

Claire O'Reilly with her completed box from Alex Springall's Box Making Workshop.

This issue features the successful box making course conducted by Alex Springall. To follow up the next meeting will have a presentation on the broad range of hinges available. Our speaker will open your eyes to more than 15 different types of hinges in an interactive session. This is a great opportunity to learn more and to share your knowledge with other members.

Next Association Meeting

7 for 7.30pm, **Monday 2 October**

The Association's Workshop

50 Spring Street, Abbotsford

NSW WWA Committee Change

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If you'd like to join or assist the committee or be more involved in the Association, call a committee member!

Life members: Richard Crosland, Phil Lake, Kim Larymore, Leon Sadubin, Richard Vaughan.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT₂

At present I am reading a book (imaginatively entitled "Wood") that contains an interesting chapter on the different roles that boxes have fulfilled in mankind's development over the ages. Learning about the multitude of different uses, methods of construction and finishers used in different places around the world has given me a new appreciation of this (sometimes) humble storage container. Box-making has always been popular, initially for purely utilitarian purposes. Ornamentation and decoration of the boxes quickly followed and the boxes that were intended to store items and collections soon themselves became items to collect.

Boxes have a special fascination for woodworkers - both professional and amateur. There is the wonderment of what is, or could be, in the box? After all, so often boxes hold treasures. Why was it made and what has it been used for? As an item to make, they provide the challenges of design, construction and finishing that apply to all woodworking - what is its purpose? what is the best way to make it? what do I want it look like ultimately?

Everyone from the age of about four can make a box. You don't need great skills or a large or well-equipped workshop to knock out something that is useful and pleasing. A good result can be achieved within a reasonable period of time and it can survive a lifetime or much longer. The extent of artistic expression and the complexity of design and construction is entirely a matter for the maker.

We are encouraging all members to make a box and bring it (or send it) along to our meeting in April 2018. *Every* box is interesting, from the apple crate to the jewel encrusted. We will award prizes at the meeting in a range of classes to recognise and appreciate the effort and/or thought and/or craftsmanship that has been involved, from the most humble to the most elaborate. The only practical limitations are that the box is made predominantly from wood and fits within a 300mm cube. Please participate.

We are planning our Workshops for Members for 2018 and are looking at about 3 courses during the year. We will provide more details and dates when they are known .

Phil Greenwood

Alex Springall's Box Making Workshop

There is something magical about transforming a couple of undressed pieces of timber of varying thicknesses, length and width into a wooden box. It is even more magical to be able to learn those skills under the tutelage of Alex Springall.

The Oxford Dictionary defines a box as a container with a flat base and sides, typically square or rectangle and having a lid. Clearly, that entry was not made by a woodworker. If so, it might have also added that the sides may be joined either by mitred joints, finger joints or dovetails with a continuous grain pattern, and a contrasting lid, either hinged or bevelled or raised or chamfered. Indeed, with so many options, the definition would have gone on for paragraphs.

For those of us who attended Alex's recent box making class run by Woodworkers NSW, all of these options were explored. Alex, who was ably accompanied by Peter Harris, showed us the steps needed to transform our chosen pieces of timber into a fine wooden box that reflected both utility and beauty.

After an inspiring (and slightly intimidating) look at some of the boxes Alex and Peter have made, we discussed design and joinery options. We all did some quick sketches of a box that would suit our purposes and then discussed the options with Alex. Drawings were turned into plans and given the varying skills and experience of the attendees, the full range of joinery options were chosen for our boxes.

Perhaps the most straightforward was the mitred box, with contrasting splines for added strength. Finger joints are a popular and attractive means of building a box. Alex showed us how he cuts finger joints on the bandsaw and Peter showed us how to make finger joints with the Gifkins jig and router. The jig and router were perhaps the faster method, but knowing how to use the bandsaw is a great alternative when access to a jig is not practicable.

The dovetail joint is generally seen as a sign of a truly skilled woodworker. Peter showed us how to use the jig and router to make uniform dovetails, while Alex showed us how to hand cut dovetails. We had one box with through dovetails and another with half-blind dovetails, both of which were hand cut.

Both power and hand tools were demonstrated



Garry tidies up his finger joints while Peter sets a block plane



John paring dovetails

and tips and tricks were shared to make each step easier with an eye on the finished product. Alex showed us the importance of book matching pieces of timber and using traditional ways of marking each of the pieces to keep track as the box is made. Keeping the pieces in order is essential to ensure continuous grain pattern can be tracked around each side of the box. While non-woodworkers may not understand the steps needed to match sides, they will appreciate the symmetry of continuous grain around a box.

We were shown how to cut grooves and rebates for the bottom and top to be inserted, remembering to leave enough space for the wood to move and accommodating finger or dovetail joints. We also looked at different lids and the ways that lids could be attached. From smart hinges to butt hinges to wooden hinges to simple lids that fit neatly on top of the box, we learned how each of these methods added a design element. We used different jigs to make

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MEMBERS OLD AND NEW

Introducing Richard Leniston

1. When did you join the Association and how did that come about? - Almost 2 years ago. I have limited workspace and was looking for a workshop that had a lathe local to me. I found the WWA website, then headed down to the Abbotsford wonderland and talked to the supervisor on duty, Peter Harris. It was the best decision I have ever made.

2. What current woodworking projects do you have underway? - I was lucky enough to be given a lot of nice timber by a work colleague who was down sizing, so I am making a thankyou gift, a hand turned pen and handmade box for the guy that gave me timber and a little ring holder for his wife. All are made from the timber he gave me. I generally always have a few jobs going at the same time. There is also a jewellery box for the mother in law, one for the wife, one for the daughter, and a few other odd jobs, jigs etc

3. What occupies you when you are not woodworking?

Thinking about woodworking including the best way to tackle the next job, what timbers to use, how can I recover from the latest disaster. Outside of that I have a wonderful wife and 2 beautiful kids that drive me nuts and send me batty and make me look forward to getting down to Abbotsford

and listen to Peter Dunn's dry jokes.

4. What is your favourite tool at the moment and what do you most like using it to do? The Abbotsford workshop has opened my eyes to some of the tools I have never had access to and as such, sit in wonder how I ever made anything straight and square before. It's too hard to pin point one particular tool. If I had to pick one, I'd say the lathe, there are so many things that you can do with it, as long as it's round!

5. What do you enjoy about the WWA? Where do I start? I'd say having access to a multitude of machinery, helps, but without the collective knowledge and experience of the members and supervisors at the Abbotsford workshop they are just that, machines. And for a gluer & screwdriver from way back when pine, tas oak, pacific Maple and MDF, were the only timbers available to him (as he didn't know any different), the WWA has helped me broaden my knowledge base in learning how to do things properly, better, straighter



A letter from Leon Sadubin

On the coming long weekend, Saturday 30th September, Sunday 1st October and Monday 2nd, I will be holding a sale of all my showroom furniture stock in my Gerringong studio. This will include early prototypes and work spanning time from the late 1970s to the present.

Over 40 items will be reduced in price, ranging from a Freeform Table to seat 8 in Spotted gum, coffee tables and swivel back chairs to artists easels and serving trays. Six of my slung leather Yoke arm-chairs, two in Australian red cedar with foot stools, 2 in Queensland maple with the original coffee table and 2 in Monterey cypress in the current version, are available either as sets or individually.

This is an opportunity to acquire one or more of my works at significantly reduced prices.

Sale times: Saturday the doors open and sales start at mid day. Sunday and Monday 10am to 4pm.

During September I will be showcasing all the items on my Instagram site @leonsadubindesigns

My plan for the showroom space is to share my woodworking facility with younger, emerging craftspeople. This area would be repurposed for bench space.

I look forward to seeing you again, all families and friends welcome,

with warm regards,

Leon

From the Editor

Leon has asked me to convey to members that he is not closing the workshop –only the showroom.

The items for sale are works by Leon. There will be no sale of tools and machinery.

Warwick Wright

Welcome to the following new members

Michael Tsimnadis, Phil Nott, Shane Wiechnik, Gregory Houseman, David Houseman, Taffy Yiu, Simon Grey, Alex Houseman, Ian Grey, Chris Lovel, Alan Gravalin, Anto Komsic, Eiko Haase, Peter Van Wegen, Robert Ong, Bronwyn Vost, John Yahl, Tim Cowan-Lunn.

From our last meeting

At the August general meeting Greg Ward from Boutique Timbers gave a very interesting talk on the timber industry on the NSW North Coast and showed some extraordinary slabs.

Greg told us a lot about the evolution of trees and how the eucalypts have fought their way to dominance in so many areas.

Of particular interest were the many slabs he brought along to show us and offer for sale: Forest oak, camphor laurels, Mackay cedar northern silky oak and southern silky oak, to name a few. Many had amazing grain, figure and textures with some spalting for variation. All available at excellent prices.

Boutique Timbers is a specialist supplier of furniture-grade timber. Logs are processed using a 1.2 metre wide band saw; natural and straight edge boards, slabs, bar-tops and burls slices are professionally presented.

Among the timbers they sell are Australian red cedar, rosewood, river red gum, Mackay cedar, blue gum, white beech, huon pine, kauri pine, hoop pine, Queensland Maple, Queensland Walnut and many other species.

Stock is located at Ballengarra near Rollands Plains near Port Macquarie. Deliveries to Sydney are made regularly; Large orders shipped by truck; small orders can be collected from Cremorne.

Visitors are welcome to come and select timber - bring a trailer - but call first to ensure there are staff on site.

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Alex Springall's Box Making Workshop

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clean and precise cuts – either for cutting open a box or for inserting splines or keys.

We experimented with designs to create a coopered lid and explored ideas for creating small handles or levers to open a box.

Of course, a fine wooden box needs a proper finish. Alex showed us how to take the time and care to prepare the box surface using both scrapers and sandpaper – and in some cases, an iron to remove any dents made during the making of the box. Boxes are not only to look at, but beg to be touched. Having a smooth, even finish means the beauty of the finished box is felt as well as seen. With a properly prepared surface, the use of shellac and oil revealed the patterns and beauty of the timber. For inside the box, we looked at leather and felt that could be inserted into the box, along with dividers and trays.

At the end of five days, we had not only our boxes to take home, but the skills and confidence to design and make different types of boxes. And of course, we made new friends and co-woodworkers with whom, we can share ideas and tips. A barbecue lunch on the last day, where we were joined by Alex's labradoodle, Beau, was a great way to end the course.

Many thanks to Alex and Peter for generously sharing their skills and time with us.

Claire O'Reilly



Claire and Alex absorbed in the details

Wood events for your diary

Creative Moments 2017— The River

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Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society

Nowra Spinners & Weavers

Shoalhaven Potters

Shoalhaven Regional Gallery

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Free entry



Preserving the tradition of working with wood

The first Illawarra Festival of Wood is being held at Bulli Showground on Friday 6 October and Saturday 7 October 2017.

This innovative event deserves our support and members are encouraged to attend. There will be a number of workshops and demonstrations by a number of craftsmen including Stan Ceglinski.

More information at

www.illawarrafestivalofwood.com

The Australian International Timber and Wood- working Festival

The festival will be centred in Bungendore near Canberra. There will be interesting and diverse events, workshops, talks and displays.

More details are available at

www.wooddustaustralia.com

It promises to be a wonderful opportunity to meet and engage with woodworkers from all over Australia

BOXES. YOUR CHANCE TO ENTER YOUR BOX IN THE ROYAL EASTER SHOW

For many years the Association has donated a (modest) prize at the Royal Easter Show for the best box exhibited. It has also donated (modest) prizes for two other classes of Woodwork - "small item of furniture" and "musical instrument". In the opinion of some members, the number and quality of some entries in these categories has declined in recent years to the point where the Association has considered whether it should continue to provide sponsorship. The decision that has been made for the 2018 Show is to sponsor only a prize of \$150 for the best box. We encourage all members to consider entering a box for the Show - the more the better. Having a ribbon from the Sydney Royal Easter Show is still something special.

WORKSHOPS FOR MEMBERS IN 2008

We are planning our Workshops for Members for 2018 and are looking at about 3 courses during the year. The current thinking is to have courses on joint-making, stool or coffee table construction and a finishing course. If you have any suggestions about a course you would like to conduct or attend, please share them with a member of the Committee.

We will provide more details and dates when they are known .

Phil Greenwood

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Many thanks to ...

the following members who have recently contributed to our Association:

Frank Duff for his work and research relating to health and safety requirements for our Workshop.

Alex Springall for conducting the box-making workshop and **Clare O'Reilly** for her delightful article on the course. Also to **John Evans** and **Peter Van Wegen** for contributing photographs from the course.

Angus Greenwood and Steve Townsend for their ongoing work with sound-proofing at our Workshop.

Our Workshop Supervisors for the past two months - **John Brassell, Gordon Joseph, David Palmer, Peter Dunn, Brian Dawson, Peter Harris, John Kirkwood** and **Brian Dawson**.

Steve Townsend who organised the speaker for our last meeting and **Peter Dunn** who arranged the catering for that meeting.

David Palmer for organising agendas and minutes and sending emails to members.

Oliver Addis for looking after the finances of the Association.

Peter Hunt for keeping our membership database under control and liaising with members.

Our Newsletter team, **Warwick Wright** and **Peter Evans**.

What is Hobby Society?

Hobby Society will be an online platform catering to hobby enthusiasts. It will be a place where those sharing the same hobby can **connect**, learn **skills** and rent **equipment** and **space**. And all the while building a hobby-based community or society will be the only online platform which caters to all the needs of a hobbyist; the need to improve their skills, to feel part of a bigger community and to access tools and equipment needed to carry out their hobby.

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Australian Wood Review

Wood Diary

Event listings in the magazine and website for free. Submit your info 5-6 weeks before the magazine goes on sale.

Online news

AWR now produces fortnightly eNewsletters with news and event info. Sign-up at woodreview.com.au to receive them.

Stories

Tell them your story. And tell them what stories you'd like to read in the magazine (or if you'd like to write for them.)

Contact Linda Nathan, Editor
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linda@woodreview.com.au
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The SWG meets regularly at four locations. Beginners are welcome.
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Southside (Lilli Pilli): First Saturday of the month and one weekday evening

Epping: Second and fourth Wednesday of the month

Chester Hill: Second Saturday of the month

Shellharbour: First Monday and third Saturday of the month.

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Hobby Society continued from page 8

How will Hobby Society help me?

If you are hobby enthusiast who would like to get better or needs to hire space and equipment, Hobby Society will allow you to:

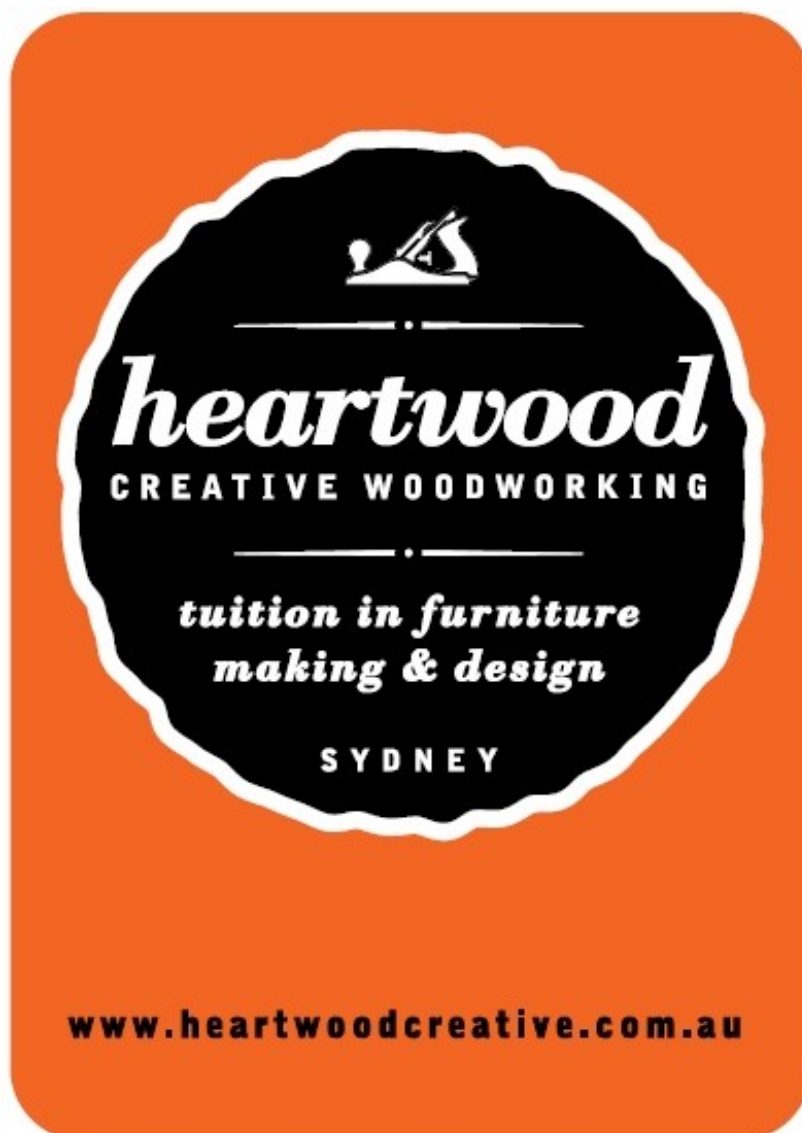
- build your skills through free access to **posts** and **forums** posted by other Hobby Society members
- build your skills by allowing you to see and book paid **classes** run by Hobby Society members near you
- rent the **tools, equipment** and **space** needed to do your hobby and reach your full potential.

When will Hobby Society be launched?

Hobby Society will commence launching in **mid-2017** , with a fully-fledged platform due at the end of 2017.

Please contact the Hobby Society team below. We will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have

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SplinterWorkshop

Studio/workshop space available
for membership or lease

After 21 years Splinter Workshop Inc is relocating to new larger premises and is seeking additional members of the association and a sub-tenant.

Splinter is an incorporated association of woodworkers specialising in hand made furniture and objects. Each member works independently but shares the costs of the association. We cooperate with the upkeep of the workshop and, from time to time, on large projects and exhibitions. Our new premises will be in Barclay Street Marrickville, adjacent to Makerspace & Co.

Tenancy: We are seeking a person or group to sub-lease a space of up to 200 sqm. The ideal tenant would be engaged in art/craft/design/making that is in keeping with the creative nature of the precinct.

Rent is \$200 psqmpa including outgoings and GST.

Membership: We are also expanding our membership. Ideal members would be 1) other woodwork-ers/furniture makers seeking workshop space and facilities or 2) artists and/or crafts people of other disciplines seeking studio space in a creative and cooperative environment.

Full membership is \$1,200 per month for 30 sqm, or shared space on a pro rata cost basis.

Bond conditions apply to both tenancy and membership.

The space will be available from January 1 2017.

Please contact Brendan Cody: bcody75@yahoo.com.au

0400 685 533 || www.splinterworkshop.com.au

AngleMag saw guide

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Contact a committee member
listed on page 2



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Attention: Workshop Users

The workshop is a great resource for members. Volunteer workshop supervisors provide their time to help members, ensure safe work practices, take care of the machinery, and train members safe and effective in machine use.

You should be aware of our Liability Insurance. You need to understand that if you are injured at the Workshop as a result of your own carelessness, you are not covered by the Association Liability Policy. If the Association is negligent in supervising the operation which caused injury then the Association is covered for any claim. We aim to ensure everyone works safely.

There are clear statements on display at the Workshop regarding the safety responsibilities of Members and Supervisors. Please read these carefully before starting any work.

Surplus Tools, Machines and Equipment

The Committee has decided that surplus tools, machines and equipment will be sold to members. All such items will be advertised to all members, listed in the Newsletter, and displayed at the General Meetings. Stay tuned for announcements.

The Bower Re-use & Repair Centre

is an environmental charity and cooperative committed to reducing waste going to landfill. Our shopfronts in **Marrickville** and **Parramatta** sell furniture, appliances, household goods, salvaged building materials, bikes, books and more. It's a treasure trove of delights with new items arriving daily. You never know what you'll find – all at incredibly low prices.

You can learn a new skill with The Bower's 'Tricks of the Trade' workshops – in basic carpentry, furniture repair and restoration, furniture painting or introductory upholstery. During school holidays we offer kids' recycled art and mosaic workshops.

Need something repaired? Visit The Bower's **Repair Cafe** for free assistance with dodgy electrical items, wobbly bikes and rickety timber furniture. The Repair Cafe operates on Wednesdays, 1pm – 4pm at Marrickville and on the last Saturday of the month, 10am – 12pm at Parramatta.



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