

## **WOOD GROUP CELEBRATES 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

Little did I realise what I was getting into when I first took up the mantle of President of Wood group SA in September last year. Anniversary celebrations along with a myriad of other issues were the least on my mind when I first stepped up to the microphone on accepting the nomination to be President. The feeling I first felt was most humbling. Here were craftspeople with skills, knowledge and experience far beyond mine that were looking towards me to lead the incorporated body for the next two years. The support I have received is indicative of the culture within the group of sharing skills, knowledge, resources, and mutual support which has been cultivated and has matured to encompass us all.

The following publication celebrating the Woodgroup's 20th anniversary cannot successfully illustrate the time and effort, the tenacity, courage and persistence it took to grow from its twenty foundation members to what it is today. It will however, acknowledge the principle players in moulding the guild to its current status, as well as provide a better picture of the diversity in woodcrafts involved, and the spread of geographic locations of the Special Interest Groups (SIG's).

The Woodgroup SA is quite unique in its formulation, as it has successfully grown through the introduction of several SIG's both in the metropolitan and country areas. Although the majority are wood turners, it is pleasing to see the growth in different wood crafts, for example scroll sawing/intarsia. Other crafts include furniture making, toy making, making musical instruments and carving.

The Woodgroup SA Inc has come of age and can hold its head up high as a leader amongst its interstate colleagues. Its success can be measured in several ways, from the making of thousands of wooden toys for disadvantaged children to being nationally acknowledged as holding some of the best exhibitions in Australia at the two previous Adelaide and Working With Wood Shows. The challenge for its current and future committees is how to continue the growth of the Woodgroup SA while maintaining its highest standards outlined within its constitution. It is well to delve in the past and celebrate our achievements, but we must also look towards the future and the challenges that it will hold.

Congratulations Woodgroup SA on its 20th Anniversary.

George Pastuch    President.