



THE WOODPECKER

Snippets & Offcuts

- **Promotional and safety signs.**

Currently the club is out of WoSP car stickers plus need magnetic WoSP signs (for Bunnings BBQs and on the trailer) and "No Parking" signs on either side of the main roller door – arrangements are under way to address the needs.

- **2022 AGM Wednesday 10th August 2022 at 1pm**

Elections will take place at the AGM on 10th August. Currently there are insufficient nominations to force an election. For the committee to function effectively, it still needs a Treasurer & two additional Committee members.

This is your opportunity to influence the running and growth of WoSP. Please nominate yourself or someone who you think can contribute. Due to the insufficient number of members volunteering for Committee, nominations can be taken up until the AGM.

So far, the nominations for the executive are President ~ John Bayliss, Vice President ~ Dennis Conner, Secretary ~ Colin Dobson. Four Nominations received for the Committee are Gaven Davis, Noel Archdall, Greg Knox & David Spring.

The meeting starts at 1pm - with a BBQ lunch for attendees starting around 12 noon. Come and grab a banger and coffee and catch up with your WoSP mates.

- **EFTPos machine on the way**

The Club is about to acquire an EFTPos machine. Those who volunteer on the Bunnings BBQs will really appreciate this. No longer need to require customers pay cash – and no lost sales due to customers not having cash....

- **Inlays**

Timbecon are promoting the Easy Inlay range of products. The video titled 'Introducing Easy Inlay' is worth a watch - click on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXwutRSdQQg>

Beautiful results with a minimum of effort.

- **Membership Renewals**

To date, 80 members have renewed their membership. Your receipts and membership card will be available at the AGM. After that they will be available on the registration table as you enter the club.

To vote in the election or use the workshop you need to be a paid-up member. You will be able to pay your membership right up to the start of the AGM. As a courtesy, the newsletter will be distributed to all 2021/22 members until the end of October '22.

Note: Only 2022/2023 members are entitled to use the workshop.

- **Steve Johnson and Movember**

Steve Johnson is raising much-needed funds for prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention. Men die on average 6 years earlier than women. But together we can change that. Donate via myMo Space, here:

<https://movember.com/m/sydjohnson?mc=20>

for all the dads, brothers, sons and mates in your life. Stop men dying too young.

- **Money for 'Jam' (or money for the Club with no effort..)**

Richies has given over \$52 million to clubs, schools and charities thus far. For 12 months, the Woodpecker has promoted Ritchie's card as you can nominate WoSP as a recipient of the club support program. But WoSP is yet to receive any of this. So buckle up folks – this is a great way to raise funds for the Club without having to do anything you are not already doing. Also, make sure you update your card membership for extra benefits (follow the link below):

[Loyalty | Richies Supermarkets](#)

- **Useful Phone App – Species Solutions**

Right there on your phone – Species described, Compare Species, Resources, Environment Credentials – even help to find a supplier. Available free from both the Apple Store or Google Play.

- **Woodturning Fest – Gold Coast**

Fancy a long weekend on the Gold Coast in March next year? If so, click the link below:

[Turnfest](#)

- **Newsletter Editor**

In the recent committee meeting the president, John Bayliss, expressed his thanks on behalf of the Committee and club members for the work undertaken by the new Woodpecker editor, Allan Brookes. It is a time-consuming role aimed at informing members of items of interest, current issues and member profiles. Since the last AGM, Allan has written profiles for Bert Bartlett, David Spring, Gaven Davis, Kate Martin, Noel Archdall, Rod Bew, Ruth Betteridge, Gordon Waddingham, Greg Millar, John Feeley & Con Keegan. (Thanks guys - my pleasure... Ed)

Our new member this month is Candice West.

Welcome Candice.

Projects within the Club

1. Cheeseboard by Gavin Davies

Gavin assures me that this board was not difficult to make (who am I to disagree....). But the result speaks for itself. The photo displays an interesting aspect – it appears the centre section is raised but, in fact, it is level with the two side pieces.



2. Cheeseboard artistry – an illustration of pyrography

John Bayliss has been producing some remarkable results using pyrography – see below. I love the dog leading the sheep.



3. Shop Donation

Bert Bartlet has been busy making a couple of clocks he is donating to WoSP for sale in the shop once it is open. Really nice pieces of work, Bert. See the photo for the 'hand over' to John Bayliss – and the quality of the item Bert chose to make.



4. A Craftsmen (by Colin Dobson)

One craftsman within WoSP is Brian Young. In the past some of his work has been featured in the Woodpecker. Recently I visited his workshop and was amazed at how much equipment he could fit in his 2-car garage and still park his car in the garage when not working on a project.



His latest project has been to build a “steady” for his home lathe. One reason for the success in completing his detailed projects is the planning he puts into the preparation. Another reason is his finish, it is excellent.

WoSP is an excellent workshop for people to come and work at their tasks and gain satisfaction from completing projects. The club has members with a variety of skills, a number have exceptional skills. It is great to be able to share our ideas & imagination and subsequently develop our own skills.

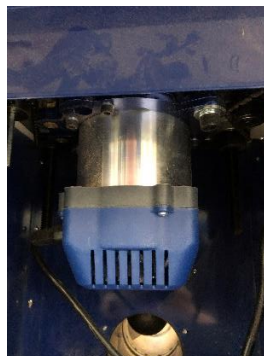
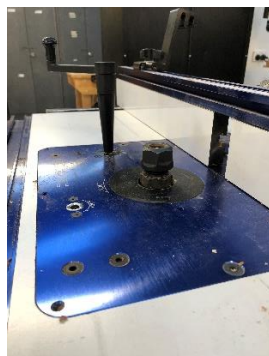
In appreciation – Richard Popp

Recently, Richard Popp made a large donation of timber to WoSP. The Club responded with a letter of appreciation plus a voucher for a dinner for two. Club President, John Bayliss, presented these to Richard during lunch at Toy Makers on Wednesday 20th July 2022.



Router Update

Many have suffered the frustration of using the two router tables. That’s the Carbotec tables with the Triton router. Salvation is at hand. One of the tables has been updated with a Carbotec router designed for use with these tables. This is a trial before updating the second table. Much easier to use with a winding handle for raising / lowering the router, the lock uses the same handle – but need two spanners to lock (and unlock) the router bit. And be aware, the box beneath the table still fills with dust. Strongly recommend you have someone ‘show you the ropes’ before using.



Personality this Month – Con Keegan (the Mallee Lineman)

Con first joined WoSP in the early days when the Club was located by the Council Offices. He left the Club in 2014 re-joining two years later. He was the one who introduced John Bayliss to the Club in 2004. He started out doing turning on Tuesdays (bowls, pens) then progressed to furniture in the form of a coffee table (with help from Bert Bartlett) plus a variety of clocks. He never bothered with selling his masterpieces – but they did make great gifts. He was surprised recently to see, at a local market, a price tag of \$95.00 on a pen with no special features. Now Con is coming to the workshop on Wednesdays helping out with toy making.



Some time ago, Con turned a bowl out of Huon Pine. This was definitely not given away. However, recently when he took it from its place in a cupboard, he dropped it with unpleasant results – a large chip from one side. It's now a case of how best to repair the bowl.

Con, the youngest of six children, was born in Sea Lake in 1943 and lived in nearby Woomelang till he was 18. Leaving school when he was 14, Con worked on farms for a while before joining the Post Office. At 18, he was transferred to Swan Hill where he worked as a Postman for some 12 months. This was in the days of the Post Master General (PMG) department – a government monopoly responsible for both postal and telegraph services. This allowed him to transfer to the telephone side of the Department where he became a lineman for the next 36 odd years. In those days, rural telephone lines were all 'open wire' (the ones that can be seen in old photos) running beside roads with each phone connection having its own pair of wires.

Woomelang, in those days, was a thriving country town – several shops, hotel, sporting clubs (football, cricket, tennis, etc) and a reasonable number of residents. However, like many of those smaller country towns, time has taken its toll and Woomelang's population has dwindled to around 200. Recently, someone is trying to reopen one of the hotels. The wheat silos were a great place to hunt pigeons – not that Con caught too many. What to do with a pigeon? "Take it home and cook 'em.". The silos in town have missed out on the latest painting craze - it's the paddock silos that have been painted around Woomelang. Con's last remaining sibling, a sister, lives in Geelong.

So, what generated the need for linemen? Basically, new connections, frosts and trucks - and there was plenty of the latter two. The frosts cooled the wires which contracted as they cooled. If there was insufficient slack in the wire, it contracted (length wise) till it broke. Trucks passing under the wires would not always be low enough in which case the wires were taken out. House removals figured in these incidents. When the wires were down, someone was without a phone line and did not hold back calling for a fix.

While stationed in Swan Hill, Con played football (AFL that is) and cricket for the local team. He also did some fishing but unlike some of his work mates, Con wasn't that keen. A fellow employee at Swan Hill was a chap by the name of Teddy Bourke. He

and Con were working on a line between Underbool and Walpeup. It was stinking hot and the heat got to Teddy. Con drove three miles to a farm but they refused to give him any water. So Con drove him to Underbool to a hotel - they said 'Bring him in' and they filled him full of water. Teddy reckoned that this was the only time he'd ever been to a hotel and didn't have a beer.

After some ten years in Swan Hill, Con was transferred to Telecom in Melbourne where, after a course at Fisherman's Bend, he became a cable joiner working around the eastern suburbs (Camberwell District) - Tally Ho in East Burwood, Camberwell, Richmond, etc. Some of these cables were big – two thousand pair of wires which would take a day or more to do one join. It was while working in Melbourne that Con met and married Julian, a Melbourne girl. At this time, Con was living in Dandenong.

Con was then transferred (promoted) back to the country – to Stawell and working in places around the Wimmera – Nhill, Border Town, Kaniva, etc. One major job involved dismantled the wires between Kaniva and Border Town – a job taking several months – after cables had already been laid. Resulted in semi-trailer loads of copper being sent off to Port Kembla. Con was often away from home weeks at a time. Generally, Con's team was looked after well by the employer with stays in hotels, etc – and the occasional caravan park or whatever. After some 5 years, he was transferred to Rosebud. This required a commute to Melbourne resulting in Con leaving Telecom and taking a job with the Shire.

His experiences with the Mornington Peninsula Shire were varied – from grave digging (pick and shovel work) to driving a street sweeper. His work was eventually sub-contracted but the contractor 'went broke'. So, after 3 years or so, Con 'retired'. Con moved to a retirement village some time ago and shares his 'trade time' between WoSP and the village workshop.

Keep Smiling....

