



THE WOODPECKER

Snippets & Offcuts

- **Next Bunnings BBQ – SUNDAY 16TH APRIL 2023**

The Bunnings BBQs are coming thick and fast. This one is still 6 weeks away but ‘pencil’ in the date. The roster sheet is yet to be organized – more details as they come to hand. Given how lucrative these BBQs have become (at the new pricing), it’s important we maintain our reputation with Bunnings.

- **Items of Note from the Club management**

1. At a recent meeting with council representatives, several improvements to the Vern Wright Reserve environment have been agreed. The most significant is an improvement to the access road (a sealed road maybe??).
2. Last month, it was announced that the club would be having a table at the Rye Community Market on 4th Feb 2023 with the aim of promoting the club shop. Well it rained and the Club decided to abandon the idea.
3. Planning for the Club’s Open Day on 25th March 2023 (to attract new members & promoting the shop) is well under way. Advise John Bayliss or Dennis Conner if you plan to attend. **Reminder to all Club members attending – wear your name badge and any other Club clothing you have, e.g., cap, tee shirt, etc.**

- **For your diary...**

For the benefit of members, this section of the Newsletter will be retained but with just the next 2 months events listed. (Please let me know if I have missed anything. Ed)

Click on the link following the event title to see further details.

- **Lost Trades Fair** - in Bendigo 11th -12th March 2023
[HOME | Lost Trades Bendigo \(losttradesfair.com.au\)](http://losttradesfair.com.au)
- **Kiama Woodcraft Expo** – in Kiama NSW – 11th–12th March 2023
[Kiama Woodcraft Group Annual Expo - Destination Kiama](#)
- **Blue Mountains Woodturners Mini Symposium** – in Emu Plains, NSW - 19th March 2023
[Mini Symposium | BlueMtns Woodturners](#)
- **Turnfest 2023** - 24th-26th March 2023. At the SeaWorld Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland.
[Turnfest \(woodworkingsuppliesqld.com.au\)](http://woodworkingsuppliesqld.com.au)

- **Maleny Wood Expo** – 29th April – 1st May 2023, At Maleny Showgrounds, Sunshine Coast Hinterlands.

[Home - Maleny Wood Expo](#)

- **USA chairmaker David Douyard to teach workshops in Red Hill.**

The chair class runs from March 1–5, and the rocker class from March 22–27.

Contact Nick Found via Instagram @nickfound_chairmaker

- **The WoSP Shop – update**

The Shop area proved to be too small. With help from Gordon Wadingham, Martin Kellett and others, the Shop area is being effectively doubled. This should eliminate the need for Dennis to wheel out shelves and racking onto the forecourt. And the major promotional event is coming up – the Open Day. Oh – and sales are picking up plus May is continuing to help with the accounting.

- **Sessions at the Club Rooms.**

After a bit of a hiccup, Thursday afternoon session is up and running again. Rob Oram is still not back on deck as a Session Leader (all the best with the treatment Rob) but we have someone who can close up at end of day.

- **WoSP Web Site – What’s New (by Alan Smith).**

Have you taken a look at the WoSP home page recently? Check out this link:

[New Home Page | Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula \(wosp.com.au\)](#)

- **Interesting woodturning videos from Timberbits – The Craftsman series.**

Great turning and bowl production video – click on this link:

[How I make a wooden breakfast bowl](#)

A great way to master some essentials of woodturning – click on this link:

[Turning beads-for-beginners from scrap wood](#)

- **March 2023 Community News from the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council**

To catch up with the latest ‘what’s happening’ - click on this link:

[Peninsula Buzz - short and sweet community news \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Projects within the Club

- **Here's something very different...**

Brian Young has innovated again – this time with a very different bowl – see photo. Brian mentioned that he had seen something similar – but this is quite different. What to use this for? How about a decorative piece for the centre of the table or maybe even a fruit bowl. Whatever, it is certainly something to get the creative mind going....



- **My first Gnome Man**

Alan Smith advises that, “I have just finished my first little Gnome Man.

The hat is made from a bit of gum tree scrap wood that was headed for the fireplace and a leftover piece of sassafras for the body. The body is stained with a Jarrah wood stain. The nose and ball on the cap were stained with a walnut stain. The hairy beard is some fake fur from Spotlight.

It's all turned on a lathe. The hat and body were made separately because they are different woods. But, it can all be made from a single piece of wood, except for the nose. That has to be added after the body is turned.“



New member this month:

Con Bantos

Please welcome Con.

For something a bit off the beaten track...

Recently, you will likely have heard quite a lot about ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Our fellow Woody, David Palmer, tried out ChatGPT with the following query:

"write a short poem about spending quiet time in my woodshop without any outside distractions"

ChatGPT responded with the following poem;

*In my wood shop, the world outside
Fades away, with no place to reside,
With sawdust in the air,
And the hum of machines, I repair*

*My mind, to a state of peace,
Where worries and troubles cease,
With wood in my hands, and tools at the ready,
I lose myself in the present, without any outside distractions, my mind is steady.*

*The smell of fresh-cut wood,
The sound of the planer, it's like a soothing lullaby, it could
Ease my mind and put me in a trance,
In this quiet space, I find my balance.*

*The outside world may call,
But in my wood shop, I stand tall,
With my focus and concentration,
I create, without interruption.*

*This is where my soul comes alive,
Where I can forget the world outside,
In my wood shop, I am free,
Where quiet time is all I need.*

So, what exactly is AI and why we need to have at least some understanding of what it is now and what is to come. First, from the magazine company, Time Inc, an article titled;

AI Chatbots Are Getting Better. But an Interview with ChatGPT Reveals Their Limits (click the following link):

[ChatGPT Says We Should Prepare for the Impact of AI | Time](#)

The Australian Government has a training video "Artificial Intelligence Explained" (click this link);

[Be Connected | Free online courses for seniors \(esafety.gov.au\)](#)

Finally, what the Victorian State Government is doing in this area (click this link)

[Backing Victoria As A Leading AI Technology Destination | Premier of Victoria](#)

Hope this helps.....

Personality this Month

Martin Kellett – practical handyman

Martin is one of our newer members having joined WoSP in May 2022. Martin's main (woodworking) interests are turning and general furniture making. His interest in all things wood goes back to his High School days. In those days, the woodworking class had a set of projects that had to be completed – Martin finished his with time to spare. That spare time saw Martin turning a lamp base from laminated timber; an item which was included in the end-of-year display at the school. In fact, Martin's interest in 'making things' started at a very young age helping his father.



Martin started life in Castlemaine. His father was in partnership with his brothers making and installing plaster board (fibre board actually) for domestic dwellings. This was a time before the current paper faced plaster boards. One week was spent making the plaster board – the next week was spent installing the boards. This proved to be a 'hard' existence so his father joined the Railways and moved the family to Swan Hill for some 5 years before moving to Melbourne (Blackburn South) in 1961. It was at this time that a builder started erecting a new home on the block next door giving Martin the opportunity to spend his spare time 'helping out'. This resulted in an offer from the builder of an apprenticeship – Martin was 'rapped' but his parents had other ideas – parents won and Martin ended up doing the commercial stream through High School. Then followed Accounting at Swinburne in Hawthorn – a Bachelor of Accounting in the first year of that course in the year that Swinburne became a university. This included majors in computing and led to his interest in all things computing. Commuting started with bus and train till a motor bike became an option. Martin had all the gear needed even for wet weather – gear which developed a hole on the groin area (proved somewhat embarrassing on wet days). During Uni, Martin supplemented his income by working as a porter for the Railways. Plus, Saturday mornings, Martin worked on cleaning tasks in a butcher shop.

The Yamaha bike was replaced by an old FE Holden – a rebuilder's delight. Floor pan, mudguards, doors - all got replaced and the whole thing resprayed. This was replaced by a Torana – now 60% of salary went to the finance company. The next vehicle was a green Holden Sandman – say no more.

From there, as an Accountant, it was off into the big, wide world – initially with a jeans importing company – Wrangler. Some 5 years or so later, Martin moved to a printing company in Carlton – Modern Printing Company that, in those days, made Spirax note books, envelopes, etc. but now producing a variety of wall art panels. For a change of pace, Martin moved to a real estate company – Henderson and Horning in the CBD - industrial/commercial real estate agents.

Next, Martin moved to Comeng in Dandenong – manufacturers of trams and trains. When Martin joined Comeng, they were making trams for Hong Kong which were guaranteed for a certain mileage. How to test for this mileage? Set up a circular track at the rear of the premises and run the tram around this track 24 hours a day. For trains, the delivery issue for VicRail product was solved by having a spur line from the suburban rail network right into the factory.

Martin's next job was with Australia Post, from which, 27 years later, Martin retired. This time was spent in the Victorian (later National) Administration of AusPost. This evolved into a role which included management of their finance systems – including the installation of the SAP system (needed to overcome a millennium (Year 2000 or Y2K for short) problem with the previous system). One

WoSP, a place where woodwork brings us together to share experiences, provide fellowship and service to the Mornington Peninsula community.

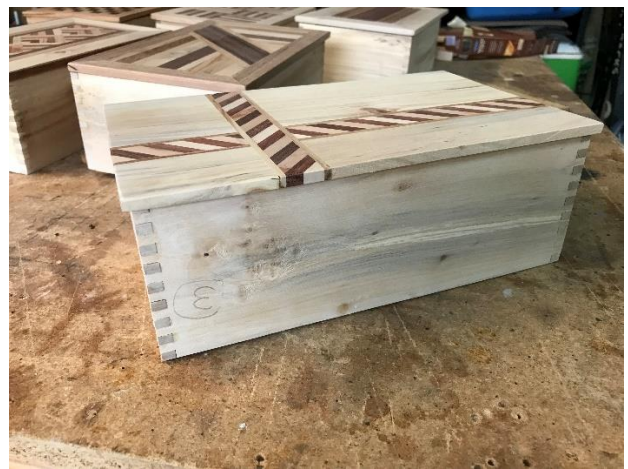
planned benefit of SAP failed to materialize – no customizations. Reporting was too slow so modifications were introduced. But they did have a Y2K compliant system up and running before 1/1/2000.

In 1976, in the Hatters Castle pub in Richmond, Martin turned up for a date in his Sandman (fully modified for camping... say no more...). Two years later, Robyn and Martin were married and moved to their house in Mooroolbark where Martin had many opportunities to keep up his handyman skills – timber, plaster, metalwork – the ‘whole box and dice’. Forty-four years later and after retiring, they moved to Rosebud – Waterfall Gully area. Martin and Robyn can be regularly found having morning coffee (brunch actually....) in the Waterfall Gully Nursery Café.

Current project for Martin is jewelry boxes for the Grand Daughters and a keepsake box for the Grand Son. See following photos. Also, Martin is very active around the Club where her can be found helping with modifications to the Shop, working in Toy Makers, looking after money on the BBQ’s plus turning bowls on the lathe.

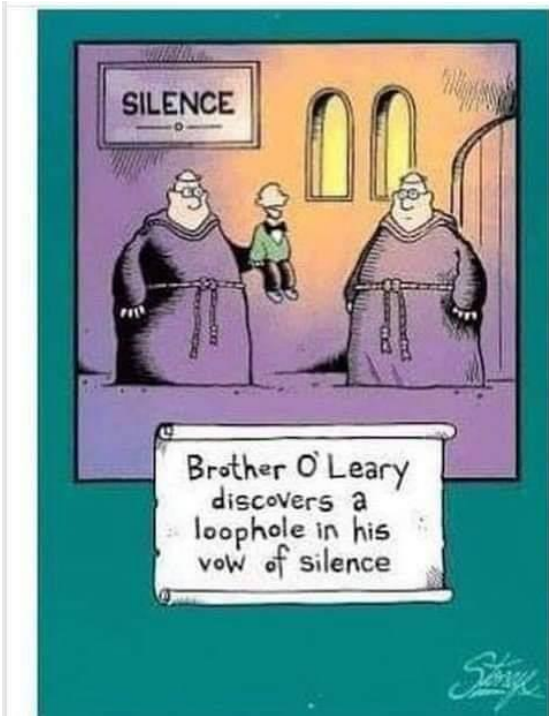


That certainly is a lot of inlay work.



Notice the optical illusion –
the bar across appears to be on a slope.

Keep Smiling (with apologies to our Irish friends....)



Mick and Paddy were on a plane.
Keep Calm And Oh Feck It Enjoy Some Craic
Halfway through the flight, Mick said,
"Paddy, if this plane would turn upside down, do you think we'd fall out?"
Paddy says
"Nah, we'd still be mates."

Paddy goes on a First Aid course, the instructor asks,
"What would you do if your child swallowed the front door key?" Paddy said,
"Climb through the window!!"
