



Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc.
Sawdust & Shavings
May 2022 Newsletter

President's report

At the April meeting of the Shed Management Committee, discussion concentrated on the application for a grant for the Woodshed building extension, the Open Day organised for 15 May, health & safety, the forthcoming Social Day lunch, and the 2022 AGM.



Garage sale new timing: The Committee has decided that the forthcoming garage sale, which was to be held in conjunction with the Open Day on 15 May, will instead be held separately on **Saturday 2 July**. This has two advantages: firstly, we will have more time to source tools to sell as these always seem to be very popular at garage sales and, secondly, we can direct our energy and effort in the next few weeks to the “show and tell” aspects of the Open Day which, after all, is the main focus of the day. Separating the two events also means the garage sale will not clutter up the shed on the Open Day, leaving more space for displays and demonstrations and for visitors to freely move around.

The last garage sale we held was very successful and we hope to repeat that success in July. We have some unsold goods from the first sale and a good deal more has been donated since then, so we are hoping the sale will generate some much-needed income for the shed.

Upcoming events

Open Day
 Sunday 15 May

Social Day lunch
 Monday 30 May

Garage Sale
 Saturday 2 July

AGM
 Wednesday 6 July

Occupational Health & Safety: The Woodshed aims to cater for all people, and this means there is a range of necessary safety requirements and needs for the wide range of people attending.

In response to members' requests in this regard, the Committee has resolved that for the purpose of developing appropriate individual safety management plans, the President and one other Committee person will meet with any members identifying health issues that may impact on their own well-being or the well-being of others during Shed activities. The objective is to gain a clear understanding of what may need to be offered in addition to what we already provide, and to reassure members that anything which is reasonably needed in terms of safety will be provided and/or accommodated.

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We acknowledge the Peramangk people as the traditional custodians of the Strathalbyn area, and pay our respects to the Elders past and present.

Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc operating as the Strathalbyn Woodshed

A non gender community facility based on the principles of the Australian Men's Shed Association



97a Milnes Road, Strathalbyn SA 5255 Phone 0418 418 995 ABN 85 162 313 315

Charitable Organisation ID 85162313315

President: Eric March Vice-President: Vacant Secretary: Neil Pokoney Treasurer: Shaun Singleton

President's report *continued...*

Social Day sausage sizzle: As announced previously, the first of our "Social Day" lunches falling on the fifth Monday of the month will be held on **30 May, starting at 12 noon**. These casual lunch gatherings are designed to give members an opportunity to get to know one another better and I encourage members to come along and enjoy the camaraderie and conversation over a sausage sanga or two. There is no charge for the lunch.

2022 AGM: The AGM will be held on Wednesday 6 July at 9.30am at the Woodshed. Notice has been given by email to all members and nominations will be called during May. We will be looking for a Vice-President and Treasurer. Richard Carter, one of our relatively new members, has agreed to join the committee as membership officer, a valuable role for which I am very appreciative. In addition, we always need volunteers, especially to write up the daily financial transactions for the Treasurer.

Shed Extension Special General Meeting of Members held on 27 April: Twenty members attended this meeting which was a good turnout, especially given the relatively short notice. Ian Pontifex from Masonic Charities, Ken Knight and I addressed the meeting. The plans and proposal are displayed on the notice board at the Shed. The meeting resolved unanimously to support the Committee to apply for a grant from Masonic Charities. See more detail later in this newsletter.

New Members: Welcome to new member David Williams, who some of you may already know as the Minister at the Strathalbyn Church of Christ.

Contributions invited to newsletter: *Sawdust & Savings* is your newsletter, and your suggestions, ideas, photos and contributions are encouraged. These can be emailed at any time to the editor at admin@strathwoodshed.org.au or alternatively to me at president@strathwoodshed.org.au

In the meantime, happy shedding.

Eric March

We acknowledge the generous support of the Member for Mayo, Rebekah Sharkie MP, whose office prints copies of this newsletter for us, and also the support of Alexandrina Council, AMSA and the Australian Government (ACNC).



It's on the website!

Anyone interested in the Woodshed can now register their interest, fill out the application form or just sign up for our newsletter via the website: strathwoodshed.org.au

Simply click on "Join Us" or "Member Documents".

Let your friends and contacts know!



Our website is now optimised for mobile phones and tablets.

Check it out at:
strathwoodshed.org.au

While the new website has gone live, it is subject to ongoing updates and improvements.

Feedback is welcome.



You'd like to help with the running of the Shed, but don't have much time?

Read on!

We know there are members who would like to assist with the running of the Shed but are hesitant to become involved because of a fear it will turn into a time-consuming burden.

We understand! We've been there, done that!

Well, we need all the help we can get, so our approach is different. We are happy if someone can do, say, an hour a week or an hour a month. It can be a stand alone task or a part of a broader role.

Perhaps you are willing to take on a job on a trial basis and review it after three months to see if it is working for you. No commitment beyond that is required.

There is no intention to railroad anyone into a role, or into doing any more than they can manage.

Some ideas include:

- ◆ The Treasurer responsibilities can be spread amongst several people e.g. recording the daily income, banking the receipts, and other record keeping (which can be done at a time to suit the person).
- ◆ Items for sale can be recorded by one person, and someone else can organise the making of the items.
- ◆ The Secretary's role can be split up with different members doing tasks such as the mail, meeting agendas, the minutes, filing, and email follow up.

Every bit helps the organisation to run smoothly, and it assists the existing volunteers and office holders by spreading the workload that little bit more.

So if you can spare an hour or two to support the organisation that supports you, please have a chat to one of the Committee members.



Member Ken Knight and Bill Merrill, Freemasons SA/NT Deputy Grand Master with the Collar Stand recently made by Ken for the Masonic Lodge at Parndana on Kangaroo Island.



Can you identify these "mystery members" snapped in the workshop recently?

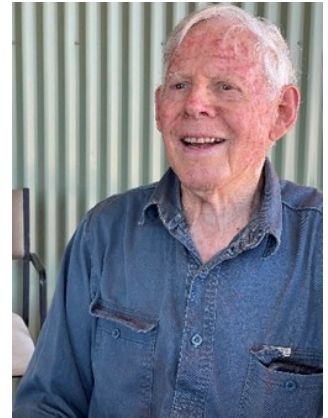


Committee meetings

The Woodshed Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Woodshed. Any member is most welcome to attend by invitation. Please contact Eric on 0418 418 995.

In addition, the agenda, minutes and financial reports for each Committee meeting are made available to all members each month to promote transparency and encourage member input on the running of the shed.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Bruce Allnut



Bruce was born in Adelaide in 1938 and grew up in Toorak Gardens. He attended Rose Park Primary School and St Peters College. Bruce began a Motor Mechanic apprenticeship in 1954 at Maughan Thiem Motor Co. in Adelaide where he remained until 1962.

Following his time at Maughan Thiem, Bruce secured a job with Civil Aviation (DCA) in Darwin. On the way north, he stopped off at Daly Waters (about six hours south of Darwin), where he helped overhaul one of the two 50kw diesel generators at the aerodrome power house.

On arrival in Darwin, Bruce worked in the pre-WW2 Qantas hanger at Parap, which was the DCA mechanical (and other trades) workshop, for four months overhauling earth moving plant.

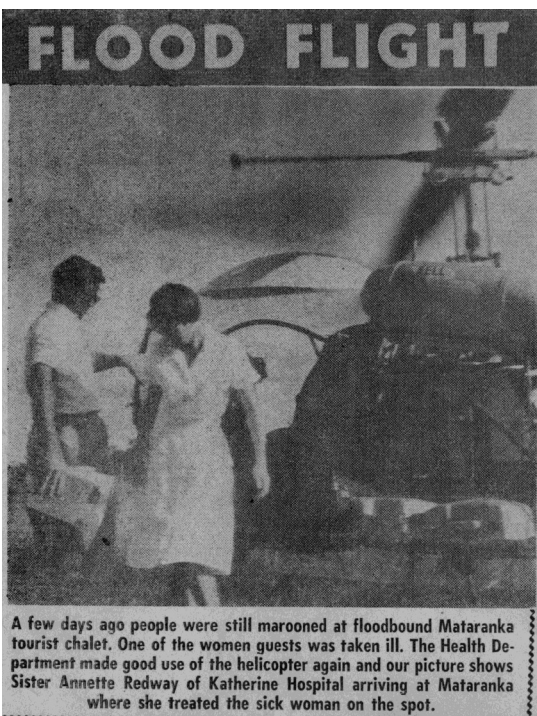
Bruce was then asked to go into the field as the mechanic with the Mobile Maintenance Unit (MMU), which took him around the Top End for some 18 months, building and maintaining remote air strips.



A photo of Bruce (standing, far left) with workmates at a bush camp at Timber Creek in 1962 and below, experiencing some difficulty on the way to the remote community of Oenpelli in June 1963.



Bruce met his future wife, Annette, in Katherine in 1963 where she worked as a sister at the local hospital. Bruce and Annette met at a party at the aerodrome to which all the sisters from the Hospital had been invited, and as Bruce says, "We just fell for each other."



A few days ago people were still marooned at floodbound Mataranka tourist chalet. One of the women guests was taken ill. The Health Department made good use of the helicopter again and our picture shows Sister Annette Redway of Katherine Hospital arriving at Mataranka where she treated the sick woman on the spot.

During the Dry Season of 1963, The Queen and Prince Phillip visited Katherine by plane during their visit to the Territory. Bruce recalls there was no crowd control and the Royal couple just wandered around talking to everyone, very informal.

Bruce and Annette married in Adelaide in 1964. They went on to have four children, each of whom was born in a different place: Alice Springs, Naracoorte, Darwin and Adelaide.

After his nuptials, Bruce was transferred by DCA to Alice Springs for 14 months, during which time the couple also spent three months in Melbourne and three months in Oodnadatta.

During his time in Alice Springs, he was sent to Brunette Downs, one of Australia's largest cattle stations, where he re-built a DCA bulldozer engine as DCA staff were there re-building the air strip. Maintenance at Tennant Creek was carried out from Alice Springs on regular basis and Bruce went there a number of times.

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Left: A photo from the NT News (1963) showing Annette during a flood crisis at Mataranka, south of Katherine.

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In 1965 Bruce was transferred to the small Stuart Highway township of Daly Waters where they stayed for 26 months. While at Daly Waters he ran, maintained and overhauled 2 x 50kw generating sets supplying electricity to the airport and the township 24/7. He also maintained the airport plant and vehicles, and the (ground) water supplies to the airport and town. In the second year Bruce also became the aircraft re-fueler. Quite a set of responsibilities!

In 1967 they moved back to Darwin, where Bruce was the Senior Mechanic at the airport Fire Station, maintaining four fire tenders, a jet boat and search and rescue equipment (life rafts etc). One highlight while in Darwin was the overhaul, with another mechanic, of a large English Electric Diesel engine which operated at 600rpm, and stood over two metres high.

In 1970 it was decided that they move back to Adelaide where Bruce was to take over the maintenance of the Fire Station at Adelaide airport, very similar to Darwin, but no jet boat.



Bullo River camp—1962

Bruce successfully applied for the position of Supervisor of mechanical installations in SA/NT. This position was based in the Adelaide field office, apart from when installations were in progress. In 1972 the Gove (NT) airport was upgraded and required, amongst other things, the installation of two generating sets.

When Cyclone Tracy struck Darwin in 1974, Bruce along with other DCA personnel, drove a convoy of trucks and trailers from Adelaide arriving in Darwin several days later. They all worked seven days a week for the first month. Following this, Bruce stayed on for another month relieving the Darwin Mechanical Supervisor.

Eventually returning to Adelaide, Bruce became the in charge Mechanical Supervisor at Adelaide Airport, maintaining all mechanical equipment on the airport including a large number of generating sets, air conditioning, the mechanical aspect of the airport radar and all vehicles and plant.

From Adelaide Airport, Bruce moved back to the Adelaide field office, eventually becoming SA/NT Mechanical inspector and finally becoming Manager Construction and Engineering Services before being made redundant (at his request) in 1992.

Annette and Bruce moved out of Adelaide, buying a block at Finniss where they built a home, revegetated 84 acres, ran sheep, had a share farm planting annual crops and gradually improving the block.

After the Finniss house was built (as owner/builder), Bruce successfully applied for the job of water master (part time) of a private water scheme pumping water from Lake Alexandrina, supplying irrigation water to 48 users in the Milang/Langhorne Creek district. Bruce did this job for 10 years, during which time he was asked to apply for a part time position of research officer with the Angas/Bremer Water Management Committee. Bruce did this job also for 10 years.

Both Annette and Bruce were heavily involved for over 20 years with the Point Sturt and Districts Landcare Group Inc. as well as other like groups, and Bruce was an active member of the Clayton CFS from 1992 to 2014.

In 2016 Bruce and Annette decided that the Finniss block had become too much for them to handle and put the block on the market. It was sold in 2018 and a house was bought in Strathalbyn which they moved to.

Sadly, Annette passed away in 2021.

Bruce joined the Strathalbyn Woodshed in early 2022 and says he is finding it very enjoyable.



Summary of Special General Meeting held on 27 April 2022

The Special General Meeting of members held on Wednesday, 27 April 2022, was called to consider a motion to apply for a grant from Masonic Charities to construct an extension to the Woodshed building at Milnes Street.

Eric March, Woodshed President, explained the purpose of the Special General Meeting and background about the proposed Shed extension and proposal to seek funding assistance from Masonic Charities.

Ian Pontifex from Masonic Charities spoke about the Masonic grant program and the types of projects which the program has supported in the past. It was noted that the Woodshed meets the criteria of being a registered charity supporting a wide ranging demographic from the community. It was also noted the Woodshed is required to make a 20% contribution towards the cost of extension as part of the conditions of any grant.

Ken Knight provided an insight into the need to expand the Shed space and activity options. There is pressure on space at present in terms of working area, providing a clean paint room and offering suitable wood/project storage options. Ken drew members' attention to the plans and information on display.

Eric explained that, if the Shed extension proceeds, much of the work will be contracted which will reduce some of the project management workload on the Shed. He also provided an outline of the costs of the extension including the factoring in of likely cost increases. Further, it could be that additional costs could be incurred with the foundations and piers and, if this turns out to be the case, it may be necessary to reduce the works to fit the budget.

There was a discussion about how the Woodshed would manage cost increases with the project, should this occur.

Resolution: The meeting resolved unanimously to support the proposal to apply for grant funding from Masonic Charities for the purposes of a Shed extension.



AMSA's Shed podcasts with John Paul Young

The Shed Wireless is a podcast produced by the Australian Men's Shed Association and hosted by John Paul Young. Tune into current and past episodes of The Shed Wireless at mensshed.org/theshedwireless

Test your South Aussie knowledge

1. What is the biggest desert located in South Australia?
2. Lake Eyre can cover 9500km² when filled as it is Australia's lowest natural point. How far below sea level is it?
3. The wine growing regions of McLaren Vale and Barossa Valley were established in which year?
4. Point McLeay (Raukkan) was the birthplace of which Aboriginal preacher, inventor and author who features on the \$50 note?
5. In 1866 Mary Mackillop co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in rural South Australia. In which year was she made a saint?

See page 7 for the answers

Diary notes



Shed Open Day
Sunday 15 May
11am-2pm

*Displays, information,
demonstrations, food
and drink etc*

Social Day lunch
12-2pm, Monday 30 May

Social Days are held on the 5th Monday of the month (whenever occurring) and are an opportunity for members to get together for a yarn and a sausage sizzle lunch (no charge).



2022 AGM

Wednesday 6 July
9.30am at the Woodshed

Shed Garage Sale

Saturday 2 July
A Shed fundraiser with lots of good stuff for sale



LIFE'S INPONDERABLES

- Why is an alarm clock going "off" when it actually turns on?
- Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do "practice"?
- Why are they called Apartments when they are all stuck together?
- If a person told you they were a pathological liar, would you believe them?
- How do Keep Off the Grass signs get there?
- Is there another word for Synonym?

WORKSHOP COURTESIES

Please take care of the shed tools and machines and use them only for the appropriate purpose to avoid damage and costly repairs/replacement.



Also, help us maintain a great shed environment by doing your bit to clean up the workshop and kitchen, turn off appliances, turn on the alarm when closing up etc.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Great Victoria Desert
2. 15 metres
3. 1840
4. David Unaipon
5. 2010

