

RUTH BETTERIDGE

Ruth is one of the newest members of WoSP having joined in late 2021. This came about as a result of a chat with an existing member of the club (wonder who that was?). A quick check of the WoSP web site confirmed Ruth's impressions and here she is.

She has enjoyed woodworking since her school years but has only now found a club that provides the support and mentoring like the WoSP. The lack of a club like WoSP has not deterred her from renovations at home. DIY around home has allowed her to 'turn off' and is now supported by the help, guidance and advice that the WoSP provides. As a wood turner, she is learning fast on Thursday mornings – time that she is finding relaxing (as a fellow 'Turning apprentice', I can attest to her skill with a lathe and chisel...). Ruth can regularly be found in the workshop on Thursday afternoons as well as mornings. She is loving her time at WoSP. After being a little apprehensive at the start she has now 'settled in'. Like many of us Woodies, space for a workshop is the issue at home.

Ruth's story starts in Tamworth (Staffordshire) in England's midland – on the river Tame (from which the town takes its name) and some 23Kms from Birmingham. Unlike our Country Music Capital here in Australia of the same name, the English Tamworth has a history going back to Roman days and beyond. Tamworth was the principal centre of royal power of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Mercia during the 8th and 9th centuries. It hosts a simple but elevated 12th century castle, a well-preserved medieval church (the Church of St Editha). Until 2001 one of its factories was Reliant, which produced the Reliant Robin three-wheeler car and the Reliant Scimitar sports car. The Snowdome, a prototype real-snow indoor ski slope, is in Tamworth.

During the 19th century the Tamworth pig, a long-bodied, heavily bristled breed, was first sold there by cross-breeding pigs available locally with imported Irish stock. Pigs remain an important industry for the area. An important claim to fame for Tamworth is as the birthplace of Sir Robert Peel, English Prime Minister and primarily responsible establish the UK police force – the Bobbies or Peelers.

But Ruth has no desire to return to Tamworth. Nowadays, the town is a 'bedroom suburb' as much of the population works in Birmingham. Ruth escaped Tamworth for Brighton and surrounds for some 15 years before making the big move to Australia. She was 18 when she made that move to Brighton to take work in health care including doing her nurse training. Ruth rose through the ranks and decided that she loved the role of Theatre Nurse and decided 'this is the job for me' (also she gets to see inside people – physically, not mentally....).

Ruth moved direct to Melbourne while the rest of her family moved to New Zealand. Ruth has continued her nursing career here in Melbourne – first at the Alfred and now at the Frankston Hospital where she works as a Theatre Nurse – a role she thoroughly enjoys. Ruth is quite passionate about good patient care (ask for Ruth if your up for an op at Frankston. Ed). Of the three categories of Theatre Nursing (Scrub Nursing, Anaesthetics Nursing or Recovery Nursing), Ruth is doing mainly Anaesthetics and Recovery. Frankston Hospital does a lot of Orthopaedic work – a bit WoSP, a place where woodwork brings us together to share experiences, provide fellowship and service to the Mornington Peninsula community like woodworking really – hammers, chisels, etc. (now I understand the link between Theatre Nursing and woodworking.... Ed.). And the teamwork involved in Theatre work is great – as many as 8 at any one time. Keeping the younger surgeons and

anaesthetists in control is also part of the job. Here is an opportunity to find out what happens in Theatre while the Anaesthetist has you sleeping.

At home in Seaford (11 years now), Ruth has done a deal of DIY indoors and is now currently working on the back yard. Removal of an old spa (endless pool) and replacement with a deck and new spa has proven to be a challenge - not so much the work involved but the seemingly senseless/endless tangle of council regulations. It's worth a chat about her project to remove the old spa. The insistence on a pool fence hard up against the brick wall of the next-door neighbour's garage is a doozy (maybe the neighbour might someday pull down his garage?). Footings for a deck a metre or more deep might be a tiny bit more reasonable but still add to the frustration. But in spite of such obstacles, Ruth is making progress. The help, guidance and advise from the WoSP members is certainly of value in this endeavour. In her 'spare time' Ruth is a Scuba Diver (565 dives and counting...) and a photographer – she combines the two in underwater photography and gets quite a thrill from a good photo. Her consideration of sharks sounds good but happy to leave it to her. The stand-up paddle board, however, is proving more a challenge. Ruth has no desire to leave Melbourne thus we should see her around the workshop for 'many moons' to com