



# CHIPS

WEST AUSTRALIAN GUILD OF WOODCARVERS Inc

JANUARY 2018

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Dear Fellow Chippies,  
I hope you had a good Christmas and New Year.*

*Thanks to all the people who volunteered throughout the year. Whether in time or effort it was appreciated. Especially those who participated in the Relief Project. It was a great effort and a good outcome. It was very well received at the unveiling at the Christmas lunch.*

*I am retiring as President, but have nominated for the Committee. I encourage you to also nominate. It is important for the good of the club. You might even enjoy it. So I hope to see you at the AGM and sausage sizzle on Feb 12.*

*Good luck and Happy Carving*



## **AGM FEB 12 AT WANDI**

**THE GUILD NEEDS**



*By now every member should have received a notice of the AGM, together with a Committee nomination form. In her message President Edith encourages you to nominate. Without a Committee the club cannot function well. In fact our Constitution requires that we do have a Committee. I am aware that these days clubs of all descriptions have difficulties getting a Committee together. In another organisation I belong to, which has 100 member clubs, we have had instances of clubs with a healthy membership, nevertheless folding because they cannot form a committee.*

*So if you value our club, and enjoy what it provides, please consider joining the committee. Your contribution will be important in ensuring that the club survives and prospers*

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2017**

*For the most part the lunch was a success. 49 out of 52 registrants turned up. The other 3 had health issues to deal with, which thankfully are not too serious.*

*We had a very full program, which as well as the usual items, included the inauguration of Bob Svendsen as an Honorary Life Member, and the unveiling of the Relief project.*

*We welcome any comments on the event. I guess it is wishful thinking, but perhaps we can make next year's lunch perfect.*

*Here are some photos.*



*Edith and HLM Bob Svendsen*



*Edith and Dakota Svendsen with award*



*Relief project unveiling*



### LOVE SPOONS

Love spoons occur in quite a few cultures. Welsh love spoons are especially popular. They were made by swains (no Maude I don't know what a swain is-look it up in the dickshenery.) The spoons were presented by the swain to a young lady as a token of the swain's love. They carried a message that for one reason or another the swain was unable to convey in words. After all the popular saying is "A picture speaks a thousand words".

Here is an example of a love spoon made by member **Karel Groeneweg**.



Very lovely, very complicated and a lot of hard and exact work. I watched Karel work on this over not a very long period. Karel wouldn't reveal the intended recipient, or the intended message. What he will do is help you make your own spoon. He has a range of designs from beginners to something like this. Don't forget. You have to learn to walk before you can run. This is a fun project. Maybe you have a message you would like, but find it difficult, to convey to a loved one. Get in touch with a committee member if you are interested.



### FINGER PAINTING

By Natasha Daly

To appreciate a painting, we're taught to look for color, composition, and light. But how can a painting be savored by someone who's blind? Through touch, the one thing gallery placards tell you not to do, John Olson, a former photographer, and his team render paintings into fully textured 3-D models. Like this version of Vincent van Gogh's "Portrait of Dr. Gachet."

The tactile paintings work as a way to reveal art to the blind because we don't see with just our eyes; we see with our brains. Research in the field of neuroplasticity—the brain's adaptability—shows that the visual cortex is stimulated by touch. Blind people perceive shapes with their existing senses, a process that broadly mimics that of sighted people, says Ella Striem-Amit, a Harvard neuroscientist.

Luc Gandarias, who's now 18, went blind suddenly at age seven. When he felt a 3-D rendering of Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," he says he noticed her smile right away. "I could literally feel what you see when you look at it."

For Luc, this means independence. "The feeling of being able to see it and form my opinion is like breaking down another wall as a blind person."

PHOTO: NEDDOGA FILE; VOX STATE  
PRINTING: NARRATIVE BY 33PREFORMERS

A member sent this in a possible relief project. This, or any of your favourite paintings could be a good subject. It seems that a blind person's senses are often highly developed to compensate for their loss of sight. The thought went through my mind that if a blind person can enjoy these tactile paintings, wouldn't they enjoy the touch of some of the carving work we do. If you agree please get in touch with me to discuss how we could progress this idea.

## **MEMBER PROFILE RON GREEN**

*Ron is a member of the Applecross group, and has been since it was started by Stan Barton 29 years ago. Ron doesn't have a background in things wood. He did some art studies after leaving school, but became a public servant. After that he got into cinemas and film. So wood carving wasn't his thing. He remember whittling little things as a youngster , but didn't start carving seriously until he joined at Applecross. He acknowledges help from other carvers, especially Beauchamp Paine. As Ron is approaching 90 that means he was nearly in his 60s. Which makes it all the more remarkable when you look at what he has achieved. Apart from his wood carving Ron makes replica furniture. Has several wooden square rigged ships to his credit, and also makes wooden model boats to race. He has made several bronze sculptures also. Ron is now living alone since his wife passed away, but woe betide any would be home invader as he has several swordsticks he made-not too sure of the legality, but don't take a chance. Ron looks remarkable well for an octogenarian, and his bag of marbles is overflowing. A conversation with him just zooms over all sorts of topics, of which he has a pretty thorough knowledge-well up to date. Here are some photos.*



*This is a bronze of "Megan" which Ron made from a life study. Ron still has fond memories of certain parts of Megan*



*Beauchamp helped with this model of Cheops royal canoe. Behind is a square rigger, one of several ron has made*



*A beautiful chess set and box-Ron relaxing*



*Ron and St Mark-one of pair of religious figures.*

*I thoroughly enjoyed my time with Ron talking about making things, and about history ranging from the year dot.*

### **A DAY OUT IN OUR BEAUTIFUL SOUTH WEST**

*This came to my computer in connection with another club I do a newsletter for. I know some of our members have a catholic interest in tools and making things. So how about putting this in your diary. Get together pooling a car, and have a lovely day out. You can also sell your carvings -no fee, no commission, but you do have to book.*

**TRADITIONAL TRADES DAY BOYANUP SUNDAY APRIL 22 10-2**

**THE SOUTH WEST RAIL AND HERITAGE CENTRE TURNER ST BOYANUP**

*This should be a good day out. Lots of heritage trades and skills on display. Things to buy. Food available on site at country prices we are told, and in the nearby town. Also a nearby Farmers Market during the morning-8 to noon. Hopefully the weather will be good– so a nice drive, an interesting day and good tucker. Australia on a stick. Speak to Norm Chapple on 0459 712 552 or email swrhc@railheritagewa.org.au*

### **WHO SAID THIS**

*“ If you want something said-ask a man. If you want something done –ask a woman”. Well it wasn’t Mother Teresa. Yes you guessed it—it was Margaret Thatcher. Imagine this- Margaret meets Donald. I think they would have got on like an out of control bush fire. Same modest nature. Same concern for the working man. Same hairstyle. Someone near and dear to me likes Mr Trump, so I must consider my words.*

### **DIARY AND CONTACTS**

*Chips usually has a list of dates for meetings etc, and contact details of office bearers. It looks like we will have several changes on the Committee so let’s wait until after the AGM.*

*The only date you need at the moment is **Monday Feb 12 for the AGM**. Could add **Sat March 3**. The rest of the dates will be decided by the new Committee.*

*This is just a space filler showing polar bears engaging in “Mindfulness”. I’m not sure what mindfulness is. I think it is bit like being a couch surfer. Slobbering around, but not thinking of footy, food, females or fellas or both or anything else beginning with F. But seriously we are told that our modern way of life stresses us out. We find it difficult to relax. Look at these adorable animals. They just lie down and do it. Easy peasy. Mind you, remember that what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger. But bears will kill you.*



*As this is my last Chips I take the opportunity to wish you all the best. Cheerio Bob Tanner*