcome to everyone attending our 2020 AGM, our 41<sup>st</sup>. As most of you know, the Society celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last year. Several special events were organised to celebrate the occasion, including a Wooden Egg Competition and Open Days in March, a birthday party in June attended by politicians from all three levels of government (Terri Butler, Joe Kelly and Fiona Cunningham) and two of our founding members (John Linek and Gary Beck), a 1.5-day demo by Stephen Hughes from Melbourne, and a 3-month display in Brisbane Square Library at the end of the year. What a great year it was!

### **Membership**

We started the year with 214 members in March 2019 and have had 26 new members signed up in the last 12 months. With resignations, deaths & terminations our current membership now stands at 195. We were saddened to hear of the deaths of two of our long serving members in the last 12 months. Kev Kruger joined the Society in 2003 and served on the Committee for a total of 14 years, 10 of them as Vice President. During this time, Kev kept us all on track with his deep understanding and knowledge of our Constitution, By-Laws and other governance matters. Kev was honoured for his services to the Society by being appointed as a Life Member last year. The other member who died last year was Ron Marlow, who joined the Society in 2012. Ron was an active member of the club, turning up regularly for our Tuesday morning workshops and serving as our Welfare Officer, as well as selling his work at Mt Coot-tha and participating in our annual competitions. The Management Committee recently reviewed the list of Honorary Members, and I'm pleased

to announce that Ewan Arneil, our leatherwork instructor, Helen Prescott and Len Young will continue as an Honorary Members in 2020.

### **Regular activities**

Our range of regular activities continues to increase, with the recent introduction of a Friday morning workshop convened by John Reed and others. The Tuesday morning workshop session and smoko meetings continue to be the backbone of our Society, with about 40 members attending each week. On Tuesday afternoons we have a training session for new members. Tuesday evening workshops are designed for members still in the workforce, and we regularly see about 6 of them each week. On Wednesday mornings, we have a special workshop for clients of the Gordon Park Alzheimer's Program and thanks go to Mike Dodson, Bob Kennedy, Bob McGeechan, Alwyn Clark and Wayne Molloy for running this valuable program. The WSQ Toy Group led by Peter Churchward and Toni Dowd continues to work hard making toys for charities. We also have monthly Discussion Forum meetings on the third Saturday of each month, and I thank John Carney for taking over the running of these valuable sessions.

The ongoing success of regular workshop activities would not be possible without the dedication of many members who are committed to ensuring that the equipment is maintained, the workshop areas are well organised and kept clean, and that members using the facilities do so safely and in a way that is respectful of others. I thank all of you who contribute to the day-to-day running of the club, which made my job as President so much easier. I am particularly grateful to our small band of Convenors without whom the Society would not be able to operate in the way it does so successfully at the moment: **Rob McKee, John Sheppard, Bob McGeechan, Lyndon Prescott, John Reed** and **Mick Phythian**. And also **Reg Weber**, who is responsible for the ongoing maintenance and repair of the lathes and other workshop machinery. Last year, **Bob Kennedy** ran a 5-week training course for new convenors, and we look forward to seeing these new convenors come on board as some of our older members become less able to contribute. We also ran training courses for First Aid, CPR, chain saws and bandsaws during the year.

### **WSQ Facilities and Services**

The WSQ Shop continues to go from strength to strength, providing members with an increasing range of woodcraft products and equipment at affordable prices. I thank **Don McMillan** and his band of helpers for the continued smooth operation of the Shop. The Library continues to be a showpiece of our Society and a credit to **Alwyn Clark** and his assistant **Toni Dowd**. **Geoff Holbeck** continues to create our much-loved newsletter Turning Talk. This is Geoff's 10<sup>th</sup> year in the job and he is to be congratulated on this outstanding service to the Club.

### **Annual Events**

Our main annual events are the Open Days in the first half of the year, the Woodturning Competition in June, Woodturning Exhibitions & Sales at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens in August and December, and of course our Christmas Party in December. All of these events require a great deal of effort and coordination, many thanks must go to all members who volunteered and contributed to the success of these events last year.

### **Woodturning Demonstrations**

Apart from our feature demo by Stephen Hughes in June, other demonstrators during the year included **Theo Haralamou** who presented a master class in making a natural-edged mushroom in April, **Rob McKee** on 'Designing and Turning a Chair Leg' in September, **Pat Johnson** showing us new techniques for artistic embellishment of a turned item in October, **Sheila Turbfield** and **Linda Keidel** from Ipswich Woodcrafts Club with their pyrography demo in November, and **Kathy Wise** from the USA with her Intarsia demo last month. We are very privileged to have such a range of talented and experienced turners who are willing to show us new techniques and tips for improvement, as well as covering the basics for new members.

### **WSQ Management Committee**

A major challenge for the Society in recent years has been to attract new members to the Management Committee. At the start of Special General Meeting in November, we had not received nominations for three of the four Executive positions: President, Secretary and Treasurer, and there was also one vacancy for a general Committee member. Two new members, **Dorothy Tyrell** and **Rhonda Clark** were elected as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, but Dorothy was unable to take up her duties because of her husband Bill's illness. We were very fortunate that another new member, Mike Dunne, agreed to take on the Treasurer's role from January this year, taking over from **John Reed** who is taking a well-earned break after 5 years of outstanding service. The position of President remained vacant after the SGM, but I agreed to continue as President for another 3-4 months, on the understanding that **Bob Kennedy** will take over the Presidency in April after he returns from his travels. I thank the new members of the Committee, **Rhonda, Mike** and **Barry Wilson** for their willingness to contribute to the management of the Society. I also thank the continuing members of the Committee for their ongoing commitment: current Vice President **Bob Kennedy**, Membership Secretary **Alwyn Clark**, Workshop Manager **Reg Weber**, Maintenance Chief **Bob McGeechan**, newsletter editor **Geoff Holbeck**, **John Carney** and **John Donaldson**. I am confident that the new Management team has the experience, skills, expertise and wisdom to navigate WSQ through the many challenges in the coming year.

**Brian Creese**

*President*

## Treasurer's Report

A summary of our financial position for February 2020 is:

### February 20

#### Receipts

Container Refunds	\$ 252
Workshop Events	\$1,557
Memberships	\$ 680
Shop Profit	\$ 415
Sundry Income	\$ 505
	\$3,409

#### Less Payments

Workshop Expenses	\$ 486
Accounting & Audit	\$ 550
Newsletter Expenses	\$ 88
Cleaning	\$ 240
Insurance	\$1,699
Library Purchases	\$ 14
Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,059
Telephone & Internet	\$ 103
Rates	\$ 296
Other Expenses	\$ 288
	\$4,823

**Net Profit/(Loss)** (\$1,414)

**Cash at Bank** \$48,699

**Mike Dunne**  
Treasurer

## Future Non-WSQ Events

<b>TURNFEST</b>	27 – 29 March <b>POSTPONED TO SEPTEMBER 13/15</b>	Seaworld Resort Bookings required. <a href="http://www.woodworkingsuppliesqld.com.au/turnfest/index.php">http://www.woodworkingsuppliesqld.com.au/turnfest/index.php</a>
	27 April and 1 May <b>POSTPONED TO BE ADVISED</b>	SawStop Demonstrations <b>Carbatec Brisbane</b> Store 128 Ingleston Rd, Wakerley QLD Multiple sessions available, contact Carbatec for details <a href="https://www.carbatec.com.au/sawstop-demonstration">https://www.carbatec.com.au/sawstop-demonstration</a>
	2 – 4 May <b>CANCELLED</b>	Maleny Showgrounds 8.30am – 5pm \$12 - \$16 <a href="http://www.malenywoodexpo.com/">http://www.malenywoodexpo.com/</a>

**Geoff Holbeck**  
Editor – Turning Talk

**All contributions for the May 2020 edition of Turning Talk need to be submitted by no later than Saturday 28 April 2020.**

## Tag and Test

On Monday afternoon March 17, a team gathered at Pine Street to do the tag and test of electrical items within our club's premises. Peter Wyer, who currently holds the accreditation to tag and test was assisted by, Toni Dowd, Bob McGeechan, John Reed and Paul Tierney.

Thanks to the Toy Group workers in our downstairs workshop who placed all the electric powered tools and leads on a table to assist the tag and test team.

The tag and test of our equipment is required to be carried out twice a year by a suitably qualified person.

In April 2020 John Reed and Toni Dowd are undertaking the course to increase the number of qualified testers. John and Toni will join Peter in making sure that our electrical equipment is tested and safe for us all to use. The tag and test team will give notice to members of the next event. Keep an eye or ear out for the call as a few volunteers will needed for the task.

On behalf of all our members I am sure we all offer our sincere appreciation and thanks to Peter Wyer for his efforts over many years of tagging and testing our electrical equipment.

**John Carney**  
*Acting Vice President*

## Interactive Remote Demonstrations & Videoconferencing

At the Tuesday morning 'tele-smoko' meeting last week, Theo Haralampou talked to us about the possibilities for sharing woodturning activities by videoconferencing, He is currently working with a group of US-based turners called Lucid Woodturners (<https://www.lucidwoodturners.com>), who are exploring internet-based resources to make woodturning accessible during coronavirus-related shutdowns of woodworking and woodturning clubs around the world,

Part of their mission is to develop systems whereby woodturning clubs can access international demonstrators without having to pay travel costs, Videoconferencing technology such as Zoom (<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>) will allow demonstrations to be streamed live to a woodturning club, with the ability for the remote audience to ask questions and for the demonstrator to respond, Cindy Drozda is one US-based demonstrator who is already able to provide this service (<http://www.cindydrozda.com/html/ltinerary.html>).

Any members interested in exploring how WSQ might benefit from Interactive Remote Demonstrations is asked to contact Theo or myself, In the meantime, I am planning to host an interactive videoconference session in lieu of our usual Woodturning Discussion Forum on Saturday 18 April, Login details will be sent to members by e-mail.

**Brian Creese**  
*President*

## WSQ Basement Workshop Upgraded in February 2020

The photos below show Members at work, keeping the workspace well organised. This could not happen without the dedicated members who contributed their time and different areas of skills, working in harmony.



**Lily Karmatz**  
*WSQ Member*

## March Woodturning Discussion Forum

Five members attended the Forum meeting on 21 March, with all of us bringing along at least one piece of work for discussion.

**Peter Wyer** showed his collection of female figures, including one elegantly dressed using pyrographic techniques, and others with multi-axis turning to enhance the form. Hats or angel wings were added to most of the figures as a finishing touch.



**Rob McGregor** had a 4-legged bowl turned from York gum burl. He gave a detailed explanation of how the burl was mounted to maintain the attractive spiky surface underneath with specially prepared jigs. He has promised to write up his techniques as an article in a future edition of Turning Talk.



**Brian Creese** has been playing with Bote-Cote Luci-Clear resin, and showed two examples of his work: one was a 1953 penny mounted in a chip of Tasmanian Myrtle, the other a mosaic of 2500-year old pottery shards from an archaeological site at Maresha in Israel. He also showed his current work-in-progress, a cheese-knife handle made from a small branch of Morrisby's Gum (*Eucalyptus morrisbyi*), an endangered species that grows naturally only in a very small area in Tasmania (Calverts Hill near Cremorne); watch this space for a photo in next month's edition.



**Don McMillan** presented a collection of bells that he is making for the ABC Christmas Tree Decoration project, and a mango boat-shaped bowl. The boat bowl was made by gluing two pieces of mango together with PVA/paper so that the two sides of the boat will have matching grain. Don used templates for the inside and outside of the piece to ensure uniform thickness, and another specially made jig for gluing the two halves together. We look forward to seeing the finished piece!



**Alan Loxton** kept his pieces out of sight until the end of the meeting, when he surprised us all by bringing out two beautifully crafted segmented bowls, one solid with a spiral pattern and one latticed. As we have come to expect from Alan, the workmanship and finish were of exceptionally high standard, although Alan admitted that he was slightly disappointed that one of the timbers (New Guinea Rosewood) used in the lattice bowl did not have the contrast in colour that he had intended (but nevertheless visible in the photo).



**Brian Creese**  
President

## Natural Edge York Burl Bowl

Determine where the bowl will fit on the blank. Mount the blank on the face plate. Cutting on the faceplate side of the blank, face off the blank as far as the face plate will allow, including developing the bead. Sand whatever is possible from the bead outwards.

Mark the centre on the base with a pencil. Remove the faceplate, place the blank face down on cardboard, locating and marking the centre. Scribe around the outer shape of the blank. Mark the cardboard 'wood side' and 'face outside' and cut the shape out.

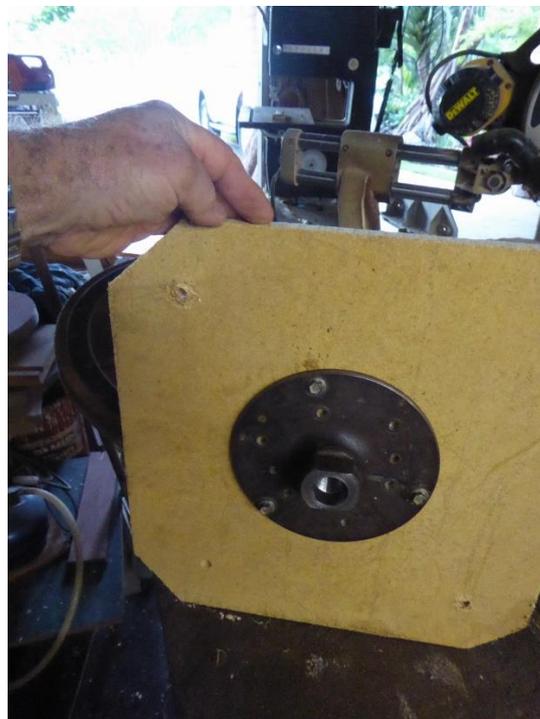
Select a piece of timber to mount the blank on, position the cut out so that the 'face outside' is facing up, which will face toward the tailstock. Position the shape to allow the corners to have a 10mm bolts pass through it, allowing for clearance to the blank. Scribe the shape of the blank along the area of the corners. Transfer the centre through the cardboard to the mounting block. In a drill press drill the four holes allowing clearance from the marked edge. With a 1/16" drill, drill the centre through the mounting block, using the drill press. The centre has now been transferred to the other side of the mounting block, upon which will be attached the face plate.

Select a piece of square flat board (particle board etc.) that is at least 70mm wider than the diameter of the bead. (Call this the retainer). Place the mounting block centrally over the top of the retainer, clamp in position and reference mark the position of the pieces. Drill the four holes and the 1/16" centre hole in a drill press.



During the process keep the pieces orientated correctly; mark pieces so that they go together the

same way each time. Mount the retainer on a face plate using the centre drilled hole. With a parting tool cut a groove, the outer diameter being 5mm more than the outer diameter of the bead. When you have cut as deep as you are game, remove the retainer from the face plate and complete the cut by hand or jigsaw to remove the disk.



Attach the back side of the mounting board to the face plate, i.e. the opposite side to where the markings are. **NB:** the centre of the mounting board will not be the same centre as the centre of the blank. Use a piece of neoprene or similar between the blank and mounting board. Again, the point of contact probably will not be in the centre of the work. The turned face will be facing the tailstock. Orientate the piece to align with the edge marks on the mounting board. Place the retainer over the face of the blank, and the bead should fit within the cut out. Connect the bolts through the holes from the retainer to the mounting block. Cuphead bolts are ideal as the heads are smooth and do not pose a safety threat. Tighten the nuts until they are just firm.

Mount the unit on the lathe. Bring up the tailstock as this will be your guide to centring the blank in the cradle using the pre marked centre on the blank. The face has to be checked that it is running true. Use the tool rest as a guide to check where the face is high or low. Adjust the face by adjusting the diagonally opposite nuts – loosen allows the face to move towards the tailstock when the diagonally opposite nut is tightened and adjusted toward the headstock. This is fiddly but it is possible to adjust the face quite accurately as well as having it run true on the centre.



Double check that all is secure before starting to turn. Chances are that it will be out of balance. Start at the slowest speed and increase until vibration occurs. Decrease the speed to just below the vibration and turn at that speed. Small and steady cuts are the best. Check the security of the unit often until turning is complete.

### Foot/Base

When turning the base on a bowl, as a rule of thumb the base is usually between 1/3 to 1/2 of the diameter of the bowl; so, I decided to locate the legs within this parameter.

The legs need to be at right angles to the tangent at that point. This angle is approximately 15° from vertical. I marked the location of each leg ready to drill. Using a bevel box, I zeroed it on the shaft of the drill press, then set the table to 15°. To drill each hole the bowl was placed face down on the table with the axis of the diagonally opposite legs at right angles to the axis of the table arm. It was clamped in position for drilling. Because of the unevenness of the surface it would be difficult to drill using a normal twist drill, so I elected to use a Forstner bit. The Forstner bit remained steady providing an accurate, clean cut edge to the hole.

The legs elevate the bowl so the texture of the outside can be seen. They are also tapered to give the illusion of lift. There four legs for better stability. The legs need to be fitted dry so they can be adjusted for height and rocking.



The Finished Bowl



The Textured Exterior

**Rob McGregor**  
*WSQ Member*

## Word Power Lesson

Everyone can use a little "grammar" update now and then so here's yours for today ... enjoy!

Is it "complete", "finished" or "completely finished"? No English dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between these two words - "Complete" and "Finished".

In a recent linguistic competition held in London and attended by, supposedly, the best in the world, Samdar Balgobin, a Guyanese man, was the clear winner with a standing ovation which lasted over 5 minutes.

The final question was: 'How do you explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand? Some people say

there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.'

Here is his astute answer:

"When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. When you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"

He won a trip around the world and a case of 25 year old Scotch!

**Anonymous**  
*WSQ Member*

## March Demonstration – Making Fruit

On the morning of Saturday March 7 twelve members attended WSQ to take part in a hands-on workshop on turning fruit conducted by Allan Dickson. Allan is a master of this type of turning. He makes items of fruit in large numbers and sells them through galleries and WSQ exhibition and sales opportunities.

Allan is a production turner. He makes batches of 30 at a time. He advised that you shouldn't use soft timbers such as pine. He recommends western Queensland hardwoods.



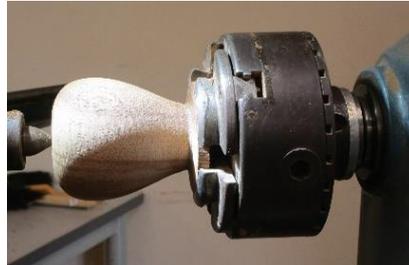
Some of Allan's Pieces



Allan Turning a Pear

Allan mounted a 75mm x 150mm blank between centres, and turned it to round using a roughing gouge. He turned a dovetail spigot at one end. Next, he reverse chucked the blank into a scroll chuck, squared the other end and turned the bottom of the pear, using a small spindle gouge. Allan used push cuts to remove waste and shear scraped to smooth the surface. Given that

he has made thousands of these types of pieces over the years he made it look very easy, without any need to measure the blank or pause to think. At this point Allan sent the members to their lathes to replicate what he had done.



Allan's Pear in Development.



4 Members Hard at It



A Member Turns a Pear

The following are some of the pears produced by the members.



After their stint on the lathes the group got together again to discuss the task they had been given. Allan discussed and demonstrated sanding these pieces using 80 grit sandpaper. He advised that he uses Jacaranda stems to use as apple and pear stems. He drills a small hole in the top of the piece and glues a small section of Jacaranda stem in. His usual finish is 60% gloss lacquer.

The members expressed their thanks to Allan for a very interesting and challenging morning in the workshop.

**Geoff Holbeck**  
Editor – Turning Talk

## Greenslopes State School Demo

On Monday 25 November WSQ played hosts to 45 Children from Greenslopes Sate School. This represented the graduating class of 2019. Earlier on in the year WSQ made and presented some 60 wooden eggs to the school for several of the art classes to decorate. These eggs formed part of our Open Day display and also were represented at our August Expo at Mt Coo-tha.

To encourage the younger generation to experience woodturning, and after some planning it was decided to invite the children as a class, to a demonstration at WSQ to take advantage of the demo set up in the Phil Harris Auditorium. So, at 8.30 am a group of noisy children arrived at Pine street with accompanied by Shannon Wilson, Arts Specialist at GSS, and several support staff. They were quickly seated, and the demo commenced with a brief explanation of the pole lathe. The laminated photos of the pole lathe were passed around, with the children showing plenty of interest. The treadle lathe was next, and we managed to get a few shavings going.

Following a brief explanation of the chisels and the Vicmarc Lathe the children were shown how to turn a simple wooden angel. Alwyn Clark was responsible for the camera work; John Carney performed the turning and Bob Kennedy assisted with the commentary. The children showed great interest and asked plenty of questions across a broad range. I should note that the noisy children were now quiet and taking in what was happening.

On completion of the demo, each of the children was presented with their own turned wooden Angel as a gift from WSQ. The smile and the excitement on each face as they each received their angel were priceless. The children were split into three groups so that Alwyn, Bob and myself could give them a tour of the workshop, Library and the Toy Group area. We were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the students and they left WSQ at approx. 10.30 to commence the noisy walk back to School.

It is hoped that we will do a similar program for 2020. Please be a part of it any way you can.

**John Carney**  
*Acting Vice President*

[Editor's Note: Apologies for taking so long to publish this article. There's been so much happening recently.]

## Council Library Displays

Brisbane and Logan City Councils have closed their libraries from 23 March 2020 for an indefinite period due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There will be no further library displays until we receive notification from the councils that the libraries are once again safe environments. It is not anticipated that this will happen in the near future.

**John Byrne**  
*WSQ Member*  
**Geoff Holbeck**  
*Editor – Turning Talk*



March Display at Logan West Library

**The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Woodturners Society of Queensland or its Management Committee.**

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You're invited to contribute to the content of TT.

To do so, preferably by Email:

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# Tree of the Month – Merbau (Kwila)



Merbau is a hardwood native to areas in the South East Pacific such as Asia, Pacific Islands and northern Queensland. Otherwise known as ipil and kwila it is a tropical rainforest tree traditionally used for medicines by indigenous cultures.

Merbau is dense, strong and weather resistant. It has an oily resin and is greasy to touch. Rated class 1 (AS 5604) for durability and termite resistance in above ground applications it is a choice timber for external use. Merbau is also suitable for in ground use with a class 3 rating it has a probable life expectancy of between 5 to 15 years in ground.

The sapwood is pale yellow and the heartwood varies from a light to a dark reddish brown. There is some interlocking of the grain creating a wave like appearance. It has a course but even texture and overall displays the genuine warmth of a natural timber.

The strong demand for Merbau in recent years has resulted in some illegal rainforest harvesting in Papua New Guinea and parts of South East Asia. However certified Merbau is available in Australia sourced through government controlled managed forests.

Its properties make Merbau a versatile timber used for both internal and external building and joinery material. It turns easily and its high strength and durability make it well suited for fence and verandah posts. It is also used widely for outdoor furniture due to its ability to withstand weather conditions.

## Care of Merbau Products

Merbau will finish smoothly with sanding. It will paint, stain, and polish well. It is prone to tannin bleeding which creates red stain which can be removed with a wood clean product. As with all external timber products it is strongly advised to follow the recommended painting instructions



Kwila Chair Made by Rob McKee



Kwila and Victorian Ash Segmented Bowl by Alan Loxton

**Geoff Holbeck**  
Editor – *Turning Talk*

*Aurnwoodturning.com.au. is the source of the text and tree image. The kwila chair image is sourced from RMschoolofwoodworking.com.au. The bowl image is provided by WSQ.*

## Turning Talk

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Vice President: Bob Kennedy 3892 4675  
Secretary: Rhonda Clark 3803 4270  
Treasurer: Mike Dunne 0410 400 954  
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Barry Wilson 0409 260 786  
Bob McGeechan 3394 1839  
Geoff Holbeck 3901 6782  
John Carney 3245 6135  
John Donaldson 0407 022 403  
Reg Weber 3206 2325

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