

Council of Woodwork Clubs President Report 2020

Bushfires, Floods and a Pandemic, 2020 is a year we will all remember.

The Council of Woodwork Clubs decided to assist all clubs by not charging the Renewal Flagfall fee of \$75 per club to help clubs who might be struggling due to Covid-19.

We have always kept a healthy reserve to assist clubs in the case of an insurance claim and for a "rainy day". 2020 was that rainy day.

Although the Pandemic is not over, Governments are already piecing together schemes to kick start the dwindling economy, to assist the many people who will be out of work and for the many people who will be requiring assistance with mental issues.

The Grants will be out there for any organisations who can assist in this mammoth task. I strongly urge all clubs to think how they can help their communities and be generously assisted by grants from Local, State and Federal Governments.

Clubs have the space (might be an opportunity to increase meeting rooms and workshops), the organisation structure, the skills and the enthusiasm to help.

This will no doubt require careful planning and management but opportunities will exist. The opportunities will not come knocking on your clubroom door, you will need to seek them out however I have heard you will not need to look too far.

Please share your ideas and suggestions so other clubs can benefit.

Lockdowns and restrictions have made us all look for alternatives to holding physical meetings. Online meetings are nothing special today but last year many of us had not imagined we would be using this new technology.

It is refreshing to see the drive and enthusiasm of people who have spent most of their time in an earlier era take to the new technology. Yes, people in their 70's, 80's and 90's use online video conferences every day with their friends, family and clubs.

Attending many meetings physically can be difficult due to distance, time and health for many people. I live more than 3 hrs drive from my club which turns a 2 hour meeting into more than 8 hours plus more than 500Km driving. People in cities also find it difficult negotiating traffic, finding somewhere to park and walking in dark streets.

I have heard many people and organisations are planning on using Online Video meetings in the future for convenience, safety and efficient time use. Clearly not all meetings can be replaced by online meetings but due to Covid-19 we have another option for holding meetings.

This year the Council of Woodwork Clubs will be holding their AGM online. This will give many Interstate Club Representatives the opportunity of attending our AGM which is normally held in Victoria.

I would like to thank all the CWC committee members for their adaptability to the challenging events of 2020 and in particular to Judy Wheeler our Secretary who is always thinking of new ways to help clubs and communicating with clubs and to Max Grigg our Treasurer who does a fine job negotiating the insurance premiums to keep them as affordable as possible for the Clubs.

Alison who we employ for her admin services is always available to keep us up to date with newsletters to clubs and to help clubs with their enquiries. Many people may not realise but Alison often replies to your enquiries when she is on holidays on the other side of the world! Her commitment is appreciated.

Please share with us your experiences of 2020 and in particular your solutions to problems and your tips that can be shared with all Clubs.

Rob Allan

President,
Council of Woodwork Clubs