



THE WOODPECKER

Snippets & Offcuts

1. Next Bunnings BBQ – SUNDAY 16TH APRIL 2023

The roster sheet is now up on the Notice Board in the workshop reception area. So, volunteers – go to it, get in early to get your preferred time slot.

2. Easter Holidays – Thursday 5th April to Monday 10th April 2023

The **workshop** will be closed on Good Friday, Easter Saturday & Easter Monday.

The **shop** will be open Thursday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday & Easter Monday

3. Items of Note from the Club management

A plea to think before you act – particularly with the Twin Drum Sander.

From this photo it is plainly evident that timber with existing paint or wood finish has been put through the sander – completely ruining the recently installed sand paper. The drum sanders are for **SANDING** after the timber has been cleaned up and thickened - work that must be done on either of the two thicknessers. If in doubt, ask the Session Leader.



Currently the biggest maintenance cost within the workshop is that of replacing sandpaper on the drum sanders

Hint (or plea or request....) – when feeding lengths of timber through either of the drum sanders, if possible, feed it though at an angle so the whole of the sanding drum is utilised in the sanding operation. Of course, take care that your timber does not foul against the side of the feed area lest the sand paper get ruined.

Open Day

The Open Day, 25th March 2023 – a message from Dennis Conner

“I believe it was a great success. Although the number of people attending was a bit disappointing, more importantly the small number of Club Members who turned up. I would like to thank those members who were there and worked on the day for their efforts. I won't mention their names in case I leave somebody out. I admit there were some problems but it was a learning curve and hopefully, we will improve next year. For those who are interested, takings were approximately \$800 on the day.

Once again, thank you to all those who were involved.

Dennis Conner, Shop Manager.”

(Plus a couple of items from the Ed... PR worked a treat – it was a big enough deal for Cr. Celli to come along. And we saw a lot of old and great cars.)

Click the link below for our photo gallery:

[Open Day Success! | Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula \(wosp.com.au\)](https://wosp.com.au)

4. For your diary...

As mentioned previously, just the next 2 months events listed – and let me know if I have missed anything.

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

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

[Home - Maleny Wood Expo](#)

- **Wood Dust Melbourne** – 18th-21st May 2023. (A Timbecon Event). At Melbourne’s iconic Meat Market in North Melbourne.

[Wood Dust 23 Melbourne Woodworking Show | Wood Dust Australia](#)

- **Australian Scroll Saw Network Exhibition 2023** – Clarendon, NSW – 20th - 21st May 2023

[Calendar of Events \(scrollsawaustralia.com\)](#)

- **Wood Turning Cruise** - 19th June-1st July 2023 - Scandinavia

[Woodturning Cruise](#)

Plus....

- A special note from Colin Dobson about the **Wood Turning Cruise** - 19th June-1st July 2023 - Scandinavia

After some doubt, the Woodturning Cruise will go ahead as planned. A few cabins are still available and it is planned to fill these as soon as possible. The organisers will offer these at a lower price to new passengers, as this is necessary to make sure we hopefully will not lose money on this project. It’s 80 days or so until the ship sails out of Stavanger harbour on the 19th June 2023 to start the journey. Should you be interested in going, check out the website woodturningcruise.com.au or speak to Colin Dobson on 0417 364 802 who is planning to go.

5. The WoSP Shop – update

It’s bigger – no more need to move racks of product, slabs of wood, etc. out onto the forecourt. Thanks to Gordon Waddingham, Martin Kellett and others – jobs done.



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

Have you checked out the WoSP web site recently? Click on this link:

[Videos | Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula \(wosp.com.au\)](https://wosp.com.au)

then on the text “Laser Engraver or Woodworker???”

7. To whom it may concern (from a concerned member)

To the person who stole the 3 packs of frozen sausages out of the freezer over the past few weeks, please let yourself be known to one of the Committee members so that we can arrange for some food vouchers for you. Please remember that you are not only stealing from the club but from yourself as a member.

This comment does not only apply to sausages but also to battery drills, small fold down display table, and lathe accessories. In a word – DESIST. This is nothing short of theft. Or if you are just borrowing equipment, make sure it is signed off in the Loan Register.

8. Letters to the Editor

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your great Newsletters. They are very informative, light hearted (I like the jokes and cartoons) and lets all the members know what is going on and coming up around the Club. In writing this, we hope to have started a new trend in starting a column “Letters To The Editor”.

Once again, thank you.

Dennis Conner, VP.

John Bayliss, President.

(and PS – no, I didn't write this 😊 – thanks guys – my pleasure... Ed.)

Note from the Editor... A 'Letters to the Editor' (or something similar) is something I have had in mind for a while – but never been game to try it. Maybe the time is now right to give it a go. So, if you have something to say, send your thoughts in an email to wallyanbrookes@bigpond.com. My plan would be to publish your comments un-edited if possible. Of course, profanity, destructive/negative comment, etc. would be 'modified' to make them acceptable – or even ignored if bad enough. What would be great is positive, constructive comment aimed at improvement. So, let's give it a try – send in your Letters (emails actually...).

Around the Workshop...

What has Scott Hanley been up to?



New surfboard design? Nope – a flathead.



Welcome sign.



plus, signs for the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

Bits and Pieces...

- **Timberbits Newsletter**

You might find this useful – the Timberbits newsletter – *The Craftsman*. As well as ‘flogging their stuff’ (i.e. selling their products..), they promote woodworking skills, etc., e.g.

“At Timberbits, we know how important it is to hone your craft and make time for your creative work. So today, we've got some excellent resources and recommendations to help you:

- progress your skills
- stock your shed, **and**
- get inspired by your fellow woodworker community”

To sign up for The Craftsman, click on this link:

[Subscribe to our Newsletter \(timberbits.com\)](https://timberbits.com)

- Who are the regular Thursday morning trainee woodturners....



Suggestion – left-handed lathe...

New members this month:

Greg Newman, Domenic Gaetano

Please welcome Greg and Domenic.

- **The Ed's final word on the future impact of Information Technology.**

After last month's lengthy discourse on Artificial Intelligence, I offer just one more observation for the future. The two developments in the IT area that will have a great impact:

- Artificial Intelligence – the major advancement in software
- Quantum Computing – the future of computing hardware.

Both are well advanced and being adopted already.

- **Gunnedah Woodturners Association Inc to Gunnedah Wood Workers Club Inc**

There was a tiny article in the latest edition of The Australian Woodworker – bottom right corner on page 6 that stated the Gunnedah Woodturners Association Inc has changed its name to Gunnedah Wood Workers Club Inc. Why the name change.... An interesting and pleasant chat with their President provided the answer – they do more woodworking these days than 'turning' – plus they are focusing on attracting new and younger members. Simple.....

- **Clarification – Toy Maker Session Leadership 2013 – 2018.**

In his profile (published January 2023), Jeff Killeen stated that he had been the Session Leader for Toy Makers for these 6 years. After a good deal of investigation, it appears the situation was not quite so clear cut. Jeff did, in fact, run Toys for a year before John was appointed to this role. For the next 5 years, Jeff worked closely with John as his assistant focusing on time in the workshop, etc. – and filling in when John was away. Also, Jeff was Joint Session Leader with Gaven Davies in 2019.

Personality this Month

John Parrent – the Woodie Administrator.

John, who now has his 10-year WoSP badge, first met up with WoSP at a Bunnings BBQ. He got talking to a few members at that BBQ who suggested he come along – and he did. That was 11 years ago. Almost from the outset, John was involved in Toy Making working alongside Jeff Killeen – plus quite a bit of wood turning Monday evenings and Tuesday afternoons. After Jeff stood aside, John ran toy making for the next 5 years with Jeff as his 2IC (second in command) - ‘Role swapping’ during this time. John’s approach to toy making was quite different – looking to make toys that built:



- fine motor skills, e.g., hand control like noughts and crosses (also developed thought processes), draught boards and the disks for them
- gross motor skills, e.g., dolls cradles, push along carts with blocks in them, wheel barrows to be wheeled around, bikes that could be steered.
- Toys that developed hand eye co-ordination e.g., Quoits, finskas, cricket wickets and bats,
- General toys, e.g., Easels, dolls houses and furniture for them, Tait red rattler trains and W class green and yellow trams

Attendances remained strong during his time in toy makers – during winter 12 plus with several more attending in the warmer months when people returned from their holidays. John feels that his biggest challenge was matching skill sets (of the toy makers) to what was needed to be done. The inexperienced toy makers were a big challenge – making sure they were competent with the machines as their skills developed. This included ‘certification’ on the different machines – for both safety and for insurance purposes. John stood aside from toys about 3 years ago to concentrate more on wood turning. Then along came Covid and the WoSP workshop went into hibernation.

Around this time, John was diagnosed with a serious illness – Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) with a chromosome known as 17 Deletion – a type of cancer that does not respond to chemo therapy. John felt fortunate as, arguably, the Peninsula Private Hospital has some of the best haematologists in Australia. John was also fortunate to qualify for a global clinical trial involving tests such as frequent blood tests, quarterly CT scans and a bone marrow biopsy every six months. Initially, John was given a prognosis of 6 months to 2 years to live. His glands were the size of golf balls. As part of the Global Trials Program of a new generation of medication, the course of drugs worth in excess of \$300,000 per year, blood tests, scans, biopsies, etc. (all free because

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

of the trial). He is now down to scans 3-monthly and a bone marrow biopsy yearly. Now no sign of the CLL with 17P Deletion and his prognosis is 8-10 years. Worth noting is that one of the key drugs involved Venetoclax, was a 30-year development here in Melbourne at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. All good, however the treatment has completely destroyed his immune system and means he must have all his childhood vaccinations again, plus the adult ones like shingles and can't be the PBS live shingles shot – the one on the PBS. He found the cheapest none live vaccine shot by shopping around the pharmacies - a cost of \$270 per shot for which he needed two shots. Plus the Covid shots – 6 in all. However, his immune system is still vulnerable.

These days, John's woodworking tends toward furniture making with his current project a TV cabinet. And furniture from recycled timber – a project initiated by his son in Newport.

Most of John's working life has been on the computer side of insurance and financial services working for several companies and ending up with the Royal insurance Group which later merged with Sun Alliance in 1996. While with the Royal, John was invited to discussions with IBM for whom he ended up working for the next 10 years. For the first couple of years at IBM in Melbourne, he was running the Insurance and financial services side of the business with clients such as SGIC in South Australia and Suncorp in Brisbane. John ended up heading up the insurance and financial services arm of IBM for Asia/Pacific involving lots of global travel. He was finally offered the job to head up insurance and financial services for Greater China (China plus Hong Kong and Macau) – John opted for a redundancy.

After leaving IBM, John then joined Synchronised Software (SyncSoft) for the next 10 years. SyncSoft is arguably the premium software for running superannuation. One in four Australian super funds runs their software. At that time, SyncSoft had customers across Australia and New Zealand – even one in China.

At this time, John bought a place in Dromana – two stories with each level a self-contained unit. This they ran as a bed-and-breakfast. On retirement from SyncSoft at 62, he moved permanently to Dromana. This property in Manna Street off Boundary Road affords them a great view across the bay – even to Mt Macedon.

Apart from woodwork, John is actively managing his SMSF (Self-Managed Super Fund) – successfully - the value of his SMSF has increased substantially since retirement. Not that he has had some 'dogs' (poor investments...) which he has learned how to handle (offload...). This, possibly, stems from his lifetime in the superannuation and financial services industries.

John's family was living in Hughesdale when he was born. He lived there till he was married. Schooling was at Hughesdale Primary then Oakleigh Tech where he gained a

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Commonwealth Scholarship that funded his studies at Caulfield Tech (later to become part of Monash University) that included Computer Studies majoring in Business Studies, Computer Programming and Economics. The later studies were part time while he worked as a computer programmer for Vic Rail (now two entities – V/Line and Metro Trains Melbourne). Around this time, John joined, and became active in, the Australian Computer Society (ACS) – he now has his 50-year ACS Membership certificate. After 6-7 years at Vic Rail, John changed employment to the Royal Insurance Group.

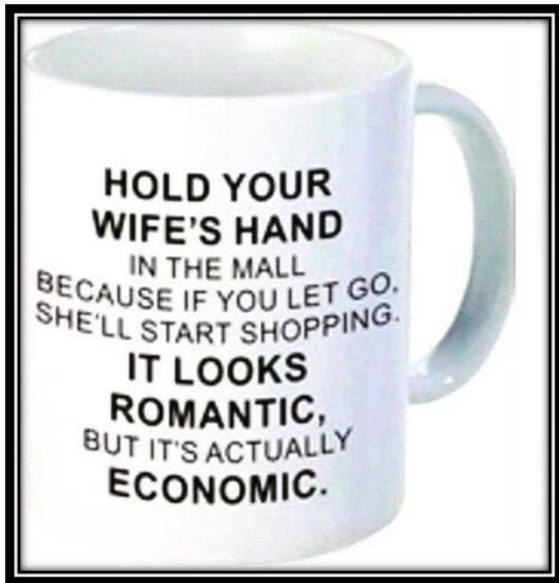
Although John prefers not to advertise it, he is very active in the Victorian Liberal Party. Given the old saying about ‘not discussing politics and religion’ – enough said on this....

For 4-5 years, John was involved in the L2P (Learner to P-Plate) Mentor Driving Program. This program is funded by the TAC and endorsed by the Department of Transport which works with young disadvantaged kids that do not have access to a car or supervising driver. On the Peninsula, it is administered by the Shire with three cars. After 3-4 lessons, the student is handed over to a Mentor who takes them through to the 120 hours of driving (including 20 hours of night time driving). Seven kids now have their driver’s license due to John’s mentoring. Gaining a driver’s license and a car greatly facilitates getting work. These kids are not bad kids, they simply need a leg up.

John’s recent TV cabinet project...



Keep Smiling



And apologies to the Irish – again.....

**Paddy's struggling
down the road with
a wardrobe.
A friend says,
"Hey paddy, why
don't ya get mick to
help?"
Paddy says,
"He's inside, carrying
the clothes"**
