



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: Alvan Roman

I took up wood turning and bought my lathe in 1995.

What got me started was a 1994 TAFE wood turning course I signed up to which was run from the old Morphett Vale High School. It whetted my appetite and I have enjoyed the hobby ever since.

In turn the motivation for undertaking the course was recognition that one day I would retire and the worse thing one can do is sit around and do nothing. (I actually did not retire until 2011 – I allowed myself plenty of time to find a retirement activity!)

I have always been active but do not come from a technical or trade background.

I was born in England and came to South Australia at a young age as my father had been offered a good professional position. My education and employment has been in this State. Following school and higher education I worked in retail, then the advertising industry after which I enjoyed more than 15 years as a ministerial adviser to Government Ministers, in particular for Don Hopgood. The last 17 years I worked for the SACE Board of SA, responsible for senior school examinations and assessment.



I found that wood turning was a craft in which I could develop some mastery despite previously being a desk jockey. Turning has so many areas to explore and I continue to discover new ways and new pieces to create. The ideas come from everywhere including magazines and more lately the internet and particularly from the items shown, the monthly projects and the demonstrations at the Club. Yes Southern Turners has been a great source of inspiration, technical assistance and support, as well providing friendship and a great supply of timber!

I joined the Club in 2009 and became Secretary in 2011, my current position. The Club's relaxed atmosphere and focus on woodturning along with the supportive presidents and committees makes the role worthwhile and not too onerous.

My home workshop is 2.5 metre square partitioned area of the garage. Compact but everything is at hand. I still work on my first lathe - a Durden L500 with a .75 kW motor. Internally the swing is 254 mm and between centres 1066 mm. I can also produce larger diameter work on the external drive.

My tool collection has grown slowly over the years. I have tried not to rush out and buy the latest, wanting to ensure I have a practical use and need if I do make a purchase. However I do now own 3 chucks which of course make using different jaws quicker and easier. I am still using my original Sorby 3/8 inch bowl gauge; though not for much longer.

My wood supply occupies quite a large space in the garage too, but there is always room for some more.

While a lot of my work is face work, particularly bowls I do produce a wide variety of other pieces – boxes, trivets, cutlery handles, etc. Completed pieces generally first find a place on display in the house with my wife being a strong supporter of my work. Then pieces can be sold through the various demonstrations and selling opportunities with which the Club gets involved. Outside of woodturning the family is important though now all the boys and extended families live interstate. I have been active in social change through political activity and community development. There is a range of other interests including the garden, volunteering and travel.

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Common to all wood turners sanding is not very exciting and it is frustrating when not always being able to transfer an idea to reality. My work is produced slowly; in fact a fellow turner once said he was glad I was not being paid piece rates. However, there is considerable pleasure from releasing a beautiful piece from a lump of timber. That is the joy of wood turning.

WoodgroupSA Network Meeting, Tuesday 8 October 2019

Folk gathered again in the bright and cheery atmosphere of the new part of the Community Centre, with the coffee and drinks bar fully open now. Apologies were received from Roger Humphris and Ray and Rena Hoare.

Bob Page gave a brief run-down on the Scrollers recent workshop for beginners –he found that excellent, so if that is something you have not tried, go along to the next one –check out the Woodgroup website [& newsletter] for dates, eventually.

Tom Jung began show-and-tell with a nicely shaped bowl with a rolled rim, about 120 mm in diameter. This was turned out of apricot branch-wood, and finished in orange oil. The strong grain pattern enhanced the chunky shape of the bowl. Graham Were picked up a couple of places where the surface was not as well finished as the rest of the bowl, and suggested sanding with the lathe in reverse to eliminate those spots. That is a useful tip for those who have trouble with raised fibres. Tom supplied a red-gum lid for his bowl, but was unhappy about its form, so will revisit that down the track. He had finished that in several coats (5) of pine oil.



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Alex Muhlholz was next around the table with a silky oak bowl, about 60 mm in diameter, and with its edge pyrographed for subtle interest (bottom left in the image).

He followed that with two claret ash bowls, both characteristically pale as for ash wood (*Fraxinus* spp). One was about 100 mm in diameter (top left), the other about 135 mm (top right).

His fourth piece was a red gum bowl about 120 mm in diameter (lower right).

All were finely finished using Ubeaut Shellawax and Triple E polishes. The reflections of the ceiling downlights attests to their high level of shine.



John Bennett showed a piece that could have been mistaken for a circular cutting board, but was actually a lid for a tallish basket about 430 mm in diameter. The lid was intended to convert the open-topped basket into a small coffee table. The board was made from segments of laminated baltic pine. Its central part was a regular octagon, and this was surrounded by 8 partly trapezoidal pieces. Each surrounding piece was joined to a side of the polygon by 2 loose tenons, and also to its neighbours by another 2—the generally close joints resulting from that gluing was reassuring that the cutting was reasonably accurate! The whole board was then turned to a circle, the upper side of the rim shaped and a finger cove cut in the underside. Finally, slots to take the handles of the basket were drilled and shaped by hand—the handles were of slightly different sizes and were inclined to each other as well as to the planar top of the basket, so involved some fiddling and more time to get a good fit. All good at keeping him off the streets.



The resulting board was unfinished in so far as oiling, staining or sealing, since the owners of the baskets will look after those aspects.

John Tillack began with a variety of items –after passing his long draw knife mentioned in last month’s newsletter to Bob Page for his use in stool and chair making. John’s first was a short log for identification. Its heartwood had a decidedly purple tinge to it, so was probably one of the desert acacias, purple gidgee (*Acacia crombiei*) perhaps. Certainly it was quite dense, with sapwood clearly distinct from the heartwood. Next came a knitter’s wool dispenser like Roger Parker’s, shown last month. However, John had mounted the top spindle and plate on a single bearing rather than on a lazy susan, since that was a cheaper option. The spindle was made from grey box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*), the disc and base from jarrah. The spindle wobbled

slightly on the bearing, from a clearance issue to be resolved later, but otherwise rotated smoothly and easily.

Lastly, he showed a piece of “tree wood”, with much shape, a eucalypt, turned into a 160 mm wide bowl with flaring rim, including some original bark. The strong grain and fine and finish of Stylewood spray lacquer made for an intriguing piece (right).



John Beswick was last up with pieces from a red gum that had died some years ago. Firstly were a couple of logs of decorated branchwood. The decoration consisted of naturally carved channels in the sapwood under the bark. Some of these were then painted as an experiment –red flames rising on one part, blue/green water falling on another. yellow elsewhere.

The concept was expanded into small vases of various sizes, openings and offset apertures (right).



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The wood came from a red gum that had been ring-barked by grubs so thoroughly that it had died. The tree had been felled some years ago. In the cross-section of the trunk, quite surprisingly there was no evidence of redness -most unusual for *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*: it was as pale as mountain ash (*E. regnans*). Unfortunately, no remnant fruit from the tree for convincing identification were available anymore.

No-one accepted the challenge issued by Franco Lanfranchi in the September meeting to make a 50 mm ornamental Rubic's cube—clearly, work in sheds and elsewhere was all consuming!

Thus ended the October session —lots of turning activity clearly going on over the month —but where are the toymakers and scrollers and box-makers and others? We miss you!

The next meeting will be on the second Tuesday in November, on the 12th, at the San Georgio

Newsletter editor

After many years in the role George Pastuch is resigning. If you might be interested please contact the President, Trevor Molde.

Community Centre, 11 Henry St, Payneham. Drinks of various hues and flavours will be available from the bar, as at some time past. Folk gather around 7:00 pm for a 7:30 start, and go through to about 9 pm. If you like Franco's challenge, bring along your efforts, otherwise, or as well, your other creations that you would like to show with others —or come to share the many aspects of wood craft, including wood art and jokes.

Newsletter contributions 2020

2020	Club article	Member profile
January	Murrayland Woodworkers	Whyalla Woodies
February	Sculptors & Carvers	Fleurieu Woodturners
March	Whyalla Woodies	Hills Woodworkers
April	Riverland Woodworkers	Northern Turners
May	Western Woodworkers	Riverland Woodworkers
June	South Oz Scrollers	Murrayland Woodworkers
July	Northern Turners	Sculptors & Carvers
August	Riverside Community Copper Coast	Southern Turners
October	Fleurieu Woodturners	Riverside Community South Oz Scrollers
November	Hills Woodworkers	Copper Coast
December	<i>No newsletter</i>	