

**Woodworkers  
Association  
of NSW inc**

July August 2015 Newsletter

## *Timber and wood show June 2015*



*Mitchell Sargeant (on the right in white), winner of the \$500 Les Miller Memorial Prize, with his parents, our chairperson, Brian Dawson, and Mitchell's grandfather, now 93 - he's a "real" cabinet maker!*

**The 2015 Timber and Working with Wood Show at the Sydney Showground was once more a success for us. The show had a record number of visitors and we had our fair share.**

We had an enthusiastic bunch of bump inners who quickly transported all the usual gear to Homebush.

New secretary, David Palmer put the show together - a big thanks to him!

Thanks too, to Peter Dunn and David Eden, who supplied utes and trailers to shift heavy items, particularly as they each travelled over 100 kilometres to get there.

### **By Brian Dawson**

The show started with a bang on Friday morning, with heavy crowds teeming everywhere and being drawn by our activities,

particularly our very special offer for the show day membership drive, of a free AngleMag and \$40 membership.

*continues page 4*

## **Next association meeting 2015**

**7 for 7.30pm, Monday 3 August 2015**

Our workshop, at 50A Spring Street, Abbotsford

### **Speakers**

Member Nik Teply will talk about finishing techniques and materials and finishes for our projects, and Mitchell Sargeant (in the photo above) will talk about his project, which won the Les Miller Memorial Prize



*Brian Dawson, Chair*

#### **Committee members**

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**Steve Townsend**

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**Newsletter/Website:** Jo Healy-North

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**Public Officer:** Steve Townsend

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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 and Alan Wale

# Chatter from the Chair

**I was surprised to get a phone call saying that an olive tree had fallen down in a garden at Newtown. An olive tree in an inner western suburb?**

Peter Harris and I went to have a look and sure enough, there was the Kalamata, only eight years old according to the owner, but already bearing fruit. We cut off a limb and it is now safely in our shed slowly drying. Should be good for some small bits in about 18 months.

## **Create from a crate**

We have received our supply of crates for the Create from a Crate competition. Peter Harris, Brent Gerstle and I collected and stacked them. Some have already been dismantled, but not without mishap and the mishap was my



*Peter Harris and the olive tree limb*

left elbow. It received an almighty blow via a sledge hammer resulting in my trip to the hospital emergency department. After four and a half hours of investigation and various scans it was declared not broken, but boy, Did it Hurt!

## **Forging links**

And while I was at the Timber and Working With Wood Show, I met the president of the Traditional Tools Group, Bob Crosby, and the president of the Wooden Boat Association, Ross McLean. Both are interested in improving ties with our association.

Bob Crosby has kindly offered us two display areas at the Heritage Skills Day on Sunday 23 August at Brush Farm House, Eastwood. I have already asked several of our members to demonstrate there. It is an opportunity for us to meet with the broader community, so I think we should participate.

Ross McLean tells me that, for years the Wooden Boat Association has held their annual barbeque at Abbotsford, unaware that our shed is right on the doorstep. A joint barbeque was agreed to (TBA). This will be a great opportunity to share experiences and interests.

**Brian Dawson**

## **• AngleMag saw guide**

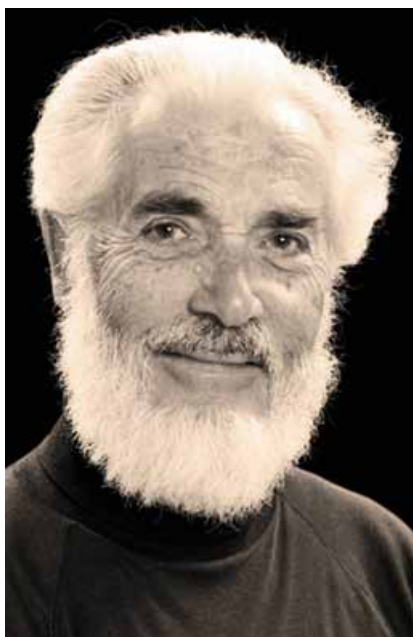
\$75 for members

\$100 for non-members

Contact a committee member for more information.

See page 2 for committee member contact details.

# Alan Wale awarded an OAM



*by Steve Townsend*

**Members of the Association were enormously pleased to learn that our most distinguished life member, Alan Wale, was awarded an Order of Australia (OAM) in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list.**

Along with Leon Sadubin and Les Miller, Alan founded our association in 1978.

Alan also established the Sturt School for Wood in Mittagong in 1985. He was also the Founding Director, at the Cheltenham Craft Centre, from 1974 to 1980, a lecturer on various woodwork topics at the University of the Third Age and a woodwork craftsman and

artisan of outstanding skill for many years.

Dr Rodney Hayward, from ANU's School of Art, said of Alan:

"In his teaching he passed on the vital directness of how wood could be worked: the tacit understanding of the sharp tool accurately, deftly, working sweet wood.

"From the material, the hands and the tools came the design. He loves the directness of the crafts of the cooper, the bodger and the wheelwright. This was part of the lineage he passed on to his students—the passion and the knowledge discovered from an edge tool working sweet wood.

Alan Wale  
23 Oxley Drive  
MITTAGONG NSW 2575  
10 June 2015

Dear Alan

It is with much pride that we woodworkers bask in the reflected glory of your recent award in the Queen's Birthday Honours listing.

Not many organisations of our longevity can claim to have such an esteemed life member - and founding member - still among them.

Our hearty congratulations on the OAM award, so well-deserved.

We look forward to shaking your hand in due course. *Ad multos annos.*

Yours sincerely

Brian Dawson

on behalf of the Committee  
Woodworkers' Association  
of NSW Inc.

## *Association bump-in crew Timber and Working with Wood Show 10 June 2015*



*From left to right: Frank Duff, Brian Dawson, Hermen Diaz, Miko Nakamura, John Kirkwood, David Palmer, David Eden, Peter Harris and Peter Dunn (and behind the camera, John Connors)*

*If your listing or advertisement is no longer current,  
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## Timber show cont . . .

By Sunday we had 56 new members. Our most successful salesman was once again Frank Duff, whose irrepressible talk gathered not a few new members.

We had demonstrations from Stuart Faulkner, showing the latest version of his bench and Terry Gleeson, who demonstrated various hand tools. Peter Harris demonstrated the intricacies of marquetry and Mathew Dwight on cutting dovetails.

We had a number of finished pieces on display, including from Alex Springell, John Brassell, Fred Blake, Brent Gerstle, new member Daryl Lawrence and me.

It was decided at our last committee meeting to have a group of three to organise next year's show and ensure better time-

tabling of events with a large whiteboard showing our demonstrators. We also discussed the possibility of selling member made pieces.

One of the most interesting aspects of the show for me is the HSC student work. John Brassell and I made a unanimous decision to award the Les Miller Memorial Prize of \$500 to Mitchell Sargeant. This is an exceptional piece, displaying skill and crafting beyond his years.

So refreshing to see the passion and skill of many young people. It is a sad state of affairs that there is no longer a career path available to these clearly gifted young people to develop their skills.

**Brian Dawson**



*Peter Harris demonstrates the intricacies of marquetry*

## 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.

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**Steve Townsend at**  
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## 2015 Creations in Wood Exhibition



**Exhibition from 15 to 26 September 2015**

**at Gallery Lane Cove, upper level,  
164 Longueville Road, Lane Cove (entry is free)**

Open from 10.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday  
10.00am to 2.30pm on Saturdays

Tell family, friends, relatives, neighbours and work  
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If you have queries, please contact a committee member.  
See page 2 for contact details.



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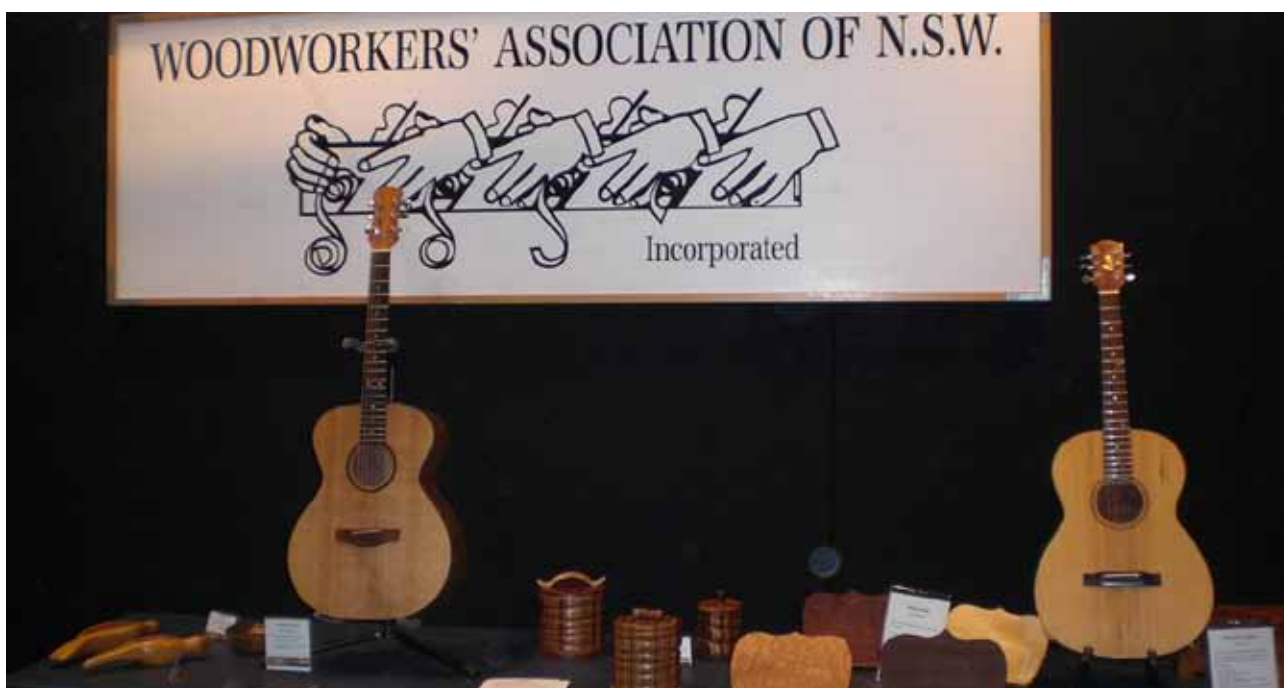
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*Members' work on display at the 2015 timber show*



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*Timber show bump-out crew having a well deserved break.*

## 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](http://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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0434 625 550

AWR is published by  
Yaffa Media P/L  
P 02 9281 2333  
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## Boutique Timbers

### Sunday 20 September annual grand timber auction

Rollands Plains Recreation Reserve, 20km off Pacific Highway at Telegraph Point

Low and no reserves, around 400+ lots - boards, slabs, slices, squares, burl, burl slices (up to 1.2m wide), hobby pieces and turning blocks

Furniture timbers: Blackbean, Jarrah, Mackay cedar, Rosewood, African Mahogany, red Cedar and Camphor Laurel (in 27mm, 35mm, 40mm and 50mm boards, slabs, suitable for furniture and cutting boards), Snakewood, American white oak, Silky oak (N and S), Hairy oak, Huon pine, white beech +++, hardwood boards and slabs - Redgum, Jarrah, Brushbox, Tallowood, Greygum, decking panelling

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# French polishing course



*Course attendees (from L to R): Peter Dunn, Gary Roberts, Paul Laszlo, Cliff King, Peter Harris, tutor David Marks, Miko Nakamura, Gordon Joseph, John Evans, Liz Buckley, Steve Townsend, Phil Greenwood (and absent when the photo was taken, John Connors and Steven Smith)*

**A French polishing course was arranged by our committee at the Lidcombe TAFE during the first few weeks of June.**

It was held in one of the Lidcombe TAFE's purpose-built furniture finishing "class rooms".

Under the expert guidance of the very experienced and knowledgeable TAFE tutor Dave Marks, we learnt how shellac is made from sticklac, how to mix and

then apply French polish using swooges, brushes and rubbers.

The course was very hands-on and included applying swooge coats of French polish and then skinning in the polish to fill the grain in the timber.

This was followed by the bodying up process using pumice and mineral oil and then finally stiffing up to achieve a bright and shiny surface.

Everyone French-polished three or four timber panels.

We also received an overview on grain filling as well as staining timber with dyes and pigments prior to applying French polish.

Overall it was an enjoyable and stimulating course which provided us with the knowledge and confidence to use French polish as a finish, where appropriate, on future projects.

***Gordon Joseph***

## *Record numbers join up at the timber show*

From the heavy crowds at the timber show, a record 56 new members were drawn in enough by our activities and our show day only special offer to join up on the spot. Our collective and heartfelt thanks to Frank Duff for once again being our indefatigable advocate! Welcome to all our new members (list continues next page):

Kenneth Abraham	Mark Brandtman	Quang Dang	Emile Garas	Russell Green
Adrian Amoroso	Dan Brem	Peter Dudkin	T Gates	Jori Jaatinew
Don Austin	Philip Byrnes	Joanne Dunster	Ken Gibbons	Braxton Jones
Warren Baker	Adam Casamento	Don Edmunds	Gerad Gilet	Robert Key
Jackson Bates	Pat Cascarino	Steve Farr	Mike Gooding	Brett Ladnet





*Members attending get instruction in the finer points of French polishing.*



*And again, tutor David Marks has everyone enthralled*

Christopher Liauw	Rod McLeod	Ian Neuhaus	Trevor Smith	Angelo Vella
Malcolm Lucas	Andrew McMillan	Domenico Pirlo	Clarence Stevens	Keith White
Peter Luscome	Terry McMullen	Joseph Rapijarda	David Symes	John Wooding
Robert Luttrell	Vijay Mistry	Jenna Robinson	John Taranto	
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## **The Sydney Woodcarving Group**

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- Nikolaus Teply

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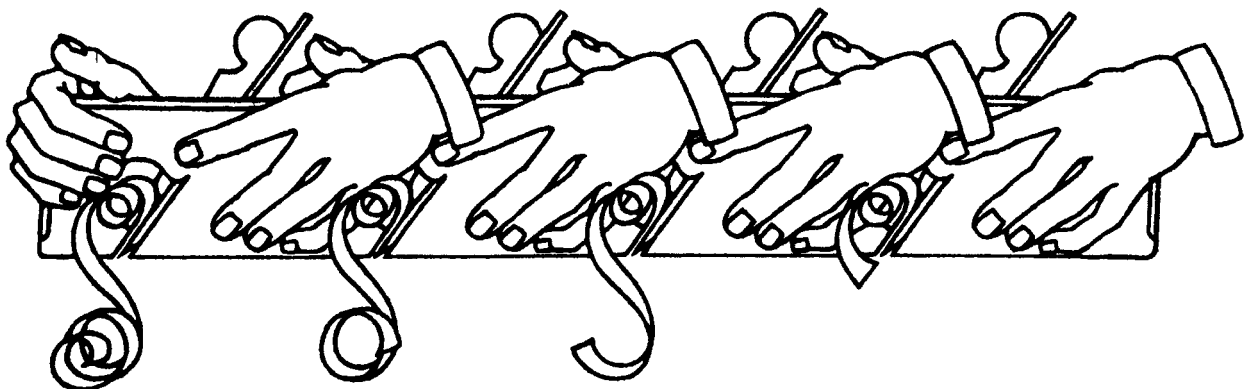
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