



# THE WOODPECKER

## Snippets & Offcuts

### 1. Next Bunnings BBQ – ???

WoSP has no further BBQ dates for 2023. We now await a call from Bunnings for us to cover for other charities that may cancel their allotted dates.

### 2. Items of Note from the Club management

Both the WoSP President, John Bayliss and Secretary, Colin Dobson have resigned. Their positions have been filled by appointments by the Committee:

President – Dennis Conner

Secretary – to be advised

### 3. 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.

- **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 – 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> 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 (a repeat of the note from last month's Newsletter).

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](http://woodturningcruise.com.au) or speak to Colin Dobson on 0417 364 802 who is planning to go.

#### 4. The WoSP Shop

Reminder to all members – if you are in need of supplies, see Dennis first as you may be able to get what you want without delay, at the price you would pay at those ‘remote’ retailer outlets.

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

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

[Shop Sale Items | Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula \(wosp.com.au\)](http://wosp.com.au)

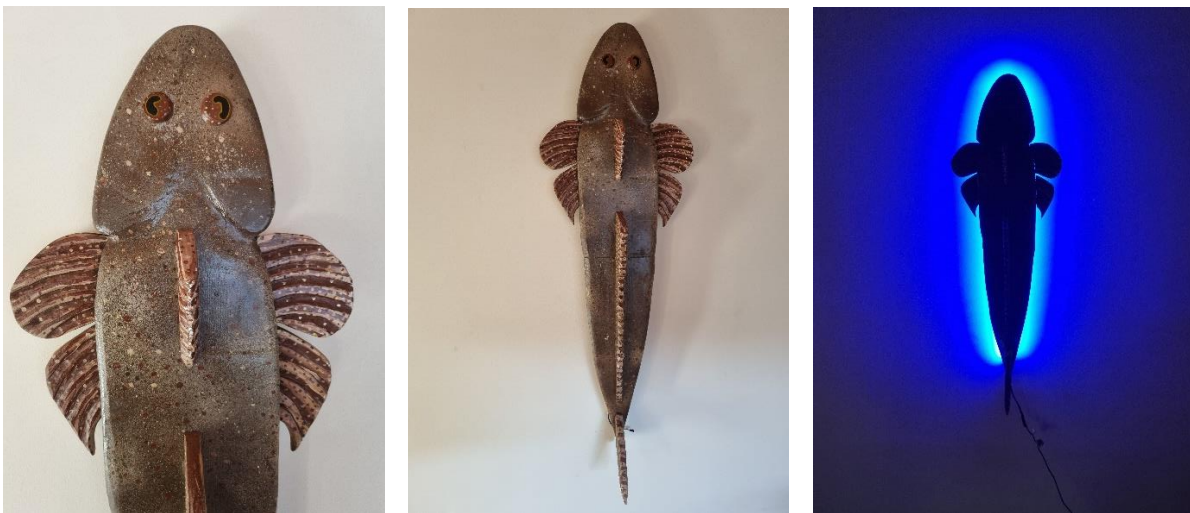
for information about the May Sale now on in the WoSP Shop.

#### 6. Letters to the Editor

As I mentioned in the April '23 Newsletter, I was happy to start a ‘Letters to the Editor’ (or something similar) section of the Newsletter. I have had no ‘letters’ so this section is empty this month. I will leave to option open for contributions for another month. If no contributions by the time of the next Newsletter, I will abandon the idea. If you have something to say, send your thoughts in an email to [wallyanbrookes@bigpond.com](mailto:wallyanbrookes@bigpond.com). Your letters will be published un-edited if possible, however, 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.

### Around the Workshop...

The flathead shown in last month’s newsletter was finished and looked like this...



“I have backlit the Flathead with LED lights. So, of a night, it glows blue.” Scott Hanley.

## 1. New Scroll Saw installed

Takes pinned as well as pinless blades (unlike the old Titan scroll saw).

“The Ryobi Scroll Saw is powered by a 125W induction motor, and boasts a 405mm throat capacity. The tool comes complete with its own In-Built Work-light, Air Blower (to keep cutting line clear) and Dust Extraction Port. The Scroll Saw's Cast Iron Base provides added stability to the unit, which can perform at variable speeds between 550-1700 SPM.”



## 2. Drill Presses replaced.

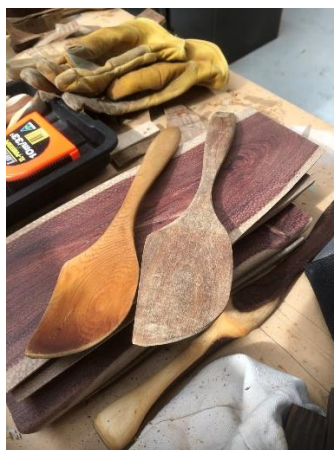
Two of the old drill presses (neither particularly serviceable) have been replaced by Hafco Metalmaster Drill Presses Model PD-360 (Gaven completing the installation) ...

“Mostly constructed from cast iron and machined steel to provide superior stability and strength. Powered by a 0.75kW, 1hp, 240-volt induction motor and coupled to a 12-belt speed pulley system offering wide range of speeds between 280-2380rpm.....”



## 3. What is Michael Ross working on?

All things kitchen utensils – knives, spoons, spachelors – but didn't spot a fork,...



He also sent me a great video but I can't copy it off my phone 🙄

#### 4. With a lot of help, my Rocking Horse has finally gestated...

No normal horse takes 13 months to ‘throw a foal’ – but mine did.... A big thanks to Gordon Wadingham for all his help, guidance and advice (and the use of his templates) and to friends Jean and Abbie for their artistic work. Was with much relief that the great grand kids, without prompting, called it ‘their best present ever’. Phew – and now I have my workshop back....  
Allan Brookes



No new members this month:  
So no new members to welcome...

#### Bits and Pieces...

- **Into Country Music?**

Someone in WoSP is. Found this on the Reception Area notice board. If interested, take a close look at this photo or check the flyer on the notice board. Seems like an inexpensive way to have an enjoyable afternoon out.



- **MP News on Open Day**

Alan Smith, our web master, sent through the following message:

“Page 16 of the MP News this week contained this follow-up article about our open day. Not sure why he added Dennis’s name as being in the picture as there are only 3 people in the pix!! 😊 Cheers Alan”



**Open shop:** At the opening of the Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula's new shop at the Vern Wright Reserve, Capel Sound area, above, Cr Antonella Celi, John Hanley and Ron Higgins (demonstrating). Woodworkers' vice-president Dennis Conner. Pictures: Supplied

## Woodworkers open for business

THE Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula's new shop is now open to the public from 9am to midday Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The shop's open day celebration on Saturday 25 March also included a display of cars by the Southern Peninsula Classic and Historic Car Club.

More than 150 members of the public dropped into the shop during the opening just off Elizabeth Street at the Vern Wright Reserve, Capel Sound. The shop is designed to cater to woodworkers and woodturners as well as selling a range of handmade items.

- **What's on around the Peninsula?**

The Peninsula Buzz – a great way to check out what's happening around the Mornington Peninsula. Go to:

[Peninsula Buzz newsletter - Mornington Peninsula Shire \(mornpen.vic.gov.au\)](http://mornpen.vic.gov.au)

or subscribe at:

[Mornington Peninsula Shire \(list-manage.com\)](http://list-manage.com)

- **DIY Videos from Timbecon.**

Timbecon promote these as being 'Australia's most comprehensive videos'. I have no way of validating that claim but glancing through the titles, they might just be right. Anyway, follow this link for the web page:

[DIY Videos \(timbecon.com.au\)](http://timbecon.com.au)

## Personality this Month

### Alan Smith – the sailor.

Alan joined WoSP in 2008. He has made / built / turned most things our members do - bowls, tables, etc. His current project is a scale replica of the sixth ship he sailed on – the Royalist. Spars are done then its onto the hull then cabins and last of all, the rigging.



Alan was born and grew up in Royal Tunbridge Wells many moons ago. This is a small town some 50 kilometres south east of London which, in times gone by, made its fame as a spa town with waters claimed to have medicinal qualities.

His formal education took a technical path, joining the Post Office on a three-year apprenticeship in 1965. These 3 years took him into many departments of the Post Office – underground cable maintenance, overhead construction, fitting, exchange construction, exchange maintenance and subscriber maintenance. After his marriage to Susan, Alan moved to Sussex - to a village called Rotherfield then to the village of Forest Row.

During this time, Alan attended a training course at Bletchley Park which, completely unknown to him (and almost everyone else), was where Alan Turing and his team worked at breaking the Enigma Codes during WW11. And Alan had his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party at this mansion.

On completion of his apprenticeship, Alan joined the underground maintenance team, worked hard for long hours (running up lots of overtime) and enjoyed his downtime at the local hostelrys. He made many good friends among his work mates with whom he would spend many happy hours at places like the Elm Tree in Paddock Wood. Around the mid '70s, Alan transferred to circuit provision at the Tunbridge Wells Repeater station. It was while in this job (in 1983), Alan applied for and landed a job as a Ranger at the newly built Weir Wood Reservoir west of Forest Row in East Sussex.

Thus started an entirely new chapter of Alan's work life. During the warmer 6 months of the year, life was busy with general Ranger duties with the cooler 6 months very quiet. This reservoir was a mecca for trout fishmen. Alan became an accomplished fly caster while in this job. The job also entailed the raising and releasing of Rainbow and Brown Trout. With the completion of the nearby Ardingly reservoir, the duties of the Weir Wood staff expanded to include this new facility. Alan has maintained an interest in trout fishing – bay or surf fishing was never his scene.

Then came an offer of Yacht Broker and manager assistant at the marina at Hastings – the Western Port Marina. Friends had already made the move to Australia so the offer was too good to refuse. Living first in Frankston then building a house on 5 acres of land at The Gurdies. This was a somewhat idyllic location but somewhat lonely for Susan. Hence the move to Rosebud.

While at the Marina, Alan was asked to retrieve a boat from Hamilton Island. However, it turned out that there was a dispute over who owed who money and the boat was going nowhere till this was resolved. And the police were no help either. Eventually, resolved it was and Alan was on his way to Hastings (Victoria that is). Work at the Marina took an ‘interesting’ turn as the financial viability of the Marina deteriorated. Alan eventually moved on to a job at the St Kilda Marina for the next two years. This job was not to his liking so Alan moved on and took up full time study at Deakin University doing a BA then an Honours in Community Development (interest in completing a PhD faded when his computer failed with no backup...). Some part time jobs came his way during this time. Then – retirement.

BUT – starting back in England in 1959, Alan joined the Sea Cadets – a branch of the Royal Navy. This took Alan on many interesting – even fascinating – adventures on tall ships. He served on the following vessels:

*Centurion - 70 foot Brigantine,*  
*Kenya Jactaranda – 80 foot Ketch*  
*Kaylena – about 68 foot,*  
*Duenna – about 45 foot Brigantine,*  
*Gorch Fock – 200 feet,*  
*Royalist – 92 feet,*  
*Acteon of Hamble – 55 feet.*  
*Sarie Marais,*  
*Martin,*  
*Petrel.*

In 1966, Alan joined the *Centurion* was a 70-foot Brigantine in which, Alan and the crew entered and won that year’s Tall Ship’s Race from Falmouth to Shaw in Denmark. It was on the return from this trip that the First Lieutenant had a heart attack and died – an interesting experience so early in his sailing career.



1967 saw Alan aboard the *Kenya Jacaranda*. Then in 1968, Alan was appointed boatswain on a Ketch called *Kaylena* – in a race from Harwich on the English east coast to Kristiansand in Norway – via a buoy in the middle of the North Sea. They came in

second this race – the buoy proved elusive plus the genoa (sail) failed needing hours to repair.

In 1969, Alan was aboard the *Duenna*.

1970 saw Alan on a German Navy Braque called *Gorch Fock*. This journey took them from Nantes in France to Tunis, the capital of Tunisia. This proved to be a great learning exercise for Alan on the management and workings of a large square rigged sailing vessel. There were over 200 men on board, most of whom were Officer Cadets and Midshipmen from the West



German Navy. This was an opportunity to get involved in German efficiency at its best. On one occasion while at anchor off Sardinia, the crew set every stitch of sail and weighed anchor in a new record time of for the ship – this complicated procedure had taken just over 20 minutes.

1972 saw Alan aboard the *Acteon of Humble* then the *Sarie Marais*.

In 1977, Alan joined the crew of the Scottish Topgallant Schooner, the *Captain Scott* as Boatswain. This had been bought by the Omani Government and was to be delivered to Oman. The crew was 50% Omani Officer Cadets – the remainder being British Sea Cadets. The Omanis, being Muslims, were non-drinkers thus a challenge to the Brits on board. The Omani Government renamed the vessel *Shebab Oman* (Youth of Oman).



A dispute saw Alan leaving the boat in Palma, Majorca and returning home.

Then followed the twins *Martin* and *Petrel* in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

1986. Next, Alan joined the 65-foot vessel *Aztec Lady*, rigged as a Bermudian Ketch. Alan resigned his job as a Ranger to work full time on this Ketch - to be sailed to Australia to compete in the Tall Ships Race (Hobart to Sydney) – part of the Australian Bi-Centenary celebrations. This was a trip to Australia and back – ‘a once in a lifetime’ experience and a whole story in itself.



This is just four of the 10 training vessels Alan has served on. There is so much more to Alan’s sailing career and more tales to tell – but this would fill a book. I strongly recommend that readers sit down with Alan to explore these adventures.





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



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