



Handmade: Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula president Dennis Conner with some of the pieces members have hand-crafted at the Capel Sound shed. *Picture: Supplied*

Turning skills used to create useful pieces

WHEN is a piece of wood not a piece of wood? When it's a hand-crafted piece of occasional furniture, toy, clock surround, chopping board or chess board.

In fact, almost anything is possible with wood when access to the materials and the equipment is available, along with the shared knowledge, advice and the support of fellow woodturners at Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula.

President and life member Dennis Conner, who has been part of the club for around 18 years, said the group was always looking to welcome new members who love working with wood or would like to learn. The group has access to a well-equipped shed in Capel Sound, where members can join classes or demonstration sessions, learn about wood turning, furniture making, intarsia and pyrography, or just work on their own passion projects in a welcoming environment.



Useful turning skills

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Apart from providing friendship and sharing skills and resources, the group takes on projects that benefit the wider community, with members working on a range of important restoration projects over the years, including the historic cottages at Police Point Shire Park in 2015.

About 109 members use the shed and who like to utilise their wood-working skills and around 180 Facebook members who connect and share information.

Some have worked in the industry, while most have come from a variety of backgrounds and trades – the common denominator being a desire to work with wood, use their skills to create lovely things, and make friends.

There's no need to bring anything other than a willingness to share a cuppa and woodworking experience, with wood supplied and regular training and industry updates on offer.

All kinds of wood is used, depending on the grain and feel users are after, with each variety offering different characteristics and colours.

To enquire or join phone Dennis Conner on 59857788 or membership secretary Noel Archdall on 0448 822 958 or go to the group's website or Facebook page.

Liz Bell