



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)

MEMBER PROFILE—WARRICK LEE—WESTERN WOODWORKERS

Warrick grew up in Moonta; surrounded by the 'old timer's crafts' of a tourist town. The local blacksmith was still operating for the tourists, and would let a young Warrick pump the bellows for him, and many of the old men would let him sit and watch while they made important widgets in their sheds using both old and modern tools.

Moving to Adelaide for work, his fascination with electronics led him to work in his early years on constructing a range of products – from hearing aids, mine detectors and eye surgery lasers. Following his service in the Army Reserves as a Combat Engineer, where he trained in booby trap clearance and explosives disposal, he enlisted in the Regular Army, joining RAEME; qualifying in electrical and electronics at Bandiana, Vic as well as graduating from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. After returning to civilian life, he worked in Sydney and Melbourne before finally returning to Adelaide.

Along the way he has had responsibility for the manufacture and export of a colon cancer screening

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test; overseen Vic, SA and WA as state manager for an disaster recovery business, and travelled the world, servicing mineral analysis equipment in numerous major mine complexes.

As well as garnering a host of frequent flyer points, souvenirs, friends and experiences, he has encountered a vast selection of foods he never met at home such as spider, grasshopper and horse meat. His work locations have varied from Alaska to Indonesia, Papua New Guinea to Sweden, Siberia to Portugal, Mongolia to Qatar and Vietnam to Nigeria. Who knew there is a Bagdad in Arizona, USA?

His personal time while working has allowed him to explore many of the historical sites of the world including the birthplace of Alexander the Great, the home of Aristotle, the tunnels of Gibraltar, the Hopi and Navajo sites of the USA and the megalith carving of Portugal; as well as the usual tourist places such as Rome, Paris and London.

In his latest engagement, he is again travelling to multiple countries from Adelaide, providing training to customers in the use of leading-edge equipment; used in the analysis and remediation of petrochemicals in contaminated soil, developed here in South Australia.

He has served as a Scout Leader in three states, and is an instructor for caving, snow skiing, abseiling and scuba diving. He has represented South Australia in national titles for field and inline hockey and he continues to play field hockey at a state level.

In his leisure time, he enjoys restoring old hand and power tools, making knives and 'tinkering in his shed'.

His home and his heart are now both firmly located in the southern foothills of Adelaide where he shares his home with his wife, Colette and their son Marshall; with another on the way.

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"As I remember"

An unreliable history of Murrayland Turners by "The Murraylands Mumbler"

After nearly forty years of trying to bash a five thousand-acre scrub block into some sort of a farm, the thought of an idle retirement did not appeal. My apprehension was short lived as a consequence of stumbling on an ancient "Woodfast" lathe while sourcing some timber to build a jetty. Any lingering concerns of idleness were soon banished. A few weeks after the lathe purchase I attended a memorable "SATurn" weekend camp, brilliantly run by Cate and Geoff Wrigley and David Tulloch with the backing of Woodgroup S.A. This was for me a crash course, learning new skills like sharpening tools and at least twenty ways of taking the edges off square bits of wood (due to my twenty odd, enthusiastic instructors who very patiently and generously instructed me on "their way"). The other impressive memory of this wonderful weekend was the humour and the relaxed camaraderie of all my fellow turners. This was beautifully illustrated when I noticed that, although the camp area had been ruled "dry", many of the wood turners, seemed to be sipping port from vintage glass Coke-cola bottles. I did, at first, wonder whether this was a dark woodworking ritual? Were they all insomniacs? Or was this just "men of a certain age thing" re-enacting their youth as naughty boys? Whatever, I was hooked, this hobby was the answer to my fears of an idle retirement.

Murray Bridge Turners, later to become Murrayland Turners, started eighteen months after my first SATurn adventure, on 1st November 2002, at a public meeting in Murray Bridge. Our first venue was at the Tec studies centre of the Murray Bridge High School on the first Saturday of the month from 10 am till 4pm. The first year we had 20 members joined in the second year a further fourteen. In the earlier days we relied on the Adelaide clubs for demonstrators. Although Murraylands did offer our demonstrators petrol money many of them donated this back to us, for which we were very thankful. Probably the most frustrating task for us at this point was packing up the club's tools and equipment after each session. As a consequence we purchased a trailer to store the acquired equipment at a member's home. In early 2008 we were offered the lease of a shed in Johnstone Park, Murray Bridge for our clubrooms. We had obtained a 20ft X 30ft shed a few months earlier, due to the diligence of one of our members Jeff Parker. The dismantling and retrieval of this shed from Adelaide must have been one of our most successful working bees. The choice of day could have been better as we chose the hottest day of the year. We arrived on site bright and early with Jack Hunt in his Ford 150 ute towing a hefty truck trailer. After unloading and setting

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up the alternator with a mouth-watering array of demolition tools, we launched into our task. The roof corrugated iron sheets were removed individually and stacked on the trailer, then the wooden 4x2s, next the roofing frames. The walls were “felled” in six sections and loaded strait onto the trailer. The uprights, which had been concreted into the ground, were all cut off with nine-inch angle grinders at ground level. Finally the manager of the supermarket who had owned the shed was sent for to provide a sight inspection. He was obviously most impressed that such a “Dads Army” raggle taggle band had accomplished so much in such a short time on such a stinker of a day that he donated our original tender to the club. The return to Murray Bridge turned into an epic as Jack's ute objected to the extra weight and heat, stopping at every pub in a cloud of steam on the way. We really had no option but to adjourn to the air conditioning for a bit of bonding, while the old ute cooled down. Our early attempts to treble our clubroom size was thwarted as our first submission for planning permission was refused, as our clubhouse apparently was to be bulldozed for a multi million dollar-sporting complex. However, as so often was the case this did not eventuate and by the end of 2009 planning permission had been given, a building committee appointed and a friendly builder found to set-up the sight. Kryn Buitendyk volunteered to extend the uprights and modify the frame of our extension to fit in with the existing building. The first working bee to erect the extension was held on 16th January 2010. Surprisingly by March we had the cladding completed as all working bees had run very smoothly. This was unexpected as a majority of members held leadership aspirations based on experiences of having built their own sheds, yet the team appeared to have enough worker ants to succeed.

Clubhouse under construction.

It was at this point that the Murray Bridge Council asked us to host a group of Ngarrindjeri carvers to carve thirteen

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bollards depicting the thirteen Ngarrindjeri clans. This project went ahead and was a credit to the carvers involved for their skill and the conditions they worked under. The wood for the bollards took months to arrive, when it finally did, was "as wet as" and naturally cracked badly. The carvers were required to meet an abridged deadline, working on dirt floors with temporary lighting. I certainly admired their perseverance. One of our members, Alice Jericho, provided considerable assistance and should also be credited with enabling this project to be successfully completed on time. This was a commendable project and I believe a very important one in adding to our profile when applying for grants.



Lena Rigney and Audrey Linsay involved in the Ngarrindjeri carving project.

However the next phase in our history was for me a very bitter one. We were approached by the Murray Bridge council to share our clubhouse facilities in a loose amalgamation with the newly formed Men's Shed. To me this was a sensible idea as I felt our facility was over capitalised for the amount time we used it. At a meeting between Murraylands Turners, the Men's Club shed committee, and the Council, it was agreed that the amalgamation would take at least six months to complete. However "The Men's Club" withdrew from our verbal agreement within a month, leaving us in the embarrassing position of having contracted a concreter to complete the floor for our earlier extension. Fortunately the Council funded the cost of the floor, with the Murrayland Turners providing 50% in kind. We are grateful to the Murray Bridge council and a very generous benefactor member, as we were able to extricate ourselves from a potentially embarrassing position.

Among our more positive and interesting projects was our connection with the Ngaut Ngaut heritage site of Aboriginal cave carvings on the banks of the Murray River. I understand that this site was the first archaeological dig in Australia. The club project was to supply platters, shallow bowls, pens, pendants etc for Lyn Rigney, an artist from the care taker group, to paint. Lyn has a stall selling souvenirs on the site, with clients including tourists from the Murray River Queen and other river cruise boats.

Our attempt to increase our numbers has not been the roaring success as we had hoped. For instance we ran a "Come and try day" approximately 4 years ago, where we had Tim Skilton to teach a class; with a new "Woodfast" lathe donated by Carba Tec as a prize for the most promising turner. While this event, like so many others, attracted a reasonable number of participants we failed to sign up a single new member. This continues to be a great disappointment.

History of our club would not be complete with out a few words about our late and very remarkable member Bruce Mullen who produced some brilliant and remarkable work. Being a retired "Cocky" he made many of his old tools of trade out of wood, all of which were working replicas. These included: a milk separator (complete with a



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wooden speed bell), a bottle Jack, spanners, rabbit trap with chain and peg, plus many other tools including my favourite, the shearing handpiece. As I have said before, "how can anyone wax lyrical about a wooden handpiece." Anyone who has experienced pushing one those hot, vicious vibrating tools will tell you it takes two hands to switch them on or off and if you want to hold a "snotty" kicking sheep a third hand is extremely useful, unless you wish to disembowel yourself. Any emotion for such a dangerous tool should surely be one of hatred. I on the other hand was deeply move by the attention to detail and the beauty of Bruce's workmanship. Bruce's memory will certainly live on.

Comb and Chicken Feet

Wooden shearing hand piece drive

To finalise my version of our history without making mention of our recent history, I feel would be wrong. I certainly am proud of our achievements over the years. We do have many wonderful assets obtained by honest hard work and a band of keen and excellent members, but we are not getting any younger. To me the resignation of Chris Reynolds, our last president, was a very sad occasion. Chris's youthful energy, enthusiasm, and new ideas certainly revitalised the club. The purchasing of the Lucas Mill, and the video set-up that we now have is largely due to his contribution and drive. His fresh ideas for skill development projects were inspiring. The "Turning for your tucker" activity provided great incentive, for in order to be provided with lunch we had to make a knife, fork, bowl and chalice (for those sampling some of our local wine). All had to be made before we were allowed to eat the gourmet meal that Chris had cooked. One unusual project was for every member to construct a Longworth chuck, which inspired some of us to design and make other interesting wooden jigs. We certainly can not afford to loose any members, let alone one of Chris's ilk. We have a disproportionate number of members, like myself, in our 80s and all valiantly trying to create sawdust right up to the moment that final siren sounds

Bruce's Wooden milk separator



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
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		

FROM THE EDITOR

My apologise to Western Woodworkers. They emailed their article for the January edition on time but it lodged in my Scam folder and I did not find it until I was informed after the newsletter was published that they had indeed sent it. I have included it as the leading article in this edition.

WoodgroupSA Network Meeting, Tuesday February 12th, 2019.

It was good to welcome Gordon Best and Graham Hawkins from Northern Turners, “new” faces are always great to have grace the meeting with wit and wisdom.

Apologies were received from John Tillack and Roger Humphris on the recovery road.

John Beswick was first off the blocks this session, and presented a stylish spherical-form with a peaked rim, about 80 mm in diameter, turned out of Canary Island palm (*Phoenix canariensis*). The peaked rim was hand worked after cutting the shape after turning. He inlayed a tapered spiral band of Queensland black palm (*Normanbya normanbyi*) in the wall to add further interest to the form. Because black palm is very brittle, he inlayed it in pieces, but the joins were invisible in the finish. He had airbrushed the interior and part of the exterior green. All was finished with 6 coats of Inralac/Stylewood, which effectively sealed the otherwise porous nature of the palm wood. The bowl sat upon a black palm ring, so the mouth of the bowl could be orientated however one wished. (John returned to show-and tell later-at the end.



Roger Parker entertained everyone with two long legged and necked wading birds that were being mightily curious about the egg perched behind their feet. All components of the birds were turned between centres apart from the neck that was turned as a ring and then cut in half. The darker one is made from red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulansis*), the paler one possibly from Queensland kauri (*Agathis robusta*?). Roger indicated that placing the neck on the body required care to produce the right attitude of focussed curiosity on the egg!

Graham Were followed on with a number of items. The first was a segmented bowl about 250 mm in diameter with walls about 6 mm thick. To make this, he cut from a single board 250 x 250 x 50, 4 nesting rings and a circular base on a bandsaw with an appropriately tilted platform. He glued the rings together with PVA glue, offsetting the grain orientation of each ring for strength. The base has a 90 mm diameter recess in it for holding the bowl in a chuck for finishing. The timber was some unknown tropical hardwood. Although segmented bowls can crack along glue lines as they age, this has not happened here –Graham’s bowl is about 20 years old!



His next items were turned, but also decorated on the lathe using a jig he had made and mounted on the lathe bed. The first was an open bowl about 170 mm in diameter, with an incurved rim, made from a striking and stripy timber of unknown species. He had decorated the rim with shallow circles cut using his jig, the indexing head on his lathe, and his own fashioned cutters. His third piece was a lidded box made from lemon wood (*Citrus* sp), about 50 mm in diameter and height, with a band of several rows of scalloped indentations. The lid screwed onto the base, and both the threading and decoration were done using his jig. Finally,

he showed the bits and jig he used for decorating these last two pieces. On the left is the holder for any of the bits he uses. The holder is mounted in a Jacobs chuck in the headstock of the lathe. In the holder is the shaped bit for cutting the circles shown on the rim of the first bowl above –the bit has a single point on the edge, and this is offset sufficiently to give the desired circle diameter. The other bits



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shown are for cutting profiles like the scallops on the lemon wood bowl above. All were cut from a HSS planer blade, and are about 2.5 mm thick, sharpened at one or both ends to the profile he wanted. The two-ended piece mounted permanently on a shaft was used for cutting the threads on the lidded box above. To decorate or thread, he uses the jig shown right. This consists of a wooden block through which passes a spare headstock shaft, on one end of which is mounted a division

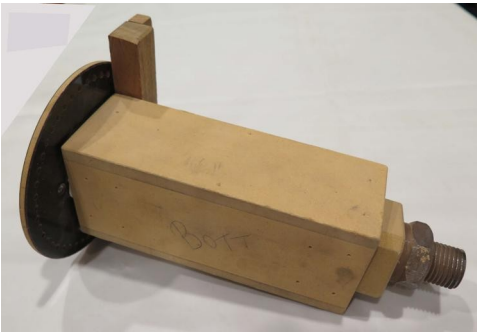
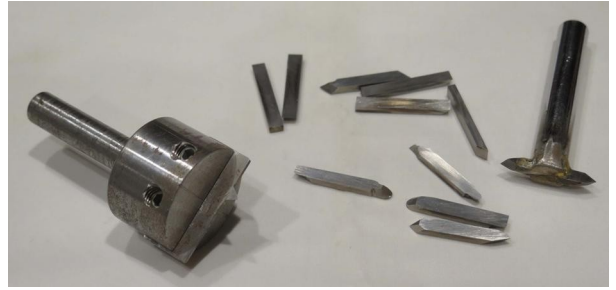


plate for positioning the shaft in regular angular offsets. The item to be decorated or thread-cut is mounted on the free end of the shaft in a scroll-chuck or on a faceplate. The jig is clamped in a 2-way vise that itself is clamped to the lathe bed. It is oriented so the part to be decorated faces the cutter in the headstock of the lathe. In the case of the larger bowl above, the rim faced the cutter, while for the scalloped side of the lidded box, the side faced the cutter. With the lathe running, the item was advanced into the cutter to make the decoration, one circle, or one scallop. The jig was then rotated by one or more steps of the index plate, and the action repeated –24 times for each scalloped ring on the side of the box, 24 for the bowl rim. For parts to be threaded (with a single pitch set by the thread on the jig's core bar), the section was simultaneously advanced and rotated past the cutter via the threaded bar in the jig.

John Bennett followed with a 130 mm diameter spotted gum (*Corymbia maculata*) enclosed bowl with rather complex grain patterns. Comments were made about the difficulty in finishing the insides of such bowls –here, this was done using shaped wooden sanding “fingers” with velcro to hold the full range of grits: patience was the order of the day, especially on the end-grain, ensuring that each grit of abrasive had done its job before moving to the next higher grade. The bowl is currently finished just in U-Beaut Triple-e.

Gordon Best came with a request for new information on Dick Pillar, since he is compiling a history of Dick's contribution to Northern Turners and Woodgroup in general, as well as helping Dick's family to have more details of this very creative and active, now sadly missed former member. There were some folk present who knew Dick, so were able to add a little. But if anyone in the wider membership can contribute, please contact Gordon by email: best.al@ gmail.com and let him have the information.

Alex Mühlhölzl came with a bag of bowls and platters, all immaculately finished. His first item was a mistletoe burl pot, about 70 mm in diameter, the exterior shape set mostly by the indentations of the original piece, the interior zalmmost hemispherical, and the rim partly scorched.



His second was a jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) bowl about the same diameter, with a natural edge. The deep rich colour made the piece a standout.



His third was a silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*) bowl, about 150 mm in diameter, with a rim raised towards the centre, shown on the right.



His 4th piece was a red-gum platter with a natural edge from a remnant piece of timber from a recently felled tree down south. Who said offcuts were just firewood?



Then came a shallow platter with natural edge, turned from York gum burl (*Eucalyptus loxopheba*, a W.A. species now widely planted for its

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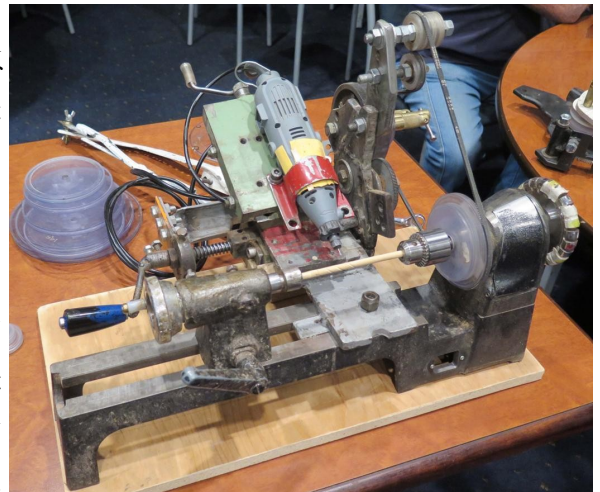
oil and decorative value). This platter, shown below left, is about 200 mm across, showing its strongly contorted grain.

Finally came a camphor laurel bowl (*Cinnamomum camphora*), right, about 230 mm in diameter, showing a little of the strong grain contrast of this timber..



Alex, having enquired about cutting threads for wooden bolts to go in drawer knobs last meeting, got his answer and more at the hand of **John Beswick**. John provided him with 2 new wooden bolts (see the image of old and new), and then explained how he did this on his mini-lathe, modified to turn spirals and other shapes on between-centre work. His lathe modifications were made using whatever came to hand from his “junk box”, plus a few pulleys turned out of polycarbonate sheet, and a driving belt. For screw-cutting, John used the Dremel tool with a fine

vee-bit made out of a broken drill, mounted on a table that traverses parallel to the axis of the lathe. By turning the crank with the black handle on the left in the image, the table traverses and simultaneously, turns the headstock via the set of pulleys. Different pitch threads can be accommodated by choosing an appropriate set of pulley wheel diameters, and different diameters of threaded work by moving the cutting tool towards or away from the lathe axis. He usually uses the lathe for decorating fine lace bobbins with spirals and inlays of various shapes, colours and materials, many of which he showed, but a selection of 3 are here, each 100 mm long. Using this lathe set-up, he can make left and right handed spirals as shown on these examples.



This “full-on” session, with more technical input than usual, ended about 9 pm. Thank you everyone.

The next meeting is on the second Tuesday in March, 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. Members will be welcome, always.

JB(text) & AM. (images).