



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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Murrayland Turners Inc	Chris Reynolds	
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Whyalla Woodies Inc	Robin Sandy	08 8645 0047
Hills Woodworkers Inc	Ron Burke	08 8389 8574
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Riverland Woodworkers Inc	Brian Lock	08 8586 4916
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(George Pastuch - Editor)

Presidents Shed. April 2018

Blind Inspiration

Thank you all who took the time to respond positively to my last residents shed article even the member who stated:

“Another thing that you seem not to see, or are just hoping is there, is that the great majority of predominantly old members do not really “seek education”. If I can find it again, I’ll buy you a T shirt I saw. It had written on it: I am retired. I know everything, and I have the time to tell you.” Funny, but unfortunately supported by evidence.” (Name Withheld)

I guess I am a “glass is half full kind of a guy” and readily admit I don’t know everything and never will. I like to watch the news and read the papers to learn what is happening in the world. I recently attended Turnfest Woodturning Conference in Queensland and looked around at the 300 plus attendees, predominately much older than me and they appeared very engaged in learning and education. I have faith in the older generation and the members of Woodgroup SA, it is clearly evidenced by the mutual exchange of information that I have seen first-hand.

Whilst at Turnfest, I had the good fortune of meeting Mike Blankenship, who was a visiting American turner that was demonstrating. Mike was totally Blind. Mike caught the flu at the age of 50 yrs. and his immune system eradicated the virus then turned upon his own body searching out anything similar to the particular strain of flu. Unfortunately, that included his retinal cells leaving him totally blind at 50.

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Mike had recently purchased a wood lathe and was determined to learn to turn. He went to a woodturning shop with his Wife and enquired about lessons. They looked him up and down and told him he was blind, and lessons were \$50.00 per hour. Mike believed he had only two options,

1. Mortgage the house to pay for lessons or 2. Sell the lathe.

On the way out, his Wife picked up a woodturning DVD and said they should buy it. "But I'm blind" he said. His wife told him they would learn together, she would watch the DVD and explain what was happening and he would listen to the DVD and together they would give it a go. What could go wrong! (He thanked Richard Raffan some years later for teaching him to turn. It was his DVD).

Fast forward to many years later and here he is at the Gold Coast Qld. As a guest demonstrator **teaching** how to make beautiful inlaid Christmas globes with finials. How's that for an old dog learning new tricks and never giving up, even in the face of adversity. What do we really have to complain about.

When I look at my poor "**old retired**" mum struggling with dementia and often not remembering who I am nor her Grandchildren, I offer this sage advice:

Cherish the neuroplasticity you have and embrace your loved ones. Enjoy the things you can achieve whilst you can.

My point to all this, is that we have the opportunity through Woodgroup and the many associated Clubs to embrace the learning experience you are offered and to develop knowledge, skills and attributes to "Pay it Forward". We owe this to the next generation.

My aim is to **offer** advanced skills workshops designed for the Trainers within **all Clubs** in recognition of the vital role they undertake for the next generation of wood turners and offer like assistance to the non-woodturning Clubs as well. This will have flow on benefits to all members in all Clubs.

I have spoken to some members who are currently on the sick list at present. I wish each and every one of you a speedy and full recovery.

Cheers

Chris

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

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Helen Harris

PO Box 1384, Murray Bridge SA 5253

0428 826 224 08 8531 3440

ochjh@scrolling.com.au

Red gum slabbing

Take four logs of red gum each at least 2.4 metres long and with diameters up to 1.2 metres and you have a rich supply of timber ready to be cut, turned and otherwise crafted.

This was the opportunity given to Southern Turners by Mathew and Sandra of Kondoparinga Homestead who welcomed us to their property at the end of March*.

The red gum (*Eucalyptus Camaldunsensis* southern form) was located on a steep hillside but had been brought down to a small cleared area and cut into the four large pieces by expert chainsaw handler and Southern Turners' member Craig Martin.

To help us turn these logs into usable timber we had the help of the Murrayland Turners with their Lucas Mill. This was the first big outing for the Mill and its expert team of Jack Hunt, Allan Coleman, Graham Nancarrow and Malcolm Taylor.

Over two days the team worked expertly and efficiently, firstly using the Mill in slabbing mode to deliver beautiful slabs of red gum sliced at 50 cm intervals and up to 2.4 metres long. When converted to sawing operation the Mill produced sleepers in sizes of 100 x 100 mm and 200 x 100 mm.

The team worked tirelessly, even rostering themselves so that there was no break in the Mill's operations. Safety was not overlooked, including one member carrying a red flag to stop proceedings if necessary.

At the end of the weekend some 15 Southern Turners each took away a good amount of timber enough to keep them busy for a while, and at very reasonable prices. The funds raised went in payment to Murrayland Turners for their time and costs. In addition, they got to take home several sleepers.

As a result of this exercise we have been told that Murrayland Turners has already identified that a larger motor for the slabbing bar would speed the process up considerably. This will certainly help as there are several other slabbing excursions in the offing. Plenty of timber for all.

This was a great collaborative effort enjoyed by all and we look forward to the next time.

*Kondoparinga is a 27 room homestead at Ashbourne and offers B&B and hosts events.

Alvan Roman

Southern Turners

Photos on page 5



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Club Contributions for the Newsletter

2018

	CLUB ARTICLE
January	South OZ Scrollers
February	Murrayland Turners
March	Sculptors & Carvers
April	Southern Turners
May	Riverland Woodworkers
June	Western Woodworkers
July	Toymendous
August	Northern Turners
September	Whyalla Woodies
October	Riverside Comm & Fleurieu Woodturners
November	Hills Woodworkers & Copper Coast

MEMBER PROFILE

Western Woodworkers
Whyalla Woodies
Fleurieu Woodturners
Hills Woodworkers & Copper Coast
Northern Turners
South OZ Scrollers
Riverside Community
& Murrayland Turners
Sculptors & Carvers
Riverland Woodworkers
Southern Turners
Toymendous

Please note that some of the dates for certain clubs may have changed from 2017 in an attempt to separate the requirements for individual clubs.

Can you please forward articles by the 15th of each month

THE EDITOR



Hosts Sandra and Mathew (with grandson) and Craig (Southern Turner)



Slabbing with a captive audience. Note the red flag



Sawing with lots of sawdust



Another sleeper produced

Member Profile— Robert Kutcher. Copper Coast

This wiry little bloke is like the rabbit in the Energiser battery advertisement, he just keeps going and going. Always busy at something or on the move on his bike but mainly on foot. A well known man about town , not fazed by his three score years and ten. An active life spent on the Copper Coast, I assume he is of Cornish heritage, he would have been a great miner in the days of yore.

Rob or 'Kutch' as we call him is a man of few vices. He and his wife Christine are involved in the Church and both are members of the Kadina Wallaroo Moonta Band.

As a woody group member, that is Copper Coast Woodworkers, he is worth his weight [not excessive] in gold. Good natured and easy going with an acute sense of humour Rob is always good for a laugh with his off the cuff comments and jokes. Always there to open the clubhouse and prepare for any activities we might undertake His little dog Snookums is his constant companion and is in fact an Associate Member of our group with his own amenities. In the cooler months Rob's little mate curls around his neck like a scarf to keep him warm while he scrollsaws.

Although Kutch's work could not be called pristine his productivity, creativity, novelty and variety of work is

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immense. He has created pieces that go up down sideways articulate revolve and are novel and or entertaining. Often intricate like his leaning tower of Pisa, puzzling like his in the bottle piece and timely such as his Xmas, Easter or Anzac representative work. Or creative like his portraits of famous or notable people from John Wayne to Eddie Betts and even a personal image presentation to and of Peter Goers. Producing all this in large numbers keeps him very busy but he still finds time to make project kits for the kids groups and respond to the many requests he receives from the community.

Rob is also serving Copper Coast Woodworkers as our treasurer and caretaker. We are all pleased to be associated with him.



Group shot of the boys at the Kadina Rotary Xmas Markets. From the left Graham Blott, Nigel Boswell Bob Petts, Steve Curnow and Robert Kutcher.

AUG

**17-19th
2018**

TURN SA

Wescome Shed - Kingston SA



Registration Form

TurnSA is an event for Members of WoodgroupSA. It is great place to meet new people and learn new ideas or discuss better ways of working with like minded people.

It is organised by Ray and Heather Cottee from Kingston in the South East and supported by their wood group, Murrayland Turners.

This year we have **“The Great Challenge”** where attending members are given a challenge to create a nominated item which is then judged. Always amazed at what people think of.

In addition we have

Professional Wood Turner **“Robbo” Ian Robinson**

Chris Reynolds Demonstrating - How to use the Escoulen Chuck

Woodworking Solutions

Carrolls Woodturning

Please submit page to the organizer.

Registration Form

TURN SA 2018

Please return this page to the following:

Heather Cottee, Organizing Committee

M: 0402564209 E: cotteehj1947@gmail.com

Postal Address 5 Railway Tce, Kingston, South East, SA 5275

Cost is \$220 for members of Woodgroup SA and \$230 for Non Members.

Accommodation available Cabins in Caravan Park, Bring your own Caravan, Hotel Rooms and Motel Rooms.

Registration Details

Name :

Address:

Email:

Contact Phone:

Member Woodgroup SA	Yes	No	
Share Accommodation	Yes	No	If yes do you Snore? Yes No
Require Caravan Site Booking	Yes	No	
Bringing a lathe	Yes	No	
Providing Own Safety Equip	Yes	No	
Provide own Dust Prevent Equip	Yes	No	
I agree not to power sand	Yes		
Shirt	Yes	No	Size Needed

Please return form and a deposit of \$100 by July1st.

Balance Due 1st August. Return via email to cotteehj1947@gmail.com or below address.

EFT Payment BSB 105095, Acc No 026658140 Please use your name as reference

Chq - made payable to HJ Cottee, and mail with form to

H Cottee, 5 Railway Tce, Kingston, South East, SA 5275

If you can help with raffle prizes to be donated the Organizing Committee would greatly appreciate your assistance. Any profit made after expenses with be donated to a local cause.

Registration will begin on Friday 17th Aug at Wescome Shed located on eastern side of Princes Highway, just north of the Big Lobster.

WoodgroupSA Network Meeting, Tuesday April 10th, 2018.

A small group of 10 gathered for an evening sharing ideas and insights. A new face was Rob Page, a cabinet maker and recently retired woodcraft teacher. He was a Woodgroup member from 20 years or so ago in its early days when it met in each other's shed. He was taught turning by that doyen of the period, Reg King. Having retired, he was re-establishing connexions with Western Woodies. And it was good to see Estelle Pearce again, after Mel's recent death.

John Edyvean began the evening firstly with a welcome to new and returning attendees.

Then he posed the question "What makes a notional spindle roughing gouge (for turning) unsuitable for bowl work", after encountering various statements in supplier's documents indicating in bold type that "this product must not be used for bowl turning". He passed around 3 roughing gouges, two deep fluted (about 25 mm across and 3.5 mm thick walls). The third was a broad and shallow, and significantly thicker, sometimes called a "Continental" or "German" gouge since it is used extensively in Europe for roughing, finishing, and some end-grain work. (It is available up to 44 mm in width!) One deep fluted one was by Sorby, which had a thinner shaft than the other two that were made by P&N. The reason usually given against its use in bowls is that a savage catch from the wings of the gouge will result. (John mentioned that he had seen a roughing gouge where the tang had been bent and "straightened" into an S-shape). But that reasoning is predicated on the tool grind being square across. By regrinding it to a fingernail profile (thus removing the large wings), such a gouge becomes a very useful and solid bowl gouge, where its weight adds to the stability of the tool when hollowing bowls, as folk have demonstrated locally and recently.



John Bennett brought along a "work in progress" from the last Southern Turners meeting, following an earlier demonstration by Simon Bagshaw and later guide. The item was a pot or vase turned on two perpendicular axes to form an intriguing shape. The piece, made from a piece of a cypress-pine post (possibly *Callitris columellaris*, not *C. glauca*, equally resistant to termites) had been modified slightly after turning by judicious sanding to present an almost wave-like, or organic and smooth profile from most viewing directions. One comment was that its shape was reminiscent of stingray wings moving in the sea. Opportunities exist for infinite exploration of such shapes, it seems.



John Tillack was next up with three bowls, all turned out of a log of red mallee firewood, initially full of rot and holes. One might ask why make bowls out of such a unprepossessing log, except that it provided a significant challenge in both holding pieces and working. But such effort can often yield interesting and saleable results!

By judiciously dividing the log into three, and removing the rot as far as possible, he obtained enough wood between the holes to make the illustrated bowls – some unsuitable for breakfast cereal, he had to admit because of the positions and sizes of the holes. The wood, together with its bark, was extremely hard, requiring several visits to the grindstone to keep his tools sharp enough to cut. He attempted to texture the exterior surface, mostly bark, of one bowl, the largest (around 180 mm longest dimension), by long, hard and heavy wire brushing, but that made little impression on the surface. The next smallest had a diameter about 130 mm. The smallest bowl by contrast, with the quite irregular rim, consisted of much more uniform wood with no holes or discolouring as in the larger pieces. All had a small foot for the shape to sit upon.



John Beswick had been busy "away on other things" until the day before, so only had time for one bowl, turned out of magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). He had spent a little time drawing up various possibilities before putting chisel to wood to make one of those drawn. His approach was the opposite to John Tillack's, starting off with

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uniform wood with no blemishes and lovely to turn, and then putting “blemishes” on the work. This started off as a sphere, which he then decapitated and hollowed out. He burned the interior a solid black, Dremelled the resulting straight rim into a quite natural-looking edge, and pyrographed “cracks” on the outer surface. He sawed a small slice off one part of the sphere so it sat on this with the mouth of the bowl sitting obliquely. He delicately airbrushed the exterior with red, orange and yellow to attractively complete the piece.



Even with this small showing, there was lots of discussion throughout, resulting in an end to the evening a bit before 9 pm. So come along next time, all you enthusiasts and join in the fun.
JB(text) & RP(images).

The next meeting is on ...

Tuesday, May 8th, 2018

at the San Georgio Community Centre ...

As usual, drinks & conviviality from 7:00 pm for a 7:30 start. All artisans in wood have something to contribute, so join in for the early May session, as you also prepare for the Merry Month of May weekend with Northern Turners and other clubs at the end of that month.