



Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc.

Sawdust & Shavings

June 2022 Newsletter

President's report

Winter has certainly arrived although I notice there are a few trees around town holding on to their autumn colour. We do live in a beautiful place although sometimes we need to slow down and take the time to appreciate it.

The **Open Day** on 15 May was an outstanding success and very well attended. The displays looked fantastic and really reflected the breadth of projects and talent at the Shed. Many thanks to Heather, Ruth and the team, and to everyone who helped on the day, for your hard work in putting on such a professional event. Check out the photos on pages 9 and 10.



Upcoming events

Garage Sale
Saturday 2 July

AGM
Wednesday 13 July

Next Social Day
lunch
Monday 29 August

Building extension update: The proposal for a modified septic installation to support the proposed shed extension has been endorsed by Alexandrina Council, and the Committee will now proceed to apply for the necessary State government and Council approvals for work commence in the new financial year.

Publicity/branding: We have a widely recognised badge and part of this is the thistle logo. Richard Carter has now designed a stylised thistle which can be cut out with the router so we can place the logo on items manufactured by the Shed.

June Committee meeting: This month the Committee will be considering what recommendation to make to the July AGM on the level of subscriptions. See the item on page 3 which deals with this matter and how you can have your say.

Finance: We have \$13,000 invested which will be rolled over in the next few weeks. There is further \$2900 in the working account.

Government grants: The \$3300 we received in grant funding in late 2021 has been acquitted. The funding was for two computers, one to drive the CNC router and one being a high-performance large screen computer for CAD work which is now being used by a number of members to design projects for the router. These computers also allow people who, for whatever reason, may not be able to use hand tools to craft items to instead create pieces using the router. This will also make the production of wooden reindeer simpler and quicker, and will enable us to look at other products, with one suggestion being "olde world" style signs for Strathalbyn's High Street (a tourist area with a very long Scottish heritage). This grant funding has greatly enhanced our operations and what we can offer members.

Continued on page 2

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 Peramangk 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: Vacant Secretary: Neil Pokoney

Treasurer: Shaun Singleton



President's report *continued...*

Paid Jobs: John Owen is now looking after our paid jobs program and has developed a stock control procedure for this purpose. John has also been promoting our products on social media and this has worked a treat as we now have around \$2000 worth of goods to produce in the next few weeks. We expect the trend to continue, including meeting the ongoing demand for our wooden reindeer and Christmas trees. These sales are very gratifying as initially we were unsure about whether there would be ongoing demand for these products.

Machinery repairs: Ken Knight continues to do a great job maintaining the Shed machinery for us. Installation of new cutters on the routers (at a cost of \$500) involved quite a time commitment from Ken who is very skilled at this work and obviously enjoys it (most of the time anyway!).

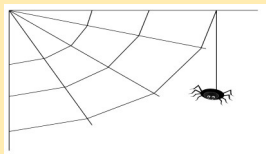
New Members: I am very pleased to welcome new members Elyse and Ruth Johnson (both from the Friday Home Schooling Tech Course managed by James Leigh), Anthony Williams, Yesamma Hendry, Linda Knights, Pamela Bailey, Trevor Hatwell, Jayne Nancarrow and James Peberdy.

Get well soon wishes: **Allen Anderson** is currently in Calvary Hospital having broken his leg last weekend; he had an operation on Sunday to put a plate in the femur. **Bob Pritchard** is in RAH this week due to his oxygen levels being too low. He said he feels so much better now it is being addressed. We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to both Allen and Bob. If members know of people connected to the Shed who are off-colour, please let us know and if appropriate we can include a note in the newsletter so others know.

Enjoy this edition of the newsletter and, as always, happy shedding.

Eric March

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



It's on the website!

Past copies of the
newsletter are available on
our website
strathwoodshed.org.au

Also anyone interested in
the Woodshed can now
register their interest, fill
out the application form or
just sign up for our
newsletter via the website.
Simply click on "Join Us"

**Let your friends and
contacts know!**



Alan Mills has been a member since September 2021 and in this time has contributed considerable delight and humour around the Shed.

Alan has been creating turned wooden pieces for almost 30 years and, together with Charles Greig, runs sessions to teach turning to members.

Alan is also well known for his wood puzzles and here is one of his latest challenges where you must solve the puzzle before you can open the bottle of wine!

It is understood that when Alan recently tested this puzzle on a few Shed members, they were unsuccessful in working out how to release the locking mechanism over the cap of the bottle, so it turned out to be a dry argument.

By the way, if you've spotted Alan's bandaged finger, he assures us that it is not necessary to injure yourself to solve the puzzle.

Setting subscription fees for 2022/23 – have your say

The agenda for the June Committee meeting includes considering the level of subscriptions for next year.

The process for setting subs involves the Committee considering all relevant factors and making a recommendation to the AGM in July. This year, those factors include the following:

- We have a large range of quality and well-maintained equipment so there is little cost pressure in this area.
- The \$5 per week attendance fee adequately covers the cost of consumables, assuming no significant change to usage levels.
- The income from paid jobs and fundraising covers the usual \$2,000 per year for Shed operational costs.
- Electricity is provided by our solar panels so, although power prices are increasing, we do not expect to experience a cost increase in this area.
- Next year we will be registered for GST which will require us to pay 10% of our subscriptions receipts to the Tax Office. To avoid eroding subs receipts, the Committee will be considering a proposal to increase subs by 10% to accommodate the GST costs.
- If the Committee decides to subscribe to the NBN, this will cost \$800 per year. A decision is needed as to how this might be funded. If funded from subscriptions, an increase in subs of around \$10 per member would likely be needed.



Your comment on the level of subscription fees is welcome so the Committee can take this into account in making its recommendation to the AGM. You can email your views to president@strathwoodshed.org.au, make your views known to any of the Committee members, and/or contact Eric March about attending the Committee meeting at **7pm on Tuesday 14 June**.



A plea: Help needed in the Shed please!

Around the Shed: We are looking for members to help with jobs around the Shed such as keeping the place clean and tidy, and assisting Peter Ancell and Barry Marr to maintain the garden and grounds, We also need at least one duty officer at every session of the Shed (preferably two) which basically involves being the first point of contact should any questions arise, and either assisting members directly or referring questions and issues to relevant officer. If you feel you can help out, please speak with one of the Committee members or with Peter or Barry in relation to grounds maintenance.

Mentoring: We have quite a number of members who are experienced in various skills, trades and disciplines but we need a person to coordinate those members and organise training sessions from time to time, noting that new members require at least an hour or two of induction training. None of these jobs need be difficult or time-consuming but we need the involvement of more members please.

Contact one of the Committee members if you can help with any of these tasks.

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 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.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Brian Muffet

Brian was raised in northwest New South Wales and left school at the age of 14 to take up an apprenticeship in cabinet making and joinery. On completion of his five-year apprenticeship, he worked in cottage building and construction and in 1960 moved from the country to the city, working in Wollongong in joinery and later in building.

In 1963-64, Brian spent 18 months in the highlands of Papua New Guinea sawmilling, building and furnishing a Mission school.

Brian moved back to Wollongong and was married in 1967. They had four children: Suzanne, Janelle, Leanne and Paul.

Brian took up growing Australian native plants as a hobby and got hooked on their propagation and cultivation. He moved to Nowra in NSW to an acreage to expand his plant growing area and built his own house there to cater for his growing family.

Brian was quickly gaining a passion for the propagation of Australian plants and soon achieved some successes that attracted the attention of the Curator of the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra. That led to a job offer at the Botanic Gardens and a change in vocation.

The family moved to Canberra in 1971 and Brian enrolled in a Horticulture Degree as a requirement of his new employment. While studying, he rose through the ranks and eventually became head of the Propagation Unit at the National Botanic Gardens.

Brian qualified as a Horticulturalist specialising in Australian native plants and it was during this time that he became very interested in the potential of Australian flora for use in the florist industry. At this time, the use of Australian flowers in the flower trade was being tried on a limited scale so in 1976 Brian decided to move to South Australia to join a Millicent farmer who was a pioneer in the cultivation of selected Australian flowers, primarily banksias. Brian worked with him advancing the industry, growing flowers at Carey Gully in the Adelaide Hills and at Mt Compass, and together they sold through the Flower Stall at the western end of Rundle Mall. Brian also managed the Stall for five years in the 1980s.

Brian's production had slowly increased, and he sought other markets, selling directly into Sydney and exporting to Japan. This continued until 2003, when he stopped growing flowers himself and took up a role overseeing the establishment of a flower farm for an Adelaide lawyer.



Brian with Trevor Haldane



Brian and Mary moved to Strathalbyn in 1995 and Brian planted two hectares of a range of different Mallees not far from the local racecourse. Few Mallees had been introduced to the flower trade at that point and Brian wanted to experiment with this species. An accident caused him to stop growing and selling, and he retired in 2006, spending his time tending to the property.

Brian joined the Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group in 2018 and began to recall some of the skills he learned as an apprentice many years prior. He says his passion for wood and all its uses, smells, infinite differences and characters is a lifelong affliction. He served on the Woodshed committee for two years.

Brian and Mary downsized their property in June 2019 and now live in Strathalbyn township. Brian says his health has slowed him down and that his skeleton has not kept pace with his brain. He likes to spend time in his little shed making small items. He says he will endeavour to continue his membership of the Woodshed for as long as he can. He will also continue to enjoy being happily married, a proud father, grandfather and soon a great grandfather!



A generous gesture

Members Ruth Creedy and Heather McDonald recently surprised President Eric March with a cheque donation to the Woodshed.

Ruth and Heather donate to charities each year, and the Woodshed is a fortunate recipient this year.

President Eric said, "Not only did Ruth and Heather contribute untold hours, both at the Shed and at their home workshop, to design and build the Open Day display, but they paid for all the material used. On top of that they made a generous donation in the form of a cheque, presented to me at the Woodshed."

"The artistic presentation skills of these two people are quite extraordinary, and their work for the Open Day just amazed fellow members."

There are many people (members and otherwise) who support the Shed in all kinds of ways, and we take this opportunity to extend appreciative thanks to you all for helping the Woodshed make a difference in our community.



To help with the new extension and with thanks to all for the help and pleasure you have all given us both.
Ruth & Heather.

Centrelink Job Seeker volunteers soon for Woodshed

Not-for-profit organisations may register with Centrelink to offer volunteer mutual obligation work opportunities for persons receiving the Job Seeker payment.

The Woodshed has applied for registration with Centrelink for this purpose as we are aware of several people who are interested in volunteering for the Shed to meet their Job Seeker obligations.

This is a win-win situation allowing people to contribute their skills, gain experience and provide a service to the community while helping the operations of the Woodshed.

Test your South Aussie knowledge

1. Women in SA were permitted to stand for State Parliament elections and were given the same voting rights as men in which year?
2. In 1842, Edward Burton Gleeson named which SA town after his ancestral county home in Ireland?
3. In 1906 SA's first uranium mine was opened where?
4. What is the name of the historic transport line which runs between Quorn and Port Augusta?
5. The South Australian Film Corporation was established by Premier Don Dunstan in which year?

See page 8 for answers



Introducing our Membership Officer

Richard Carter has kindly agreed to take on the role of Membership Officer for the Shed.

All membership application forms should be given to Richard who will talk to prospective new members to make sure we understand their requirements and can meet their wishes as far as possible.

Richard will also do his best to introduce new members to Duty Officers and other members, but of course can't cover this 100% of the time, so he asks all members to take the initiative to make themselves known to new members.

Richard will also liaise with Trevor Kuchel, Joe Golden and others to help with ideas for attracting new members and supporting the membership generally.

Richard has a talent to support people and is keen to honour our catchphrase 'Respect, Encourage and Nurture'. As a relatively new member himself, Richard says he greatly appreciates all the support you can give him in this role.



Call for 2022/23 Committee nominations

We will shortly be calling for nominations for next year's Shed Committee with the deadline for nominations being 12 noon on Wednesday 29 June 2022.

We are seeking nominations for all Committee positions

Under the Shed's constitution, all of the positions on the Committee become vacant each year except for half of the four-person executive where the positions are served for two years.

This year, however, nominations will also need to be called for the two positions on the executive which would have normally been carried over (Vice-President and Secretary), as they became vacant during the past year. While Neil Pokoney generously stepped into the Secretary position when it became vacant, the position now needs to be formally filled, along with the Vice-President position.

Please consider whether you are willing to be nominated for a Committee position. We are now a charity registered with the Tax Office and have OH&S responsibilities to our insurance company, so we need a certain amount of "people power" to maintain good records in relation to these functions. Having said that, we also strive to minimise unnecessary paperwork and processes and to keep tasks as simple and streamlined as possible.

We need at least eight people on the committee not only for well-informed discussion and decision-making, but also to act as communication channels between the membership and the committee.

Spreading and sharing the workload

We are trying hard to share and lighten workloads without asking people to do more than they are comfortable with. In particular we are aiming to distribute the workload of the Secretary and Treasurer across a number of people. This also has the advantage of creating some redundancy in terms of experience.

We have a large number of active members and this creates a certain amount of office work so please consider how you may be able to provide some support to the Woodshed's operations, in whatever form suits you.



AMSA's Shed podcasts with John Paul Young

The Shed Wireless is a podcast produced by the Australian Men's Shed Association and hosted by John Paul Young.

Tune into current and past episodes of The Shed Wireless at mensshed.org/theshedwireless



Ruth Creedy recently made these stunning enameled jewellery boxes which were on display at last month's Open Day

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Frank Chapman

Frank was born in Southampton, Hampshire, England in 1944. He was the baby of the family with a 17-year-old brother in the Royal Navy, a 14-year-old sister training to be a nanny and a three-year-old brother. Frank was introduced to gardening at a young age by his father who had a large allotment and Frank enjoyed helping him, not to mention climbing the massive oak tree alongside the stream that ran by the plot.



Frank attended a Secondary Modern Craft School where he excelled at woodwork. He went on to college and later enrolled with the Institute of Quantity Surveyors (IQS). Meanwhile he was employed by a local general construction contractor that was involved in the construction and conversion of Public Houses and of Ministry of Works establishments, school buildings and domestic maintenance and general repairs. He worked in all the departments and this, together with his IQS studies, greatly enhanced his understanding of the construction industry. Frank later became a Builder's Surveyor with the company. It was while working there that he fell for a young lady named Jackie who he had to introduce to the old telephone system.



Upon becoming engaged to Jackie in 1967, Frank figured he needed to increase his income if they were to take on a mortgage and live a reasonable life. He hunted around for a new job and eventually started with a multi-million-pound National Contractor with a base in Salisbury, Wiltshire but which later relocated to Southampton. Frank started as an estimator, moving up the ranks to become the Commercial Director of the Southern Area including the London Area.

Frank married Jackie in 1969 and in 1972 their son Matthew was born followed by their daughter Kathryn (Kate) in 1974.

In his Commercial Director role, Frank had six heads of departments, each one responsible for Estimating, Purchasing and Surveying in each base with their own team of professional staff. They worked closely with the construction, financial and legal teams and enjoyed a run of successful contracts. This success was noticed by a major National and International Group which subsequently took them over. Unfortunately, the new management set totally unrealistic targets which resulted in severe strain on the group, ultimately resulting in Frank and the company parting ways.

In searching for a new position, Frank attended several interviews in London but, even at a youthful 54, he was considered too old, or the position did not fit. He ended up taking a job as a Marketing Manager for a small structural engineering contractor located near Southampton at a greatly reduced salary and no perks but with much less stress.

Ironically Frank's new employer was engaged by his previous one on a large refurbishment project in central London involving a complex stainless steel and glass walkway. There were delays by other parties which resulted in his company's sub-contract running late, with a threat of legal proceedings by his former employer. Frank together with the company partners gathered evidence for an arbitration appeal, and he derived great satisfaction when the protagonist came back and agreed to everything that they had asked for. Not only that, the two companies continue to have a productive relationship to this day.



During all this, daughter Kate had met an Australian lad, Paul, who had persuaded her to join him over here. So, in 1999, Kate left the UK to live in Adelaide, and later moved to Strathalbyn. Frank and Jackie flew over each year to visit and came to love Strathalbyn as it has similarities with the little town of Romsey near their old home in the UK. Kate married Paul in 2004 and soon produced Frank and Jackie's first grandson.

Frank and Jackie decided to move over here and set about the complex (and expensive) process of obtaining visas to become Australian citizens, eventually leaving the UK in 2009 with their son. They purchased a lot on the Hampden Park estate in Strathalbyn and eventually had their home built.

Frank and Jackie soon joined the local Garden Club where Frank met Ron Smith who introduced him to the old Woodshed in about November 2012. Frank obtained his Induction Certificate on 27 August 2013, thanks to the guidance of Colin Goodrich.

After a time, Frank accepted an appointment as a non-voting member of the Section 41 Woodshed Committee as originally constituted by Alexandrina Council. Frank found it interesting to be part of this process and to compare it with his experiences in the UK. Things moved on and Frank joined the committee and was asked if he would assume responsibility for the negotiations with Council for the lease for the new Woodshed building. And so started a long period of meetings, correspondence, discussions with the members etc, which eventually led to the agreement to establish the new Woodshed and a new era for the Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Diary notes



Fundraiser Shed Garage Sale

Saturday 2 July

Peter Ancell and his usual team are gathering tools and items for the Garage Sale on Saturday 2 July. This will include tools and donated equipment no longer required and which is currently taking up space at the Shed.

2022 AGM

Wednesday 13 July

9.30am at the Woodshed

Social Day lunch

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



Social Days are held on the 5th Monday of the month (whenever occurring) and are an opportunity for members to get together for a yarn and a sausage sizzle lunch (no charge).



LIFE'S INPONDERABLES

- What if there were no hypothetical situations?
- Why is the man who invests all your money called a Broker?
- Why isn't the word Phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
- Why do we drive on Parkways and park on Driveways?
- Doesn't expecting the unexpected make the unexpected the expected?

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 1894
2. Clare
3. Radium Hill
4. Pichi Richi Railway
5. 1972

Member spotlight : Frank Chapman *(continued from previous page)*

On the home front, Frank and Jackie are now nearing their 53rd wedding anniversary, and they are proud grandparents of "two fine grandsons who are very sport orientated, fit, kind and keep us on our toes".

Frank says that one of his strong memories from his youth was being crammed in a converted old Ford van with lots of lads and lasses and travelling at speed from Southampton to Portsmouth, having fun moving from pub to pub and taking on the challenges of the 'helter-skelter'. Of course, those were the days before the drink driving laws, with quiet roads with little traffic, and fortunately their driver did have the ability to limit his intake.

Frank's interests throughout life have included walking, holidays in Cumbria, Scotland, Yorkshire, Cornwall and Devon and particularly day visits to New Forest just down the road from their UK home. He has continued to enjoy gardening and regularly won prizes at his village show for his veggies.

In more recent times, Frank has enjoyed assisting at the Strathalbyn Garden Club, where Jackie is on the committee, and he has been involved in the Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre, fixing and hanging things as required. As for the future, if the Woodshed is successful in attracting funding for the shed extension, Frank hopes he will be able to assist in bringing this project to fruition. In the meantime, he and Jackie are contemplating a smaller and more manageable home sometime in the future, so long as it has a garden to continue to potter in and enjoy.



PHOTOS IN THIS ARTICLE: Frank's favourite place, the New Forest, holding up a tree that he used to chain his bike to when he was a young lad; in the bluebell wood near Frank's home in England with Ben the Lurcher; some of Frank's woodwork.



**Woodshed Open Day
Sunday 15 May 2022**



Frank Chapman watches Joe Golden making a pen



Above: Brian Muffet, Charlie Grieg and David Maddern



Below: Ken Knight and Peter Ancell with Peter's wife, Jessie



Left: Bob Pritchard and Ruth Creedy





Left: An amazing chess set made by Brian Muffet



Right: Rose Squire with one of her striking serving boards



Left: Shed volunteer Martyn with Richard Carter discussing Star Wars



Right: Heather McDonald with her Sogestu Ikebana floral display in a wooden bowl



Left: Bill Kent at the router

Below: Eric March, Ken Knight, volunteer Julie and AMSA SA/NT Shed Support Officer, Tony Wyld

