



Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc.

August 2021 Newsletter



President's report

As you might recall, following the lifting of the COVID lockdown in SA in late July, restrictions were applied to indoor gatherings, limiting the Woodshed to a maximum of 10 people (wearing masks) in the workshop and seven in the kitchen, in order to adhere to the one person per 4 square metre rule.

The roster to accommodate the restriction on numbers is working well. Some people were rostered on each day due to the nature of their projects or their role, and the spare spaces were filled with those who did not need to attend so often. This enabled a reasonable spread of access by members, however in some cases, members who were not so active in the workshop but may have just wanted to come along for a cuppa, were not able to be readily accommodated. So we may organise a lunch or afternoon tea for those people if the COVID restrictions are relaxed.

On Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th August we had the maximum of 10 people in attendance. This worked without any problems, so thank you to everyone for their cooperation. The Shed is a really useful place to relax, joke, and have a bit of fun, and obviously these benefits are missed by a lot of members during times when access is restricted.

Update on our Secretary: Tony Carengo, Woodshed Secretary, has not been well although he managed to take the minutes of the AGM despite being out of sorts. That was on Wednesday, 14 July, and by the Friday he was in hospital. He spent 3 weeks there due to a reaction initially to antibiotics, then he developed a very painful leg and was unable to walk. By early August he was feeling better but the medical advice was that he needed further care and had to transfer to Royal Adelaide Hospital. A special shout out to **Winston Harvie** who drove Tony to RAH – another example of mates helping mates. Tony is now out of hospital but is still experiencing some problems with his leg.

Dog kennel: On 10 July we received a \$220 payment from a local resident for this dog kennel, beautifully handcrafted by Rose Squire, who is shown here with her dog. Rose kindly organised the advertising of the kennel, in which an emphasis was put on supporting the Woodshed.



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President's report continued ...

Shed clean up: There will be a shed clean up at **9.30am on Wednesday 25 August**, followed by a BBQ. Coffee will be available at 9am with a further brew break at around 10.30am. It is also proposed to have another clean up at the beginning of the fire season. By holding these clean up sessions regularly through the year, we will make the job easier each time while maintaining a safe and tidy environment.



Shed extension: We are still awaiting advice from the Scouts regarding our request to lease a small part of their land for our new shed. We note the Scouts play an important role in supporting and developing our community, as we do, and we look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with them on this issue.



Surplus tools and materials: Peter Ancell has been busy cleaning up tools, and getting them organised and stored properly. We have more than we need so it is proposed to organise a garage sale or have a stall at a community event to raise some money.

Machinery update: The CNC Router should be in use by end of August.

IT enhancements: Volunteer Martyn Wilkinson has made a number of improvements to our records management by installing Microsoft 365 Business software. This is an expensive system and Microsoft has been generous in providing three licences at no charge as we are a not for profit organisation. Shaun, Lewis and I will now use generic email addresses as Treasurer, Sales and President so email history and information goes with the position not the person. It is a very impressive and useful system. Thanks so much to Martyn who has been donating a significant amount of time in IT support.

Annual Report and Financial Report: For the information of all members, the text of my report to the July AGM and a summary financial report and draft budget is included at the end of this newsletter.

ERIC MARCH, Woodshed President

Name the Newsletter competition!

We are looking for a catchy name for our newsletter.

Please email your ideas to:

strathwoodshed@strathwoodshed.org.au

by **Friday 17 September**.

The winner will be selected by the Woodshed Committee and will be announced in the next newsletter.

Committee meetings

The Woodshed Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Woodshed.

The meetings are open to any member to attend.

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.



Diary notes

Diabetes Screening session

The Diabetes SA screening session, as featured in last month's newsletter, is now being held on:

Tuesday 7 September

10am-2pm

This program has been running in country areas around SA and has been very successful at identifying people at risk of developing, or in the early stages of, Type 2 diabetes so preventative action can be taken.

2021-22 Membership Subs of \$40 are now due!

Please pay your subs no later than 30 September 2021

Bank transfer details are:

BSB 085-921 Acc No 705088655

Account Name Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc

Please add your surname + initials as a reference.



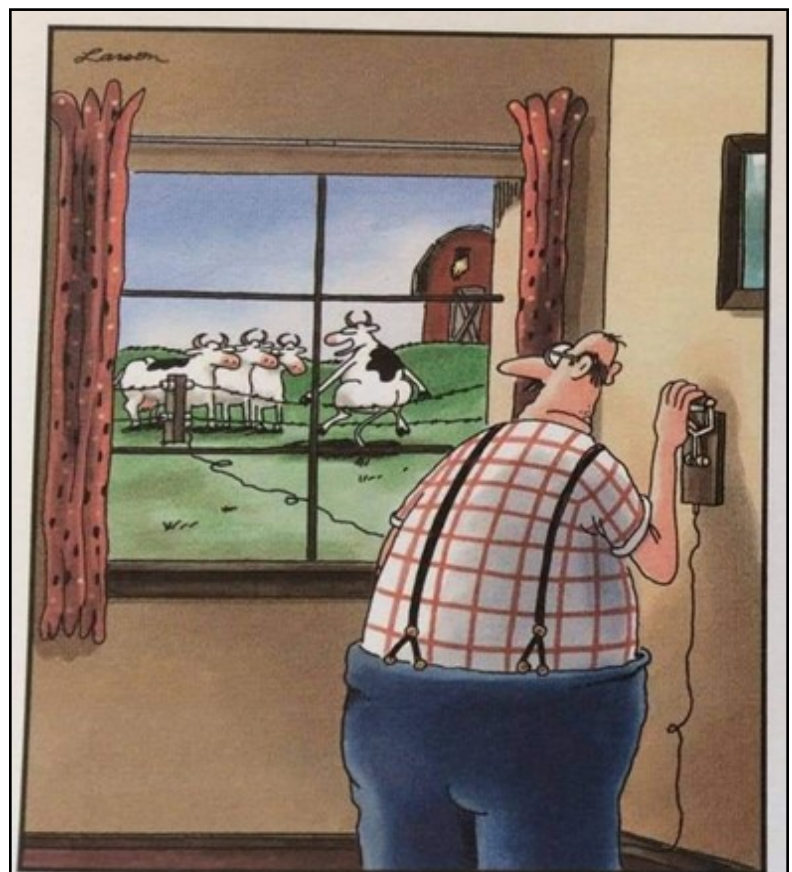
SHED CLEAN UP

9.30am

Wednesday, 25 August

Followed by a BBQ.

Come along and help out.
Many hands make light work.



"Look, if it was electric, could I do this?"



Working on the future of your Woodshed

The future membership and development of the Woodshed is a high priority for the management committee this coming year. This article outlines some of the issues your Committee is working on.

A Vision for the organisation

We need to develop a vision of the type of organisation and services we want for our members and our community. The vision will be based on the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) format but in the form of a **community shed** as endorsed by AMSA, so we can continue to seek assistance and hopefully also grants from that organisation.

We will be looking to service as much of the community as possible while retaining the general character of a group of people creating manual art and helping one another with projects, as well as the all-important social 'glue' and camaraderie. It is expected we will continue our current policy of not extending access to people under the age of 12 and probably restricting use of the machinery to those aged at least 16 years, while also taking into account physical capability.

Woodwork will continue as at the present time, and we will seek extra functions once the shed extensions are done. Metalwork and catering for friendship time and space, are options that have been discussed for some time. The cost and benefit of any change will be researched by the committee and progressively put to members for comment. In the meantime shed operating hours will be kept in mind to provide adequate access, given the rapid growth of the town.

Sharing the workload and seeking fresh perspectives and ideas

Another important issue is ensuring we have sufficient people willing and able to manage various functions around the shed and contributing ideas for the ongoing development of the organisation. The executive group under the constitution (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President) has primary responsibility for steering this and for the health and continuity of the organisation, along with the other members of the Shed Committee. The broader membership also plays a critical role in terms of contributing ideas and, where needed, a bit of leg work to support ongoing development.

Business plan

The first draft of our business plan has been accepted by a general meeting of the members and sets the culture of the organisation. However it needs more consideration because there needs to be a wider skill set and people resources actively engaged in the planning process. There is a need to accommodate those who simply want to make their own projects as well as those who find satisfaction in doing one-off projects for the community (such as making shelves for op shops etc – projects not amenable for commercial production).

Ultimately we want to be all things to all people as far as we possibly can! It is anticipated the shed will continue to be an organisation primarily for adults, but with a willingness to involve younger people where appropriate. This would not only better serve our community but also hopefully put in place some "future proofing" by engaging with people who may be members and supporters in the years ahead.

With COVID impacting on attendances at the shed for now, it can be hard for some members to attend and enjoy the project work and social interactions as is the case in "normal" times. On the upside, this creates an opportunity for small groups to get together to consider ways to grow the organisation and set in place advisory groups and other activity-based groups that offer the widest possible opportunities for members to participate. This is a critical step for the business plan.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

HEATHER McDONALD

Heather was born at Mt Barker in 1953. She grew up in Verdun, where her Mum and Dad had a nursery and florist business. She attended Verdun Primary School and Mt Barker High. Heather graduated from UniSA with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with a science major, and a Bachelor of Podiatry and the University of Adelaide with a Master of Clinical Science.

Heather spent 25 years in Research at CSIRO Soils, and then embarked on a creative career which included her own textile design business at the Jam Factory, a business venture "Quire Handmade Paper", and managing a studio space at Hahndorf Academy with her sister, Ruth.

Heather designed a range of Lino print stationery featuring native Australian flora, notebooks using traditional Japanese style book binding techniques, and undertook production hand papermaking, workshops and commissions.

Heather was a Board member of the Hahndorf Academy, SA representative for Fibre Forum, and she spent 10 years with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Respiratory Medicine Sleep Laboratory. She also spent 10 years as a Podiatrist, running her own business and Community Clinic for Helping Hand.

Heather has a wide range of interests including travel, textile crafts, spinning, dyeing, garment design, reading, writing (for magazines), gardening, hand papermaking, bookbinding, lino carving, woodblock carving and printmaking, drawing, basketry, bonsai and Sogetsu Ikebana.

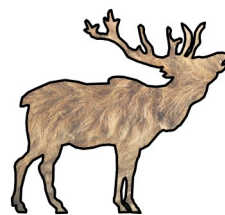


CONSTITUTION CHANGES

The Shed's amended draft constitution (to reflect the changes regarding charitable status, maximum number of committee members and appointment of an auditor, as approved at the AGM) was sent SA Consumer and Business Affairs on 21 July for formal endorsement.

We understand there may be some delay in processing the changes due to COVID impacts.

Our desire to apply for charitable status as soon as possible has been noted by Consumer and Business Affairs, and we will continue to follow this up.



Sale of reindeer

As per the July newsletter and our philosophy of cooperating (rather than competing) with other sheds, we now have an arrangement with the Murraylands Men's Shed at Murray Bridge to sell our wooden reindeer for us and we will sell some of their products.

This is all on a "no commission and all-care-no responsibility" basis and hopefully we will be able make a similar arrangement with other sheds in the region so we can all help one another.

Acknowledgement of Country

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE JULY 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Past

There was a Probus meeting in 2003 when Andrew Soar spoke to the meeting and asked for volunteers to teach High School students woodworking skills. I would particularly acknowledge Stan Wurst and Burt Howe who volunteered at that time. The Strathalbyn Senior Woodwork Group was established in 2004.

So this organisation was conceived in 2003, born in 2004 and is now a strong and healthy 'teenager' in 2021. Supported by Alexandrina Council, with a shed and funding, there were celebrations when it was reported there was \$400 in the bank.

Our appreciation to Ken Knight, Bill Kent and Colin Goodrich for their leadership during the years they built up our membership and resources. From 2012 there were some years of negotiations with Alexandrina Council regarding our building, resulting in a new constitution on 17 February 2017 and a new shed, which was officially opened by the Mayor on 23 January 2018.

Present

Our financial members now stand at 99 and continues to grow. Indicative numbers are 60 + active members, 35 – 40 individuals each week and an average of 66 members attending per week. Subscriptions are due in September, and I expect paid up members will be at least 75 at the start of the new subscription year.

The Group has \$11,000 in the bank, having spent \$12,000 earlier this year on the Container, Saw Mill, Porch Wall, and CNC Router. No money has been spent but much progress has been made in financial management (MYOB), information management (\$3,300 donation from Microsoft), donated computers, and the donation of member and volunteer communication and IT skills.

Camp Fires and occasional lunches have greatly enhanced our R&R opportunities.

Brian Muffet, Tony Anderson, and Trevor Haldane not continuing on Committee in 2021-22. They are however all continuing as active and valued members. Their contribution is greatly appreciated.

Future

At a well attended meeting of members held on 26 May, there were only two reservations raised about changes to the constitution that are expected to assist the Group obtaining **Deductible Gift Recipient** status from the Australian Tax Office. Those amendments will be considered by members at the Annual General Meeting to be held on the date of this report. **DGR** will permit donors to our Group to claim a deduction of their income tax.

The changes to the constitution were researched by Janet Wilson CPA. The Committee is most grateful to Janet for her highly professional and thoroughly documented report.

Late last year the Committee resolved to 'Future Proof' this Group and establish the necessary plans and approvals for the Group to obtain grants and donations to build shed extensions to accommodate our growing membership.

There has been a great response by members standing for the committee for 2021-22. It is important for the continued success of this Group, that a wide range of members contribute as Office Bearers and Committee Members, particularly younger people. Shaun Singleton is continuing as Treasurer and Noelene Rose is joining the Committee this year. These are two of our members (not the only ones) of working age. While retired members are valuable, we all have a finite life and Continuity Planning must address a long time frame.

There is no doubt the new Committee will continue to respond to Members' needs and feedback, and build upon the good policies and procedures implemented by officers and members of the past.

The Group has a solid foundation of an open and democratic constitution, the start of a Business Plan based on 'Respect, Encourage and Nurture' and an active supportive camaraderie. I cannot thank you enough.

Eric March
President

Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc

2020-21 Profit and Loss Summary & 2021-22 Draft Budget

Account No.	Account Name	2020-21 Year Total	Draft Budget 2021-22
4-0000	Income		
4-1000	Attendance	\$6,891	\$6,500
4-1210	Interest	\$18	
4-1310	Donations	\$7,217	\$300
4-1320	Shop Sales	\$1,118	\$1,000
4-1400	Subscription	\$3,355	\$2,800
4-2000			
4-2110	Christmas Dinner	\$1,358	\$1,400
4-2120	In-House Functions	\$110	\$500
4-2210	Sausage Sizzle	\$1,398	\$1,300
4-2310	Grants - Container/Porch	\$1,775	
4-2320	Grants Fridge \$1,200 June		
4-2410	Paid Jobs	\$10,319	\$10,000
4-2420	Shared Skills	\$80	
4-3000	Origin Energy	\$1,000	\$1,000
	Total Income	\$34,640	\$24,800
5-1320	Shop Sales	\$375	\$500
5-2110	Christmas Dinner	\$1,312	\$1,400
80476	In-House Functions	\$92	\$300
5-2210	Sausage Sizzle	\$438	\$400
5-2220	Evening Stall Christmas where	\$15	
5-2310	Grants Container/Porch	\$2,686	
5-2320	Grants Fridge	\$1,199	
5-2410	Paid Jobs	\$5,057	\$5,000
190049	UnPaid Jobs	\$33	
	Sales less Cost of Sales	\$23,433	\$17,200
6-0000	Cash Outgoing		
6-1100	AMSA Insurance	\$2,814	\$1,750
6-2100	Functions In House Uncharged	\$603	\$600
6-2200	Kitchen	\$2,261	\$2,100
6-3100	Advertising	\$17	
6-3200	Bank & Card Fees	\$29	\$70
6-3300	Building Cleaning	\$710	\$750
6-3400	Building Expenses	\$1,102	\$1,100
6-3500	Computer Systems	\$137	\$500
6-3600	Equipment Maintenance	\$2,091	\$2,200
6-3700	Internet & Phone	\$276	\$300
6-3900	Safety	\$44	\$50
6-4000	Security	\$747	
6-4100	Stationery Printing Postage	\$1,026	\$500
6-4200	Tools	\$908	\$900
6-4210	Consumables	\$2,766	\$3,000
	Total Operations	\$15,529	\$13,820
	Operating (Surplus/Deficit)	\$7,904	\$3,380
	New Assets	\$12,626	\$3,380
	Cash (Surplus/Deficit)	-\$4,722	\$0
	Bank		
		\$16,921	\$11,461
		\$11,461	\$11,461
		-\$5,460	\$0

This table shows a summary of our financial position at the end of the 2020-21 year and also a draft budget for the 2021-22 year.

Note this draft budget is yet to be vetted by the Committee but was referred to the Finance Advisory Group. The budget figures are indicative rather than necessarily final, but show that we plan to be able to balance the books this financial year.



Colin Townley, professional photographer and member, generously provides many of the photographs in our newsletters.

www.evermorephotographics.com.au/

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