



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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South Oz Scrollers Inc	Mike Donnellan	08 8370 0108
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George is back next month
Mike Donnellan

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(George Pastuch - Editor)

From the President

I was asked to write some words of wisdom for this newsletter. I am sending this from Dundee, Michigan, USA where I am at present visiting with my daughter and grandchildren. My daughter and her husband both work during the day, so my wife and I are looking after a 9yograndson and 3yo grand daughter. No car, no way of spending money other than over the internet, but plenty of time to use the internet.

WoodgroupSA is not and never will be a one-man-show. This was certainly brought home to me when I found time 'running out' and was unable to get all that needed to be done from the Executive before I left. I rang our Treasurer, Warrick Lee, and asked him if he would manage the St. John's First Aid courses for our members. Remember we have provided \$100 for one member from every WoodgroupSA Club to receive First Aid training, and will try to get a cheaper rate by having as many members from the clubs to come to one central point for group training. (I actually have a past financial record that says that the first six clubs who send in for training will get the \$100. Training is more than \$100, but group concessions will certainly help out).

First Aid training has a limited lifetime of three years. CPR resuscitation lasts for only two years. So the idea is to have training of the same people every two years. We have the money and it is being spent on the clubs.

Warrick's reply was "Yeah! Sure! Nothing could be easier!" We need more members like Warrick and Tom Jung, our Vice President, who took on the role of organizing names and dates for our 'Maker Fair' demonstrations meeting. One group will meet one Saturday morning and there will be 4 half hour sessions: laser cutter, engraver, 3D printing, CNC milling and one IT session on videos and 'goodies' to take away if you bring an 8GByte USB stick. A shared \$5 lunch then a repetition of the morning's group activities with a new group who came for the shared lunch. When I left, I was awaiting a response from the Maker Space administrator, but she hadn't got back to me before leaving.

I seem to learn a lot of incidentals wherever I go. I have learnt that it is a common practice for some internet providers to deliberately slow down their internet speed so that they can (1) sell people packages to speed up their delivery rates (2) create more bandwidth for their higher paying commercial customers. Build a better mouse trap and you have to become a better mouse to combat it. Two software engineers here in the States have made a wall power plug-that automatically finds your home router and speeds up delivery of the data that you should be getting and increases the distance of any network tool from the router.

Do you know why the B52 bomber is in service 60 years after it was first rolled out? The parts used in repair and replacement are spread through the electoral districts of many congressmen.

I have seen a hand printer with coloured inks for connection to your iPhone. You connect and move the hand held printer (twice the volume of a mouse) over what surface you wish to print or label. I don't know the cost but I'll bet the inks cost plenty.

Hoping that I have spread wisdom and interest amongst you all (I won't mention the missed connecting flight that turned back to Dallas because of mechanical failure we got on, or the luggage that was left at Dallas! Gard! I hate that place!)

Trevor Molde

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WoodgroupSA Network Meeting, Tuesday July 9th, 2019.

We assembled in one corner of the “Great Hall” once again, where, because of numbers, we nearly had to have two large round tables to accommodate everyone. That made for good conviviality and more.

Charles Greig began the show first with a nicely shaped and attractively finished vase, about 180 mm tall by 90 mm in diameter, with thin upper walls. He had turned this out of Chinese willow (*Salix matsudana*), cut in 2012, seasoning quietly since then, till it was turned. He had filled spaces in the area where the bark was, with crushed turquoise embedded in epoxy. This decoration blended interestingly with the variegated colouring of the bark, both of which contrasted with the paler wood of the rest of the vase to produce an eyecatching result.



John Tillack back after a time away impaired, but having a productive time in his shed. So he had a good swag to show. His first was an egg, turned out of pink gum branchwood (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*). The piece had a blackened hollow passing right through the egg -presumably grubs liked the yolk, maybe after it had been cooked in a bushfire. There was some discussion on the proportions that define an egg-shape –different birds of the same species produce a range of sizes, and different species a large range in size. Typically, chicken eggs have a length about 30% larger than their diameter.



He followed the egg form with a 200 mm diameter weed pot, shown on the right. He had turned this from a disk with a hole bored at its centre, holding it in expansion jaws for shaping the outside, then sealed the hole with a plug of silky oak. The hole to take the

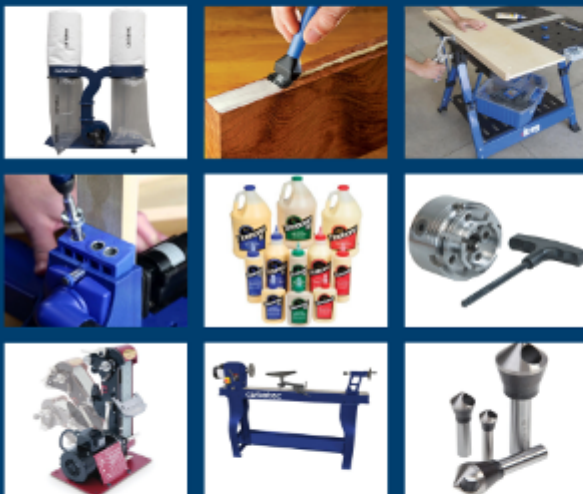


stems was drilled separately.

Next was a hollow form, made from ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), blackened with Black Japan, and curiously embellished with hot-melt glue!

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He intends to paint the form with golden acrylic paint, allowing the black to show through so it appears “ancient”. This is an experiment in decoration, so will be interesting to see the outcome. His last piece was a slender-stemmed goblet (right), about 550 mm tall, presented as a challenge in long thin turning. It had warped slightly since turning. Definitely a success!



John McTier brought along one of his intarsia bears –called Priscilla Bear, about 280 mm



across.. He had assembled this from thirteen different woods, including lemonwood (*Citrus* sp., pale and hard), pine (*Pinus radiata*), nyatoh (*Palaquium* sp, heartwood reddish brown), pau, jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*). The joint work was very tight and neat. Once sanded down to very fine grits, he had sealed the work with gunstock oil, resulting in a clear semi-gloss finish that was pleasant to the touch and enhanced the colour of the wood.

John Bennett passed around a short piece of old wooden 2-wire electrical conduit. This had been pulled out of his house's ceiling. It displayed a surprising level of embellishment for something that was hidden from sight from ordinary mortals bar electricians and non-mortals like possums: the cover to the conduit was quite decorative –presumably done with a hand routing plane, since it probably dated from the 1880's. Why was a decorative addition made to the channel covers? He was also curious about the type of wood used for the conduit, being fine and uniform grained along other more considerable lengths. The consensus appeared to be that it was Queensland kauri (*Agathis robusta*), based on colour, grain, and density.



Roger Parker, referring to the project “Box with domed lattice lid” in the book “Woodturning Wizardry” by David Springett, apologised for not being able to complete the required latticework on the lidded red-gum box shown in the adjacent image. That was because his efforts were frustrated when trying to maintain the required precision in the lattice work: cutting circular channels about 2 mm in width separated by about the same width of wood on the inside and outside surfaces of a thin dome proved a stumbling block. Getting this hollow dome to stay immovable in a clamp chuck at oblique angles with paper joints was another challenge. (The lid required concentric circles to be cut on the inside, and 4 circles of lattice on the outside, marked out as shown on the right of the image). To progress, the 90 mm diameter huon pine lid with red gum finial on the box



was a breeze!

Ray Hoare came with two items, all beautifully finished in his usual way. The first was a silky oak bowl about 170 mm in diameter, with an incurved and rounded lip. The wood showed a good range of grain patterns. He had textured a 25 mm wide band around the outside of the bowl as further enhancement. His second piece was a leatherwood cheese platter with tile inlay, about 200 mm in diameter.



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Roger Humphris, after extolling the virtues of patience for turning lots of eggs recently for the Toy-mendous's end-of-year effort, passed around wood from his shed for people to admire and take to new homes. There was apricot, walnut (*Juglans regia*), red gum, a mystery wood piece, and lastly fishtail oak. This wood (*Neorites kevedianus*) is an unusual acquisition so far south of its habitat in northern Queensland tropical rainforests. The "oak" name comes from the medullary rays evident in the timber. The species is unusual too being the only one in the genus.

In spite of some competition with the learner dancers with their sometimes too-loud music in a far corner of the Great Hall, folk agreed that it was a good evening, with lots to show and share ideas upon.

The next meeting will be on the second Tuesday in August, the 13th, at the San Georgio Community Centre, 11 Henry St, Payneham. Drinks may be available, but whatever, we shall still gather around 7:00 pm for a 7:30 start. Scrollers, carvers, boxmakers, toymakers, furniture makers, and all those active and inactive turners are always welcome!

JB(text) & Alex M. (images).

Murrayland Woodworkers

At our June meeting Murraylands Turners voted to change our name to Murrayland Woodworkers Inc. To date all the appropriate paper work has been done and our application submitted. Coincidentally, this announcement also slots in with our rostered turn to write a "Member Profile". I doubt that my shattered nerves could do justice to this task so shortly after trying to appease the bureaucratic world.

Perhaps I could be permitted to relax and instead explain the origins and history of the Murrayland Mafia legend. To understand this story, the history of the area of Murraylands must be understood. In the 1950s and up to the 1980s, because of wool prices, sympathetic taxation laws, the availability of uncleared land and relative ease of clearing the country, all added up to a flood of capital and influx of independent young pioneers with a "can do" attitude to the area. By the time Murrayland Turners was established, some of these individuals seemed to drift into our club; this difference of attitude between town and country did cause occasional friction. At one point, in a moment of heated frustration one of our more conservative members referred to some of our more "gung ho" members as the "Meningie Mafia". This intended insult was immediately taken as a title of pride, thus started the legend of Murrayland Mafia!

One of the earliest stories of the "Mafia" was the time two of them attended a Saturn weekend, where they had a corner site by tradition. However, on this particular year, prior to their arrival two newcomers started to establish themselves on their site, a woman, realising they were newcomers, quietly explained to them that this corner was by tradition the Mafia's. The Mafia arrived in time to meet a couple of fellows making a hurried retreat with much bowing, respectful tugging of the forelock and gushing apologies.

Like most organisations the Mafia is not devoid of scandal. This time at a Horsham weekend two of the Mafia booked into a "family cabin" at the Caravan Park. At the same event two of our Murrayland members (notorious snorers) had very responsibly booked themselves into a "double cabin". Upon arrival at the park, shock, horror, they discovered they only had one bed, a double, in the cabin! And so back to the office they went to issue a strong complaint and demand another room, only to discover the place was booked out, but perhaps they could move in with the Mafia. Problem solved, of course they could move with the Mafia. Off to the Mafia, the proposition was put, but again for a second time, shock! horror! The Mafia decided some decent nights of undisturbed sleep was a far better option than preserving their reputation and honour. They chose the double bed!

Charles Andre.

Russell Pietsch

I have a landlord and rental agent insisting my timbers must be moved or there is no renewal of lease! I have decided to move to Victoria to assist my 93 year old mother for a time. I have lots of timbers available at 7 McDonald Street, Hayborough (Victor Harbor) SA for those who might be interested.

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- Norfolk Island Pine Timbers rough sawn;
- Norfolk Island Pine Slabs rough sawn;
- Olive Wood - branches & stumps;
- Pecan Wood Blocks;
- Peppermint Box Blocks;
- Pink Gum Slabs rough sawn & machined;
- Red Gum Blocks - huge range;
- Red Gum Timbers rough sawn
- Red Gum Slabs rough & machined;
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- Tasmanian Oak Timbers machined;
- White Ash (Itchy Bot Tree) Slabs Rare & beautiful - rough sawn & machined;
- Black Butt Blocks

..and more.

I can be contacted on 0427 166 278 or rpietsch7@gmail.com

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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

2019 Club Contributions for the Newsletter

2019

July

August

September

October

November

CLUB ARTICLE

South OZ Scrollers

Northern Turners

Southern Turners

Riverside Comm & Fleurieu W/turners

Hills Woodworkers & Copper Coast

MEMBER PROFILE

Riverside & Murrayland Turners

Sculptors & Carvers

South OZ Scrollers

Southern Turners

Toymendous

There is no Newsletter in December