



Newsletter

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Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee of Woodgroup SA Inc.

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(George Pastuch - Editor)



TOYMENDOUS XMAS GIVEAWAY

The picture on the front page was taken at Saint Pauls School prior to the toys presentation to eight charity organisations.

The club had another successful year with a presentation of over 1400 wooden toys to charity. The number was boosted from the average of 1200 toys. This was mainly due to additional toys made at individual member's homes during the shut out in 2017. The shut out came about by a change in OHS&W requirements from St Pauls which took the whole of 2017 for Toymendous to comply.

The article in the North Eastern Weekly on November 7, 2018, and subsequent story featured by channel 7 has prompted interest and the club strength of 20 looks to increase by several new members in 2019.

At the presentation, individual Toymendous members conducted presentations to each of the eight charity organisations.



A group shot of the Toymendous members present on the day. There were five members who could not attend for various reasons .

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WoodgroupSA Network Meeting, Wednesday January 9th, 2019.

Apologies were received from Trevor Lloyd, Rena Hoare, Roger Humphris (making a good recovery from serious surgery) and John Edyvean, recovering from pneumonia.

Charles Greig was first up with a neat pinkish-brown bowl turned out of “silky oak” –one of the several. This one was pink silky oak, bought in Maleny, Qld, so possibly *Alloxylon wickmanii* or *Opisthiolepis heterophylla*, both Qld rainforest trees that grow to about 30 m tall, both with pinkish brown heart-wood. The grain was very much like *Grevillea robusta*, though the image does not do that justice. The colour was a significantly darker brown-red than the latter species. His bowl was about 100 mm in diameter, with a nicely coved foot lifting it up off the table.



John Beswick was next with two items. His first was a vase about 150 mm tall, turned out of Canary Island palm (*Phoenix canariensis*). He had airbrushed it with gently blending colours to a finish that disguised the open grain of the palm “wood” very well.

His second item was a commissioned “adjustable lace-making table” that could be folded up to be carried easily from venue to venue. John had made this from blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), after considerable time spent pondering subtleties of its design and

making patterns. John had used several jigs to expedite its construction, had carefully dimensioned everything so it folded compactly, as below, and so could be carried in a suitcase. The table arms spread out at height



(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

about 900 mm (adjustable) when erected, but all folded down to a compact 600 mm long package. When folded, the feet shown in the image above came together to form a carrying handle, as on the left of the left image.



John Tillack came with a swag of items to pass around. His first was a slender-stemmed goblet, turned from green London plane (*Platanus acerifolia*), as a result of a challenge by Simon Bagshaw recently at the Southern Turners January meeting. The cup stood about 360 mm above its base on a 5 mm stem, with a natural edged base. He had turned 4 beads on the stem, one under the cup, two centrally on the stem, and the other where it joined the base. The shape had moved only slightly since being turned –sorry, there is no image!

Item No.2 was a vase turned from Broughton willow (Coobah, *Acacia salicina*), about 160 mm tall, hollowed by boring via a reshaped spade bit with semicircular cutting edge, to take a tube for holding water –image on the right.



His third item was a lidded pot with a blackwood inlay on the lid. The pot was made from a pale coloured wood which had everyone guessing as to the wood species: it was walnut (*Juglans regia*), with a colour atypical of this timber.. The pot's height was about 70 mm, and the lid fitted on with a



(Continued from page 4)

screech or two!

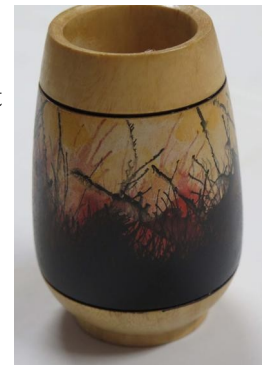
The 4th item was a bowl about 130 mm in diameter, in another piece of Broughton willow from a different source to the above vase, with a strongly contrasting grain between sapwood (pale) and heartwood (brown). one has adjustable fences to allow through or blind dovetails to be cut of various widths. Again, the end of the timber being routed was clamped beneath the table and against the back board below. To clean out the round corners left by the router bit, he uses dovetail chisels, shown in the adjacent image. His were really sharp, as they must be for clean cuts. Graham filled in a few details on dovetailing too –



Item 5 was another vase made of blackwood, about 140 mm tall, also with great grain display –image on the left..

And his last piece was another pot out of an unknown wood, very attractively decorated by applying small blobs of paint to the surface and then jetting these blobs with compressed air to create “the fire in the forest” scene.

Some discussion followed on approaches to finishing that highlighted the requirement to consider the order of finishing different parts of a design so decoration in one part was not compromised by finishing of another part. If painting, then sealing aspects early on to prevent paint spreading along the grain seems necessary. Tom Jung also enquired about finishing the interior of bowls and vases, regions notorious for being difficult to access with abra-



sives. One response was to construct a narrow sanding pad by tying firm foam to a thin stick of sufficient length to get to all the interior of the item, and cover this with Velcro hook material. By using the full range of abrasive grit papers mounted onto the Velcro material, by being meticulous in ensuring all rough spots are removed before going to the next higher grit, and by being patient, good results should be obtained.

Graham Were followed on with a description of the jigs he uses for cutting dovetails using a trimmer router and involving a minimum of handwork. To this end he showed two jigs he has used, and left and right dovetail chisels for cleaning up routed corners of blind dovetail sockets. Both jigs were very cheap to make. His simpler jig (on the left of the image) constrained the router to move the dovetail cutter in the slot, with the end of the timber

(Continued on page 6)



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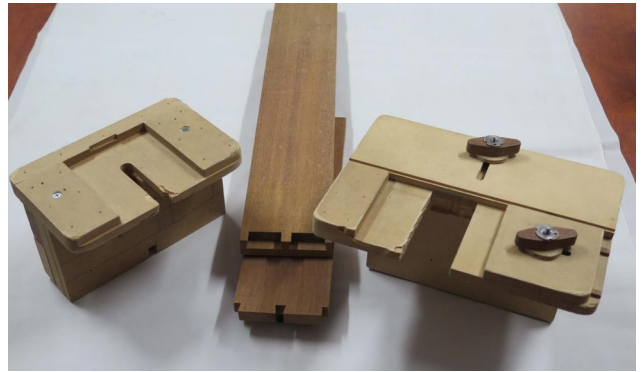
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(Continued from page 5)

clamped underneath. The more complex like setting the angles to be smaller for hardwood (like 1 in 6) compared with 1 in 4 typically for softwood. And like ensuring the dovetails fit very closely, with no gaps at the back of the dovetail to weaken the joint. The central item in the image above shows dovetails cut with his jigs in jarrah, and still firm after joining and pulling apart many times. He also mentioned that furniture he made with dovetailed joints glued with casein glue about the time he was married over 6 decades ago still held together very firmly.



Alex Mühlhölzl passed around a 60 mm two-headed nail for interest. Such nails are used particularly in places where the nail needs to be extracted and re-used –such as in making sets for theatre productions, such sets being temporary structures so being reused time and again for different productions.

He also enquired about cutting threads for wooden bolts to go in a drawer knob (with silver (?) inlay). Because the thread is coarse, matching it with a metal cutting die of the same thread pitch seems unlikely. John Beswick suggested that a router with a fine vee-bit mounted to traverse along the axis of the lathe as the lathe turned by hand works quite well –based on his experience with decorating fine lace bobbins with spirals and inlays. He will try this for Alex.

The session ended about 8:50 pm, after a productive evening of insights and experiences being shared by those present. Do come and join in the humour.

The next meeting is on the second Tuesday in February, the 12th, at the San Georgio Community Centre, 11 Henry St, Payneham, off Portrush road. As usual, drinks & conviviality from 7:00 pm for a 7:30 start. You will be welcome, always.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The club contributions for 2019 are the same as in 2018.

2019 Club Contributions for the Newsletter

2019	CLUB ARTICLE	MEMBER PROFILE
January	Toymendous	Western Woodworkers
February	Murrayland Turners	Whyalla Woodies
March	Sculptors & Carvers	Fleurieu Woodturners
April	Whyalla Woodies	Hills Woodworkers & Copper Coast
May	Riverland Woodworkers	Northern Turners
June	Western Woodworkers	Riverland Woodworkers
July	South OZ Scrollers	Riverside & Murrayland Turners
August	Northern Turners	Sculptors & Carvers
September	Southern Turners	South OZ Scrollers
October	Riverside Comm & Fleurieu W/turners	Southern Turners
November	Hills Woodworkers & Copper Coast	Toymendous
There is no Newsletter in December		