

### Foundation Committee

President	Mike Hiley	Jack Kane	Administration
Vice President	Paul Wild	Joe Raymond	Equipment
Secretary	Jack Hill	Joan Wright	Social
Public Officer		Kath Smith	Committee
Treasurer	Jack Preston	Marj McAlpin	Committee

### 2019-2020 Committee

President	John Bayliss	Gaven Davis	Safety & Toys
Vice President	Dennis Conner	Scott Hanley	Equipment
Secretary	Greg Millar	Anne Miller	Social
Public Officer	Greg Millar	Colin Dobson	Communication
Treasurer	Jeff Killeen	Scott Hanley	Committee
		David Feather	Committee



## Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula

### WoSP's History

1996 - 2020



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the year.

Being a year interrupted by the Covid virus the committee decided to award the Best Club Person award to all 13 members of the Toy Team who made over 600 toys for the under privileged children without the access to the facilities of the workshop.



Gerry Gilliland, Bert Bartlett, Gaven Davis, Noel Archdall, David Taylor, John Feeley, David Spring, David Palmer, Anne Miller, Janice Rickard, Tim Rickard.

Members not in the photo are Jeff Killeen, & David Feather.

## Best Clubman Award

### Euan Bennet - 2017



Euan was a very popular member of the club with his cheerful disposition and ability to both write poetry & chat. It was not enough to make toys on Wednesdays as he would continue making toys at home. In fact he roped in his neighbours to help him make toys. It was always astounding as to the number of toys provided each Christmas. It was very appropriate he was awarded the 2017 Best Clubman.

### Kevin Cross - 2018



Kevin was introduced to the club in 2007. Since then he has made his fair share of bowls, platters, pens & candle sticks which he has gradually giving away as gifts. At the age of 90 Kevin is a one eyed Collingwood supporter and a popular member of the club. Kevin has become regular attendee on toy making days each Wednesday. Although more recently he ends up washing the dishes with his friend, Euan Bennett, the 2017 Best Clubman

### John Hanley - 2019



John Hanley considers watching television a waste of time, particularly when you have a well-equipped workshop with an excellent wood fire heater for the cold months. While his intarsia work is excellent he has also run classes in lead lighting. John is a silent achiever that is first to volunteer

### Toy Team - 2020

2020 was the year of the corona virus and the workshop was closed for 29 weeks of

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## Growth of the Workshop

### 1995 - 1998 1<sup>st</sup> Stage

In 1995 Jack Kane, a U3A wood turning teacher conducted lessons from home garage where he had a couple of lathes.

Rather than continue in an adhoc manner a number of students who were retired and wanted to develop their wood working & turning skills further started to meet regularly at Mike Hiley's home to discuss & brainstorm a future direction.



Figure 1 John Hanley, Wosp's longest serving president & Mike Hiley, The Foundation President

The group of Mike Hiley, Joe Raymond & Jack Preston found there was nothing on the Peninsula which satisfied their needs.

(The concept of Men's Sheds did not develop until 2003 & that was in NSW.)

Eventually it was agreed there was a

demand & support to start a woodwork club.

So in May 1996 the club was officially started with Mike Hiley being the Foundation President. Each member of the committee donated \$5 as seeding finance and the club started with \$40. To provide the club with identification Mike Hiley created the logo, a



“Woodpecker” and the club became known as the “Woodpeckers”. The number of members gradually increased with the turning taking place in Jack Kane’s garage & the meetings being held in the Hiley home.

The club was registered with Corporate Affairs as an Incorporated Association. It was recognised as non-profit making, self-funded & self-governing.

Growth pressures caused the meetings to be moved to a room at the Rosebud Secondary School and a search began for a club workshop.

A house on the corner of Besgrove & Boneo Road had been taken over by the council and converted into a Neighbourhood House & kinder garden. (The community centre has since move to Seawinds). At the back of the property was a rundown shed used by a council gardener to store &



2 1996 Gardener's Shed



Figure 3 Adding Ray Young's Garage

repair his mowers.

After it was found the shed was no longer in use the group approached the council and received approval to use the shed. While the shed was a pulldown, the location was excellent as there was plenty of parking, there was easy bus access and it was close to

the council offices.

There was no funding available. Fortunately the early members were generous with time, effort, dedication & building materials and built the first workshop. Joe Raymond, Jack Preston & Mike Hiley, in particular, were

## 20 Year Celebration

In 2016 the club celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. The event was attended by Mike Wiley, the club’s foundation president, and the Life Members at the time.

The Life Members were asked to cut the birthday cake by the president, John Bayliss.



## Honorary Members

### Betty Preston



At the WoSP "Workshop Wake" in 2019 John Bayliss presented Betty Preston an Honorary Membership to the club for her outstanding involvement in the development of the club to what it is today.

In the early 00's Betty was an instrumental figure in making the club's presence known, raising funds & planning the workshop which was officially opened in 2002.

Then Betty's interests changed to promoting a swimming pool for the area. Eventually the site chosen for the pool involved the space used by the WoSP workshop. So before construction of the pool could start WoSP's workshop needed to be relocated. The council's decision was to build a new workshop at the Vern Wright Reserve, Capel Sound.

### Barry Irving, Gary Sanford

*Bendigo Banks Rosebud, Dromana and Rye Representatives*

The Bendigo Bank pride themselves in supporting local community activities. Ever since Barry Irving & Gary Sanford were approached by WoSP to support its toy making efforts they have continued to be involved ensuring the bank provide money each year to offset some of the toy costs.



### Gordon Waddingham ~ 2004

Gordon Waddingham is both a builder & a person who loves to help others. He was attracted to the club by learning to wood turn from Jack Kane. As he saw the restrictions of having 2 sheds he always led the working bees to create one shed. Gordon loves to assist members wanting to wood turn. As a session leader he has a number of wood turning projects for beginners that are simple & inexpensive. He also has the templates for making a rocking horse & a porpoise.



It was not surprising when he was awarded Life Membership in 2015.

### John Bayliss ~ 2004 ...

John has been on the committee since 2005 & in 2009 he became president. Since then the club has continued to grow. John is collaborative by nature and uses people's strengths to get things done. As the committee identified things to be done, John set about raising the money to do it. He encouraged the club to be involved with the Bunnings BBQ's. As the longest serving president of the club John deserved his Life Membership Award in 2016.



### Dennis Conner ~ 2005 ...



Dennis, who joined in 2005 continues to assist with the extensions, making toys and working on outside projects, some of which provide the club additional income. His quiet demeanor tends to hide the amount of work he does as he always seems to pick up the jobs no one else wants. However in 2017 he was surprised to find he had been noticed for the amount of work done by being awarded Life Membership.

instrumental in organising a team of volunteers to pull the shed down and replace it with a 25 sq. metre workshop still with the earthen floor.



Space continued to be a problem & finances restricted what could & could not be done. Ray Young stepped forward and donated a 23 sq. metre garage he was not using. Once again the volunteers went to work and re-constructed it adjacent to the new workshop creating an "L" shaped layout. Both sheds had an earthen floor, water was not available and toilet facilities continued at the Neighbourhood House but the members were proud that now they had a home.

Classes with limited numbers were held in this space with all the equipment being purchased from what funds the club had. To

accommodate members at General Meetings this area was cleared of equipment and chairs installed otherwise as there was insufficient space to conduct a meeting with the growing numbers. In fact, weather permitting it was preferable to hold meetings in the open. The subsequent official opening was in 1997. The workshop seed had now been planted in the community. It would not be long before that seed would grow.



### 1999 - 2003 - 2nd Stage

The workshop was attracting more members and community recognition for making toys for children at Christmas. Fortunately the demographic of new members was a variety of retired tradespersons & professionals alike. This

enabled experienced persons to take on the role of session leaders & club management.

One member, Harold Stevenson, had building experience and suggested moving the L shape shed arrangement into a rectangular shape. Harold organised volunteers to place plastic pipe rollers & boards under the sheds. Initially the original shed was rolled into the desired position. Then the second shed was moved 90° and then moved to abut the original shed.

While it was recognised the club had grown so much the challenge of starting again to develop a bigger workshop seemed daunting. At the time Robin Greenwood was president & Betty Preston was the secretary. Betty proved to be a very energetic secretary and took up the challenge.

A subcommittee was formed to concentrate on what needed to be done to obtain a new workshop. Plans were prepared for a workshop that had all the facilities including; a kitchen, toilet and workspace. Once business case was prepared, fundraising became the issue.

Club income was from membership fees and the sales of wooden items at the Rosebud market. The radio club volunteered \$1,000 if club would provide

their members access to our toilet. On behalf of the council, Betty with some club members conducted a survey of all the buses running in the area. 50% of the fee was donated to the club. Other

fundraising

efforts had little success. Betty Preston continued to develop a relationship with the council and presented the workshop business case. Although it was an intelligent estimate the committee thought \$20k would be sufficient to complete the workshop.



4 Rebuilt 1996 shed plus the 2002 shed

## Life Members

Many people have provided the club outstanding support over the years however the following people stand out above all others.

### Jack Kane ~ 1996 - 2015

Jack was the original wood turner. His teaching in the U3A influenced a number of people to start a club that did a bit more than just wood turning. He was a foundation committee member and served in a number of positions including treasurer. In 2010 Jack was made a life member and remained a member until his passing in 2015.

### Bill Gorrissen ~ 2000 ...



After moving to Mt Martha in 1997 Bill was looking for an interest & joined the club in 2000. Bill joined the committee in 2002 & remained on it for 5 years. He was heavily involved in Monday morning maintenance using his electrical skills as another shed was extended or added, more machinery was obtained or moved. In 2011 Bill was made a life member.

### Bert Bartlett ~ 1998...

One of the longest serving members of the club, Bert has always had an interest in making toys for under privileged children. As a furniture maker Bert's experience is valued around the club. He is forever making jigs to make his activities (& others) easier. On two occasions Bert served as president of WoSP. In 2012 Bert was rewarded with life membership.



### Ron Higgins ~ 2001 ...



Ron Higgins has been the Monday evening session leader for a number of years and has a broad range of skills, although he likes to specialise in wood turning. As a committee official he undertook the role of organising the Bunnings BBQ's each time it was held. It wasn't until he had to resign the role that other members appreciated how large a job it was that he had undertaken & performed so successfully. In 2015 it was unanimous that he be made a life member.

## A Centre for Seniors

Depending on the time of financial year club membership ranges from 70 to 110. 75% of the membership is 65 or over. So it can be seen that the club attracts seniors interested in wood. From there relationships develop and many take it further and work together making toys.

Women are also welcomed into WoSP. In fact the club welcomes anyone from the age of 15 as long as they are not a risk to themselves using the equipment.

The club has initiated a Saturday morning session to try and attract younger people who work during the week. The club envisages an opportunity for the home handyman's being able to use the club's machinery for home projects.

Below are comments from variety of club members from a variety of backgrounds that include younger men & women and senior men & women.

### Members Comments about the Club

*John who joined the club 5 years ago said "the club gave me a purpose after I was recovering from being sick. The bonus was socializing with people who have something in common".*

*Max lives in the city & holidays on the peninsula on the weekend. He joined WoSP and says "the club is friendly and the session leaders are helpful & solid. There is always someone to discuss a problem and advise on a solution".*

*Josie, one of our female members invites women to the club saying, "all I can say is that if you've ever dreamed of doing something enormously practical but didn't know where to start, come along and have a chat to any of the members of the Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula. "*

*Syd says "the club is friendly & social & I love it being available on Saturdays", then added "at school I was told I was terrible at woodwork but since joining WoSP the projects I have completed are excellent because at any session I have access to over 200 years of experience".*

*Laura is one of the few millennials at the club says" in being a member I have found people to be friendly & respectful. It is exciting learning new skills".*

*Kate comments "I am from a family of wood workers and love being creative. with wood. All the members happily share their knowledge and allow me to be creative with wood".*

Betty perceived there would be a bigger chance of receiving a grant if the club membership was over 100 so she pushed to increase membership.

The club was overjoyed when a \$26k grant was received from the council and it proved every dollar was necessary in completing the shed which provided work space, a meeting room, kitchen & toilet facilities.

The official opening was 6<sup>th</sup> February 2002 by the Mayor Bill Goodrem with the president Ron Yeo.



Now 2 workshops existed side by side.

The new shed was divided into 2 rooms. The room with the kitchen facilities became the meeting room while the other area became workspace for lathes & machinery.

## 2004 – 2019 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage

After the 2002 official opening the workshop's tweaks & changes began. Subsequently the lathe room was extended by a metre allowing room for a number of work benches. This did not impact the kitchen area as there was still plenty of room.

A metre separated the 2 sheds. Sessions continued after the opening including one day a week making toys. There was not a lot of money so this routine remained stable for a couple of years.

Betty Preston was tireless in obtaining a grant from the council however after the new shed was built the main income was membership fees. Raffles & product sales had provided limited success.

The noise from the thicknesser was so loud that during sessions it was moved in between the 2 sheds & returned at the end of the session. The process became a little easier when Ernie Garro concreted the hallway.

The older shed, still with its earthen floor, was used to store timber for toys. Gradually space became an issue.



Things went along quietly until John Bayliss joined the committee in 2005. There were a number of tradesmen prepared to make improvements but needed money to do it. Gordon Waddingham set about extending the roofline to cover both sheds. Gordon advised what was needed & John Bayliss set about finding the money for the materials required.

Over a period of time John approached Lions Club, Rotary & Op Shops & the Bendigo Bank. As money was obtained projects were found to spend it on.



Companies & people approached the club to have specific projects carried out. The income from these projects went into the bank for the next club activity.

Building materials were donated and always put to good use. E.g. corrugated iron for roofing, mdf for lining the old shed, etc. The council was very tolerant in allowing the adjacent fences to be used as walls for a shed extension. Gradually the club's footprint grew.

In 2009 John Bayliss became president. John is collaborative by nature and used people's strengths to get things done. As the committee identified things to be done, John set about raising the money to do it.

Bunnings started its community BBQ in 2010 and John immediately registered the club to be allocated days. Ron Higgins undertook the responsibility to organise the roster, buy the sausages & bread, cut the onions, set up the stall, clean up the stall then take everything back to the club. Each BBQ activity provided the club approximately \$1,000. This source of income allowed the club to grow. New sheds & equipment could be purchased. The layout of the workshop became more organised.



More improvements were made. The old shed floor was concreted and a paint room was built at one end of the old shed to avoid accidental overspray onto parked cars.

run by the Rosebud Hospital to raise funds in their CT scanner appeal.

Then in 2017 WoSP donated another rocking horse to the Frankston Hospital Pink Ladies. Funds from the raffle went for equipment to treat children in the Frankston Hospital Emergency Department.



In 2015 the council invited the club to restore 2 outbuildings at Portsea's Police Point Shire Park as part of the Shire's heritage conservation works.

Figure 11 One of the two horses donated

Restoration was to a shed & former laundry as part of the respite



accommodation precinct. Once restored the outbuildings were used for storage and as a laundry facility.

Other requests for assistance have come from toy libraries, kinder gardens, various community groups & some businesses. This could include trophy shields, prams, hobby



Figure 12 Outdoor furniture for a kinder garden

horses, a water wheel for a Rosebud fun park or outdoor furniture.



In 2020 all countries had a pandemic to deal with. While Australia was not as impacted as other countries, an outbreak in Victoria meant the state was put into a lockdown status. Consequently WoSP had its doors closed for 29 weeks.



Figure 10 Figure 1 Gerry Gilliland, Bert Bartlett, Gaven Davis, Noel Archdall, David John Feeley, David Spring, David Palmer, Anne Miller, Janice Rickard, Tim Rickard

Yet the toy team was able to make over 600 toys for children to be delivered by various charities. The toys were made at home & it was only after the workshop was allowed to open the toys were able to be painted.

Due to Covid an official handover of the toys could not be arranged; however John Bayliss arranged to have an article in the local paper & Scott Hanley posted on Facebook. Through social media the club had a huge response for what was achieved in difficult times.

### Restoration Projects

From time to time the club was approached to undertake some particular activity. In 2001 when Ron Yeo was president, Don Brewster replicated an age-old chair for the St John's Anglican Church in Sorrento.

In 2014 WoSP made & donated a rocking horse to be first prize in a raffle being



On 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017 the Council notified the club it would be relocated as the site was to become part of the new swimming pool. Not knowing its new location the club determined it had a foot print of 315 sq. metres. The committee estimated if it had to move then it should request 400 sq. metres to allow for an efficient layout of machinery.

Figure 5 2019 aerial view of the Bonec workshop



Figure 6 Toy Team's last session workshop

In January 2018 the Council advised club it needed to vacate by December 2018

In March 2018 the club received the news that the workshop would be 342 sq. metres (18m \* 19m) plus have a mezzanine above the kitchen, 36 sq. metres.

The club was advised its new workshop would be in the Vern Wright Reserve, Capel Sound and in July 2018 construction began.

In November 2018 the club purchased a 40 foot container to simplify its relocation. Anything that had to go but was not required for daily use was placed in the container.

Unfortunately, due to various delays, the building was not completed till 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019 when the council finally arranged the key handover.



Figure 7 WoSP 2018-2019 Committee

Last Session at Boneo Road workshop was on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019

As a wake for the good times the club held a farewell BBQ on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### 2019-2020 ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Stage

In June 2019 the keys were handed over by the council & the committee was excited to have a big empty shell. Even the kitchen / meeting room was an empty shell. Fortunately the club had



Figure 8 New workshop with planter boxes & car park

saved for the relocation & now was the time to spend it. Kitchen cupboards, sink, dish washer were installed by the members. The 40' container was purchased to move hand tools, timber, portable tables and other smaller, lighter items. A removal company relocated all the machinery and a 40' container.

Even though the workshop opened its doors to members on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 the club was not allowed to use its external dust extractor as it made too much noise. It was not until December 2020 before the club was permitted to use it & free up all the small dust extractors previously used.

As each week goes by the workshop has becoming more settled. Gordon Waddingham built a store room in a corner to house the merchandise, club security cameras & documentation. The car park planter boxes were built by Dennis Conner, Scott Hanley, John Hanley. Hillview Quarries donated the plants in each box. A paint room was improvised in the container used to transport the machinery.

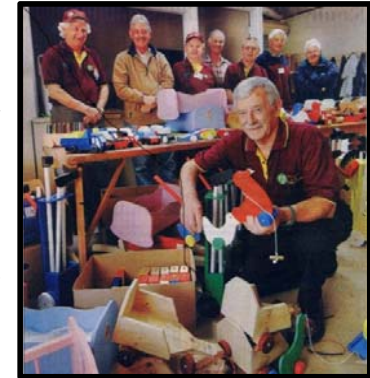
## Community Involvement

### Toys for Children

One of the goals of WOSP was to make & donate toys to charities for distribution at Christmas.

Since the club's inauguration one day a week has been spent making toys for the children at Christmas.

"The Local" in March 1999 printed an article about the club which included "Our current project is the construction of toys & hobby horses for primary schools & kinder gardens in the immediate area"



At the beginning of 2001 Graham Scott & Bert Bartlett championed that project. Subsequently Don Brewster & Dennis Connor 2005 became the session leaders and guided the team of members interested in toy making. When Roger Stebbings 2007 took over the toy management the building toys began in earnest.

Bendigo Bank became a regular sponsor to assist the club in making toys.

Once the club started making toys for charities it became more known to the public. As a consequence membership increased and it was easier to approach the Lions or Rotary for donations. Government grants were applied for when available.

The club wanted to show its appreciation to Bunnings as it was a great source of income so at the Christmas Bunnings BBQ John Bayliss dressed up as Father Christmas and handed out toys to the young children.



As the club had been making toys for over 20 years the committee felt confident that the council would provide better premises to move to