



# 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.

Correspondence to  
the Secretary

Woodgroup SA Inc web page:-  
[www.woodgroupsa.org.au](http://www.woodgroupsa.org.au)

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Murrayland Turners Inc	Mal Taylor	0428 991 424
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Hills Woodworkers Inc	Ron Burke	08 8389 8574
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South Oz Scrollers Inc	Mike Donnellan	08 8370 0108
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(George Pastuch - Editor)

## Notes from the President of WoodgroupSA

### The New Executive

After a rocky start at the end of last year's AGM in November, when we only had a President (Trevor Molde, Western Woodworkers) and Vice President (Tom Jung, Southern Turners), we have at last formed an Executive Committee. Gavin Scarman has taken on the role of Secretary and Warrick Lee, that of Treasurer. Both are from the Western Woodworkers. Mike Donnellan (South Oz Scrollers) still retains his portfolio of Webmaster Team Leader and George Pastuch (Northern Turners) is still the Newsletter editor and Public Officer.

### Exhibitor Co-Ordinator

People from the various clubs have stated that their groups want to belong to a State Body representing all Woodgroup clubs, but that their members did not want to take office. As no one has been nominated as 'Exhibitions Coordinator', the President will have to take this on 'ex-officio'. If anyone has been on the Exhibition Committee before and would like to join, then please get in contact with me.

### March Board Meeting

Because of the unfortunate meeting on the footpath in front of the Malvern Church last November AGM (the blessed (church) door could not be opened even though we had the correct password), this year's President got there an hour beforehand and searched unsuccessfully for that blessed keypad, to find out that neither door had one. The Church officials had changed over to a 'card system' and not told him. A phone call to the emergency

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number he insisted on having, proved to be useless. No one was responding. He came out of 'panic mode' however, when the 'Bible Group' arrived shortly afterwards and let him in.

#### **Financial 'Audit'**

The president was grateful for the assistance given by Ken Allen of Northern Turners, who spent quite a few hours poring over all the financial records to see that everything was accurate... as it was. As good as an audit. The new Executive and Treasurer can go forward with this extra assurance.

#### **WoodgroupSA Grant**

The successful applicant for the WoodgroupSA grant was the Riverside Community Woodworkers, our most recent club. They will now purchase an oscillating spindle sander. They had also asked for a Fein Multimaster making their total exceeded the amount determined by 80% of the interest on our savings. Luck happen, from the 'President's Communication' one of our members, saw this, and donated the one he had been given at work on his retirement. A most generous gesture and well appreciated by all concerned.

#### **Merry Month of May**

There will be a Board Meeting on Friday May 24 at 2 pm followed by a dinner afterwards. This is the day before the 'Merry Month of May' held this year on Saturday and Sunday May 25 and 26 at Murray Bridge and hosted by the Murrayland Turners at their club rooms. A formal dinner will be held on the Saturday night at a local venue. Fliers have already been sent out advertising the event and calling for people to participate. Please come. Merrylands have already received their cheque for \$500 from WoodgroupSA to assist in holding the event. I mention this because some other group with new officers will take note and possibly offer to hold the same next year.

#### **Less Board Meetings**

Our constitution states that we must have a minimum of two Board Meetings a Year. It was voted that we have one in March, May (MMofM), August and November (AGM). A lot is being planned to be achieved by the end of the year by your executive. It appreciates all the help that has been offered.

#### **Trevor Molde**

Owen and I, as **Helen Harris**, introduced Pégas® scroll saw blades to Australia in 2005. We continue to sell the Swiss made Pegas blades alongside the German made Flying Dutchman blades. We sell to individuals as well as Clubs, Men's Sheds and Schools. The prices for these blades are the cheapest in Australia and postage rates are minimal. Our friendly service has always been appreciated over these 14 years. Please contact us to join the experience and receive a catalogue.

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**Helen Harris**

PO Box 1384, Murray Bridge SA 5253

0428 826 224      08 8531 3440

ochjh@scrolling.com.au

## WHYALLA WOODIES

Our news editor seems to have gone awol, so I am writing this for the club.

First I must say that we lost a valuable member of the club not so long ago. His name Malcolm Skepper ( Mal ) was well known around the woodwork clubs and attended many Wood shows he was an adept craftsman , he was a life and founder member of the Whyalla Woodies club he was also a keen photographer and rifleman for many years.

Our club has dwindled down to around ten members and it is difficult attracting new members everybody seems to be time poor these days to help with the financial side of things we are rostered on at Stratco some weekends doing BBQs helping us raise funds for rent electricity etc, the club was approached by the flying doctor service to make some gavels for them I made them from Western Myall and we donated them they were very pleased with them and presented us with an appreciation certificate

Derek Robertson



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### A MEMBER PROFILE OF RON BURKE HILLS Woodworkers April, 2019.

An hour or so spent talking to Ron shows you the depth of his enthusiasm for LIFE in all its facets and there are many. A deep analytical thinker from many years ago, in his childhood he roamed the golf course not far from his home near Bankstown, a suburb of Sydney, collecting anything that appealed to his curiosity; lizards, water dragons, seed pods, different leaves, stones, anything with an interesting form or colour. He was a normal, lively youngster. Ron's first introduction to working with wood, was as a very small boy, watching his grandfather cutting posts and rails for fencing the old way. Grandfather would fell the tree, cut the log to length, take the waney edges off, then with maul and wedges, split the log to either posts or rails, whatever he could achieve. Ron's job was to gather all the chips and pieces that could be used as fire wood.

Born in Sydney in 1949, Ron attended Bankstown Primary School which led on to Bankstown High School and then afterwards an apprenticeship in the printing industry, which gained him the title of a Printing Plate Maker. His interest in art and form helped him with this work.

He left printing to study pottery in evening classes at Parramatta. By this time, 1974, he and Cheryl were married, so the next step was to open his own pottery studio which gave plenty of opportunity to expand his artistic bent. This gave him great satisfaction. While running the studio he was also teaching art and pottery classes. From 1983 to 1987 he studied Visual Art at the University of Western Sydney.

Cheryl was originally from S.A. so in order to be nearer family and friends, the family came to Adelaide, where Ron taught pottery here at The Potters Club. Shortly after arriving in S.A. the couple bought land at Lenswood and set about establishing a cherry orchard. Before the orchard was producing an income, Ron took work around the district wherever he could find it.

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Always keen on nature, it was a natural progression to apply all that the world around us offers, to pottery then later to woodwork and turning. His inspiration for turning came when he attended Neil Scoby's demonstration at Northern Turners. That was when Neil was working with seed pods, leaves etc;. This really appealed to Ron, so a course with David Tulloch soon followed. This was about 1974. Having very little experience with wood, a sense of something new and with a firm self confidence he decided to give it a go.

In 2008 Ron joined The Hills Woodworkers. By now at the cherry orchard, Ron has a big, old, stone barn for a workshop, where he applies pottery skills to woodturning. In 2016 and 2017 Ron was President of The Hills Woodworkers, which was very much appreciated. He is now Vice President. He believes most enjoyment comes during the doing of the work, but the finished articles are delightful. His practical work is more than first class.

For quite some time he concentrated on large platters with textured and coloured borders, central bosses, etc. These sold well. His favourite woods are Redgum, Casuarinas and the desert timbers. He says wood is a canvas for his eccentricities. Ron feels that form is of prime consideration, then comes embellishment with texture and colour. He gains enjoyment from the challenge of working with a live medium. After several years of producing quite a wide range of turned articles, he now feels he would like to concentrate on form and is looking forward to developing his ideas further. At the moment though he is working on clocks, made with a very rustic background and faced with a variety of attractive timbers such as burls and those with interesting grain.

Other interests include classical music, particularly Baroque and Schubert, but also Enya, Guitar and a range of other styles. He really enjoys cooking (he likes eating).

It is quite a wide range of experiences, which he enjoys sharing, always happy to help, either practically or with a quiet yarn.

Ron says "Do the very best you can with what you have, don't limit yourself, give it a go".

Ed. Horton



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Table tilt 0 - 45deg.

Two speed  
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Note :- Top pulley needs new rubber.  
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Cutting clearance 50mm  
Max depth of cut 50mm  
Table size 435 x 230mm 45deg swivel.  
Motor 240v 100w.  
Blade length 130mm  
**\$ 250 O.N.O.**



### Tools and Chucks

To be negotiated.

### Books

See attached List on page 7  
Preferably sold as a job lot  
**\$ 200 O.N.O**



### Contact Bill on

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### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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

### 2019 Club Contributions for the Newsletter

#### 2019

May	Riverland Woodworkers
June	Western Woodworkers
July	South OZ Scrollers
August	Northern Turners
September	Southern Turners
October	Riverside Comm & Fleurieu W/turners
November	Hills Woodworkers & Copper Coast

**There is no Newsletter in December**

#### CLUB ARTICLE

#### MEMBER PROFILE

Northern Turners
Riverland Woodworkers
Riverside & Murrayland Turners
Sculptors & Carvers
South OZ Scrollers
Southern Turners
Toymendous

## WOODWORKING BOOKS

TITLE	Author
<i>(Woodturning Books)</i>	
Creative Woodturning	Dale L NISH
Make Money form Woodturning	Ann & Bob Phillips
Multi-centre Woodturning	Ray hopper
The Practice of Woodturning	Mike Darlow
Turning Wood with Richard Raffan	Richard Raffan
Woodturning A Source Book of Shapes	John Hunnex
Woodturning Traditional Folk Toys	Alan & Gill Bridgewater
<i>(Scroll Saw Books)</i>	
Christmas Scroll Saw Patterns	Patrick & Patricia Spielman
Country Woodcraft Patterns	Charles & Doris Pugh
Original Scroll Saw Shelf Patterns	Patrick Spielman & Loren Raty
Scroll Saw Country Patterns	Patrick Spielman & Sherri Spielman Valitchka
Scroll Saw Holiday Patterns	Patrick & Patricia Spielman
Scroll Saw Pattern Book	Patrick Spielman & Patricia Spielman
Scroll Saw Patterns for the Country Home	Patrick Spielman, Patricia Spielman & Sherri Spielman Valitchka
Spielman's Original Scroll Saw Patterns	Patrick & Patricia Spielman
Scroll Saw Puzzle Patterns	Patrick & Patricia Spielman
Wooden Puzzle Toys (2 copies)	Ed Sibbett Jr.
<i>(General Woodworking Books Books)</i>	
101 Gift Projects from Wood	James A Jacobson
101 Quick & Easy Woodworking Projects	Charles R Self
101 Wooden Clock Patterns	Joyce R Novak
405 Woodworking Patterns	<i>(Editors of FC&amp;A)</i>
Cut-outs for Australia Birds & Animals	Barbara Drogemuller
Designs for Wood	Alonzo WP Kettless
How to make Animated Toys	David Wakefield
How to make Wooden Toys and Games	Walter E. Schultz
Making Traditional Pull-Along Toys in Wood	Alan & Gill Bridgewater
Making Wooden Boxes with a Band Saw	Tom Crabb
Simple Wooden Toymaking	Bob Mathias
Wildlife Toys in Wood	Lee Lindeman & Pat Harste
Wooden Toys	Ingar Nielson
Wooden Toys Puzzles & Games	

## WoodgroupSA Network Meeting, Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

A welcome face was Roger Humphris who had been quite seriously indisposed for a while. Apologies were received from Ray and Rena Hall, and John Tillack

We all assembled in the “bar lounge” again, since renovations have extended further, with the promise of a much larger area to be completed much later in the year.

**Tom Jung** started the evening with an item that followed John Beswick’s lead of last month: an attractive (unbranded) bottle, turned probably from pink gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*). The bottle, about 260 mm tall, was nicely finished. In spite of its apparently simple shape and lines, Tom said it was not straightforward to get the shape as close to a real bottle as he expected.

His second effort was a deep, footed bowl with strong and complex grain patterns (on the left), of uncertain species. The wood was very dry and hard –it had come off the lathe a number of times when he was attempting to smooth the inside bottom. The flying bowl had suffered rim damage when it landed, so it has been lowered in height a trifle or two since

starting it.

And his third piece (right) was a shallow bowl about 150 mm in diameter, turned from “China Doll” wood. (*Radermachera sinica*). The grain was fine but clearly evident across the base.



**Roger Humphris** is downsizing, so came with a few pieces of wood for folk to have, and promises of turned items and more wood next time. Going clockwise from top left in the image, there was a section of log, probably Robinia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) from a street planting, a segment of branch from allegedly Huon pine (*Lagostrobus franklinii*) but without its characteristic aroma, perhaps because it was very dry, or is something else; a sample of pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) with distinct medullary rays in its end-section, and two bottlebrush flower spikes. They were all taken by those present–Roger was happy to see them go to good homes and sheds!



**Charles Grieg** was next up. Firstly he showed a spoon bit that had



been talked about at the last meeting when discussing long-hole boring. Brian Foreman had extended Charles’s original “brace-and-bit” spoon by welding a long steel rod to the tail end of the bit to give an overall length of over about a metre. Brian had used this to drill straight down the length of a piece of 25x25x860 mm straight grained hardwood. The result was impeccable –no drift whatsoever off the centre of the piece of wood. The image shows the cutting tip of the bit –critical for both cutting and maintaining centrality. The bit was made well before the hard modern steel alloys were known, so apparently required regular sharpening. Graham Were pointed out that a gun bit that he has for a similar purpose had a tungsten carbide tip, allowing multiple long holes to be bored without resharpening –with the work spinning and the drill stationary, fed through the tailstock.

Charles’s next item was a 95 mm diameter wide goblet or stemmed cup made out of holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Holly is a quite white wood, fine and subtly grained. He had made the walls of the goblet about 2 mm thin, so they were diffusely translucent to light. To liven them up, he had decorated the goblet at a demonstration day at Murraylands recently, by drilling a pattern of small 1.5 mm diameter holes following the swirl of the grain. He

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had filled these holes with dots of different colours of translucent water-based paint -more a paste, so there was no bleed of colour into the white wood. The patterns glowed colourfully with light behind it. That is something to experiment with.

**John Beswick** brought along a piece of leadwood (*Combretum imberbe*), a hard African timber, along with a couple of lace bobbins, each made of this wood, one from heartwood and the other from sapwood. Leadwood gets its name from its density –very high, about 1200 kg/m<sup>3</sup> when dry and very slow growing, comparable to some of the Australian desert acacias, and among the densest in the world. It has pale sapwood, just visible at the bottom right in the image, that contrasts well with the dark brown heartwood. It turns very well, apparently, and is sought after by lace bobbin collectors.

John then entertained folk with an imaginative tale of how leadwood came to be known to Western society and the role it played in writing, until finally supplanted by graphite cored pencils, biro's, and keyboards. In John's inimitable style, he went through all of an improbable but plausible history from Roman or was it Egyptian

times, to now! That tale was a presentation he gave to one of the lace makers conferences where he usually contributes lace bobbins made from a variety of woods, including leadwood.

Chat continued enthusiastically to about 8:45 pm over a wide range of topics, after which we broke and departed.

**The next meeting is on the second Tuesday of May, the 14<sup>th</sup>, at the San Georgio Community Centre, 11 Henry St, Payneham, off Portrush road. There is ample parking, and the usual, drinks & conviviality from 7:00 pm for a 7:30 start. All Woodgroup members are welcome, as usual. You all have a story to tell, so come and join in.**

JB(text) & AM. (images).

