



# Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc.

# Sawdust & Shavings

## January 2022 Newsletter

### President's report

Happy new year to all our members and your families. As always, it continues to be a busy time at the Shed, and 2022 is shaping up to be another great year.



**Shed extensions:** Negotiations with a potential donor are continuing and progressing well in respect of funding a 9 metre extension on the eastern end of the shed to hopefully be used for more woodworking and also for some metalwork and other projects. On the issue of metalwork, Ruth Creedy recently brought in some examples of her impressive metal turning work and is happy to show these to other members of the Shed. Here she is (left) with two polished brass cases (done on a metal lathe) with powdered glass enamel lids.



**2022 Open Day:** Shed Open Days are occasions when we invite people from the community and service clubs to visit our premises, and see the range and quality of the projects and fine craftwork we produce. These events are usually held in autumn and, subject to the committee's agreement, we are looking to hold another Open Day in March/April 2022. These have proved to be very enjoyable events, raising awareness in the community and helping to attract new members. In order to hold an open day, we require a good range of items for display. Please let myself or any of the committee members know, preferably by email, what items you are able to make available for this purpose so we can plan the layout and presentation of the day.

**Get well soon wishes to Charlie Greig and Alf Cousins:** Those members who have been taught by Charlie Greig (right) on the finer points of wood turning made up a 'Get Well' card for Charlie. Charlie teaches on a Wednesday morning and has a loyal band of students. Charlie has been in hospital for a week with a debilitating virus (not Covid). He will be recovering at least until mid February.

Another member, Alf Cousins, has a chronic condition with symptoms varying from week to week. Alf has decided that he is not well enough to attend the shed for the time being, but fully intends to return very soon. We wish both Charlie and Alf all the best and look forward to seeing you back in the Shed in the near future.



**Upcoming events**  
**March/April**  
 Possible Shed Open Day

**Secretary position:** We have recently been without a secretary, following the illness and sad passing of our previous secretary, Tony Careno. Neil Pokoney generously offered to be the committee's minute secretary although he did not wish to take on the full secretary role. However, at the last committee meeting, Neil advised that he and his wife, Trish have re-organised some of the volunteer work they do in Adelaide which means Neil is now able to take on the full role of secretary for the remainder of the 2021/22 year, and possibly longer. Many thanks Neil—your commitment to undertake this important role is greatly appreciated.

*Continued on page 2*

## *President's report continued ...*



**CNC router:** This machine was purchased in February 2021 and due to the logistics of dealing with a foreign country and difficulties with documentation, it has taken an enormous effort by Bill Kent to get this very valuable machine to operate (made even more challenging by the fact that Bill moved house this year). Bill has now advised that the machine is operating correctly and we can now proceed to purchase the proprietary software which will drive the machine.

**Computer grants:** We have received a grant of \$1500 from the Australian Men's Shed Association for a computer, being a laptop to be used on the CNC router. We have also received a grant of \$1800 from the Member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie MP, for a high quality desktop computer. This will be kept in the office and used exclusively for the CAD work to do the drawings used by the software to run the CNC router. These two computers, as well as our server and the other computer we have, will be operating on a Windows 10 operating system version, until such time as Bill Kent is confident the router can be run on the newly released Windows 11.

**Deductible Gift Recipient status:** The ATO advised that the Woodshed has been endorsed as a deductible gift recipient, effective 15 December 2021. This means that persons and organisations making donations to the Shed can now claim those donations as tax deductions as part of their tax return. This should be very helpful in attracting donations to support our operations. This approval follows the 15 December 2021 endorsement by special general meeting of members of the proposal to modify our constitution to (1) clarify that the Woodshed welcomes new members *on a non-discriminatory basis* and that members are able to work on personal or community projects, *subject to any safety requirements*, and (2) replace clause 5.1(b) to define "ordinary members" as *"Any person, who supports the objects of the Association and agrees to be bound by its rules when applying for membership. Upon the acceptance of the application by the Committee and upon payment of the joining fee plus the first annual subscription by the applicant, the applicant shall be a member of the Association."*

**Slab saw charges:** Brian Muffet presented a report to the last committee meeting to revise the charges for the horizontal slabbing saw to \$40 per hour plus a deposit of \$60 for the blade. The blade deposit will be at least partially reimbursed when the charge is determined in each case, depending on wear and tear and any damage to the blade during operation. Note that these charges do not apply to members.



**December shed clean up and sausage sizzle:** It was a relatively small turn out for the shed clean up on Wednesday 22 December but nevertheless it was a productive session both inside the shed and cleaning up the bank outside. The accompanying sausage sizzle was an enjoyable social get together as always.

Best wishes for the festive season, stay safe, and enjoy time with friends and family.

*Eric March*





***Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc operating as the Strathalbyn Woodshed***

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

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

**President:** Eric March      **Vice-President:** Anthony Rice  
**Secretary:** Neil Pokoney      **Treasurer:** Shaun Singleton

Charitable Organisation ID 85162313315



# Christmas Trees



The sale and display of our wooden Christmas Trees this year has proved a real community effort.

Leonie Broadbridge of the Strathalbyn Lions Club, along with Sue Eckert, Chair of the Inter-Church Council, wanted more of the brightly painted wooden Christmas trees to be displayed around the town because they felt it improved the town's appearance and added greatly to the festive atmosphere.

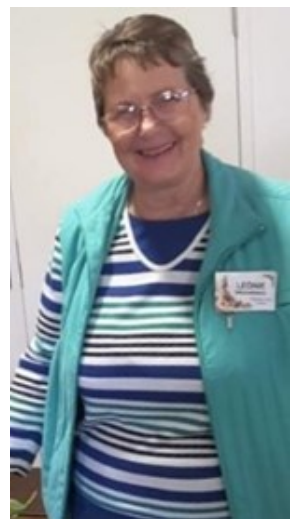
Funds to purchase the trees were sought from various sources. Alexandrina Councillor Craig Maidment generously donated \$1000 to the Lions Club for this purpose from his share of the Council's Community Chest, with the donation supported by Councillor Rex Kelly and Mayor Keith Parkes, a requirement of the Council's accountability rules.



The Woodshed received a \$700 grant from Alexandrina Council's Community Christmas Fund 2021/22 to assist with the cost of making the trees and two local businesses, **Reagan Jaensch Carpentry** and **Pistol Plastering**, each kindly donated \$100 towards the project.

On the supply side, Brian Muffet and his team has been very busy making five Christmas Trees for this exercise and some for sale to other parties, raising funds for our ongoing operations while helping to make our towns look just that little bit more special and welcoming at this time of year.

Meanwhile, Leonie Broadbridge (pictured right) needed to store the trees purchased by Lions, and the Council's Oval Committee kindly allowed them to be stored in their shed free of charge.



Strathalbyn Rotary also got involved, supplying the half barrels as a base for some of the trees. These happened to be the barrels the Woodshed had cut for Rotary earlier in the year!

Next, Peter Broadbridge, President of the Strathalbyn Lions Club, arranged for members of his club to erect the trees (see at left).



Another example of "Community Spirit at work" relates to the Inter-Church Council (ICC) which has done a fantastic job for years with its Christmas street parade and carols event 'Christmas Where the Angas Flows'. This event had to be moved to the oval this year and the street parade cancelled because of Covid requirements. The ICC was given free hire of the Show Hall and surrounds for their Christmas function as well as the days they were packing hampers for distribution before Christmas. Hopefully, post-Covid, the street parade will be reinstated and the extra trees will continue to contribute to the festive atmosphere of the town.

Christmas is a time of joy and goodwill. It does warm the cockles of one's heart when we all pull together like this. It is good for us all to be part of such a vibrant and active community such as Strathalbyn.



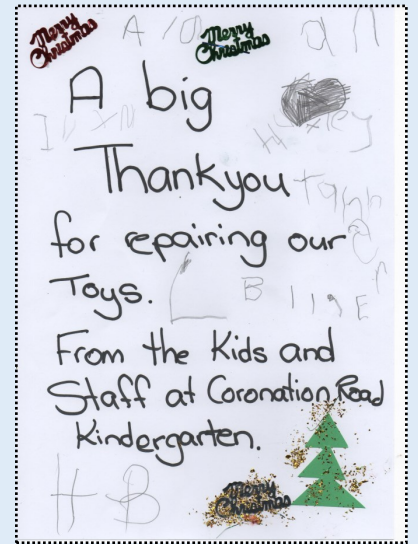


# Toys bring joy

Shaun Singleton, our Treasurer, is also the 'go to' member for toy repairs required by the Coronation Road Kindergarten.

Shaun recently made a replacement hobby horse and repaired a small child's trolley, painting both in bright colours, with a very smart result.

Pictured at left is teacher Pauline Eglington with Shaun being thanked by one of the students, and at right is the Kindy's gorgeous thank you card.



## Obtuse observations

- ◆ Which letter is silent in the word SCENT: the S or the C?
- ◆ If a poison 'use by' date expires, is it more poisonous or no longer poisonous?
- ◆ Do twins ever realise that one of them is unplanned?
- ◆ Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Should it be called double V?
- ◆ Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
- ◆ The word SWIMS upside-down is still SWIMS.
- ◆ 100 years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
- ◆ If you replace W with T in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.
- ◆ Why is there a D in fridge but not in refrigerator?
- ◆ Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?



At the medical clinic, the nurse came in to see the doctor and said "Doctor, there's a patient at reception who believes he's invisible. What shall I tell him?"

The Doctor replied: "Tell him I can't see him today."

**We have a new website which is now optimized for mobile phones and tablets.**

**Check it out at:**

**[strathwoodshed.org.au](http://strathwoodshed.org.au)**

**While the new website has gone live, it is subject to ongoing updates and improvements, so feedback is most welcome.**

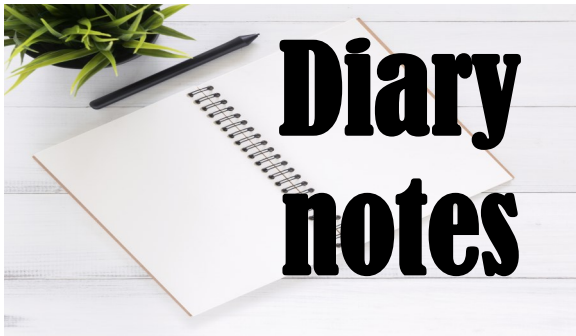


## WORKSHOP COURTESIES

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

*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.*





The Shed will be closed on Christmas Day and New year's Day

Possible Shed Open Day in March/April  
Please consider what items you can make available for display and advise Eric or another committee member by email.

## NATIONAL MEN'S SHED GATHERING ALBURY – MARCH 2022

*"Connection, Community and Camaraderie"*

The Australian Men's Shed Association will hold its 9th National Men's Shed Gathering in Albury (NSW) on Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 March 2022.

The Gathering will be an action packed two days with plenty of opportunities to hear from Men's Shed experts, share information and resources and get together with your Shedding mates. Registration opens January 2022. Email [events@mensshed.net](mailto:events@mensshed.net) to register your interest.

## Celebrating Men's Sheds in the National Men's Shed Awards 2022

AMSA's National Men's Shed Awards give the Men's Shed community an opportunity to recognise the outstanding work of Men's Sheds around Australia. The 2022 Awards are proudly supported by Fair Dinkum Builds.



Nominations are now open. The Award categories have been revised to open up more opportunities for recognition of Men's Shed activities and programs. They are:

- Innovation – *a unique or unusual approach to a problem or project*
- Sustainability – *a project or activity that puts the environment at its heart*
- Community – *adding value to the local community*
- Connection – *creating and fostering mateship at the Shed*
- Men's health – *promoting men's health and wellbeing*
- Shed of the Year—*a Shed doing great things, inside and out!*

Nominations close: Wednesday 9 March 2022  
Award presentation: Wednesday 30 March 2022

The presentation will take place at the 9th National Men's Shed Gathering Gala Dinner in Albury, NSW.

For more information, go to:  
[mensshed.org/nominations-now-open-for-2022-national-mens-shed-awards/](https://mensshed.org/nominations-now-open-for-2022-national-mens-shed-awards/)

## 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.*

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

## JOHN OWEN

John Owen is a Committee member and is known for his handmade tortilla presses which were featured in the November 2021 newsletter. John's family came to Australia from the UK in 1951, as ten quid Poms. The family lived in migrant hostels, country SA, and Paracombe when John was a teenager.



He joined the Army Apprentice School at age 15 and graduated as a motor mechanic. He did nine years' service, including two wonderful years at RAAF Base Butterworth in Malaysia. It was during this time that John raced motorcycles and competed in Malaysian and Singapore Grand Prix events.

Back in Australia, and as a newlywed, John travelled around Australia in a Holden ute and 16' caravan for three years before taking up "bush work" as a pipeline welder and mechanic at Moomba.

John next gained employment as a mechanic with Budget Rent a Car, then started Budget Truck Rentals in Adelaide. He was later promoted to Melbourne manager.

At this time, he met racing driver John McCormack, sponsored by Budget in his McLaren M23, F1 racing car. John jumped ship, and worked with McCormack in the Australian F5000 series, Sports Sedans with a XJS V12 Jaguar, and headed for America to contest the Can Am Series.



When McCormack returned to Oz, John landed a job with Budweiser Team, owned by Paul Newman.

Daughter Janelle was born in beautiful Santa Barbara then John returned home after two seasons in USA. He went back to the bush,

with Geophysical Service Inc, as mechanic for a seismic survey crew in remote areas including the Great Sandy Desert in Western Australia.

John decided it was time to settle down, so he started Owen Automotive in Edwardstown. He ran this for nine years, employed up to five people, and did 4WD repairs as an Army Contractor and training facility for Warradale Barracks.

John moved to Strathalbyn in the floods of '92, with a workshop at Belvidere for Angas River Agencies. The Oatley family, of Rosemount Wines, were a customer, and convinced him to leave and set up a workshop on their vineyard at Langhorne Creek. Then followed the crazy wine industry days: Rosemount became Southcorp, became Fosters, became Treasury Wine Estates, and after 27 wonderful years, he retired as a happy, healthy 73yo.

John says he has three amazing children, two adorable grandchildren, and eight siblings. Major family gatherings can mean almost 100 people and he is often busy with family occasions.

John says, "A garden in need of TLC, a Kombi Camper to rebuild and a love of cooking for family and friends keep my social calendar full. The Woodshed is my happy retreat! I enjoy the mix of members, the social atmosphere, and the opportunity to learn new skills."

