



Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc.

June 2021 Newsletter

President's report

Annual elections

I am pleased to advise the following members have nominated for positions (other than office bearer positions) on the 2021-22 Committee: Peter Broadbridge, Frank Chapman, Ken Knight, Bob Pritchard, Noelene Rose and John Owen. This is one more than the current version of the constitution allows. In the event that the Annual General Meeting does not approve the proposed increase to the membership of the Committee (2 additional positions), then a vote will be needed to determine the elected members. The President and Secretary are not up for election this year, so I will continue as President and Tony Carenzo will continue as Secretary. Anthony Rice has nominated as Vice President and Shaun Singleton has nominated as Treasurer.

If the Committee membership increase is agreed at the AGM, then at the time of writing this report there is one vacancy still available. On this basis, we are still seeking a further nominee so the Committee can have the maximum people resources for the next year.

Retiring Committee members

Retiring committee members are Tony Anderson, Trevor Haldane and Brian Muffet. A massive thanks to each of them for their energy, time and commitment as Committee members.



Tony has done a lot of work with youth and Shared Skills, has organized social functions such as the bonfires and also arranged the recent, very memorable tribute to Eric Watson.

Trevor has been on the committee for one year and has done a fantastic amount of work, including sourcing a second hand shed and using his considerable contacts to obtain great rates for the electrical connection to the slabbing saw. Trevor is always a busy helpful person, both to members and non members alike. He has taken paid jobs home when time has not been available at the shed.

Brian announced at a previous members' meeting that he will not be standing again. He has been spending a significant amount of time each week, almost every day, at the shed on various activities and wishes to scale back a bit. However, as a qualified cabinet maker, he will continue to teach new members woodcrafting at a very high level. He will also be continuing to manage our paid jobs program. Thanks again to each of you.

Membership growth

While it is expected that some members will not, for various reasons, renew their membership in the new membership year commencing on 1 October, it is expected that sufficient new members will join over the coming months to maintain current membership levels. We have 98 financial members, up from 68 as at 28 February, the time when members' insurance is paid to AMSA. This would mean membership numbers next year should be at least reasonably consistent with this year. **Cont'd over**

President's report continued ...

I wish to emphasise that the Committee is committed to actively managing the level of membership to ensure the shed's objectives of mutual respect, encouragement and nurture are met. It is critically important that the shed remains a place of friendship and support as well as an opportunity for personal achievement and growth. It is equally important that the Committee continues to manage effectively and I, as your President, am highly confident that will continue, given the attributes of the members who have nominated for the Committee.

With the large membership we currently enjoy, it is also more important than ever that we look for social and other opportunities, including such things as committee advisory groups, special interest subgroups etc, to build on personal interests and experiences. Many hands make light work and the shed is fortunate to have the wealth of people resources that are available.

Membership fees The Committee is recommending that fees remain unchanged at \$40 per year and \$5 per week. Previously the latter fee was \$2 per visit. Membership attendance is very strong: we are getting 65-72 attendances at the shed each week which generally involves around 25-32 individuals. We keep both sets of statistics because the AMSA insurance levy is based on the number of paid up members, and their grants take into account the number of individuals attending the shed, as well as the number of attendances. Setting fees on a weekly basis rather than an attendance basis is seen as a fair approach given those members who come along several times a week are, in most cases, contributing more to shed projects.

Timing of Committee meetings Meetings of the Committee have for many years been held outside the shed operating hours. A member has suggested that changing the time of meetings could help more members stand for the committee. The incoming committee will consider future timing of the meetings when it meets in July.

This newsletter is compiled by volunteer Julie Nicholson from information provided by me. It requires quite a bit of time and effort, but we see it as a critical communication tool for the Woodshed, and also a great record of our activities though the year and as evidence of our operations when making grant applications. There is a suggestion box available in the kitchen where members can leave ideas for inclusion in the newsletter, or you can give a note to any of the Committee members.

ERIC MARCH, Woodshed President

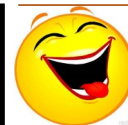
RESULTS OF MAY GENERAL MEETING

The 20 or so members present at the May General Meeting discussed the amendments proposed for the constitution and after some discussion agreed to them. Issues raised were:

- The need to increase the number of members on the Committee.
- The inclusion of mental health and wellbeing in the objects of the Constitution.

Committee members emphasised that there would be no change to how the shed has operated these last 18 years. The shed has a well-known reputation for welcoming all-comers, and encouraging members to share knowledge and experiences in a casual and friendly manner.

An unintended consequence of this 'culture' was a positive contribution to members' wellbeing. As a new member recently put it when leaving the shed, 'Well that lifts the spirits a bit!' Other similar benefits cannot be detailed here without being personal. The point is, the shed will be well recognised and will benefit from including a recognition of these serendipitous benefits in our constitution.



On a lighter note

Last Wednesday (23/6/21) the 10:30 Brew Break got around to talking about Sleep Apnea machines and the benefit to the partner. One member said that his wife was tested and found to stop breathing something like 20 times a night. He said that when she started breathing again the sudden sound would wake him with a start.

A new member politely said his wife has a Sleep Apnea machine, but told him that she still wakes up with a jerk.

JUNE COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Member confidentiality: The Committee has a policy that no personal information of members will be made available to anyone outside the Committee except with the consent of the member concerned. This policy was confirmed at the June Committee meeting. In line with this, the membership reports made available at each Committee meeting will only contain a phone number and email address for each member, to enable members to be contacted if needed.

Delegations: It is intended to recommend to the incoming Committee that a member of that Committee accept responsibility for specific continuing functions around the shed such as grounds maintenance, machinery maintenance, membership records and management (to support the Treasurer), development of a policy manual, arranging building improvements, and business planning.

In addition, it has been agreed to delegate selected Committee tasks to members outside the committee. John Owen, John True and others have helped Ken knight maintain machines in the workshop, and more help is needed. Social functions will be coordinated by Bob Pritchard. Noelene Rose has also indicated she will take up some projects. Membership support will probably need to be spread across several people. Note however that membership management is one responsibility which, for confidentiality purposes, will not be delegated outside the committee. With so many members, we have a huge resource of skills and experience and the Committee is keen to tap into this.



Exit interviews: The Committee has considered a suggestion that we use exit interviews for members leaving the organisation, or not renewing, as this feedback is important for continuing to improve our operations and services. Of course, feedback from any member at any time is welcomed, encouraged and will be treated confidentially. The Community Shed, the modern Men's Shed, is a self help voluntary club with very limited obligations imposed on membership. Nevertheless, we have to take care to maintain our success.

TAFE course – Flexible Learning Options: The Committee has agreed that the shed facilities be made available for the *Construction II in Building Work* TAFE course which is part of the Department of Education's Flexible Learning Program. The program involves up to 10 people aged between 15-20 years and is currently based at the Strathalbyn Football Oval clubrooms. However, they don't have the necessary space or equipment there so it has been agreed they can use the shed's facilities on a trial basis for one term commencing in August. The situation will be assessed after that. Anthony Rice and Eric March will be responsible for these arrangements.

OHS: Peter Broadbridge reported that no occupational health and safety issues were recorded in the past month. Peter does a great job of managing OHS with safe practice standards and Tony Corenzo delivers a safety course for new members. We have run a very safe shed for 18 or so years and aim to continue to do so.



Shared skills: The shed was originally established to provide educational services to the local high school and to Community Living Australia (CLA then called CLASS). That was in 2003 and was based around four Wednesday afternoons at the beginning of each school term. Due to the change in our insurance company and circumstances of our membership, there have not been sufficient members to support the program. The shed is now very busy supporting new members, paid jobs and other work in and around the shed, and consequently the committee has reluctantly decided to put this project on hold for the first time in 18 years. However, it will be considered again in six months' time.



Finances: There is \$11,600 in the shed account as at 15 June 2021 and 98 paid up members.

PAID JOBS

We recently halved a number of **wine barrels for Rotary** as a paid job. Rotary has donated \$200 for this work and \$100 for 6 posts for the wood curing shed we intend to build at the rear of the shed, using FLO students in a TAFE program.



Reindeer project Last year the shed made a profit of \$3,000 from sale of wooden reindeer and production is about to start for the coming Christmas. Brian Muffet is sorting out the component parts.

We have seven completed reindeers and these are ready to be flat packed and bagged up for distribution.

Thursday mornings have been set aside for members to help. Lewis Dean is organising sales of reindeers this year and **offers of help** can be made to him on **0488 051 615**. The email for reindeer orders is: StrathWoodshedSales@gmail.com (capitals are important). Lewis will maintain the records and all aspects except the advertising.



Photo: Brian Marr sorting reindeer parts.

Promotions help needed please!

We also need a couple of people who can publicise fundraising products on the internet, develop catalogues etc. Brian Muffet will manage the manufacturing. There is also a need for computer literate members to help with the record keeping. Good record keeping is essential for success in grant applications. Please contact Eric if you have an interest in any of these roles. The more hands, the lighter the workload!



The agenda, minutes and financial reports for each Committee meeting are made available to members each month to promote transparency and encourage input from all members.

Size does matter

Members are encouraged to work on a variety of their own projects, however we ask that you bear in mind our limited storage capacity.

Small items can be kept on site in the pigeon holes but we request that larger items (e.g. tables) be kept off site when they are not being worked on. Thank you for your cooperation!

DESPERATELY SEEKING SPONSORS

The new shed extension is critical for our future operations but we cannot meet the cost within our own resources. Members are urged to consider sources of donations and sponsorships in our community and beyond to make this project a reality. If you know of a potential sponsor, please mention this to one of the Committee members.



Colin Townley, professional photographer and member, provides the photographs in this newsletter.

www.evermorephotographics.com.au/

Phone 0424 150 755



WEEKLY CHARGE

The committee is very conscious of avoiding the shed being a money making organisation rather than a place to socialise over a tea or coffee, shoot the breeze and make sawdust.

Our membership fees are kept as affordable as possible and do not cover shed and kitchen consumables. Previously the shed charged \$2 for a cup of tea and a biscuit and did not provide any consumables such as glue, sand paper, nails and screws, etc.

As at 15 June 2021, weekly attendance contributions had raised \$6,625, while costs stood at \$5,527 (consisting of kitchen \$2,083, cleaning \$670 and consumables \$2,774). None of these costs previously occurred at anywhere near these levels.

For this reason, the attendance fee should not be considered 'tea money', but a very moderate contribution for not having to provide materials individually.

Regular fundraisers will also help pay for the 'bits and bobs' that incessantly need to be paid for and also help keep subscriptions to a minimum. We are trialing paid lunches, and looking at options such as wine clubs, more Bunnings sausage sizzles, and of course continued paid work.

Please support these events as often as you can. Suggestions for fundraising and/or offers to organize events are very welcome.

Don't be a tool!

A few important reminders for members:

- ◆ Please take care of the shed tools and machines and use them only for the appropriate purpose to avoid damage and costly repairs/replacement.
- ◆ The Tormek machine is strictly only to be used by those who have undertaken the appropriate training.
- ◆ Our policy is that two people minimum must be in the shed at any one time, including a duty officer (no working alone in the shed please, for your own safety).
- ◆ Use your PPE (personal protection equipment) to help stay safe in in the shed.
- ◆ 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 morning program of tea breaks is in place to help ensure a supportive and friendly environment, so please participate in the spirit intended.

DIABETES SA

As we know, diabetes is an increasingly common disease around the world, particularly in older men.

Diabetes SA will visit the shed on **7 July** to distribute a lifestyle questionnaire to help members determine if they are at risk of this condition.

Diabetes is definitely preventable but early action is needed, so get on board with this valuable opportunity.

Oops!

Bill Kent needed to buy an item for the CNC Router presently being installed. He used a shed credit card. Around the same time Bill and Jana moved house, and Bill couldn't find the credit card to return it. He advised that it was probably in one of the 23 cartons still to be unpacked but there was no choice—the card had to be cancelled.

Sure enough it was found in one of the boxes when it was unpacked some two weeks later.



The AGM will be held on Wednesday, 14 July 2021 at 9.00am at the Woodshed.

Draft resolutions for the AGM are now available on the website:

<http://strathwoodshed.org.au/>

Click on **MEMBER DOCUMENTS**. You should see this screen.



Use Google Chrome because not all browsers will open the files.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REMINDER

STRATHALBYN WOOD CRAFT GROUP INC

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Meeting 26/5/21	Alterations to Constitution	Download Current Constitution
Charity Website	Annual reports	https://www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities/annual-information-statement
Change re audit	Constitution change re Auditor	constitutionchangereauditor.pdf
Charitable Status	Constitution Change Re Charitable Status	constitutionchangerecharitablestatus.pdf
Membership of Committee	Constitutional Change re Maximum Number of members on Committee	constitutionchangerecommitteemembership.pdf



MATES HELPING MATES

Here is David Patterson with Joe Golden by Joe's new shed at his home. David helped to erect the shed on 20 June. Mary made a donation which, although unnecessary, was gratefully accepted. Mary and Joe do the shopping for the shed kitchen and clean the shed every month.



David also recently helped member Kerry Cross make and install a stunning new mantelpiece in her home. It is great to see our members helping each other out in this way.

