

Woodworkers Association of NSW inc

May June 2015 Newsletter

June 2015 Sydney Timber and Working with Wood Show

Feel free to contact a committee member to find out more and how to join in.
The show is on Friday 12, Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June 2015
Hall 6, Sydney Showground at Sydney Olympic Park
from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm each day

Coming soon

Another show-stopper!



John Evans with his prize winning box - Congratulations John!

In promoting awareness and appreciation of fine woodwork, the association provides three cash prizes to members of the public who enter their woodwork in the arts and crafts competitions at the Sydney Royal Easter Show each year.

We sponsor a small furniture item predominantly in wood, a wooden box work, and a musical instrument, predominantly in wood.

This year, association member John Evans won first prize in the wooden box competition. John used Australian Cedar and European Spruce.

He made the top from birdseye Huon Pine veneer and the mitre keys from veneers from the same Cedar and Spruce.

Next association meeting 2015

7 for 7.30pm, Monday 1 June 2015
Abbotsford workshop, Western end of Spring Street, Abbotsford

Speaker: Stuart Faulkner - on the design process



Brian Dawson, Chair

Committee members

Chair: Brian Dawson

- 0418 212 496
- brian@valuesystems.com.au

Vice Chair: Frank Duff

- 02 9896 4017 • 0403 821 389
- fwduff@optusnet.com.au

Secretary: David Palmer

- 02 9449 2602
- secretary@woodworkersnsw.org.au

Treasurer: Miko Nakamura

- 02 9805 1775
- treasurer@woodworkersnsw.org.au

General committee members

John Brassell

- 02 9680 3594 • 0414 458 829
- johnbrassell@bigpond.com

Peter Dunn

- 02 4344 7806 • 0410 411 951
- bentneck@bigpond.com

Peter Harris

- 02 9879 3329 • 0419 164 098
- peterh47@ihug.com.au

John Kirkwood

- 02 9958 0726 • 0415 634 680
- johnkirkwood@bigpond.com

Steve Townsend

- 02 9719 8753 • 0411 477 075
- steve@ibis4.com

Assisting the committee

Membership: Gordon Joseph

- 0409 488 919
- membership@woodworkersnsw.org.au

Newsletter/Website: Jo Healy-North

- 0417 667 367 • jhn@bigpond.com

Public Officer: Steve Townsend

- 0411 477 075 • steve@ibis4.com

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, Alan Wale

Chatter from the Chair

We've had a successful year including a highly acclaimed exhibition at Lane Cove Gallery, an association competition and the Create from a Crate exhibition.

A new stand at the Timber and Working with Wood show gave us improved interaction with the public and resulted in us obtaining a large number of new members. Our membership has increased to 142, a 26 per cent increase over the previous year.

The workshop is now open more often – every Sunday and the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, which has encouraged more participants making use of our excellent equipment.

Talks

General meetings, held every two months, have included talks by Chris Nance, Darren Oates, Fred Blake, Peter Harris, Steve Townsend and John Brassell. And our visit to Chris Nance's workshop at Buxton was a great success.

Under the guidance of Peter Harris, we continue to make improvements to the workshop. The main improvement this year is a new, more powerful dust extraction system. Financially, we are in good shape with over \$18,000 capital in the bank

Safety sorted

Our Safety sub-committee has also been busy over the year and we have now completed 90 per cent of the paperwork covering all of our most commonly used machines. We now have in place a one-page safety leaflet and a multi-page operating leaflet adjacent to each machine. Our next task is to undertake training on all of our machines with the ultimate aim of ensuring that no one will

be able to operate a machine without first undergoing training on that machine

Community

We built a planter for the local pre-school and had some recognition in the local press as a result. We continue to offer prizes at the Royal Easter Show for several categories of woodwork. All of the aforementioned activities were the result of some very hard work by our committee members (and others who are not on the committee but give their time and effort to the association). I would like to thank all of those who contributed.

We are sad to hear that Steve Townsend is leaving as our secretary. Steve has worked hard and diligently for us and I am not alone in saying he will be missed. He will, however, remain as a committee member. Phil Lake, Phil Nanohly and John Connors are retiring as committee members. Our thanks to them for the hard work and many hours they have contributed.

New committee

We have a new Vice Chair, Frank Duff, a new Secretary, David Palmer, and two new committee members, John Brassell and John Kirkwood. I will remain as Chair. Thanks also to Miko who has provided sterling service not only as Treasurer, but also as organiser for the Lane Cove Exhibition and to Peter Dunn, who faithfully turns up every Wednesday to the workshop.

Finally another thanks to Frank Duff with his ever ready comments, puns and hard work and to Gordon Joseph, our ever reliable membership secretary. We look forward to another year of growth, action and fun.



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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

Australian Wood Review
linda@woodreview.com.au
0434 625 550

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2015 Creations in Wood Exhibition



Exhibition Committee members

Brian Dawson - 0418 212 496 - brian@valuesystems.com.au
Miko Nakamura - 02 9805 1775 - treasurer@woodworkersnsw.org.au
Peter Dunn - 0410 411 951 - bentneck@bigpond.com
Phil Lake - 0403 114 712 - philwoodie@gmail.com
Alex Springall - aspringa@bigpond.net.au
David Palmer - david.palmer@tpg.com.au

Have your work shown on the website

Get your woodwork showcased! Send photos of your best pieces with information about the materials, tools and techniques. Use top quality photos with good lighting and a plain background to best show your work.

Email to

Steve Townsend
at steve@ibis4.com



Visit to Bungendore Wood Works Gallery

On a recent trip to Canberra to visit friends, I was delighted to finally have an opportunity to visit the renowned Bungendore Wood Works Gallery.

I had heard of this amazing gallery but was totally unprepared for what I found. When I stepped into the gallery, I was enveloped in the atmosphere of elegance, sophistication and

by Miko Nakamura and Lynda Hutchinson

world-class workmanship. I saw extraordinarily beautiful works in wood and found a huge variety of items on display including small desk accessories, boxes, bowls and platters, chairs, side tables, hall tables and cabinets, desks, bookcases, dining room furniture and much more. The quality of

the works is outstanding and the gallery showcases some of the best woodworkers in NSW - and indeed in Australia. The most outstanding piece I saw is the Hannah Cabinet, by association member Geoff Hannah.

The cabinet took six years to build and is made with over 34 different Australian and international timbers, four species of shells and 17 varieties of stone. The inlay on the cabinet is exquisite and depicts delicate bird and flower designs on 18 doors and 140 drawers.

Other prominent association members whose work is beautifully displayed include Darren Oates, Thirston Morris and Takashi Nishiura. The gallery is light and airy and covers three rooms on the ground floor, with a small



Above and below: Two inside views of the Bungendore gallery

Continues next page

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exhibition space upstairs exhibiting fine art by local and national artists. There is also a café/restaurant at the rear. For those of you who haven't yet visited the

Bungendore Wood Works Gallery I thoroughly recommend the experience: It is inspirational to see such high quality crafting combined in both classic and modern

artistic endeavours. Please visit the the Gallery at Bungendore, and/or the gallery website:

bungendorewoodworks.com.au

Woodwork and hearing retention

Association member David Eden spoke at the April meeting on hearing retention in a wood-working environment. Frank Duff provides the following summary.

Hearing loss caused by exposure to loud noise destroys hair cells in the inner ear. It is both cumulative and irreversible. The greatest cost of damage to communication and hearing damage is social as it leads to alienation. Do your grandchildren prefer to

What you need to know

play with someone else when you don't understand what they are saying?

Tinnitus, or ringing in the ears, is associated with 68 per cent of noise induced hearing loss. It too was thought to be permanent, but two of our members said their tinnitus had since disappeared.

David now thinks that it is possible to reduce and even eliminate hearing noise that is not there using brain plasticity techniques.

Despite David's advice that most hearing aid users get little satisfaction from them, two members in the audience were enthusiastic about theirs.

The noise required to cause hearing damage is well known to be levels over 75 A-weighted decibels, abbreviated as 75 dB(A).

There remains a political debate over whether people exposed to loud noise should happily endure the bad health effects as a consequence of having a job.

David spent years as an acoustic consultant giving evidence in Court that engineering solutions exist to reduce noise to safe levels and that there are safer, alternative means of work than doing things the noisy way.

Although the NSW Parliament has set a noise level of 85 dB(A) over eight hours as a limit for people with jobs and has legislated to prevent common law legal damages for deafness received at work, employees used to get \$100 000 for a two per cent loss of hearing.

Workers compensation is the only redress available now and payments are one hundredth what they were.

Without a sound level meter, if one has to raise one's voice to be heard by a person one metre away, the level in that environ-



Continues next page

Hearing retention cont . . .

ment may be loud enough to eventually cause some hearing loss. The noise level, exposure time, frequency and individual susceptibility are factors affecting how much loss.

For example, the high frequency sound in a metalworking shop from hammering steel, with its high frequency peaks, is about 10 dB worse than the lower frequency noise of woodwork.

Age related hearing loss is usually greatest at high frequencies (8 000 hertz or 8 kHz). The loss at lower frequencies gets worse with increasing age. Noise induced hearing loss is often noticed first at 2, 3 and 4 kHz while hearing at 8 kHz remains good.

Most information in speech is high frequency in consonants. Being unable to distinguish between “s” and “f”, for example the words sat, hat, mat cat, fat can lead to social isolation.

The safest way of retaining your hearing is to reduce the noise. If you can't buy a quieter machine or tool, then try to enclose it, muffle it, isolate it, put a barrier in between or wear hearing protection.

He demonstrated some minor reductions in levels by speaking normally behind a thin barrier (3 to 5 dB), glasswool sound absorbent insulation (2 dB), and then most effectively, sound absorbent matting with a sound blocking barrier giving about 7 dB reduction.

David passed around various designs of –earmuffs and ear-plugs. The most successful design is comfortable enough to be worn

for the duration (rather than not used). Lateral pressure improves the performance but this can be uncomfortable. Wide, soft seals work best.

In the WWA workshop, he considered methods of reducing the internal noise level - possibly by lining the ceiling with chicken wire, perforated aluminium foil and glasswool, or draping the walls with thick woollen hangings (Persian carpets!?!).

Sound is absorbed by allowing its energy to dissipate inside a porous mat like rockwool and polyester. The intention is to minimise reflected noise.

On the other hand, radiation of noise to the neighbours could be reduced by reflective wall sheeting (plywood, plasterboard, steel and brick are examples) double-glazing and a heavier steel roof. Combining sound absorption and enclosing the source works best. Maintaining a good relationship with neighbours is worth about 10 to 20 dB of noise reduction.



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The router table John built

by Steve Townsend



John Kirkwood adjusts a finger board on his fantastic router table.

John Kirkwood, who has already contributed so much to the Association, has now made a superb router table for us. The table has taken up most of John's time so far this year. And he's not just given us a router table. He's added a brand new Triton router, a dust deputy, a ShopVac and innumerable fence attachments, bits, tools and other items making this a magnificent router working centre.

The table surface is 1,030mm wide by 750mm deep and consists of a 36mm birch ply surfaced with Formica.

The Formica is super smooth with the addition of a little wax (supplied by John) and ensures even feeding of stock.

The table surface is mounted on massive 80 x 85 mm legs laminated out of pine. There are three large storage drawers packed full of tools and associated items including a large range of bits.

There's even an articulated lamp to light the work area. John has thought of everything!

The 2400 watt Triton router is mounted to an excellent Woodpeckers router plate, which John bought with 11 twist lock rings to accommodate all shapes and sizes of bits.

A large, perfectly perpendicular fence can be positioned quickly and easily anywhere on the table. The fence can also pivot allowing super-accurate and repeatable

changes in position. The fence has changeable lower slides to change the opening around the bit and has easily positioned Kreg fingerboards to prevent kickback. There is also a neatly crafted dust chute and finger guard.

The Triton Router can run at variable speeds ranging from 8-21,000 rpm. It has both a coarse height adjustment wheel and a fine adjustment knob. Bit changes are easy with an automatic spindle lock - when the switch is in the locked off position and the bit is raised to full height. This allows easy access to a single spanner for changing bits.

The ShopVac fits to this dust chute with a 2.5-inch hose via a Dust Deputy to remove dust and chips with a cyclonic action before reaching the vacuum's filter.

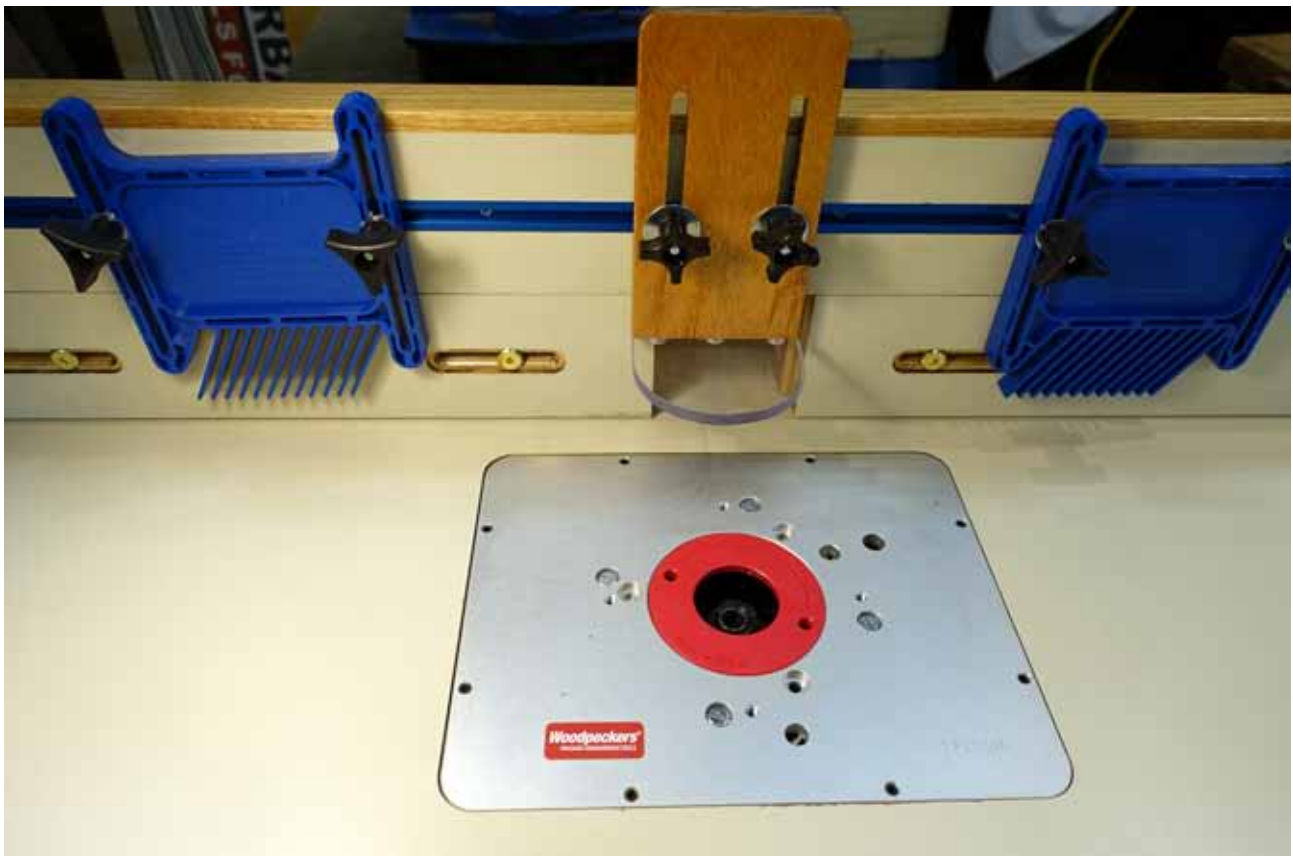
The workshop's usual 4-inch dust suction hose fits onto the router box, which is cleverly sealed to ensure the best removal of all dust that falls below the cutting area. Each of the four legs is fitted with a lifting castor wheel so the table can be easily moved around the workshop.

John's router table is a very valuable addition to our workshop and is sure to be in regular use by members.

Building it and supplying all the parts is an incredibly generous act on John's part and we are most grateful to him.

John constructed the router table at the Willoughby Community Men's Shed and asked us to acknowledge his gratitude for the members' support and forbearance.

More photos next page



A large fence allows freely adjustable finger-boards for safety and a cleverly designed dust chute and finger guide.



New member, Simon Chalk, puts John's router table through its paces.



A ShopVac sucks dust away from the dust chute, passing through a dust deputy. Dust in the router cabinet is removed using the workshop's 4-inch dust hoses.

New association members to have joined since the last edition

Kerryn Carter and Daryl Lawrence



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- **AngleMag saw guide**

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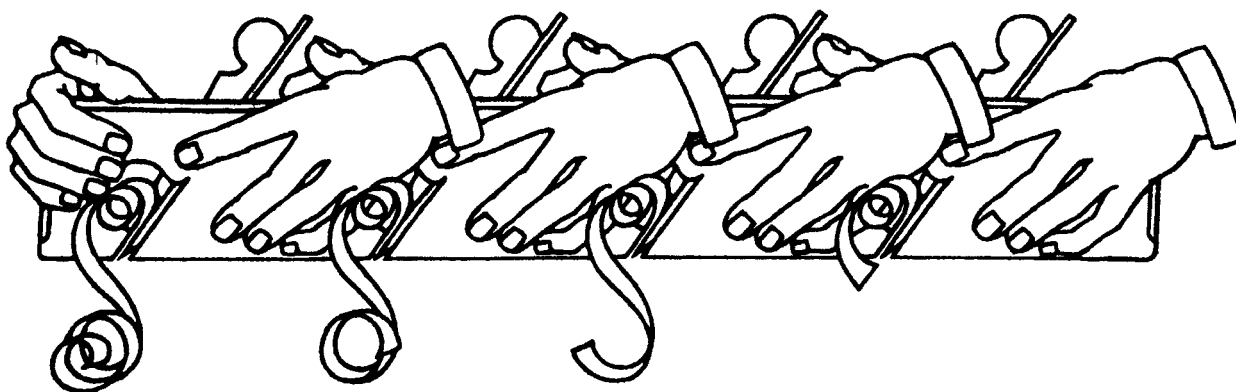
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