

The Woodworkers' Association of NSW Incorporated

July/August 2018

From the Chair

You know when you read something and it really strikes a chord? A couple of months ago I was reading an article in the Australian Wood Review about Adam Markowitz, a Melbourne maker who is also an architect, product designer and teacher. Adam was quoted as saying:

I think that CNC is totally part of the woodworker's tool set and needs to be... The mistake with woodies is that they stick their heads in the sand and say I want none of this. The reality is that 100 years ago when bandsaws came in there would have been the exact same discussions.

He was all in favour of hand skills but observed that for some jobs CNC is just a thousand times faster and the future for woodworkers is the judicious use of hand, machine and digital.

It got me thinking about CNC, how little I knew about it and

its availability for both professional and recreational woodworkers. That led me to Tony and Bette Petrie who have run a CNC business for 15 years. They are our guest speakers at our meeting on Monday, 6 August and will explain the processes involved and how members can access and utilise CNC equipment for their projects. I hope to see you there.

If you missed our last meeting, some snippets are included within. It was a fascinating discussion in our new comfortable meeting venue, the Canada Bay Club.

Our Inaugural Plane Day in July was well received and will be repeated next year. It was followed closely by the newly-styled Timber and Working with Wood Show. Reports from both events will be in the next newsletter. It is pleasing to see the reinvigoration of the T&WWWS and the enthusiasm going into the organisation of the Illawarra and WoodDust festivals in October.

I hope to see you at the upcoming meeting.

Phil Greenwood



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WWA objectives

The objects of the Association are:

- to provide a forum for networking and to encourage camaraderie amongst all those who work in wood
- to promote public awareness and appreciation of fine woodwork
- to encourage creativity, design and development of skills and application by all woodworkers
- to represent professional woodworkers and promote sustainability of fine woodwork as a career
- to promote awareness of environmental issues including encouraging the judicious use of our precious native timber resources and use sustainable harvested, recycled and reclaimed timbers.

WWA Life Members

Richard Crosland

Phil Lake

Kim Larymore

Leon Sadubin

Richard Vaughan

Our next meeting ...

Monday, 6 August 2018 - 7.30pm

Accessing and using CNC equipment

The use of CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) routers are increasingly becoming commonplace in the lives of commercial woodworkers. They provide great precision, enormous time-savings and can allow designers to be extraordinarily creative. But the equipment prohibitively expensive for most woodworkers to acquire.

That's where the proprietors of Cut, Carve and Create come in. Bette and David Petrie are premier machinists who run a CNC milling business at Cromer to complement and extend the skills of carpenters, joiners and cabinetmakers. They work with woodworkers to bring difficult projects to fruition in a cost effective way. At our meeting, Bette and David will explain the processes involved and answer all your questions about CNC milling.

In particular they will discuss design considerations, how to create computer files, the estimation, ordering and approval process, the use of prototypes and the actual machining.

Their website is at cutcarvecreate.com.au and will give you a taste of the range of possibilities.

A different way to sharpen tools

Long-term Association member Tony Anderson will demonstrate some very different sharpening systems. Tony is an experienced woodworker but has a passion for high-precision metal work. He brings these metal working skills to the art of sharpening. Tony will demonstrate fast sharpening using a spinning turntable/lapping plate. He will use several types of lapping plates: ceramic, soft metal and hard felt with a variety of grit pastes.

All welcome at our new venue

Members are welcome to invite family and friends to attend the meeting.

Please note the venue for the meeting is the **Canada Bay Club, 4 William St, Five Dock**. Plenty of parking is available. We will be meeting in the William Room on the first floor.

Meals and light snacks are available at the Club if you would like to partake before the meeting. Baysia is a popular Chinese restaurant run by the Liu family and there is also The Brasserie with a variety of light and delicious meals.



WWA Committee 2018

Chair: Phil Greenwood

9235 2874

phgreenwood@optusnet.com.au

Vice-Chair: Frank Duff

9896 4017, 0422 778 380

fwduff@icloud.com

Secretary: David Palmer

9449 2602

secretary.woodworkersnsw@gmail.com.au

Treasurer: Oliver Addis

0419 016 622

oaddis@comcen.com.au

Committee members:

Matt Dwight

dwrightmatt@hotmail.com

Angus Greenwood

0488 087 233

agreenwood@mainbrace.com.au

John Kirkwood

johnkirkwood@bigpond.com

Steve Townsend

9719 8753, 0411 477 075

steve@ibis4.com

Shane Wiechnik

0448 798 955

swiechnik@gmail.com

If you would like to join or assist the Committee or be more involved in the Association, please call any Committee member.

News, news, news

Congratulations to **Darren Oates** who has created a new YouTube channel called **Darren Oates Furniture**.

As well as being an excellent maker, Darren has always been very generous about sharing his experience with others. And he is a thinker - he quietly works through problems that he encounters when making items and



figures out a better way of doing things. Then he is happy to show others what he has discovered and his clever solution to fix the problem. There are 8 videos currently on the channel. They reflect Darren's interest in curved laminations, his love of his band saw and his inventive skills. We look forward to his future postings.

Boutique Timbers, suppliers of high quality furniture timber, slabs boards and burls are having their annual timber auction on 23 September at the Rollands Plains Recreation Ground near Port Macquarie. The auction will start at 10.00am with viewing from 12.00 on Saturday 22nd or from 8.00am on the 23rd. The Lot list will be available around 14th Sept and will be placed on the Boutique Timbers website or available by email. For more details about Boutique Timbers, see the ad on page 15 of this Newsletter or [boutique timbers.com.au](http://boutique-timbers.com.au).

It is always pleasing to see someone take a good tool and make it even better. **Nova** (famous for their turning chucks) have launched a "smart" drill press that is worth having a look at. Here is a short video - just click on the link <https://vimeo.com/user41200398/review/275314205/c8dbece851>.

We have recently been reminded of **the dangers of CCA-treated timber**. Chromated copper arsenate has been used as a wood preservative for many years and gives a distinctive green tint to timber. The chromium acts as a fixing agent so that the copper and arsenic bind to the cellulose and lignin in the wood. The copper protects the wood from decay, fungi and bacteria and the arsenic provides protection from insects such as termites and weather resistance.

There are differing views about the effects of leaching from CCA timber and it is no longer used USA and Canada. But there is general agreement that care should be exercised when handling or working with CCA timber. Gloves and respiratory equipment should be used to avoid direct skin contact or inhalation of CCA dust. For the protection of members, CCA timber should not be brought to the Workshop. Our Workshop is an enclosed environment with minimal flow-through ventilation. Although we have a good dust-extraction system, it does not capture all airborne particles. In addition, members need to empty the dust collection regularly so we don't want people exposed to nasties. So please keep your CCA timber at home, and take care. In particular, never burn CCA treated timber - the smoke can be very toxic if inhaled.

Courses, courses ...

In response to popular demand, **Matt Dwight**, teacher and maker, is running a course for members on **techniques using veneer**. Members will learn about how to lay veneers, using decorative inlays, stringing and banding, arranging patterns and matching and splicing veneers.

The course will be conducted over two days at our Workshop on consecutive Saturdays, **18 and 25 August**. The cost will be \$320 and will be limited to the first 6 members who register with David Palmer at secretary.woodworkersnsw@gmail.com.au.

In **September**, **Peter Harris** has kindly agreed to run our **annual box-making course** for members. People can choose from some of Peter's designs or create their own design.

The course will be conducted at our Workshop from 9.00am to 4.00pm on Tuesday 4th, Thursday 6th, Friday 7th, Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th September. The cost is only \$250 for members.

This course is also limited to a maximum of 6 people, so if you wish to attend please register your interest with David Palmer at secretary.woodworkersnsw@gmail.com.au.

www.woodworkersnsw.org.au

Also in **September**, the Association is offering members the opportunity to learn about woodcarving with our own **Fred Blake**.

Fred has kindly agreed to conduct an introductory class for 6 people who would like to explore this skill. It will run from 10am-3pm on **Saturday, 22 September**. No experience in carving is required, or equipment. There will be a nominal fee. If you would like to attend, please email David Palmer at secretary.woodworkersnsw@gmail.com.au

Brian Dawson will be conducting a two day course for 6 people who would like to make a Shaker Step Chair. This is a handy addition to workshop or kitchen and involves basic jointing and shaping techniques.

The course will be conducted at our Workshop on Monday and Tuesday, **12-13 November 2018**.

The cost is only \$100 for members who wish to bring their own timber or \$200 for those who would like the timber supplied.

This course is limited to a maximum of 6 people. If you wish to attend please register your interest with David Palmer at secretary.woodworkersnsw@gmail.com.au.

Supervisors

In the last newsletter we incorrectly named Peter Jackson as one of our new Workshop supervisors instead of **Peter Munro**. Sorry Peters.

And now we are delighted to announce that **Shane Wiechnik** is also an accredited Workshop supervisor. Thanks Shane.

The Workshop gets a lot of use and if we can enlist a couple more Supervisors, we may be able to open the Workshop more often. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact David Palmer.

At our last meeting...

Alec Tzannes, architect

We were very privileged to have Alec Tzannes, architect, speak to us at our June general meeting about the design and construction of Australia's largest



commercial building made from wood - International House at Barangaroo.

Alec is the founding director of Tzannes, an architecture and urban design practice. He is one of Australia's most respected architects with a portfolio of private and public work spanning more than 30 years. His firm has won more than 100 local, state, national and international design awards. From 2008-2016 he was the Dean of the University of NSW Built Environment and is now an Emeritus Professor at UNSW. Within days of addressing us, the Australian Institute of Architects awarded Alec a Gold Medal, their highest honour, for his contribution to architecture in Australia.

But now to International House... It is located at the entrance to Barangaroo and is a seven storey commercial building almost entirely constructed from wood. Although mid-rise wooden buildings



have been built in recent years for residential developments, they do not have large open floorplans. Designing and constructing a wooden building with 1,250sqm floor spaces without any internal walls is a different challenge entirely.

The construction almost did not proceed. Alec told the story of how Lend Lease, the developer, was persuaded to adopt the innovative design and how, to its credit, Lend Lease has commissioned further similar buildings.

Alec provided a fascinating exposition about the design considerations and process, the materials and construction methods utilised, and the sustainability of the building.

From a concrete base, the building is supported by a row of hardwood timber columns rising from metal plinths. The exterior is ironwood recovered from a wharf in Queensland.

The internal structure is a network of glued laminated columns (480x480mm) and beams (800x480mm) and cross laminated (CLT) slabs (12x2.25x.22m) of spruce, made in Austria as the process was not available in Australia at that time.



All the timber is renewable structural material with FSC certification. The timber volumes were 2,400m³ of glulam, 900m³ of CLT and 150m³ of hardwood - the equivalent of 1,840 spruce trees or 6 hectares of forest. Australian radiata pine forests can apparently grow International House in 2.5 hours! The building contains 50% less carbon than the equivalent concrete building.

It took only a small crew to put the building together like a meccano set and it was a pleasure

to work at the site during its construction. Alec talked about the delightful smell of the spruce forest and the absence of concrete dust, noise and volatile organic compounds. This was confirmed by a friend who was a sub-contractor and worked on the project.

The benefits of having exposed timber and natural materials in a work environment have been well documented. Higher personal productivity has been demonstrated as well as a greater sense of optimism and creativity



with reduced stress and improved air quality. One of the other wonderful attributes of this building is that it can be completely dismantled and re-used. As the need and desire for sustainability in constructions increases, the ability to re-use materials has to be a core element of design.

International House won the prestigious 2017 Athenaeum & European Centre design award for international architecture and the Australian Timber Design Award. We congratulate Alec and his firm on their innovative and sensitive work and perseverance in designing this building and bringing it to fruition.

Fred Ward, furniture designer

Also at the June General Meeting, Steve Townsend gave a talk about one of Australia's leading furniture designers, Fred Ward.

Steve first came across Fred Ward's work when staying at the Australian National University's University House in Canberra where it pervades every office, room, hall and foyer. All of it made in gorgeous Australian timbers and all in perfect condition.

To find out more, Steve bought Derek Wrigley's book on Fred Ward and also spoke to Association member Alan Perry who worked for many years with Fred.

Born in Melbourne in 1900, Fred started out as an artist, training at the National Gallery of Victoria. He tried various jobs including as a cartoonist for The Bulletin and, completely self-taught, made the furniture for his home.



Friends soon commissioned him to design and make furniture for them and before long Myer Emporium, one of the largest furniture makers of the day, hired him as a designer.

During the war years he was seconded to the Dept of Aircraft Production and worked on the [Mosquito Bomber](#). This was one of the most outstanding aircraft of the war and was made using laminated hardwood spars and a plywood skin. Fred Ward acted as the main liaison officer between the British designers and the Australian manufacturers.

After the war he returned to Myer before branching out on his own. The ANU provided his first big breakthrough and he earned hefty commissions designing furniture for offices and lecture theatres.

The National Library of Australia was another important client and also the Reserve Bank of Australia. At the RBA he designed tables, desks, chairs, board tables and other office furniture.

Six of the floors in the Bank had a state theme. On the floor for Queensland everything was made out of Queensland Maple or Black bean. For NSW it was NSW Rosewood. For Victoria, Victorian Ash. Tasmania was Blackwood and WA, of course was Jarrah. The problem came with South Australia. There isn't an iconic SA timber. They ended up making the furniture for SA out of a range of various timbers.

Fred liked to give plenty of detail with his designs carefully explaining every feature so it wouldn't be skipped. But there was one case of him neglecting

an important detail.

Alan Perry tells the story of how they had just finished installing the 1000 desks in the Reserve Bank and two weeks before the official opening someone pointed out that every desk was supposed to have a "modesty panel" and none of them did.

Was this an important issue? You bet, it was the 1960s - the era of the miniskirt. Fred Ward urgently called Alan Perry and Alan leapt into action. All the modesty panels were fitted in time.

Fred Ward died in 1990 leaving a vast legacy of designs and his influence on other designers.



In 2013 an exhibition of his work was held at the Gallery of Australian Design in Canberra to coincide with the release of his biography by Derek Wrigley, who had collaborated with Ward in his later years in Canberra. You can hear an [interview with Derek Wrigley](#) recorded in August 2013 for the 'By Design' program on ABC Radio National. For more information on Fred Ward check out the [Fred Ward Archive Collection](#) on the Powerhouse Museum website.

Welcome

Welcome to our new members **Eun Young Bang**, **Douglas Tapp** and **Stephanie Etccl**.

Doug hails from Willoughby and retired from an exciting life in Radio and Television locally and

overseas working mostly in Operations and Broadcast Systems.

Between golf and volunteering with the NSW SES, Doug fits in a weekly trip to the Sturt College in Mittagong attending the part time woodworking course. His main interest is furniture making and honing his techniques in these areas.



Doug joined the WWA to meet and learn from the members and gain access to the Association's events and the Abbotsford workshop.

His biggest concern since taking up woodworking seriously is that his tool budget is now almost exceeding his monthly CD allowance!

We might need to introduce Doug to Spotify!...

Special thanks to ...

Our Workshop supervisors for June and July - **John Kirkwood, David Palmer, Peter Harris, Brian Dawson, John Brassell, Gordon Joseph, Matt Dwight and Peter Dunn**.

Shane Wiechnik and **Steve Townsend** for organising our Annual Plane Day.

David Palmer and his team who organised this year's effort at the Timber and Working with Wood Show - **Richard Leniston, Bill Morey and Ian Stewart**.

The other members who generously assisted with the set-up and willingly contributed their time to be at our Stand at the Show - **John Connors, Peter Dunn, Peter Harris, John Kirkwood, Phil Nanlohy, Ken Pitman, Nik Tepley, Steve Townsend and Shane Wiechnik**.

Dates for your diary

Remember that our Workshop at 1 Spring Street, Abbotsford is open to members each Wednesday and Sunday...

Saturday, 4 August - Tools for Design - a journey into design with wood. A half day conference in Sydney for woodworkers interested in design. More details on page 11 of this newsletter and at www.woodreview.com.au.

Monday, 6 August 2018 - CNC milling - how we can all access this machinery - WWA General meeting, Canada Bay Club, 7.30pm.

Saturday, 18 August and Saturday, 25 August - Veneering techniques. How to lay veneers, use decorative inlays, stringing and banding, arrange patterns and match and splice veneers. \$320 includes all materials.

4, 6, 7, 10 and 11 September - WWA Annual Box-making Workshop
To be conducted by Peter Harris. Members can choose from some of Peter's designs or create their own design. Limited to 6 members. \$250 payable in advance. Please register interest to David Palmer at secretary.woodworkersnsw@gmail.com.

Sat, 22 September - Woodcarving with Fred Blake. An introduction to the art and science of woodcarving.

Sun, 23 September - Boutique Timbers Annual Timber Auction at Rollands Plains Showgrounds.

Sat, 6 October - Introduction to woodworking. A workshop for new members conducted by Matt Dwight.

12-14 October - The Second Illawarra Wood Festival

A festival to celebrate, preserve and promote the traditions of 'working with wood'. Bulli Showground from 10am-5pm. More details available at www.illawarrafestivalofwood.com.au.

17-21 October - Wood Dust, the Australian International Timber and Woodworking Festival in Queanbeyan and Bungendore, NSW.

An opportunity for woodworkers to meet and share stories, techniques and wisdom. Featuring woodworking classes, lectures, displays, stalls and local and international celebrities.

Tickets are now on sale. More details available at www.wooddustaustralia.com.

Sat, 10 November - Introduction to woodworking. A workshop for new members conducted by Matt Dwight.

Mon-Tues, 12-13 November - Making a Shaker step-chair. A workshop to develop skills and make a very useful step-chair for your workshop or as a Christmas gift for a loved one. Run by Brian Dawson. Please register interest to David Palmer at secretary.woodworkersnsw@gmail.com.



Meet a member... Chauntelle Mitchell

This month I would like you to meet Chauntelle Mitchell, a member who, just like a lot of us, has had a fascination with wood since early in her life.

Hi Chauntelle, can you remember how old you were when you first become aware that you had a desire to make something with wood?

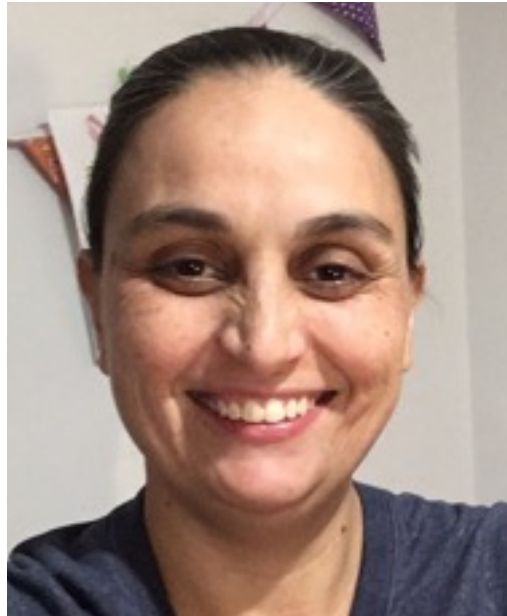
I have always been interested in making things and wood was something that was easily accessible. My parents replaced a section of marquetry floor when I was young and I spent an age trying to sand and cut the old hardwood pieces with no particular project in mind. I have no idea what sort of timber it was, but it was extremely hard and it something in me to create with timber. I have always loved wood as a material. I am constantly amazed by the changeable nature of wood and the way in which the colour can deepen as it ages. I have a jarrah picture frame a friend helped me make many years ago and it has been amazing to see it change over the years. With no refinishing it has become even more beautiful.

Over the years I have satisfied my woodworking desires with repairing and renovating furniture for myself and my family and friends, making wooden spoons, picture frames and DIY projects.

What inspired you to join our Association?

In the past year I have been interested in getting into woodworking primarily so that I can make things for my daughters - it is such a joy to see them play with something I have made for them.

My two young girls are very keen to help at any time a tool appears. Recently for her third birthday I gave my eldest daughter her own real tools, a ball peen hammer, wrench, small screwdrivers, a pine board and bunch of nails and of course safety glasses. She loves to set up the nails and hit them in. Right off the bat she had a natural aptitude to strike the nails and has been really good following safety instructions. No injuries so far, but lots of enthusiasm. One of my first projects was to make a small wooden mallet out of a scrap of zebra wood for my youngest so she could join in without damaging the house or herself.



I joined the association to push myself to actually get something made and spend time with and be inspired by people actively in the craft. The few meetings I have attended and reading the newsletter definitely has inspired me to start and my next step is to get into the Association workshop and learn the correct techniques for the machinery I am unfamiliar with such as the table saw, bandsaw and jointer.

Have you had any training in woodworking?

I have not had any training in woodworking. I'm really just at the start of my craft, building basic skills and am looking forward to taking some workshops. I have started mainly using hand tools, practicing techniques of cutting, planing and basic joints and quickly realised it is much harder to cut a straight line with a handsaw than it appears on a YouTube video, but I am enjoying the process. I am looking forward to moving on to dimensioning timber and building bigger projects. I bought a Triton router some time ago and it is finally time to start using it, so a basic router table is the next project on the list.

Is there a particular era or style of furniture that is your favourite and have you, or, do you intend to build any of that?

I am inspired by the joinery of Sam Maloof and the simple elegance of shaker furniture. My long term goal is to make furniture for my own home,

eventually making something in these styles. In time I would also love to make a version of the Ercol bench (love seat).

What timbers do you most enjoy working with and what are you making at present?

The main timbers that I have been using are walnut and hard maple. My current project is a roux spoon for a gift and I'm in process of designing a tool caddy for my hand tools.

I have a long list of future projects, mainly toys and furniture for my girls, more spoon making and I would love to make some tools such as a small hand router and a carving mallet.



A friend just bought a lathe so I'm excited to try it out, starting with making a set of handles for my old mismatched chisels and I have seen some lovely turned wooden whistles and bird calls which would be an interesting project, so if anyone has any tips for this please let me know. I also am keen to experiment with different timbers like spalted wood.

Do you have your own workshop facilities?

At the moment I am working on a makeshift bench set up in my carport, courtyard or backyard with all my tools stored in the house so projects have been taking a little long to get going, running in and out to collect clamps, glue, extension cords etc as required. We are just about to move to the Blue Mountains, where a workshop area is high on my

wishlist so hopefully that will make the process a bit easier.

Are you satisfied with the tools you have or is there a wish list?

I am always looking out for additional tools, luckily for me I am just starting out in woodworking so there are lots of tools that I do genuinely need. I have spent the last year listening to woodworking podcasts and getting together a basic set of tools - favouring good quality used tools over new. It is nice to think that someone (or a number of people) in the past have used the tool to make a lifetime of items. I have a basic mismatched set of chisels (mainly older English makers), a beautiful old number 3 Stanley and number 5 Record plane that I purchased from a lovely guy who is a furniture restorer, Japanese handsaws, a few gouges, clamps and a small vice together with a grinder, circular saw and pretty extensive set of home tools such as socket sets, pliers, hammers etc. I love a trash and treasure sale and am always on the lookout for old tools. As I will be hopefully be setting up a dedicated workshop in the next few months I will finally have room to get a bandsaw and thicknesser so that will be pretty exciting.

Do you have any parting words for our members?

I have only made it to a few monthly meetings due to my previous work commitments, but would like to thank everyone I have met for being so welcoming. Please drop me a line if you live in the Blue Mountains - I would love to hear how you have winter-proofed your workshops and anything else I might need to know about the challenges and joys of working in that climate. I look forward to meeting up with you in the workshop soon.

Peter Dunn

Work opportunities...

The Association often gets asked for referrals to skilful people who can collect and repair items of furniture - some large, some small.

If you are available to do these kinds of jobs, please let us know so we can refer people to you. Just drop an email to phgreenwood@optusnet.com.au.

AWR L!VE: Tools For Design

This year's AWR L!VE is on a Saturday afternoon, August 4. The theme for our half day conference is design, an essential focal point for woodworkers that our speakers will address on many levels.

Speakers include **Laura McCusker**, **Roy Schack**, **Adam Markowitz**, **Helmut Lueckenhausen** and **Ben Percy**.

Members can obtain a 15% discount by entering the code LIVEVIP on the booking page <https://www.book-this.com/australian-wood-review-live-sydney-2018>.

Laura McCusker is a high profile and award winning designer maker. She will talk about the design and making processes she uses to respond a variety of private, corporate and public briefs.

Adam Markowitz is an architect and designer who has trained extensively in woodworking techniques. He utilises traditional and digital means and will examine the toolkit of the modern woodworker and

how the process of making can inform our design directions.

Helmut Lueckenhausen has been on the scene for four decades as a leading designer and designer/maker, a noted educator and member of various crafts council boards. He will talk about the past and present trends and styles, as well as some of the theories and factors influencing the way we design with wood.

Roy Schack is another woodworking legend, a woodworker who is famous for his restrained style and immaculate technique as well as his insights into the world of the maker. He is another teacher who inspires others to find their own style and design voice, an area that many find challenging.

Ben Percy is a designer maker and teacher gains exceptional results from his secondary school students. Ben will give a nuts and bolts talk entitled: Design Strategies: ideation to production, a journey to success.

WWA Abbotsford Workshop

Members are reminded that our Workshop at 1 Spring St, Abbotsford is equipped with a wide range of fine equipment for your use including the sliding table saw, 2 band saws, jointer, thicknesser, lathe, router table, wide belt sander, finisher and a good range of hand tools.

The Workshop is open every Wednesday and Sunday from about 10am to about 3pm, and other times by arrangement with a Committee member.

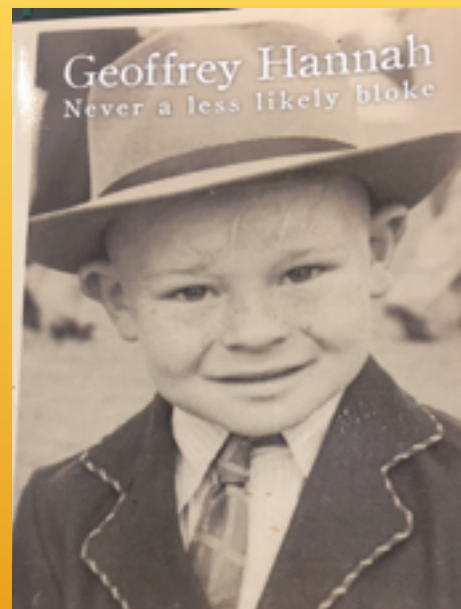
For the safety of members and guests, members do need to be accredited to use the powered equipment.

Accreditation days are conducted several times during the year. Enquiries can be directed to David Palmer at secretary.woodworkersnsw@gmail.com.

There is a daily \$5 fee for using the Workshop which goes towards the maintenance of the equipment.

Please sign in and make sure you pay when you arrive to avoid any embarrassment.

Geoff Hannah's biography



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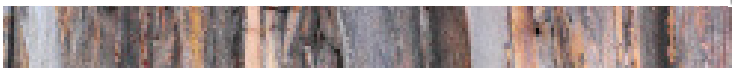
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