



# THE WOODPECKER

## Snippets & Offcuts

### 1. Next Bunnings BBQ

‘Everything comes to those who wait.’ How true? We have two new 2023 dates so far:

- Saturday 21st October 2023
- Sunday 24th December 2023

for your diaries.

### 2. 2023 Annual General Meeting

The 2023 Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th August at the Workshop in Vern Wright Reserve starting with sausage sizzle at 12 noon with the meeting commencing at 1pm.

There will be a separate email on this topic for the official announcement and associated documentation.

Nomination forms will be posted on the notice board in reception at the workshop next Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023. This is an opportunity for responsible, dedicated members to join the Committee and help with the management of Wosp – your chance to ‘make a difference’.

### 3. For your diary...

As mentioned previously, just the next 2 months events listed.

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

- **Timber, Tools and Artisan show** - 11-13th August 2023. At the Melbourne Show Grounds, Ascot Vale.

[Melbourne Timber, Tools & Artisan Show | Timber & Working with Wood Show \(timbertoolsartisan.com.au\)](http://timbertoolsartisan.com.au)

**NB: Their web site is showing that the date is ‘TBA’ so keep an eye on their web site...**

Note from the Ed - I’m searching for future events beyond the above. If anyone has information on upcoming events not shown above, please email me whatever details you have at [wallyanbrookes@bigpond.com](mailto:wallyanbrookes@bigpond.com).

### 4. The WoSP Shop

For the remainder of this winter season, the WoSP Shop will not open on Thursdays. The shop will, however, be opened as usual on Fridays and Saturdays.

Promotion of the shop continues... Dennis was interviewed by the Southern Peninsula News. There is a copy of this on the table in the lunch room – worth a read.



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

Missed a Newsletter? Want to refer to a previous Newsletter? Go to the WoSP web site:

[New Home Page | Woodworkers of the Southern Peninsula \(wosp.com.au\)](http://www.wosp.com.au)

and click on *year* Newsletter.

## 6. Quiz

Where did the timber used in this pen come from?



See the end of the **Bits and Pieces** section below for the answer. Made by Ruth Betteridge.

## 7. A message received from Emily Slaughter....

“Hi Allan,

Apologies for not replying sooner but I won’t be renewing my membership. My parents have moved back up to Melbourne so I’m not down this way very often any more.

I thank you for the hospitality & kindness your club showed me & I invite any of your members to drop into the GV Woodworkers in Shepparton anytime they might be passing through.

Thanks again.

Emily Slaughter”

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## 8. Where have all the potholes gone....

From the road into our workshop. Good work Dennis – still got it.....

## Around the Workshop...

### 1. Report from the WOSP Maintenance / Machinery Sub Committee

Since the June '23 update, we have:

- installed the EMERGENCY STOP on the table saw
- purchased the CARBATEC DVR Saturn electronic wood lathes
- installed for member feedback, a LED light above one of the wood lathes
- detailed the design of a “Table & Seat” requested by the RYE CEMETERY TRUST

### 2. Bert's latest project...

Bert Bartlett took on a challenge from the Southern Peninsula Community Opportunity Shop in Rye. How good are these pieces? All made for the reward of WoSP.



### 3. Did you know the Club has....

A picture framer (person driven – no motors...) for light timbers such as picture frames. It's the green thingy in the following photo – and resides in a corner by the timber cage.



#### 4. Now this is what you call a chopping board???



#### 5. At work – recovering timber...

One of what seems like a regular stream of free old furniture that arrives at the Club



New members in June:

Tom Andrews and Steve Callinan

Please welcome these new members.

### Bits and Pieces...

- **Timbecon promoting Walrus Oil.**

Follow the link below:

[Sara Restores Her Chopping Boards - YouTube](#)

- **Saturday Morning Direction (from Sid Johnson)**

At the last general meeting the discussion on the continuance of Saturday mornings was positive. It was suggested during the discussion that the session could be a forum for providing members with an introduction to new ideas, techniques or even machinery / jig usage.

Colin Dobson, the Saturday session leader, will be on holiday until August; however, on return he will organise a program which will be promoted in the newsletter & on the web site. Some ideas in no specific order are:

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- Using the scroll saw for intarsia or making toy furniture.
- Understanding what jigs are available in the workshop.
- Plans for a toolbox will be available for new members to become familiar with the club's machinery.
- Demonstration of how to turn an emerging bowl.
- Finger joints and / or biscuits for laminating timber.

Members can put forward what they would like to learn and if necessary, the session leader will find someone to meet the request.

- **Timberbits – progress your skills**

This could be useful (from the Timberbits Newsletter):

“Get ideas, find inspiration, and increase your skills with these terrific resource

Some serious craftsmanship going on in this video

**Watch:** [Woodturning - Coffee / Cappuccino Mug](#)

The most fulfilling pieces are the ones that get used the most!

**Watch:** [I Use This Piece of Furniture More Than Anything Else I've Built “](#)

- **Wood Storage tips for beginners (and old hands?)** – another from YouTube.

[99% of Beginners Don't Know These 5 Mistakes Ruin Wood! - YouTube](#)

- **Quiz Answer**

That pen timber came from a skate board – thanks Ruth.

## Personality this Month     David Palmer (our Scroll Saw wizz)

David has been a member of WoSP for some 13 years. This makes him one of the longer serving members of the Club. Starting with turning for a couple of years (pens, couple of chess sets, lots of bowls) then he heard about the toy group, had a chat to John Parrent and voila – puzzle boxes, fully furnished dolls houses and cradles, jeeps (simpler than those he makes now) and he is still making toys. In fact, he has been making toys for ever – starting before his father passed away when he was 12 years old. Back in those days the toys tended to more the 'cowboys and Indians stuff' like guns, etc. By 14 years old, David became more adventurous – a cubby house out of old packing cases... All his life, he has been working with wood - finding this activity a pleasant break from the pressures of working for a living. But working with wood was never his livelihood – just a pastime. He admits that he enjoys disappearing into the workshop for sessions of many hours (what a very understanding wife....)



David is a Brunswick (Victoria that is) boy – well North Melbourne actually as that's where the family hailed from at the time. Some 3 years later, the family moved to a house across the road from the Brunswick Fire Station in Burchett Street. From here, David attended the Brunswick Central Primary School. This school has gone – replaced by flats, etc. Then it was Moreland High School (by pedal power) through to Matric (that's Higher School Certificate these days). Then followed a start to a Science Degree at Melbourne University. The science subjects were fine but the humanity subjects were not.... One year at Melbourne Uni was it.

So, time to venture out into the big wide world starting as a clerk at Myers plus night school – 13 years later, David has a string of accounting qualifications. During this time, David got married, moved to a flat in Fairfield, eventually moving to their own brand-new house in Nunawading. Two children followed, and then a move to another new home in Blackburn.

Accounting Manager at Cummins Diesel in Ringwood, for 4 ½ years, where he installed and managed updated IT systems and improved accounts reporting cycles. He also learned the insides of diesel engines updating the costing and reporting systems for building them.

Finance Manager at McIlwaith-Davey Pty Ltd – a role that involved frequent interstate travel. Responsibilities here were looking after the financial and IT systems for 12 subsidiaries for about 5 years.

Accounting Manager at Hawker Siddeley in Fairfield for 6 ½ years. Again, working with updating accounting, stock control, and other systems over 30 years old, bringing them up to date. With no increase in office staff, David managed a 1200% increase in transaction volumes, cut reporting time to 1/3rd, and managed the implementation of network word processing and computer systems without missing a single reporting deadline.

Throughout these jobs, David's role included management of the IT aspects of the business – a role which tended to occupy a great deal of his time.

Big J was a spin off from the failed Jennings Group – making and selling a range of home building products – doors, windows, etc. This company was taken over later and absorbed into other businesses. The 15-acre site was subdivided (Carbatec in Springvale are on part of the site). This was David's last job as an Accountant.

From then on, it was a career in IT ending up at Computer Associates (CA) working on systems at clients like Electrolux, L'Oréal, Bosch, Unidrive, Simplot (Edgell, Yoplait, Plumrose...) and others before changing employers to a CA competitor - Business Planning and Control System (BPCS) who sold and supported another Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software product. While at BPCS, David, at short notice, spent nearly 3 months in Indonesia at some 6 Unilever sites across the country. Included in this work was the need to visit the cool rooms. When outside, it was plus 30 degrees and 100% humidity. Then to proceed inside, one had to tog up before entering the cool room at minus 40 degrees – always a shock to the system. Unilever were making ice cream in the jungle! One his way to Indonesia, David flew Garuda via Bali – and somewhere in this trip he picked up a ‘bug’ which persisted for the remainder of the trip. One wonders - was this ‘Bali Belly’???

Within a day or two of his return from Indonesia, David was called by a client from his CA days who was in ‘deep sneakers’ with big problems and very little time to get them fixed. David resigned from BPCS and for the next 14 years, he worked as a free-lance consultant acting mainly as a trouble shooter on computer-based accounting, and ERP systems. Being self-employed, there was always the lingering doubt as to where the next job would come from – something that troubled his wife – even though this proved to be a very lucrative time of his career.

At 55 years old, apart from moving to Dromana, David decided to ‘pull the pin’ (semi-retirement) – with a couple of health issues confirmed the decision to retire. However, a friend, General Manager of a very large aged care facility desperately needed a Finance Manager. David stayed at this facility for some two years sorting out issues with their computer and accounting systems. After training his replacement, and retiring, he went back part-time when his replacement quit, and was sacked on the spot. Two attempts to leave over some 6 months, David finally did retire. But that was not quite the end of his ‘accounting’ work – clubs need Treasurers and, for four years, David filled that role at WoSP. Not to mention his role of Auditing the books of other clubs and with Church accounts.

David has been active at the Dromana Life Saving Club, where he was Treasurer of 3 years.

For the last seven years, David and his wife have lived in the Village Glen – a place they are very happy with.

David’s loves have been Church, family, music, woodwork and gardening. In retirement he has been able to devote much more time to each, enjoying both the challenge of each, as well as the joys.

Three accidents in his youth left David with back problems all his life. But now technology has provided him a Nevro spinal cord implant and he enjoys relief from that debilitating condition. And now for some of David’s handiwork....





Keep Smiling....



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