



Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc.
Sawdust & Shavings
November 2021 Newsletter

President's report

The end of the year is fast approaching but we have a lot going on between now and Christmas.



Shed improvements – we have invested \$2585 for engineering plans that will comply with the Building Act for use when we make application for approval to build. In the meantime, the committee meeting on 14 September decided there should be an advisory group to prepare ideas for consideration by the members if we receive a significant donation, and options if we don't. The advisory group was open to all members of the committee and the following members have attended: Anthony Rice, Peter Broadbridge, Frank Chapman, Ken Knight, John Owen, Bob Pritchard and myself.

The advisory group is very helpful in sorting through detail that the committee does not have time to do at its monthly meeting. The advisory group has already set out some general principles, with storage and removal of some machines out of the workshop a priority. It is preparing recommendations based around a small metalwork space sufficient for light work only and work that relates to woodwork projects. Starting small will allow time to assess the effectiveness and need for metalwork activities at the Shed. The advisory group will develop a more detailed proposal when the engineering plans are received, and there will be a general meeting of members to discuss the proposals in due course.

The advisory group is considering an extension of the building of some three metres into the carpark at the front for expanded tearoom facilities. One car park will need to be sacrificed to accommodate this.

Charity status – the application for charity status and tax deductible gift status (enabling donations to the Shed to be claimed as tax deductions by the donors) has been completed and was submitted to the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission on 28 September 2021.

Finance – we have invested \$8,000 (for building improvements and other anticipated expenses) leaving \$4,000 in our cheque account. As mentioned above, the Committee will be seeking to build at least some shed expansion, even if we fail to achieve any large donation. Members will be consulted about any proposed improvements.

Upcoming events

30 October Garage sale at the Shed

27 November Christmas party

30 November Diabetes Screening follow up session

8 December Next Shed working bee



Compulsory COVID-19 vaccination – the committee has been asked to consider whether we should require all persons at the Shed to be vaccinated against COVID -19. Vaccination doesn't prevent the spread of the virus, but it reduces the risk of serious illness and hospitalisation. The question for consideration is whether the management committee is failing in its duty of care to members if unvaccinated persons are permitted at the Shed. The other question is whether we are at risk of voiding our insurance policy if we permit unvaccinated persons in the Shed. Advice will be sought from AMSA and members will be kept informed on this issue.

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President's report continued ...

Asset register - Noelene Rose and Ken Knight are reviewing the asset register (needed for insurance and other purposes). This is a big exercise and their effort is very much appreciated.

New members – We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Shed:

Lisa Kerslake	07/06/2021	Julie Watts	17/07/2021
Michael Clarke	21/06/2021	Phill Martin	19/08/2021
Peter Carey	23/06/2021	Al Mills	03/09/2021
Ruth Creedy	10/07/2021	Richard Carter	22/09/2021
Heather McDonald	10/07/2021		

Christmas party - Please email your intention to attend asap, preferably before the end of October, to assist with planning. Payment is needed by 5 November. Refunds will be made up until 18 November if you are unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances.

Finally, don't forget to promote our Shed Garage Sale on Saturday 30 October, and happy crafting!

Eric March

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.

SHOP SALES

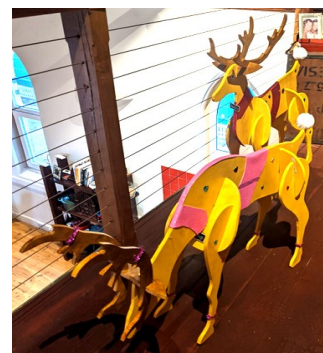
One of our major sources of income is the sale of wooden Christmas trees, reindeer, sleighs, bird boxes and goose nesting boxes, lovingly made by our members for sale to the community.

Please support the Shed and promote these products amongst your friends . Flyers are available if you know of someone who may be interested or to place on local notice boards and in retail outlets etc. Prices are:

- Christmas trees—\$200
- Sleighs—\$300
- Reindeer—\$40 (small) or \$70 (large)
- Bird boxes—generally \$20—\$50 depending on size
- Goose nesting boxes—\$25.

These are great around your home and make wonderful gifts. Orders can be placed with Lewis Dean on phone 0488 051 615 or by emailing strathwoodshedsales@gmail.com

A related issue: A lack of wood supply has affected the cost of reindeer, sleighs and Christmas trees. The sheets of marine plywood we use are no longer available from our usual supplier, and when we have been able to find an alternative supply, the sheets cost more than 25% extra. Australian Timbers has now agreed to supply Men's Sheds in Australia with plywood made to British Standards at less than trade prices. In addition, much of it is produced domestically, which is a more reliable source compared to overseas suppliers.



MEMBER PROJECTS

Trevor Haldane replaced the handles on this early 1900's sack truck (pictured at right). The handles are teak carved by Trevor from wood supplied by the owner.



Meanwhile, Heather McDonald has been making Bonsai miniature tables, doing flower arrangements and making small boxes. This is Heather's first attempt at a box, with dovetail corners, tongue and groove base and rebated firm fitted lid which was made from scrap pine from the wood store. Heather stained the box and was very pleased with the feedback from her fellow workworkers. Trevor Haldane suggested to Heather that she should now find some better-quality wood in the store room and repeat the project and finally do one out of walnut, merbau and mahogany. Fine finishes are only achieved by practice and experience, and Heather's manual art skills certainly reflect her potential for producing fine work.



Ole! John Owen makes tortilla presses for sale. The presses are food grade made from hardwood, glue and stainless-steel fittings. While the presses regularly sell for up to for \$500, John is making them available to members at \$100 each, which he then generously donates to the Shed. Please support our Woodshed by purchasing a press if you can. Five have already been sold, resulting in a \$500 donation to the Shed. Thank you very much, John, this is greatly appreciated.



BLAST VADER FACE MASKS

We have three Blast Vader Face Masks with mouth protection still available for sale at \$45 each. This is cost price and saves a trip to town. New stock is retailing for \$50 with future price rises possible. Excellent protection.



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.

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.

HORIZONTAL BAND SAW



Just failed my driving test. When the examiner asked me "what sign would you expect to see down a narrow country road?" Apparently 'fresh eggs for sale' wasn't the answer...



Last year, a local benefactor who wished to remain anonymous, donated the money for a horizontal band saw for the Shed.

It was converted to electricity from the intended petrol engine. Safe Operating Procedures have been approved, and several members trained.

Brian Muffet, Trevor Haldane and Anthony Rice have slabbed a large supply

of slabs from local trees and after a year or two of curing will be quite valuable, given the rapidly diminishing supply of quality wood around the world.

PHOTO: Brian Muffet and Trevor Haldane.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE - TRUE SHED STORIES

A new member was keen to learn and took some books home from the Shed library. They subsequently returned the books and was down by the library flipping through another publication. Another member (who shall remain nameless) walked into the lunch room and saw the researcher in the passage near the library shelves and the toilets, and quipped: 'We do have proper toilet paper you know!' Everyone cracked up.

On a separate occasion, several female nurses from Diabetes SA were conducting a screening session at the Shed when one of our members walked in, and said loudly, "Hello, Hello. What do we do here? Drop our dacks and cough?". Fortunately the nurses had a sense of humour!



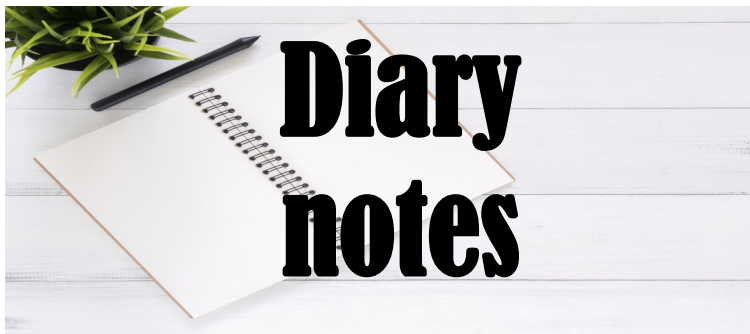
Here is a picture of Anthony Rice looking down his nose having just been told he was worth half his weight in gold for being such a cheerful and encouraging member.

What do you mean, half?

REMINDERS

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.



Diabetes Screening follow up session

A follow up to the September Diabetes SA screening session is planned for:

Tuesday 30 November 10am-12noon

Diabetes SA staff will be available to meet with members to discuss their results.

**Membership Subs
were due on 30 September
If you have not yet paid,
do it now!**

Bank transfer details are:

BSB 085-921 Acc No: 7050 88 655

Account Name: Strathalbyn Wood Craft
Group Inc

Please add your surname + initials as a
reference.



Woodshed Christmas Party

When? Saturday 27 November 6.30 for 7pm

Where? Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre, 6 Parker Ave

Cost? \$45 pp for a four course meal by Chef Julie Blue. BYO drinks.

Please RSVP asap. Payment due by 5 November. EFT: BSB 085-921 Acc No: 7050 88 655

(Account Name Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc. Add your surname + initials as a reference.)

Refunds will be made for cancellations made prior to 18 November.

PROPOSED MENU

Mains and desserts will be alternate drop. Please advise asap if you have any special dietary requirements.

ANTIPASTO PLATTERS

Poached asparagus, spiced beetroot dip, lemon and thyme marinated feta, cold meats,
marinated mushrooms and Bakehouse Ciabatta bread

MAINS

Crispy Skin Roasted Chicken Kiev served with Roasted Potatoes, Steamed Seasonal Vegetables & Rich Gravy

Or

Roasted Eye Fillet of Beef served with Roasted Potatoes, Steamed Seasonal Vegetables & Rich Gravy

All main meals served with warmed bread rolls and butter

SOMETHING SWEET

Individual Plum Puddings with Brandied Custard and Cream

Or

Fresh Fruit Salad with Vanilla Ice-cream and Cream

TO FINISH

Selection of Farmhouse Cheeses served with Olives, Fresh and Dried Fruits, Grissini and Crackers
Tea and Coffee

NEW MEMBER: PHILL MARTIN

Phill lived in Adelaide where he had a butcher's shop for 27 years. He and his wife, Connie, both retired when they were 48 and subsequently moved to Milang.

Phill has been interested in woodwork for the past 40 years and over the last 30 years he has been making furniture and selling it at the Goolwa Wharf Market, in addition to making furniture for himself and for family. His shed is set up with all the equipment he needs although he enjoys coming to the Strathalbyn Woodshed to do some of his work and meet other woodcraft enthusiasts. For Phill, his shed is a place where he feels very much at peace, which to him is very important.

Phill says he finds it very rewarding to take an old piece of wood and turn it into something you can use.

He has recently set up one of the Woodshed dovetail jigs to do blind dovetails e.g. like those usually seen on a drawer where the dovetails are not visible from the front but only seen from the side when the drawer is open. This is a fabulous facility for the Shed to now have – thanks Phill.



NEW MEMBER: JULIE WATTS

Julie Watts was born at Stirling and attended Unley High School in Adelaide. She has lived in many locations in South Australia, and also in Sydney for a short period.

Julie was a member of the Southern Turners group (with whom she won their 2017 Encouragement Award), and a member of the Glandore Community Woodwork Shed in Adelaide.

Julie eventually lobbied in Bull Creek and built a house there. Communications are a bit limited from her home - no email and almost no mobile access – but it is a lovely part of the Fleurieu and Hills area.

Julie is a descendant of the Watts family, of Watts Brick Kilns at Torrens Valley. The Watts family came to South Australia in 1836 and have been making bricks for over 145 years. The kilns are still there but are currently unused.

Julie's first woodwork teacher was her father, having spent a lot of time with him in his shed. Julie annoyed her Dad with questions from the day she could walk. Julie's Mum did not enjoy great health and so Julie spent most of her time outdoors, with the animals or in the shed with her Dad. He was a perfectionist, and this seems to have rubbed off on Julie's woodwork too.



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: Tony Carengo Treasurer: Shaun Singleton