



Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc.  
**Sawdust & Shavings**  
**September 2022 Newsletter**

## President's report

Winter is at an end and I'm sure I'm not the only one looking forward to Spring!

**Shed Garage Sale:** This was held on Saturday 6 August 2022 from 10am to noon. It was a very successful morning, with receipts of \$619 and a profit of \$450. The committee greatly appreciates the support of those members who put in a considerable amount of time and effort, displaying goods and pricing before the event, and those who gave up their Saturday morning to work on the sales floor. An outstanding effort all round.

**Shed administration in good hands:** It is well known that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer on almost all committees can be difficult to fill. Neil Pokoney continues to excel as Secretary and his efforts keep the organisation running like clockwork.



Bob Pritchard has accepted the role of Treasurer, and despite a serious and chronic illness, is approaching the task at full throttle. We just love it when the Treasurer is designing charts of accounts, organising various reports and is excited. Amy Chudleigh, who has a degree in business and is a registered Tax Consultant, is working closely with Bob. Amy is a volunteer despite being time poor with a young family and a significant practice. On Friday 19 August, Amy conducted a training session on our new accounting system called Xero. Five members attended the session and were greatly impressed by Amy's teaching ability. I have seen a lot of professional training sessions and Amy's was right up there with the best.

**Fifth Monday of the Month Lunch:** This coming Monday 29 August will be our next social day lunch at the Shed. This is an opportunity for members to mingle and chat in a relaxed atmosphere. While we have two 'Brew Breaks' at each session the shed is open, these half hour breaks don't always allow a lot of time for conversation and getting to know newer members, so the lunches are designed to be more convivial. For lunch we are offering hamburger and salad rolls, chicken drumsticks and dessert, kindly being cooked by Bob Pritchard and Terry Galwey.

**Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre morning tea:** This gathering on 9 August was a good opportunity for our members to find out more about the role and activities of the Neighbourhood Centre over a delicious morning tea. A very pleasant time was had by all who attended, which included the Mayor, two of our local Councillors and Federal Member Rebekah Sharkie. The scones were as good as promised!

*Eric March*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Social Day  
Lunch**

**12 noon-2pm  
Monday  
29 August**

We acknowledge the generous support of the Member for Mayo, Rebekah Sharkie MP, whose office prints copies of this newsletter for us.

We acknowledge the Narindjerri and Peramank 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: Richard Carter Secretary: Neil Pokoney Treasurer: Bob Pritchard



Welcome to new members Alan Graveston, Norm Lewis and David Tee.

### Vale Eric Watson

Eric recently passed away following time in the Strathalbyn Hospital in palliative care.

Eric was a past Committee member and a great helper around the shed. He will be missed by his friends at the Woodshed.



President Eric March with Alexandrina Council Mayor, Keith Parkes, at the Woodshed Annual General Meeting in July.



### Garage sale success

The garage sale fundraiser on Saturday 6 August 2022 raised a whopping \$450 for the Shed.

This is a great result and was due to a fantastic effort on everyone's part.

Hardworking Treasurer Bob Pritchard (pictured) was kept busy counting receipts on the day.

### Committee meetings

The Woodshed Committee meets on the **SECOND MONDAY** 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 to promote transparency and encourage member input on the running of the Shed.

We acknowledge the support of Alexandrina Council, the Australian Men's Shed Association and the Australian Government (ACNC).





# Insect hotel workshop with Cub Scouts



The Woodshed hosted a very successful workshop on the evening of 9 August to enable the Strathalbyn Cub Scouts to make insect hotels to help improve our environment.

The Cubs were accompanied by Matt Russell (Joey Scout Leader) and Simon Murphy (Cub Scout Leader), ably assisted by adult helper Prue Turner and other parents.



Woodshed member Richard Carter showed the Cubs around the Shed, explained what all the machinery was used for, and answered questions. The Cubs then built the insect accommodation by arranging bamboo sticks (pre-cut by our members) in tins which are to be placed into various habitats. In addition to the environmental benefits, this project gave the Cubs valuable experience and an insight into the operations and products of the Woodshed.



As Richard succinctly observed when talking with the Cubs: Insects live in trees, many of which have been cut down to build our houses. So it is good for us to provide replacement homes for the insects, which play a crucial role in the ecosystem and our environment.



The Cubs sent us a beautifully illustrated hand-made card to say Thank You.



# Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre morning tea

Woodshed members enjoyed a delicious morning tea at the Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre on 9 August and found out more about what the Centre does.

Since the Centre settled into its Parker Street location in late 2020, they identified the need to raise the Centre's profile in the community.

Chairperson Norma Kelly explained, "We realised it would be beneficial to invite other local organisations to share our story and plans so knowledge of the Centre and what we do is improved." As a result, it was decided that the Centre would host monthly morning teas for this purpose.



Details of the morning teas are also included in Welcome Packs for new residents and are delivered to the library, visitor information centre and local real estate agents.

The Centre is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organisation, providing information on community services within Strathalbyn including leisure, recreation, social, health and educational activities.

It also provides a forum in which issues may be raised and explored by members of the community and provides services in consultation with the community.

The Centre has held a range of Community Events including Twilight markets, a Car Boot sale, community lunch, Christmas Day Lunch, Spring Garden Festival and school vacation activities, and collaborates with other charitable and benevolent organisations to enhance the value of its work in the community.

The Centre also operates a Repair Cafe and the day after the morning tea, the volunteers undertook a number of tasks for members of the community, including sharpening tools and knives, repairing a mop, fixing a whipper snipper, servicing a drum carder and fixing a bike.



Frank Chapman, Rebekah Sharkie MP and staffer Jamie Cook, and SNC Chairperson Norma Kelly at the morning tea.

## Did you know?

The brain uses more than 25% of the oxygen used by the human body.



Buddy Holly was one of the greatest musical innovators of all time. But he played the guitar the 'wrong' way. Instead of strumming up and down like most guitarists, he played only on the downstroke.

This meant he had to work twice as hard.



Pablo Picasso was abandoned by the midwife just after his birth because the midwife thought he was stillborn. He was saved by an uncle.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

### Lin Knight

I was born in Sheffield in the UK. I lived in London for a while, then a holiday in Adelaide in 1990 for a reunion with my sister and family, who moved to Australia 1979, and my ex-husband's brother and wife, led to us applying to emigrate on our return to the UK.

Our visa was granted almost a year to the day of our return to Sheffield and we moved to Australia in 1991. We built a house in Nairne with a granny annexe for my mother, who came out to South Australia at the same time.

I've worked in Government agencies for the majority of my working life in Australia, mostly in the investigation area of the Police and the Attorney-General's department.

In 2006 I decided to follow my passion for cooking and food and opened a catering business. I set up my business in the granny flat at our Nairne home (my mother having passed away the previous year). My business covered the Adelaide Hills area and I catered for government agencies, schools, small business and private bookings.



During the time I was running my catering business, I undertook studies in Editing and Proof Reading, and Creative Writing. After the completion of the course, I was lucky enough to edit both a thesis and a scholarly book on Disaster and Disability. I'm also sitting on two part-written novels which, hopefully in retirement, will be completed, or at least progressed.

In 2013, I returned to the public service working in the Child Protection Royal Commission, and from there returned to what is now my current position in SAPOL, working as the Executive Assistant at the Mount Barker Police Station.

I have travelled over the years to America, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Greece, France, Belgium and, whilst living in Australia, to Fiji, Malaysia and Tasmania.

My passion for woodworking started at an early age as my father was a keen woodworker.

I have very fond memories, as a three year old, of hammering in nails to 'help' my dad with his woodworking.

I have lots of hobbies and interests including gardening, and – too many to mention – craft interests.

At the moment my goal in life is to conquer my garden, which has gone from a building site and is still a work in progress.

I am fairly recently divorced which is why the garden is still a work in progress!

I have two golden retrievers, Lyric and Rosie, and a ragdoll cat called Ollie, which is why my vacuum cleaner is an integral part of my household.



*Lin with her Golden Retriever, Rosie*



# Diary notes



## Woodshed Christmas Party Friday, 25 November

*More details to come*

## Social Day lunches

**Next lunch:**

**Monday 29 August**

**Menu: Hamburger and salad rolls, chicken drumsticks and scones with jam & cream**

**The following lunch is**

**Monday 31 October**

These casual lunches are held at the Woodshed and start at 12 noon. Gold coin donation appreciated.



## TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN MEN'S SHED IS MAKING MUSIC

The Tamborine Mountain Men's Shed in south east Queensland is using leftover pieces of wood to create musical instruments.

This project has been so successful, the members have formed their own band, aptly named *The Offcuts*.

It all started when Men's Shed mentor Keith Browning was asked why he would constantly take home leftover materials. So he explained he was using the offcuts to make musical instruments. There was so much interest that he started teaching other members how to build the instruments.

"What we have found here is we can utilise that material," Mr Browning said. "I made some moulds and jigs and put them in the shed. From there, we've evolved to a dozen or more people getting involved producing fine instruments," he said. The instruments are made using everything from scaffolding planks to pieces of old furniture.

As the number of instruments grew, so too did the group's musical repertoire, including songs which they wrote themselves, such as *The Shed Shuffle*. Their debut performance was at the shed's annual Christmas party. The men now use the instruments to perform small gigs around the district.

"We started with a few Christmas carols and it's grown from there," lead singer Rob Reed said. "We meet every Monday at the Bowls Club for practice and have a repertoire of about 60 to 70 songs."

The band recently staged a performance to raise money for a shed member with a brain tumour. While the tools and skills are reasons to join the shed, the friendship and support as evidenced in this story is what keeps the members coming back.



*Source: ABC Gold Coast. Story by Caitlyn Sheehan and Heidi Sheehan  
Image courtesy of ABC News Facebook site*