



# Newsletter

Volume 36, No 08 August 2019 No. 353

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)

## From the President

We have had a lot of interesting tasks to look at, to recommend to the Board meeting on Saturday 31 August at the Malvern Church from 10am -1 pm.

One of our members has flagged the possibility of starting another club at Kingston. Insurance among our clubs still has imponderables such as... if one member bumps another in the club rooms, what cover is there?

We have solved why none of the signatories to the 'Beyond Bank' was told that the bulk of our money had been rolled over...twice. The way we are going, we will end up with more money than we started out with and we want to spend money allocated on the budget on clubs! The bank had been sending all correspondence to another 'past office bearer' and it hadn't been passed on.

We have investigated First aid courses to get a reduced price for bulk rates and it seems that the best and cheapest way is to have individual courses.

For our workshop and social event we had been booked in to 'Maker Space' for at least two months and all was in readiness... whilst waiting for the final 'sign offs' by the City Council and a blank space for the cost of hiring the centre for a day. We had offered \$50 for each of two consecutive sessions ... but it was an imponderable that we could not risk.

So we decided to cancel and put the date forward to October, which is now being sorted out. This gives 'MakerSpace' time to get everything ready.

A procession of people have been in contact with the President because of his name being on the Web Page, with offers of free wood. These have dutifully been sent on to nearby clubs.

Perhaps you would like to join the committee at the November AGM? If so, then please send your notice of intention to our Secretary [Gavin Scarman](#)

Trevor Molde

## NORTHERN TURNERS

### TEA TREE GULLY COUNCIL – COMMUNITY GRANTS

Recently Northern Turners made application to the City of Tea Tree Gully through their community grants scheme for the purchase of two new lathes. Our grant application was successful for the full amount requested (almost \$3000) and we now own two new Sherwood electronic variable speed lathes (pictured).

As a club we are extremely grateful for the generosity extended by the City of Tea Tree Gully through this annual community grants program and thank them for their interest in the work being performed by many volunteer groups in our local community. This sup-



port enables us to continue to grow and extend our membership into the future.

Jake Jacobs (pictured left) was the first member to use the new lathes which will feature as a significant part of our workshops on the second and third Saturdays of each month. The club now owns twelve lathes and this allows us to encourage and train new members who have had no previous experience in woodturning.

At the moment we are conducting an exhibition in the City of Tea Tree Gully library. We have eighteen exhibitors displaying almost 300 pieces for sale. The exhibition operates for eleven days and closes on Sunday 1 September.



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## WoodgroupSA Network Meeting, Tuesday 13 August 2019.

Again, we assembled in one corner of the “Great Hall”, but with smaller numbers than July. We were graced by Bob Page, a member of Woodgroup from a long time ago. Apologies were received from Ray and Rena Hoare.

**Roger Humphris** got proceedings under way. He had been busy making dozens of wheels for Toy-mendous, using a wheel cutting bit mounted in a pillar drill –the requirement was to sand sides as well as the rim where the cutter often leaves a ridge when the timber is thick. So that was a task requiring patience, lots of it. And out of his bag came a duck, a chook, and a dog, all of which were on wheels, cunningly spaced so that an egg could rest on the wheels and rotate counter clockwise whenever the toy was pulled along forwards. The eggs could be placed across-wise or lengthwise, to give motions that were intriguing. As can be seen, the design is simple. Roger said the only downside was that kids soon used the eggs as missiles. Below these in the image is a cannon, one of the first things that Roger ever turned.



Then he showed bits that he uses for different aspects of toy-making. Some of these bits were made by our well-remembered member Brian Foreman several years ago. The bits are shown in the image below. From left to right, top line of image, there is a 2-pin drive centre for turning wheels without a central hole but with two off-centre holes – the 2 pins, about 25 mm apart and barely visible were permanently fixed to the drive centre.

Once a wheel was finished, the wheel was mounted via one of the holes to give a wobbly motion to whatever it was attached to. Next right (centre) is a wheel cut with the bit on the right –a wheel with a boss, where both the wheel periphery and the boss were cut simultaneously.



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Below all three is a side-cutting and tip-cutting lathe tool that speeds up facing work without having to re-chuck items, essential when having lots of duplicates to work through. Below these items and spread across the image are six small holesaws for quickly cutting pins or shafts with domed heads used for attaching wheels to toys. External diameters ranged from about 8 mm to 16 mm, internal around 4 mm and upward. All had carefully angled teeth cut with a Dremel grinder and bits. Some were double-ended. All except the T-bar bit could be held in a conventional chuck. Pins and a wheel are also shown. Bottom left in the image are two lathe centres –a Woodfast live centre with special nose leftmost, and a 4-spur drive centre below. Both these had quite deep cups contrasting to many now available. And lastly, near the image centre are two turned Fokker pilots for toy planes – complete with helmets!.

To complete Roger's array was a low voltage mini drill, bought from Stratco some while ago for \$20, complete with box, transformer, 20 grinding wheels, 12 buffing heads, 3 canisters of cutting discs, 16 sanding heads, wire and fibre brushes, assorted drills, cutting compound, and different sized collets. A good buy, he thought at the time. We agreed.

**Bob Page** followed on with much information and discussion of his recent activities, starting with the last Turnfest in Queensland. He passed around a number of photos of what he found interesting, then described a spoon-making workshop that he attended. There, he carved a spoon or two, using a couple of different carving stools, both simply made –apologies Bob, for the absence of images of your spoons and stools. Out of that workshop came several ideas, among which was the recommendation for sealing spoons and other wooden utensils used for food, with a mix of three parts of flaxseed oil and one part of beeswax. That is another one for folk to try.

He then related a five-day stool-making session at Molong, NSW, where only hand tools were used. He used a shaving horse to grip the stool legs (split off logs), while he rounded them off with a large draw-knife to somewhere near a finished diameter. After this, the legs were mounted onto a pole lathe, and turned to final shape but oversize by about 2mm in diameter, to allow for shrinkage of the green wood as it dried.



Ends were tenons to fit in holes bored in the seat once the latter had been carved to shape. The legs were made of blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), and the seat from a piece of camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*)—the plan shape of this had already been cut to size and shape, so Bob's job was to carve the seat profile, top and bottom, using scorps and spokeshaves, and to carefully drill the mortices for the legs and stretchers, so all the angles were splayed correctly, no mean task with only hand tools. The end result was an excellent stool, not in the slightest rustic!

To round off (and perhaps being aware of the interest in fungi that some turners present had), he described a visit to near Mount Gambier, to check out "ghost mushrooms"—ones that glow in the dark. He showed a number of images of these, and also one that he had passed near Geelong and had turned around to get a picture—a giant at roughly 40 x 50 cm—as above. There are some ideas for carvers, turners, and stool makers.



**John Tillack** came with three items to show. The first was a substantial bowl turned out of red box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*), with walls about 25 mm thick wherever there were walls, given the fractured nature of the timber! He had just coated the bowl in one of the Livos Kunos oils, all natural and food safe, expensive but very effective and long-lasting. The bowl will get another coat to deepen the finish and fully seal the surface..



Next came a chuck he had made for reliably holding three square-section blocks side-by-side while he turned profiles in their faces. The jig consisted simply of the rectangular board (small enough to swing on his lathe), to which were bolted two parallel cleats. Through these cleats passed two threaded rods. These rods passed through holes drilled near the ends of the workpieces, and together with packing pieces, were firmed up tightly with nuts on both ends. He then turned circular profiles in the exposed faces. Once this had been done, the pieces were removed from the jig, turned by 90 or 180 degrees, and/or rotated end-for-end, and returned to the jig for further pattern turning. This procedure was repeated for the other two sides, producing square-section



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blocks with different patterns on every side. He had more-or-less finished one of these as a weed-pot, the others were awaiting different inspiration, but all were unique and quite intriguing –see the image for jig and 3 examples turned out of mountain ash. (*Eucalyptus regnans*) from furniture offcuts.



His last effort was a set of table skittles, popular in pubs in the UK or was it Ireland, first suggested to John by a visitor at the Willunga Almond Blossom Festival at the end of last month. The set consisted of 9 turned skittles, a pendulum bob for knocking the skittles over, supported on a post of two sections that screwed together and into the base, and a tray for everything to fit and play within – as on the left image. The rules for this are quite specific, and include the direction in which the bob must be swung in order to knock them over. So far, the visitor has not claimed this set, but several swung the bob this evening, but no-one won anything.

**John Bennett** passed around a short piece of branchwood for identification –it was quite dense even though it had been cut perhaps years ago. The wood in cross-section was extremely close grained, very hard, and dark red/brown. Its sapwood was light brown, and 8-10 mm wide in a cross-section of about 80 mm. The fibrous bark peeled in short lengths from the log. The first suggestion was that it was Broughton Willow (*Acacia salicina*), however, its density (about 1060 kg/metre<sup>3</sup>) and narrow sapwood suggested otherwise. Perhaps one of the mulgas (*Acacia* species, possibly *aneura*, though the demarcation between heartwood and sapwood was not really sharp, nor the sapwood colour so pale).



That concluded the meeting.

**The next meeting will be on the second Tuesday in September, the 10<sup>th</sup>, at the San Georgio Community Centre, 11 Henry St, Payneham. Drinks should be available from the bar this time. For those contemplating coming, we have been reassured that a separate room, perhaps the upstairs one we have had in the past, will be available, so we shall not have to compete with dancers and their music at the opposite end of the Great Hall. And it should be warmer! We shall still gather around 7:00 pm for a 7:30 start. All scrollers, carvers, boxmakers, toymakers, furniture makers, and all those other active and inactive woodworkers are always welcome! Do come.**

#### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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

#### 2019 Club Contributions for the Newsletter

<b>2019</b>	<b>CLUB ARTICLE</b>	<b>MEMBER PROFILE</b>
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
<b>There is no Newsletter in December</b>		