



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.

Correspondence to
the Secretary, Di Reynolds
Woodgroup SA Inc web page:-
www.woodgroupsa.org.au

Woodgroup SA— Member Clubs

Club	Contact	Phone
Northern Turners Inc	Jan Beare	08 8165 1543
Western Woodworkers Inc	Christine O'Brien	0477 973 399
Murrayland Turners Inc	Chris Reynolds	
Sculptors & Carvers Inc	Graham Jones	08 8260 2827
Whyalla Woodies Inc	Robin Sandy	08 8645 0047
Hills Woodworkers Inc	Ron Burke	08 8389 8574
Coppercoast		
South Oz Scrollers Inc	Mike Donnellan	08 8370 0108
Riverland Woodworkers Inc	Brian Lock	08 8586 4916
Toymendous Inc		
Southern Turners Inc	John Tillack	0408 866000
Riverside Community Woodgroup	Brian Jones	
Fleurieu Woodturners	Dennis Murray	0431834472

WOODGROUP CONTACT DETAILS

Contact the Secretary (Di Reynolds)

Email—diereynolds@adam.com.au

Contact the Newsletter Editor
(George Pastuch)

Email - newsletter@woodgroupsa.org.au

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(George Pastuch - Editor)

WoodgroupSA Network Meeting, Tuesday May 8th, 2018.

This well attended meeting was full of chat , sharing of ideas and insights,. Apologies were received from Ray and Rena Hoare,

Roger Humphris was first off the ranks with a piece of the timber for identification from the ceiling of a former home of Sir Sidney Kidman in Angaston. He didn't say how he managed to score that wood! The result – a piece of mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) was recognised by several folk present. Roger then passed around one of his skipping models (see the

February Newsletter), followed by several pieces from his tool collection for those who collected –a 3-inch faceplate, $\frac{3}{4}$ " drive thread, a pair of spring-loaded wire-stripping pliers, a shell auger about 6 mm in diameter for use in a brace drill, 2 tapered spiral reamers (one with a square drive for use in a brace), and an approximately 5 mm countersink bit. John Edyvean collected!



(Continued from page 1)

John Tillack had spent good time in shed work, so passed around several items. His first was a slice from a white-anted yellow box (Eucalyptus melliodora) branch, about 160 mm in diameter. After cleaning out the core, he had turned this partly between centres aligned across a diameter of the slice to make a “weed pot” for displaying dried grasses or whatever. The base of the displayed items fitted into a recess that was hollowed using the longest tool he had to fit across the diameter from the top hole. The piece sat on a turned base.

His second piece was an excellent rescue from a disaster when a 200 mm diameter thin walled “green” red-gum bowl split almost half across as it was being finished. Not put out, he finished the broken edge of the better remnant on the sander and mounted it in a new orientation on a rectangular piece of old and much darker red-gum from

Barmah forest. A fine result! His next piece was a bowl turned from a recently felled almond tree (Prunus dulcis). Almond is notorious for splitting, but by making this thin-walled (about 3 mm), the usual shrinkage had resulted in distortion of the bowl rather than splitting – to about 170 mm in diameter give-or-take 20 mm or so. John’s comment was that it was moving while he turned, so he had to be quick!

The 4th piece was a “nut-and-bolt” box, about 80 mm across the flats of the head or nut. It was made to look realistic without turning any threads. The end of the bolt formed the well-fitting lid

And to complete his offerings were two square-section boxes, almost cubic, about 90x90 mm in section. The lid and interior were hollowed out on the lathe, and a contrasting circle of lace sheoak

(Allocasuarina fraseriana from W.A.) inset into the lid. Each box was embellished by power-carving a radiating pattern on each exposed face, then ebonised. One box was

(Continued on page 3)



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made from cypress-pine (*Callitris* species), and the other from a eucalypt, possibly *E. maculata*. The finished pieces were quite appealing, one refused to sell very recently.

Tom Jung produced an egg-and cup from a recent club session. The combination was about 90 mm tall. The cup, complete with coves and bead, was turned from red gum, and the egg from blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) – looking pale because of a streak of sapwood.



He also showed a native cypress pine (*Callitris* sp) bowl about 150 mm across. Suggestions were made to put a small bit of curvature on the two straight sides to lift the appeal of the design. He commented that his effort with pyrography on the underside of the base nearly resulted in a fully flamed piece.



John Beswick followed his work on spherical bowls from last month with another, about 160 mm in diameter, made from jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*). This one had a spherical base that sat in a (stained red) ring so it can be oriented in any position. The bowl was given a red interior, and finished up to 800 grit abrasive, followed by Ubeaut Glow. He passed around the jam chucks that he placed in the bowl's opening to finish the bottom. Without the ring, the bowl sits with the opening more or less horizontal. His second bowl, with flared and domed rim, was turned from magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). He had stained a band of decoration green with UBeaut stain around its top. The bowl stood about 130 mm tall. His third item was a small lidded



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Club Contributions for the Newsletter

2018

June

CLUB ARTICLE

Western Woodworkers

July

Toymendous

August

Northern Turners

September

Whyalla Woodies

October

Riverside Comm

& Fleurieu Woodturners

November

Hills Woodworkers & Copper Coast

MEMBER PROFILE

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

(Continued from page 3)

box, about 50 mm tall made from pale wood, a wattle, with bark on part of the edge. He also had the jam-chuck used to finish the lid.



Charles Greig showed a carved marine turtle for his granddaughter, a task that took time and evolved slowly as he worked the shape through a piece of Queensland red cedar (*Toona ciliata* / *Cedrela australis*). This delicate carving was an excellent representation of the animal. Most of the shaping was done with Saburrs in one or other of two small battery-powered Dremel tools he has – he gets about 1 ½ hours out of each of these before recharging is required. The turtle was finished in his “Donnybrook” polish.



Alex Muhlholz passed around a 130 mm diameter bowl made from golden rain tree wood (*Koelreuteria paniculata*), rescued from a street-tree felling some time ago. He had tried various oil and wax finishes on this. Being dissatisfied with the initial Organoil application, he followed this with others, ending with UBeaut triple-E and Glow, to an “almost excellent” result.

His second offering was a square edged platter about 120 mm across, made from sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). The grain in this species can sometimes spiral.

And Alex’s final piece was a 100 mm diameter red-gum bowl with attractive grain, and two burned patches from the original log on the underside.



Eddie Jones had used up some of those small pieces that always accumulate, by constructing vertical-sided segmented bowls from that scrap, for pencils and pens. He started with a hexagonal base, about 60 mm across, around which he glued small pieces one-at-a-time, sanding their ends to shape to build up the walls – a leisurely process over time while he got on with other jobs, he said.

He next showed a pine bowl, with walls about 4 or 5 mm thick. In spite of that thickness, they were surprisingly translucent, and gave the bowl a more delicate appearance.

A third piece was turned out of a cube mounted along a diagonal from corner to opposite corner. This gave an interesting shape, which he thought to invert to make a tea-light candle holder.

And his final piece was a pen or pencil holder, made by progressively bending a piece of wood almost into a loop using hot water and a hot iron. The bent piece was about 100 mm high, and was mounted on a flat base. In bending, the wood suffered a small compression failure of the wood on the inside of the loop, which he embellished “out of sight”.



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John McTier, having recently exhibited his intarsia work at the National ScrollSaw Exhibition in Micham, Adelaide, passed around his “Horned Owl” effort that gained him a first prize in the intermediate section for intarsia work. He used 123 pieces of wood, from 10 species. Some of the pieces were ebonised to darken them. The work was finished in gunstock oil (he advised keeping this in the fridge to stop it going off). He explained that intarsia work is slow because of the need to get that elusive but perfect the fit between adjacent pieces, then polish all the awkward and not-so awkward pieces, and finish each one—about 2-3-4 pieces per hour, he said.



Roger Parker showed a redgum box made from the Burnside tree in the shape of an egg. Inside this box was a nested series of progressively smaller eggs – like Russian dolls, 5 eggs in all, down to the smallest solid one, about 20 mm long. Roger pointed out that it's easier to start with the smallest egg and work up, rather than to start big and work down, and that care is needed to preserve the ratio of width to length ((1:1.5 works well) otherwise they end up looking more like acorns than eggs. All were nicely finished, and will make a good gift for someone.



This full-on session went right to 9 pm, so thank you all for making the evening full of interest and variety. Keep making, coming and showing. .

**The next meeting is on ...
Tuesday, June 12th, 2018
at the San Georgio Community Centre ...
... 7:00 pm for a 7:30 start.**

(The venue can be entered off Henry St, Payneham, which runs off Portrush Road, for both northbound (turn off just prior to the Payneham Rd traffic lights) and southbound traffic).

Do come and join in the evening with your insights into all aspects of fine woodworking (or not-so-fine, as often occurs when our material comes up with surprises – and design challenges).

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MERRY MONTH OF MAY EVENT—2018

The Northern Turners hosted the Merry Month of May event for 2018. All that I spoke to said it was a huge success. Everybody was kept busy either watching an almost continuous array of demonstrations, doing or watching various wood working activities, eating, entering a competition for turners and net working.

The week end started off on Friday night where the school wood working classroom area was transformed with all of the Northern Turners lathes set up and several additional personal lathes added to the number. Carbatec and Woodworking Solutions also set up their respective displays.

During this time the Woodgroup SA board held their meeting.

Saturday events started off early from 9.00am. Lunch was catered and everybody enjoyed sandwiches, party pies, sausage rolls and pasties, cakes and sweets. There was a fair amount of sandwiches, fruit and sweets left over for people to munch on during the rest of the day.

The day finished at 4.00pm and approx 36 people met at the Northern for a relaxing evening meal.

Sunday also started at 9.00am with more demos etc till lunch. This was the classical BBQ with salads and more sweets. After lunch people started cleaning up and Ron Allen, Bill Elliot and George Pastuch prepared for the auction. Prior to this was more door prizes and the obligatory raffle. The auction produced many laughs and much enjoyment.

Across the week end there were lots of demonstrations which have been advertised often so I will not list them individually. Suffice to say that all were greatly attended and appreciated.

Finally some statistics.

Attendees

Northern Turners	41
Western Woodies	3
Fleurieu Woodturners	4
Murrayland Turners	1
Copper Coast Woodworkers	1
Hills Woodworkers	1
South Oz Scrollers	6
Southern Turners	9
Riverland Woodworkers	2
Total	68

After Northern Turners pay for the rent (\$480) and received \$500 from Woodgroup, paid for catering etc. the total net amount of \$2,287.90 will go to Cancer Care. The main contributions to this total was \$1,382 raised through the auction and \$584.90 was raised through Raffle tickets. The remainder came from electrical testing, donations and sale of the excess meat from the BBQ.

As the Newsletter editor I must apologise for the lack of photos as I was too occupied with enjoying myself.

In addition the Northern Turners MMoM committee would like to thank all Northern Turners members for their contribution to making the day the success it was. Also a big thanks to the businesses who participated and contributed items for the raffles and auctions.

George Pastuch