



Guest editor's letter

Kurt Hertzog

Getting out and about

Reflecting on my 30+ years of woodturning, I recall my beginnings and the journey so far. When considering the highlights, they don't centre on gear, turnings, or time spent in the shop. From my perspective, the most enjoyable aspect of woodturning has been the people. The camaraderie of fellow turners, whether they are club members, students, event attendees, or instructors I've studied with over the years. Creating something unique or challenging has always been rewarding and remains so. That said, the time spent with fellow turners stands out in my memory the most. Attending symposia, meeting the big names, participating in non-stop rotations, visiting the instant galleries, and watching demonstrations at my local clubs are the most memorable parts of my woodturning experience.

As technology has evolved, our tools, equipment and means of communication have made great strides. These advances have contributed significantly to the craft, but I also perceive a downside. We are becoming more isolated in this pastime. Much like the decline of shopping malls, restaurants and various storefronts, the necessity to travel and 'be there' is diminishing. With the rise of one-click online shopping, next-day delivery and food delivery apps, there is less incentive to leave the house. Everything needed or wanted can be accomplished from the computer.

This has impacted woodturning as well. Don't get me wrong, I am a huge fan of IRD (interactive remote demos) for all the benefits and opportunities they add to the experience. As someone who has travelled and demonstrated for many years, I recognise the significant time and expense involved. Now we can enjoy the demonstration and interact with a demonstrator across town or even on the other side of the globe at our and their convenience. For the demonstrator, the disadvantages of travelling to and being on site have been eliminated. They can remain at home, demo in their shop, have everything they need right at hand and, aside from the demo time, continue with their everyday life.

For those who turn as their primary source of income, this is a considerable advantage. No additional productive time lost due to travel. With the costs of the IRD covered by the attendees, often from multiple clubs in different locations, virtually any demonstrator can be afforded. The attendee can watch on the big screen at their local club/event or attend from home in real-time or delayed. Symposia are being impacted in the same manner. The huge costs associated with



planning and executing an event can be reduced by having IRDs be part of the event. The cost savings can be dramatic. Being able to reach those unable to attend, having content available for those who missed because of schedule conflicts, and providing an additional revenue stream for the event are all benefits. The symposia are all struggling with being the most cost-effective event to continue to exist.

I genuinely hope we don't become a society of shut-ins. Lockdowns, remote instant access to nearly anything, fast and efficient delivery systems, and continuing cost pressures have driven much of society to increased isolation. I do take part in all these modern 'conveniences' with the rest of society, but I endeavour to maintain and enjoy in-person, face-to-face experiences as much as I can. I'm hoping that you are doing the same. Kurt

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