

Council of Woodwork Clubs AGM 2021 – Presidents Report

Welcome everyone to the 2021 Council of Woodwork Clubs Annual General Meeting held again via Zoom due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

We have been able keep the insurance premiums at a reasonably low level thanks to the work of Max Grigg our treasurer – thanks Max.

Covid-19 has kept Clubs on their toes devising ways to communicate with all their members during lockdowns. It can be difficult to write articles when not much is happening, sourcing timber is difficult to impossible let alone getting it to the club's workshop. The resilience of members administering clubs is amazing as it would at times seem easier to just give up.

Financially, clubs are finding it difficult to ask for members fees when meetings and club workshop access is limited or not possible. Communicating with members regularly might be a poor substitute for physical meetings but far better than members trying to justify belonging to an organisation that gives them no benefits whatsoever.

Many people who retire have plans of fishing, playing golf, driving around Australia, overseas trips etc. Covid has put a stop to most of these activities and many retirees find themselves at home twiddling their thumbs. Many of these bored people are quite envious of people like ourselves who have an interest or hobby that can be achieved at home during lockdowns and times of travel restrictions.

This presents an opportunity for Woodwork Clubs to attract such people for future membership so they can acquire sufficient skills to occupy/amuse themselves in the future. The Chinese Proverb of "the best time to plant a tree was thirty years ago and the second best time is today" could be used to encourage bored and unskilled in woodwork people to join your club.

The Council of Woodwork Clubs would like to hear of success stories of how clubs have adapted to our changing Covid-19 environment.

Please consider joining the Council of Woodwork Clubs committee, many of our decisions are made by telephone calls, Zoom and emails.

Thanks to Alison who keeps the wheels of the Council of Woodwork Clubs turning answering calls and emails.

Thanks to all the committee members for their input so we can make sound decisions based on a broad range of people and experiences.

A special thanks to Judy Wheeler who keeps us all focussed and enthusiastic.

- Rob Allan

President Council of Woodwork Clubs