



THE WOODPECKER

Snippets & Offcuts

Working Bee 26th: February 9AM. At the last committee meeting it found the club needed a full blown working bee. Over the last two years the impact of Covid has reduced member access and prevented maintaining the tidiness of the workshop & surrounds. So the working bee will be focused on a number of activities including the container, the gardens, the workshop & "shop". Bring some gloves and perhaps some other tools you think might be of assistance.

Your assistance will be very much appreciated. It will also be a great opportunity to catch up with your friends who normally attend different sessions.

Kitchen & Toilets

Some members have noted that the toilets & the kitchen are regularly left in an unsatisfactory state. It is important to always leave both rooms as you would like to find them. Please do not expect it to be another job for session leaders.

Leigh Hitchcock is the most recent new member. Welcome Leigh. You are the 101st member this year. There are a number of membership receipts yet to be picked up from the registration desk.

Sorry to hear Gorgon Waddingham has torn an Achilles. You might think he did it bowling, (such a demanding sport), but no he did it putting out the washing.

Greg Knox did a great job making the wall cradles to store the Folding Workbenches. Thanks Greg.

Thanks to the members who volunteered for the Bunnings BBQ. It was a very successful day. In fact Bunnings have asked the club to manage another BBQ in March.

Monday afternoon workshop sessions are low in numbers. If you want access to equipment when you need it then try the Monday Sessions.



Congratulations to the members awarded their 10 year badges at the last AGM. The members are Carrie Marrs, Jeff Killeen, Colin Dobson, Greg Millar, John Wood Bradley

A recent committee meeting accepted the idea that the opening of the workshop on a public holiday will be left to the discretion of the Session Leader. In the past this only impacts the Friday of the Grand Final week end.

Remember to support Ritchies as they provide us a percentage of your buying power. When buying fresh fish from PFS tell them you're a member of WoSP & let them know WoSP makes their Oyster knives.



Support WoSP by using a Ritchie's card when shopping at an IGA store. You can use the card or their phone app, whichever is easier.



Peninsula Fresh Seafood offers seniors a 5% discount for fresh fish each Monday. PFS are in the Dromana Industrial Estate.

SURVEY Response

Only 15 surveys have been received. If you have not returned your survey note the main thing it is looking for is how to improve the club.

Some members like "Show & Tell" at general meetings including having an experienced speaker covering sharpening chisels or wood handling techniques.

Thoughts returned on additional equipment are 300mm disc sander, s bend & bowl tool rest, CBN wheel & 120mm chuck

Other thoughts on improvements are:

- Hand Tool care
- Equipment Maintenance & sharpening
- Keeping the jointer / planer blades super sharp
- Sandpaper on all sanders often in dreadful condition
- Sanders. EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY! On a regular basis somebody has ruined the paper in the sander, very annoying & expensive. Suggest having a picture frame style display above the sander showing the damaged paper & point out this is what happens when you pass through varnished/painted timber etc. Plus the cost of replacing.
- Making a specific place to store equipment, vacuums, brooms, dustpans & brushes.
- Cleanliness of the tea room & tables.
- Encouraging members to think about the next person to use the equipment you have been using. Leave it as you found it.
- The tidiness of the 'reception' area. Also if everyone is in the workshop, it is possible for people to walk into the reception area without being noticed. Not good when a small amount of cash is held there.
- Crosscut saw wooden guide is not flush with the metal guide on the saw
- Make a new bench on the back wall from the grinders to the door, and put the 3 small lathes there. This separates the lathes with a different headstock thread.
- Turn the right hand set of lathes so their headstocks are on the outside, helps with safety, better vision by all.
- A bench running down the length of 2 rows of lathes, these could be used daily by turners for storing tools timber etc. these benches would also stop others from walking behind turners, very distracting & not safe.
- Re Bunnings BBQ, have we considered asking members who cannot assist to purchase a "virtual snag" or more by making a donation?
- Tell members when the club is purchasing equipment such as a lathe. Better purchasing power!
- Have a stall at local markets to sell work made by members
- We have some outstanding team leaders and they are always ready to assist us so all we need to do is listen and attend as often as we can and we will learn more. It's a very good club.
- Monday Maintenance should be planned with a rotating list of things to do eg. Main Machinery maintenance, Hand tool maintenance, tool sharpening. Invite members to assist.

. Express your thoughts by returning your survey to the kitchen.

Personality this Month – Noel Archdall by Allan Brookes

A member of Woodworkers of Southern Peninsula for the last six years – this is his second year on the Committee. Initially, he started on Toys then added woodturning as part of a ‘restoration project’. In toys, Noel has been pro-active with new ideas. He moved with Pam to Capel Sound eight years ago. However, his first exposure to a woodworker type organization was to a Men’s Shed in Broome. That’s Broome in Western Australia – way up North West. For several years, he and Pam took 4-5 months or so in a caravan meandering their way across Australia and ending there to visit a daughter. Being in Broome for several months, they joined in local community life – tennis, etc. – including, for Noel, the Men’s Shed. This included helping with their move to a larger shed (sound familiar?). The guy in charge of the Men’s Shed was quite a character – worth a chat with Noel sometime. Their daughter has now moved to Newell Beach (near Mossman) in Far North Queensland.



A visit to their place in Capel Sound is an experience. Noel did warn me to avoid the pine tree in the middle of the road – good advice. What a delightful little area with a dirt road leading to two cul-de-sacs. The local bird life certainly appreciates Noel and Pam’s presence – magpies, kookaburra, black birds, wattle birds and more. The children’s toy library down the street was Noel’s handiwork.

Noel was born in Coburg - a post war baby – shortly after his father returned from WW11. He moved regularly starting from Natimuk, Cranbourne (where his parents hailed from), Bayles, Fish Creek, Port Fairy and Timboon. While in Timboon, Noel completed Year 12 at Warrnambool High School and drove the 60 odd km to and from while too young for a driver’s license. The Austin A40 Ute was fine transportation for a young guy but the backfire had to be tamed – particularly when passing the Timboon Police station.

Finally, at 18 years old he moved to the big smoke for work. His father was a baker who owned and ran small ‘Mum-and-Dad’ bakeries. His way to get a break (holiday) was to sell up and move. Neither, Noel or his brother was interested in baking after all these moves so it was the end of the baking dynasty.

Noel started work in the Department of Crown Lands and Survey as a Survey Draftsman studying cartography part time at RMIT while working on surveying and mapping. For a while, Noel was seconded to the Housing Commission working on plans of sub-divisions, set out plans for high-rise towers, engineering feature plans and other projects.

Noel played in the VFA under 19’s for Northcote. A game against Prahran ended in an all-in brawl with the umpires calling the match off. It was one of the more exciting games Noel played and caused the end of his football career.

After some 5 years, Noel moved to the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission in Orrong Road, Toorak working in the Survey Branch. His main tasks were on irrigation projects – Northern Victoria, and Central Gippsland but included water reticulation to the Mornington Peninsula. During his time at State Rivers, they sent a team of his staff to Ethiopia to do similar work over there – on a United Nations sponsored mission.

Finally, after 3-4 years at State Rivers, Noel moved to RMIT – in the Department of Survey and Civil Technology teaching surveying, drafting, survey calculations and photogrammetry – for the next 25 years. Initially, the Department was located adjacent to the Old Melbourne Jail in the Swanson Street campus before moving to a new building on the corner of Queensbury and Lygon Streets, Carlton. Noel worked his way up to Head of the Department and survived two rounds of Departmental mergers. However, the third such round of mergers led to redundancy.

Noel's time at RMIT included a planned twelve-month stint as lecturer in Penang, Malaysia. This was a course at a privately-owned college which provided Malaysian students with credits towards courses at RMIT – and provided the RMIT with a steady supply of students. The campus was brand new and included accommodation buildings for the lecturers. However, Dr Mahathir, the then Prime Minister, had other ideas and terminated a bunch of Visas – including Noel's after only six months.

After RMIT, Noel was employed by National Foods in their new cream plant in Chelsea Heights. Initially, this included documentation of procedures as well as working in the plant. When the documentation was complete, Noel moved to three days a week in the plant with golf on Tuesdays and tennis on Thursday. This proved to be a nice way to ease into retirement. His golfing interest extended to an old men's competition at Chelsea plus some mid-week pennant. Tennis was a bit more serious becoming Dandenong and District Tennis Association President for several years.

Noel's eldest son is living in Taiwan for the last ten years teaching English and is married with three children. His second son lives in North Melbourne and has two children. Pam has four children, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Noel and Pam have much evidence around the back yard of their beachcombing times at Broome – buoys, hawsers and coconuts from Far North Queensland. And Noel has decorated home with



his woodturnings (including several very large Banksia (*Banksia Grandis*) nuts), boxes, etc. And Noel has the common 'man cave' problem – needs to be larger (good luck with that problem Noel) PS: Pam advises "It's not happening!!!"

