



# Newsletter

Volume 36, No 05 May 2019 No. 350

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)

## Woodgroup SA— Member Clubs

Club	Contact	Phone
Northern Turners Inc	Ken Allen	
Western Woodworkers Inc	Christine O'Brien	0477 973 399
Murrayland Turners Inc	Mal Taylor	0428 991 424
Sculptors & Carvers Inc	Graham Jones	08 8260 2827
Whyalla Woodies Inc	Robin Sandy	08 8645 0047
Hills Woodworkers Inc	Ron Burke	08 8389 8574
Coppercoast		
South Oz Scrollers Inc	Mike Donnellan	08 8370 0108
Riverland Woodworkers Inc	Brian Lock	08 8586 4916
Toymendous Inc	Ron Crowhurst	08-82640034
Southern Turners Inc	Simon Bagshaw	0416288747
Riverside Community Woodgroup	Brian Jones	
Fleurieu Woodturners	Bill Eden	

## WOODGROUP CONTACT DETAILS

Contact the Secretary  
Email—

Contact the Newsletter Editor  
(George Pastuch)

Email - [newsletter@woodgroupsa.org.au](mailto:newsletter@woodgroupsa.org.au)

## COPYRIGHT PROVISIONS

Other Wood Working Clubs may use written items by Woodgroup SA members without prior permission, conditional on acknowledging the article when published. No alterations shall be made and nothing used when the author indicated it shall not be copied. Designs however may not be copied in any manner.

(George Pastuch - Editor)

## WoodgroupSA Network Meeting, Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Roger Humphris** still downsizing, came with a few more pieces of wood for folk to have, some turned items, and “stuff” to pass on. For the latter, there, was a new 150 mm diameter angle-grinder masonry diamond blade. Then came a long handled offset parting tool with side handle and tool bit apparently made from a slice of power hacksaw blade, as shown on the right. We all puzzled over the large offset of the blade from the axis of the tool handle. One opinion is that it is for parting off nesting bowls from a large blank on the lathe. Roger



also provided a box of deep-throated pulleys. Everything went to good homes or good sheds! Then came the timber –jarrah, Norfolk island pine, and others, mostly unknown, with few defects and various densities and colours. Again, these were all distributed quickly. See what you are missing out on!

And last, a couple of small egg-cups about 60 mm tall, with two captive rings, shown in the first image. One ring, the one closest to the cup, was very closely confined from above by the cup and by a bead made to look like a ring below –that ring was a tricky one to cut free, Roger reckoned.

(Continued from page 1)

**Ray Hoare** brought along a nicely shaped goblet turned from an unknown but fine-grained timber, about 130 mm tall –shown on its side on the right. The goblet was yet to be sealed after which it can be used without its contents soaking into the wood.



**Alex Mühlhölzl** brought a slice from a conkerberry (*Carissa lanceolatum*) branch from north-west Qld, about 75 mm long and 50 mm in diameter. This wood has a striking heartwood, being quite orange, contrasting with the pale fawn to creamy sapwood. The timber keeps its colour over time, but is quite hard, and available only in small sizes. He then extracted a goblet out of his bag. This was turned out of a hibiscus (Malvaceae family), he thought. The rings on the stem were quite decorative, and quite captive –firmly to the stem! The timber has extremely fine growth rings, and a series of about 22 barely visible medullary



rays around the core, interspersed with even finer ones, visible under x10 magnification. And finally, a little spiky cone, about 40 mm long collected up in Queensland last month after Turnfest. The nut was green when obtained, but had browned off upon drying. Its identity had folk puzzled. It was revealed as a very young Bunya pine cone (*Araucaria bidwilli*) –the one that when mature is about 330 mm long, weighs up to 10 kilograms, and can seriously injure or even kill you if it strikes you when it falls from a height of several tens of metres from near the top of the tree.



In spite of good chat, with only three contributors of items, we finished about half-an-hour earlier than usual and dispersed into the cool night air.

**The next meeting is on the second Tuesday of June, the 11<sup>th</sup>, at the San Georgio Community Centre, 11 Henry St, Payneham, off Portrush road. There is ample parking, and possibly the usual drinks, certainly conviviality, from 7:00 pm for a 7:30 start in a space yet to be revealed as enlargement of the Centre continues apace. All Woodgroup members are welcome, as usual. You all have a story to tell, and all sorts of interesting things to show -utilitarian, quirky and/or artistic, so do come and join in.**

JB(text) & AM. (images).

#### **SCROLL SAW BLADES**

We are the original Australian Distributors for the Swiss made **Pegas** blades.

These are available in both plain end and pinned.

We also sell the German made **Flying Dutchman** blades.

Plain end are \$5.00 a dozen. Pinned are \$6.50 a dozen.

3" pinned blades are \$5.50 a dozen. Coping saw blades are \$5.50 a dozen.

We also sell -

Mini chucks and mini twist drills.

**Pegas Blade Chuck Heads for Excalibur**

**Also available for DeWalt by order**

We are also agents for all Hegner products including the Hegner Drum Sander.

All prices are plus postage.

Contact us for a blade catalogue

**Helen Harris**

PO Box 1384, Murray Bridge SA 5253

0428 826 224      08 8531 3440

ochjh@scrolling.com.au



### Brian Fraser – Profile (Northern Turners Inc)

Born at Riverton in 1936, Brian grew up on his parents' farm at Saddleworth. He went to school at Saddleworth and Riverton High, leaving school at 14 to work as a Junior Postal Officer with the PMG's Department. His first job was delivering telegrams on a red bike at Hamley Bridge.

It was at Hamley Bridge where he discovered his love of woodworking. A friend started up a cabinet-making business and Brian worked there part time, evenings and weekends. His choice would have been to do an apprenticeship in that trade but his parents encouraged him to stay with the PMG. So he worked in many Mid North and Yorke Peninsula post offices, before attending the Postal-Clerk-in-Training school in 1957, then worked at Crystal Brook and Minnipa. He first thought Minnipa was the end of the earth, and his old Holden nearly fell to pieces getting there, but he stayed on for six

years, after which he was transferred back to the metropolitan area in 1967.

At Minnipa he was "reined in" by Lyn, a local girl, and they married in 1963. Lyn and Brian have two daughters and two grandsons.

Long interested in woodturning, Brian acquired a second hand Delta lathe, tools, and accessories in 1980. It was in good condition even if the instruction book was dated 1935. After first trying to teach himself from library books, he met Neville Sanders who was demonstrating at an Australian Plant Society show. Neville became a lifelong friend, giving him some lessons and helping him in many ways, as well as introducing him to the International Wood Collectors Society (IWCS), of which he is still a member. He was the IWCS Australian Membership Secretary for twelve years until 2017, keeping records and collecting subscriptions from the 135 members in Australia.

The Delta lathe is still in use, even if its burnt out motor has been replaced with an EVS motor and a few new chucks and accessories have been acquired. Yes, woodturning has changed since 1980. Brian did purchase a small Record lathe that he could use for external demonstrations, but that is now being used by a daughter and grandson who are continuing the family tradition. Debbie finishes her polymer clay pens on the Record.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# SAVE 10% ON YOUR PURCHASE\*

From the home of Adelaide's largest range of woodworking products.



**Woodgroup SA members NOW SAVE 10% on all purchases at Carbatec\*. Shop the best brands in machinery and hand tools, blades, bits, blanks and more!**  
Visit our knowledgeable team in store with your proof of membership to redeem this offer.\*

**carbatec**  
THE HOME OF WOODWORKING

## CALL US DIRECT

27 Magill Road, Stepney SA 5069  
Phone 08 8362 9111

Offer applies In store only. Excludes gift cards, Festool, discounted items, and special orders.  
Proof of membership is required.



# CWS

[www.cwsonline.com.au](http://www.cwsonline.com.au)

Carroll's  
Woodcraft  
Supplies

*Your one stop shop for all your Woodcraft Supplies*



**Phone, email, web mail order specialists**

Carroll's Woodcraft Supplies  
Unit 2, 10-14 Capital Drive, Grovedale Vic 3216  
Phone: 03 5243 0522 Fax 03 5243 2088  
Email: [jim@cwsonline.com.au](mailto:jim@cwsonline.com.au)  
[www.cwsonline.com.au](http://www.cwsonline.com.au)

## LEDACRAFT

**LARGE RANGE! TOP QUALITY! GREAT VALUE!**

 Band saws from only \$352.00 inc gst	 Dust Extractors from only \$242.00 inc gst	 Belt & Disc Sanders from only \$385.00 inc gst	 Thicknessers from only \$1286.00 inc gst
 254mm Planer/Thicknesser Combination @ \$1485.00 inc gst	 Cast Iron Wood Lathes from only \$297.00 inc gst	 Sliding Table Panel Saws from only \$1634.00 inc gst	
 Table Saws—Large Range from only \$693.00 inc gst	 Range of Router Tables from only \$363.00 inc gst	 Oscillating Bobbin Sanders from only \$209.00 inc gst	

Visit our Showroom at  
LEDA MACHINERY PTY LTD  
96-98 MOORINGE AVENUE, NORTH PLYMPTON 5037  
[www.ledamachinery.com.au](http://www.ledamachinery.com.au)  
**WE SUBSIDISE FREIGHT COST!!**  
**Quality Woodworking Machines at Affordable Prices!**

*(Continued from page 3)*

Brian and Neville joined Woodgroup at its inception in 1983, enjoying the meetings and interest groups, and meeting like minded people. He was an active member and supported Woodgroup's work, participating in exhibitions and assisting with its running, particularly with the enveloping and mailing of the 200-odd newsletters each month. His work was recognised in 2003 with a Service Award for 'outstanding contributions to Woodgroup SA'. He attended various workshop 'interest groups' and joined Northern Turners as a foundation member (Member No. 1!) in 1993.

Brian took early retirement in 1995, making more time for his hobbies and some time to travel around Australia. There were many trips to Victoria visiting family, trips to Darwin and Kakadu, and several IWCS trips to Qld, NSW and Victoria. He and Neville visited exhibitions in Victoria, noticing pieces by people like Vic Wood, and coming home with the idea that they would have to lift their game. And that, he thinks, has happened.

In the early days of Northern Turners, Brian was always there when something needed to be done, although, in his own words, he was 'more of a doer than a committee man'. Its hard finding out exactly what he did do since he's busy giving credit to everyone else who helped. He gave turning demonstrations at club meetings and, with other members, at many outside events as far afield as Tanunda, Wirrabara and Port Augusta. He organised exhibitions and sales for Northern Turners at the Salisbury Council Offices and Parafield Recreation Centre, later serving with Ron Allen on the exhibition committee for the TWW shows. He sold work through shops at Renmark and Naracoorte. He also helped run the Northern Turners' wood store in a disused toilet block on Maxwell Road. A club member with Council contacts found out about downed trees and despatched a group with trailers and chainsaws. Brian had a key and could open up for members. He also supported club initiatives such as Saturn and MMoM.



*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

Small functional items have been Brian's main focus for woodturning. He has made many bud vases, lidded boxes, pens, bowls, fruit, needle cases, etc., mostly from Australian timbers. Lyn is also interested in woodcraft and makes jewellery. She also shares Brian's interest in woodturning and supports him by oiling and finishing most of his work.



Brian is justly proud of some of his creations. First there was that Mulga nut which got him a Merit Award and then there was his grass tree vase.

These were exhibited at different Timber and Working With Wood shows. Having asked a visiting professional, he got a mediocre critique for the grass tree, but not only did it sell for his asking price; it also took out first prize. Rumour has it he was so chuffed that he forgot to take his tools next day when he was rostered to demonstrate. Lastly there was a vase turned from a hollow log (bought as firewood). It was sold and given to a Japanese friend who supplied a photo of it installed in a Tea House in Japan.

Now not so active now at 82 years of age, he still attends club meetings when possible, enjoying the demonstrations and catching up with old friends, although with the club's growth he can only name about 25% of the members now. He does not seek kudos or push his views, but is happy to chat with newer members or discuss a project if asked.



Advice for newer turners? Woodturning is a terrific hobby and – advice he got from Vic Woods – “when you think you’ve finished (finishing a piece), give it another five minutes”.



***Sales, Spares, Service & Accessories***

***Our Experience and a huge range of quality products  
is the solution to all your woodworking needs***

***1174 Old Port Road, Royal Park. Sth Aust. 5014***

***[www.woodworkingsolutions.com.au](http://www.woodworkingsolutions.com.au)    ph: 08 8241 2205***



*Note from the editor—*

*The following article was printed in last month's edition No 330 of the UK magazine, WOODTURNING (pages 84 and 85)*

## 25th Anniversary

Adelaide's Northern Turners celebrated their 25th anniversary recently and the development parallels that of modern woodturning in South Australia.

The introduction of modern lathes in the 1960's and importation of cheap turnings, along with changes in fashion away from turned verandah posts and stair balusters, looked like the end of skilled woodturning. However there was still scope for the development of more artistic turning, although most of this activity was in the Northern hemisphere.

Adelaide based machine tool manufacturer Woodfast was then exporting high quality wood lathes to the UK and US and managing director Bronte Edwards travelled to conferences and shows. A keen turner himself, he noted trends and brought back news and ideas. It didn't take him long to realise that the available carbon steel gouges were no match for local hardwoods. Unable to source suitable high speed steel himself, he began importing Robert Sorby tools and sold thousands across Australia. He also established the Woodfast Woodturning Group, probably the first in the state, in about 1985.

By then, Woodgroup SA had been established under the auspices of the Craft Council of SA. Woodgroup was for professionals and serious amateurs—its motto, 'promoting fine woodwork', espoused its objectives. Woodgroup grew rapidly, but initially provided lectures and exhibitions rather than practical opportunities. Most of the Woodfast turning group joined Woodgroup, which recognised the need for practical sessions and formed Special Interest Groups. One of the early SIGs was Northern Turners (NT) which began in 1993. All NT members were then Woodgroup members, including several from Bronte Edwards' original group, and a very close relationship evolved with Woodgroup.

### DEVELOPMENT AND INTEREST

In each year from 1995 to 2007, NT was represented on the Woodgroup Committee, in some years comprising 75% of the members. NT supported Woodgroup exhibitions and continued its emphasis on quality with its own motto 'seeking excellence'. After 2007, Woodgroup reorganised, making all twelve SIGs incorporated bodies in their own right, but NT has continued its strong support since then. Over the years the club has initiated a number of interclub events.

Interest in the local woodturning club was high, with 70 attending the inaugural public meeting. Attendance at the monthly workshop meetings settles at about 30-35 for the first year, but numbers grew steadily and the club is now the largest in South Australia, with more than 100 financial members and 60 or more often attending the thrice-monthly workshop meetings. Technology has helped and audio visual equipment not only help the older members, but brings everybody closer to the demonstration.

The club now exhibits each year, two organised by Woodgroup and at least two by the club. These exhibitions, mostly at Home Shows, are recognised by the promoters as draw cards and typically attract thousands of visitors. Besides sales of turnings, the demonstrations often generate new members.

The silver anniversary celebration, following a morning tea with community leaders, was an opportunity to share history and growth through speeches, photographs, displays of work, and a demonstration. A competition for the best 'silver themed item' was won by Jeff Todd, who made an attractive jarrah hollow form with an inlaid aluminium spiral.



## The 2019 Merry Month of May held at Murray Bridge



Everyone appeared to have an enjoyable weekend away and break from their usual routine.

It was well organized and well run by the 'Murrayland Turners' committee. I heard that the President, Malcolm Taylor was up at 5 o'clock on the Saturday morning getting things ready. He didn't get up quite so early on the Sunday morning however, because he also organized the Saturday night's dinner at the Community Club by the river, allowing

everyone the opportunity of a Sunday 'sleep in'. At the dinner, the person next to me ordered a 'Meat Lover's Pizza'. He was fuming because all he had was some ham on a cheese base, with none of the other ingredients mentioned, such as pepperoni. But the menu couldn't be faulted, there was speed of delivery and quantity of excellent food. The grant of \$500 to the club putting on the show has proved invaluable. If the club made anything charging \$25 for those in attendance for the magnificent meals they put on, plus other things, then good on them!

Even though it was raining for part of the weekend, everyone was warm and cosy inside the club's sheds. There were the usual safety screens placed on strategically located turning machines and thank goodness they were. At one point one piece of wood went hurtling from a member's machine and wound up on the opposite side of the alleyway of machines, narrowly missing

Trevor Lloyd who was caught muttering (inaudible so it can't be reported) just after the incident.



Meanwhile outside in the rain (for part of the time) big, strong, husky men were pushing their newly acquired log timber-cutter's blade through gigantic logs, making mountains of fine dust. When the raffles were run, people were awarded great big slabs of these chunks of wood. You could see the winner's eyes 'pop' when they had to lift their slabs and remove them. But there were an array of other prizes

*(Continued on page 8)*



### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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

### 2019 Club Contributions for the Newsletter

#### **2019**

May  
June  
July  
August  
September  
October  
November

#### **CLUB ARTICLE**

Riverland Woodworkers  
Western Woodworkers  
South OZ Scrollers  
Northern Turners  
Southern Turners  
Riverside Comm & Fleurieu W/turners  
Hills Woodworkers & Copper Coast

#### **MEMBER PROFILE**

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



(Continued from page 7)

as well. My wife, who wasn't there at the time and had given me her raffle tickets won one. She would not have been pleased if I had returned to the motel with a gigantic slab. Luck happen she was delighted with the secateurs and garden scissors pack, also available as an alternative.



There were demonstrations by the South Oz Scrollers and scrollers from other clubs, and a demonstration on sharpening tools and drills. The demonstrator actually sharpened anyone's turning tools if they brought them up to him. No one I saw had brought any drills with the same generous spirit of sharpening anything the members had. Murraylands had a surprise competition. They had different woods wrapped in paper that entrants selected. without seeing what

wood they had chosen and had to turn something from it.



People must have has a good time at Copper Coast's Merry Month of May in years past. At the Board meeting on the Friday afternoon, before the sausage sizzle put on by our hosts, Copper Coast was specifically mentioned as a desirable location for next year's MMofM. Their representatives weren't there to argue the toss, but they seemed interested the next day when they turned up. In fact they placed an order with Murrayland Turners to bring up their Lucas Mill (log splitting machine) so it could be demonstrated at Kadina. They also asked 'Wood Solutions' and 'Carbatec' who put on displays of equipment and sold to the public, if they would come up to them in the following year.

The other club that the Board members were interested in for putting on the MMofM in 2021, was 'Western Woodworkers', as they seem to have representatives in just about everything.

So it was a good weekend, and we have a possible 2 year succession plan, if the committees of those clubs are agreeable to run this social and skill laden event.

Trevor Molde (2019 President WoodgroupSA)





**4 SALE**  
**Woodlathe**  
**Australian made in excellent condition**  
**Woodfast Model M910 – limited edition**

260mm center height  
1000mm between centers  
2HP motor. German electronic speed control  
Complete on heavy duty floor stand. \$2600.00

**Other woodturning equipment available:**  
Woodfast Copyturn and Router profile system. \$350.00  
(complete system including Base Board and much more)  
Woodfast Deep Hollowing complete system. \$310.00  
Contact: Bronte Edwards  
Tel: Home 82987094  
Mob: 0427161951

