

Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group Inc

Newsletter

30/4/21

Past Present and Future

The Committee has resolved to ‘Future Proof’ The Strathalbyn Wood Craft Group as much as it can. Strathalbyn is one of the fastest growing towns in South Australia. There is a strong opinion in the committee ‘not to fix something that is not broken’. Change is inevitable but quite manageable. Some of the pressures that will cause change is obvious in the following statistics.

SEE ABS:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/7d12b0f6763c78caca257061001cc588/45111e15165bf102ca258291001dfead!OpenDocument>

Strathalbyn is one of the fastest growing towns in SA and grew by more than 31% in the decade between 2006 and 2016.

SA2	GCCSA	ERP at 30 June		Population Change	
		2006 no.	2016pr no.	2006-2016pr no.	%
FASTEST GROWTH(a)					
Munno Para West - Angle Vale	Greater Adelaide	4 397	12 329	7 932	180.4
Mawson Lakes - Globe Derby Park	Greater Adelaide	5 402	13 795	8 393	155.4
Aldinga	Greater Adelaide	9 849	15 554	5 705	57.9
Adelaide	Greater Adelaide	10 767	16 137	5 370	49.9
Davoren Park	Greater Adelaide	12 470	17 948	5 478	43.9
Seaford	Greater Adelaide	16 008	22 857	6 849	42.8
Moonta	Rest of SA	3 590	4 956	1 366	38.1
Mount Barker	Greater Adelaide	13 411	17 654	4 243	31.6
Strathalbyn	Rest of SA	5 555	7 301	1 746	31.4
Strathalbyn Region	Rest of SA	5 768	7 565	1 797	31.2

The shed has grown from single figures to about 30 over the same decade. The town is predicted to grow about another 30% by 2031. The shed has 91 paid up members at this date, 15 are female. There is no difference in member practice, culture or attitudes that I have perceived because of the attendance of females. The town community is changing very significantly and the shed must reflect the community if it is to continue to be as relevant and successful as it has been to this point. Also there are requests for children to be able to attend and the Committee will pursue conditions required for this to happen, if it is to happen, and probably only outside of existing busy opening times.

I have pointed out on a number of occasions that our success has not been entirely due to demographics and good luck. Such as a growing town and a new facility. The character was set many years ago by the Committee from 2010 – 2014 when Ken Knight and his team formalised the most democratic constitution in this region. They looked at the constitution of other sheds, researched modern law, community standards and created a constitution that has resulted in this Group gaining new members in ever increasing numbers.

Be assured the Committee is working extremely effectively and will continue with member meetings and other consultation for the benefit of Members.

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Newsletter

30/4/21

Scout Land

Negotiations continue with Scouts seeking agreement for them to cede a small piece of land to be added to our lease of land from Council. There is to be a meeting with the Scouts Management Committee on 29th April but results were not available at the time of preparing this report.

Shed Survey

Subject to approval of the questionnaire, Tony Anderson and Anthony Rice will be conducting a survey of Member hopes and aspirations, by way of Survey Monkey emails. Anthony Rice has already talked to some of our newer members by telephone with a couple of issues being help with their projects and lack of bench space. Members will be given the opportunity to opt out of any written survey before it is distributed and there is an opportunity to opt out after the survey is received by a member.

The members of Committee are frequently at the shed and feel they are aware of people's ideas on a casual basis, but all opinions are valued, no matter how gathered.

Functions

There will be a mini bonfire on Friday 30/4/21 at 6pm. There is a small amount of scrap wood that needs to be cleaned up and a *small* fire at the rear of the shed would be ideal before the weather gets too cold.

There will be a proposal placed before the Committee for a breakfast perhaps inviting people from service clubs and local organisation to make up numbers. Possibly at the Oasis with a guest speaker or a bacon and egg BBQ one morning at the shed. The Oasis version would be an opportunity for us and others to spread the word about our organisations. Very early days and details are yet to be considered.

Perhaps a lunch at CWA or at one of the Churches, might be an option. Must have good coffee though ;-}

Member assistance

Our large and growing membership has caused a considerable work load for the committee. Members could help doing any of the following.

1. Mentoring and otherwise encouraging new members
2. Duty Officers Workshop
3. Duty Officers Membership
4. Duty Officers Kitchen and Shed clean up/close
5. Duty Officers Storage of Members' Projects
6. Financial records – Assist Treasurer Shaun Singleton
7. Preparing notes for publicity, press releases.
8. Preparing and collating information that showcases our successes for help in grant applications. Also Tony Carengo has spoken at Service Clubs and this information will help him to do repeat appearances.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Sunday 18/4/21

A very successful fund raiser was held at Bunnings Totness store (Near Mt Barker) with a profit of \$950. Despite not breaking even until around 1 pm because it was a home game day for Crows Football Club. Thanks for all support.

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Newsletter

30/4/21

Paid Jobs

Brian Muffet and crew have allocated Thursday mornings for work on paid jobs. The sign for the wall of the Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre has been built and Frank Chapman is in the process of painting it in our new clean room (Read Container).

Members

Charlie Greig was 88 last Thursday 22nd April and continues to teach members. Geoff Bach had a leg partially amputated in early March. I rang him last week and he said it was okay to disclose this information (he said it is obvious anyway). Geoff is just starting to walk on the prosthesis.

Extra equipment

We have purchased a second hand lightweight table saw for easier rebating and grooving. Also a metal Milling machine to go with our metal lathe.

Safety

There were no OH&S issues to report at the last Committee Meeting. Test and tag of electric cords and attachments has commenced with a local contractor and should be completed by the date of this report.

Grant - Reconnect

This is a State Government grant allocated through the Department of Human Services. Barry Marr and daughter Jessica Cabban have prepared an application to purchase an automated sawdust compressing machine to make burnable bricks.

Grant - Volunteer

Commonwealth Grant \$1,000 to \$5,000. I applied for \$1,500 for a new computer for our volunteer on the 14th but applications closed on the 9th April. Rebekha Sharkie's Office (Amelia Pink) said they would submit the request and leave it up to Canberra. An Email on 21st April advised that an application would be invited in May. No Guarantee of success, but great news.

Wednesday Nights

Richard Reed is running an extended course, explaining use of wood from tree to furniture. Mostly using chisels, hand planes, for hand cut dovetails and other joints. Sometimes the workshop power is not even turned on. One student showed me her hand cut dovetails, how the finish improved over the six she cut, and proudly stated she had also learnt to sharpen chisels in the process. All nice and quiet, chips and almost no sawdust.

Building Extensions

The Committee has resolved that we must get a number of project 'Shovel Ready' following advice through the Office of Rebekha Shackie that Grant Applications for funding cannot be considered unless there are written approvals in place. This advice meant we could not apply for the last round of grants. Negotiations about Building and Planning approvals have been held on three occasions with officers of Alexandrina Council.

On Thursday 22nd April I visited Magnus Australia at Mount Pleasant and arranged for plans and specifications to be prepared for Council consideration and costing by Bob Ferguson, who built our new shed. Magnus supplied the shed that Bob erected.

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Newsletter
30/4/21

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 9:30 am. Put it in your diary please.

There will be at least one, probably two General Member Meetings before the AGM

Committee photos

Members have suggested that there be a photo of Committee members with names and to be put up alongside Committee phone list on notice board. Colin Townley was available last Monday morning but short notice means we will do a collage and try for a group photo at the next AGM.

Eric March
President.