



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)

President's report to AGM

We began the year with a 'rocky' start, thanks to a 'blessed' door at the Malvern Church, which would not open, thus leaving all present standing in the sun on the footpath outside. Your current President had no idea that when he went home, he would be telling his wife that he was WoodworkSA President. No one had nominated and I was named by the appointed Returning Officer, Christine O'Brien, as the likely person to accept ... because I had been the vice-president for several years, skipping the previous one. I could see that if I didn't accept, then WoodgroupSA would collapse right there on the footpath.

Tom Jung (the newly appointed vice-president) and I, volunteered ourselves to keep WoodgroupSA running and provide a breathing space for much needed stability.

Finding a Treasurer and Secretary was, to put it in a few words ... 'dicey'. Our thanks (Tom and I, not the royal 'we') to Warrick Lee and Gavin Scarman, both from Western Woodworkers, for accepting the jobs of Treasurer and Secretary. They were 'made an offer too good to be refused' as it was put in the film 'The Godfather'. "Help us or we fold!"

A big thanks to Ken Allen of Northern Turners, for checking the financial documents held the previous year and putting our Treasurer Warrick on a sure but firm track. Members will find that we now have more money in the bank, and thus more interest (depending on bank interest these days) for grants to clubs, than ever before... because we just have not been spending it!

It just so happened that 'Beyond Bank' had sent the notice about 'taking out money, or it would be 'rolled over'' to the previous Secretary. This happened twice whilst we were patiently waiting for our letter to arrive. We finally found out the fault (they had ignored all of the paperwork on changing names and signatures) and kept up with old signatories. The upshot was, we were allowed to make one withdrawal, which Warrick did.

We have been having Executive Meetings at the Board Room in Tom Jung's factory at Hallett's Cove which is convenient for him, near to our Treasurer and is free! A saving of hundreds of dollars!

We have set aside \$100 for EVERY club to have a member trained in first aid per year (not the first six who applied) The Executive investigated the cheapest rate at which we could have group first aid training. We found out that ... it was far cheaper to have individuals in clubs do it. There were inherent difficulties for getting everyone together at the same time. So many clubs have people who are trained as part of their jobs. Another saving.

I recommend that we keep to the same 'deficit budget' as we had for 2019, knowing that we do not spend all of it, but it is there when we carry through with the items on it.

We asked for an Exhibition Co-ordinator at a Board Meeting – none was forthcoming. The previous Board 'canned' the Burnside Exhibition for whatever reason. Thankfully, this was taken over by Northern Turners. We have had a 'quiet' year as regards any WoodgroupSA activities. Individual clubs have however been running demonstrations and exhibiting their skills and wares at local shows or their own – such as that put on by Western Woodworkers at the Hamrah Library, West Torrens.

We have communicated a lot covered at these Executive Meetings as you have all seen - sharing the minutes with Presidents, VPs, Treasurers, Secretaries, delegates and proxies of each club. I think that the Communication offered this year has been a significant benefit, allowing a wide spectrum of members to see what has been planned and reasons for our suggestions to the Board too. Some might say that it should go up on the web. Why not? There is a difference between being sent something specifically to a person, and he going to the trouble to open the web page, remember protocols etc.

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Merry Month of May Another recommendation to the Board which they agreed on, was having our awards and presentation night (Don Freeman Award, life members) and social associated with the Saturday Merry Month of May dinner. So far the only clubs who have actually volunteered to host the MMM have been in the country. Unless the near-City clubs also volunteer it may be like the Hollywood Academy Awards, where proxies accept honours on behalf of the recipients who find it too far to travel. What we sought was to have a succession list of sponsor-clubs so that they would know when it was their turn and plan for it. Such clubs would get a \$500 grant to help them.

A new WoodworkSA club – Kingston Woodworkers? This is a possibility with the help and mentorship of Murrayland Woodworkers as is a group from MakerSpace with interest being shown by Warrick Lee who is one of their unpaid staff.

Financial help to clubs via grants. Riverside Woodworkers was the winning recipient of this years grant. We were all helped out by one of our members from another club giving a piece of machinery to Riverside which he had and was surplus to requirement. The remainder of the grant which was unspent was voted by the Board to go to the Copper Coast Woodworkers to aid them as a struggling club.

At this time the workshop-social activity at MakerSpace has not been held. A report will be given at the next Board Meeting.

Our thanks to Mike Donnellan for maintaining a high quality web page for the clubs.

Our Newsletter editor for quite a long time has been George Pastuch. Retired and setting out to enjoy that retirement, he has at long last said “its time – time when someone else took over”. The Executive and Board members thank George for all the work he has done on behalf of Woodgroup SA. He is also our Public Officer, another role that we will need someone to fill. In the meantime, Mike Donnellan has carried on George’s work for which we thank him but only to the end of 2019. If there is someone in the club who enjoys editing a newsletter, please step forward and let us know who you are.



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WoodgroupSA is an unpaid, volunteer organization. It does a lot of good in the community and for individuals, establishing safety standards and giving the means for people to learn skills in a professional, helpful atmosphere. It is very important that WoodgroupSA continue and grow.

Trevor Molde 2019 President

Copper Coast Woodworkers

The Copper Coast Woodworkers held their AGM. Part of the business was the year in review, it may be of interest to you, what a small club can do. But before I start I must refer to the serious part. The passing of members who, may well be known to you. Namely John Vayne, first class carver guru and our only Life Member. John Schweinsburg, very keen woody, a St. Johns ambulance man and old enough to tell war stories of Holland in occupation by the Nazis in WW11. Both religious in their own way and certainly gentlemen. May their well earned rest be peaceful.

Now for us, the close knit nine and our annual activities, not necessarily chronological. We enjoyed Xmas dinner at the Wallaroo Hotel. Went visiting Rob Kutcher's shed where we saw some serious scrolling and ate home made pizza; Graham Blott's where we were blown away by his incredible collections, ideas and wood. Nigel Boswell's toy box was a delight with extensive tools, Morris Minor restoration, Triumph motorbike and a 24,000 volt pyro demonstration.

Members made the move to the marvelous Merry Month of May on the mighty Murray [sorry but I had to do that]. And a return trip to pick up the generous timber prizes.

Set up a donated lathe and bought a chuck to suit.

Purchased a new fridge, made a stand, disposed of old one.

Had a huge clean-up. Carried out test n tag. Restored and sold two donated ancient meat safes.

Made trophies for the Kadina A.H.&F. [Show] Society from the old storm destroyed jarrah gate circa 1909. Set up a display cabinet and light for same.

We were represented in the Australian Woodturning Exhibition, won awards and sold pieces.

Rolled our sleeves up and made and hung six doors for the A.H.&F soc. We received \$600 for our efforts on 4th October and bought a 600watt Ledacraft lathe at a garage sale on the 5th October. With chisels.

Participated with a display in the Native Plant Society sales day.

Demonstrated and sold at the Swap Meet

Became a part of the Kadina show days with demos and dollars as part of their yellow brick road.

We also attended a Rotary market in the town square Kadina. Opened our Club for Seniors Week.

We made natural edge pieces, boxes, bowls, square bowls, candlesticks, bud vases, pens, goblets and a lot of scrolling by our scroller and of course show and tell. We are committed to a town market and three when the cruise ship Vasco da Gama makes its visits to Wallaroo around Xmas and are busy making souvenirs to sell.

We are also giving thought to our next years' program and looking forward to another positive year.

Bob Petts for C.C.W.

South Oz Scrollers visit to Fleurieu Woodturners

Ted van Dijk, Mike Donnellan and Graham Harrop from South Oz Scrollers travelled to Victor Harbor on the second Saturday in November to provide some expert tuition and guidance to members of Fleurieu Woodturners.

Ted delivered a basic introduction to scroll sawing beginning with safety issues, some minor maintenance of the machines and machine and blade setup.



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Following this, participants were encouraged to begin a series of practice cuts on pieces of plywood that became more and more challenging for beginners. Then came some increasingly interesting cuts that became tighter and more complicated. Partakers were able to complete a cat, a fish and a butterfly that required numerous internal cuts.

South Oz Scrollers bought their scroll saws and Fleurieu Woodturners members provided some of their own with a total of thirteen in use over the course of the day. Including visitors there were 26 people present to make the day a huge success.

Fleurieu Woodturners are extremely grateful to South Oz Scrollers for this very informative and entertaining day.

WoodgroupSA Network Meeting, Tuesday 12 November 2019

Folk arrived to our well-lit meeting space from about 7pm onwards and shared the previous month's thoughts over coffee and drinks, until 7:30 to the start of the usual show-and-tell. Apologies were received from John Tillack.

Roger Parker started the session with his second version of a knitter's wool dispenser, as an improvement over his first that he reported on in the September session. This new version followed a similar approach to John Tillack reported in last month's newsletter. An issue he has is that the spindle part did not rotate as freely as it should. There appeared to be issues with the bearing, with alignment of dispenser top and base, and with clearances. The image shows the base with the upper spindle and disc removed and the plug under which was the bearing. The bearing, also from Tom Jung's industrial collection, was a bit stiff, in spite of apparently washing well in kero. It was suggested to remove the ball-race covers by prying off, and flush the ball-race completely free from grit. When inserting the bearing, use a clamp or press, rather than a hammer or mallet to avoid damaging the race, and to aid alignment, and to be meticulous with the depth of mounting holes to ensure clearances between inner and outer parts of the race are adequate. However, the problem now is to remove the bearing from both wooden housings without unduly compromising those parts!



Roger Humphris was next around the table with two cannons, both recently turned. One was made at the Kingston TurnSA meet where, as mentioned in the September newsletter, the idea was to make a cannon complete with projectile from a piece of wood, then fire it by compressed air to vie for the record distance reached by the projectile. Roger claimed he got the second prize –for the second shortest distance reached. Sorry, the image is lost!

His second cannon, about 125 mm long, was modelled on one described by Colwin Way in the English Woodturning magazine for July 2019 (number 333, page 6). This was a "Party Popper" cannon, in that party poppers were used as ammunition, so that when "fired", the contents of the popper would be ejected from the mouth of the cannon in a spectacular shower. He refrained from demonstrating this, in deference to the new premises, carpet, and size of the cleanup afterwards.

Roger then passed on pieces of wood from his shed that he no longer has use for –including a piece of mahogany (*Swietenia* sp?), coolibah (*Eucalyptus microtheca* perhaps), sheoak (*Casuarina* sp.), and others.



John Beswick, back from travels, showed a turned picconia (*Picconia excelsa*) vase, about 150 mm tall. As part of the design, he turned the vase about 3 mm off-centre, to maximise the appearance of the grain and the contrast between bark and wood –the bark being left around the lower part of the vase as a “skirt”. He commented that the picconia was excellent to work with, leaving a clean smooth surface of pale wood. The wood moved slightly after hollowing the stem of the vase and shaping the neck, so he re-turned it to bring the hollow back to centre of the neck. The neck and part of the body was then finished P800, so was very smooth to handle.



John Bennett showed the centre piece for his third basket lid –the second one shown last month. He had assembled this centre piece from three laminated boards of baltic pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) loose-tenoned together, cutting each board to make a heptagon (7-sided polygon) when assembled. Cutting the angles accurately proved more problematic than 6 and 8 sided polygons, since each corner has an angle of 128.6° , more tricky to set and cut precisely on a saw fence. Making a slight error in one angle accumulated errors in the others as they are cut. Very careful sanding tunes each angle to be correct as measured on a vernier protractor. Another issue with assembling polygons with an odd-number of sides is clamping the boards together evenly, since no sides are parallel. A simple jig was constructed that centred over one corner so clamps could extend from that corner to the opposite side without marring the corner.



Having had his memory jolted by John Tillack last month, **Graham Were** brought along a wall hanging like that shown by John then. Graham’s version was now about 40 years old, made at the technical college where he was working at the time. He described the approach taken with the pieces of Tasmanian myrtle (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) from which the article was made.

Each of the 18 bars, 42x19 mm in cross-section, was a bit over 40 cm long. Close to each end of these, a hole was drilled to accommodate a bolt. The pieces were then bolted side-by-side to a backing board that was then mounted on a faceplate on his lathe, outboard if the swing over the lathe bed was not sufficient. Patterns were turned into the face of all these adjacent bars, the bars then reversed on the



backing boards, and a new pattern cut on their opposite face, making sure this new pattern did not thin the struts too much. After finishing, the ends of the bars were trimmed to remove the screw-holes, dowels inserted in the trimmed ends, and the pieces mounted in a frame, now separated and free to turn about the dowels, so the pattern could be changed at will. He had hung the piece in his living room for a while, but now it sits over his bench in his workshop, a talking point for those who visit. He showed the different patterns that could be made by orienting the pieces different ways –making it a quite interactive art object.

Discussion followed on analogous art work, but of more abstract outcome made by Japanese woodworkers, and on other topics of interest, to finish the meeting about 8:50pm.

The next meeting will be on the second Tuesday in December, on the 10th, at the San Georgio Community Centre, 11 Henry St, Payneham. Drinks of various sorts will be available from the bar as usual. Come around 7:00 pm for a 7:30 start, and stay to about 9 pm. Bring along your efforts, otherwise, or as well, your Christmas or other creations –or just come to share the many aspects of wood craft, including wood art and jokes.

JB(text) & Alex M. (images)

Burnside Exhibition

Northern Turners are running an exhibition at the Burnside Civic Centre December-January.

Newsletter editor

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

A happy & safe Christmas to you all and all the best for 2020

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>	