

WOOD 'N' THINGS

In the early months of 1998 there were suggestions made by some of the Northern Turners organising group, that possible changes to group's activities were needed. The attendance numbers at Northern Turners relative to the available equipment was not allowing a reasonable amount of hands on activity. Thoughts were given to the possibility of splitting the group in some way to reduce the risk of loss of interest and membership of the group.

Things like two separate sessions of Northern Turners was considered:

- who would go to which session ??
- mates wanted to go to the same session ??
- people who come together can't easily be split to different sessions

ANSWER:- Group splitting would not work.

Next: who would be interested in setting up a "New Group"?

Maybe some of the Northern Turners might like to transfer to this proposed new group.

This was thought to have possibilities.

So, on the 2nd of May 1998, An Expression of Interest Meeting was held to consider the formation of New Special Interest Group. The prime activities of this group being to serve the community. This service would be provided by the use of our cumulative wood working skills to:

- repair and rebuild wooden toys and equipment for children's community toy libraries and kindergartens.
- help with some "projects of assistance" being organised by the "Technical Aides to the Disabled" Group.
- build and repair special purpose wooden framed equipment for the Intellectually Disabled, and Crippled Children's Groups.

Since this Group, officially known as "Wood Group SA Wood 'N' Things" has been established, our somewhat informal work group of some times ten and others up to sixteen conscientious woodies (most or all being attendees of Northern Turners) spend the first Saturday of each month repairing, reworking and building much needed and necessary pieces of toys and equipment which helps with the running of some of the Local Community groups. Our labour is given free, and in many cases our materials are donated.

We are fortunate enough to be able to use the Golden Grove High School Tech Centre workshop for our work days.

Our reward is the appreciation given by the staff of the establishments ~~ we are able to serve.

It has been interesting to note that the original reason to form this additional group has not changed the attendance as thought of Northern Turners, but the presence of Wood 'N' Things has put an added interest for those members who are involved in both groups.

This year we have been particularly involved in the design and building up of special purpose, individually required, seating and exercising frames for children attending the Northern District Branch of the Crippled Children's Association. To see the benefits to these children that our work is providing makes our efforts worth while.

Ron Adams Coordinator



A young disabled child sitting at a special table and chair custom-made by members of Wood 'n' Things