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MarApr 2013 newsletter

Woodworkers Association of NSW

Another winner!



In a spin with a bookcase

At left: John Evans, 1st Prize Winner of the small furniture category at the 2013 Royal Easter Show for his spinning bookcase. Here's his story . . .

When I was Clerk of the NSW Legislative Council (before I retired in 2006) I had an antique 3-tier mahogany revolving bookcase in my office. I took measurements and made drawings before I left and vowed I would, one day, make a modern version of the bookcase.

In March 2012, I was fortunate to attend the Silas Kopf marquetry workshop where I made a book in marquetry that I could use in the top of my proposed bookcase. And when I'm not caravanning around the country, I attend classes at Terry Gleeson's

workshop in Dural, and there, constructed the bookcase during 2012 - with Myrtle, which incidentally, I milled with a friend who lives in Tasmania. The bookcase has myrtle veneer on the top.

. . . more on page 4

Next meeting of the association

7 for 7.30pm, Monday 8 April 2013 - Annual General Meeting

Putney Tennyson Bowling & Community Club, Frances Road, Putney, NSW

Time for a new committee. Contact a current committee member if you would like to be more involved in the association. It's easy, fun, and an excellent way to meet like minded people.

Speaker: Chris Nance, Traditional Timber Frames, NSW Southern Highlands

Chris Nance leads Traditional Timber Frames. TTFs specialises in traditional mortice and tenon timber framing, which is suitable for a range of structures (from small garden buildings to majestic houses). The company is dedicated to providing timber-framed structures that will be a legacy for future generations. Based in the NSW Southern Highlands, TTF uses the ancient craft of British Oak Framing and has adapted its traditions to Australian conditions and timbers, and today's Australian building industry. TTF now provides timber frames all over Australia.

In 2006, Chris Nance was a BBM Youth Support Scholarship recipient, which took him to the UK and Wales, where he learnt the centuries-old craft of British Oak Framing from Alan Ritchie (www.hewnwood.com)

From the chair

At our recent sharpening workshop at Abbotsford, Jim Davey started the session with the insightful comment that “there is no one right way to do this”.

Jim proceeded to show us the way that he prefers to go about sharpening plane blades and chisels after many years of trying different things and experimenting.

Combination

The workshop was a great success. By that, I mean everyone enjoyed themselves. In addition, we all learned something. That combination – enjoying oneself and learning something, is what our association is all about, I think. And there is no single way to get that right.

Over the past few years, the association has been creating a home for itself at Abbotsford.

Our Abbotsford workshop provides a focus and a venue for many members to get together on a regular basis. And while this does not directly benefit members outside the Sydney metropolitan area, it has helped the association develop a greater community feeling.

Sharing knowledge

Members have been able to get to know each other better. Those with experience and their own well-developed workshops have generously shared their knowledge and, dare I say it, have occasionally benefitted by being challenged about better ways of doing what they have always done. There are always new tools and clever ideas being developed by creative, innovative and experienced people. It's always a pleasure to see a new technique or strategy for solving an age-old problem.

Our bimonthly meetings have been held throughout this year at the Putney Bowling club. This has provided a convenient and cost-effective alternative to our usual venue, the Powerhouse Museum (while it's being renovated). Delays in the renovation have been

... more on page 5

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February 2013 meeting speaker

At the last meeting, Stuart Faulkner, from the Sydney School of Wood and Splinter, presented on glue. He has also prepared and made available a set of the slides he used on the night:

<http://stuartfaulkner.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/adhesives-nsw-woodworkers-2013.pdf>

For Stuart's blog, visit <http://stuartfaulkner.wordpress.com/>

Weekend Courses in 2013 will run from 9.30am to 4.30pm, unless otherwise stated. Easy Start Courses are from 11am to 4pm. Enrolments are open for all courses. All course costs include GST All enquiries to Sturt
P 02 4860 2083 or 02 4860 2094 www.sturt.nsw.edu.au

Dates	Course	Tutor	Level	Cost+materials
16-17 Feb	Tools & Techniques - demonstrations & sales	Free event, all welcome		
23-24 Feb	Power Tools for Women	Phoebe Everill	All	\$290+\$25
1 day Easy Start course for absolute beginners: 11am - 4pm				
Sat 9 March	Intro to wood	Daryl Ingate	Total beginners	\$58
13-14 April	Wood Carving	Adam Rish	Int-Adv	\$290+
20-26 Apr	Steam bending	David Upfill-Brown	Intermediate	\$ TBC
27-28 Apr	Shaker boxes	Phoebe Everill	All	\$290+\$50
April 22 – June 28	10 Week Wood	To be confirmed	Int – adv	\$6,000
15-16 June	Tuning & sharpening	Daryl Ingate	All	\$290+\$25
1-5 July	Winter School			
	Marquetry	Katalin Sallai		\$595+
	Boxes	Phoebe Everill		\$595+
Aug – Sept	4 week Woodwork	Roy Schack	Beginners	\$TBC
	1 day Easy Start course for absolute beginners: 11am - 4pm			
Thurs 5 Sept	Intro to wood	Daryl Ingate	Total beginners	\$58
7-8 Sept	Project planning	Daryl Ingate	All	\$290+
7-8 Sept	Wood for Women II	Phoebe Everill	Intermediate	\$290+
30 Sept - 1 Nov	Design & make a chair	David Upfill-Brown	Int – Adv	\$3,000+
19-20 Oct	Tool making	Daryl Ingate	All	\$290+

The Hand and the Chisel

A biography of an exceptional craftsman from the elite trade of carving, who rendered in wood and stone with grace and perfection, from tiny wooden carvings to the ornate facades of public buildings and churches, all executed with perfect precision.

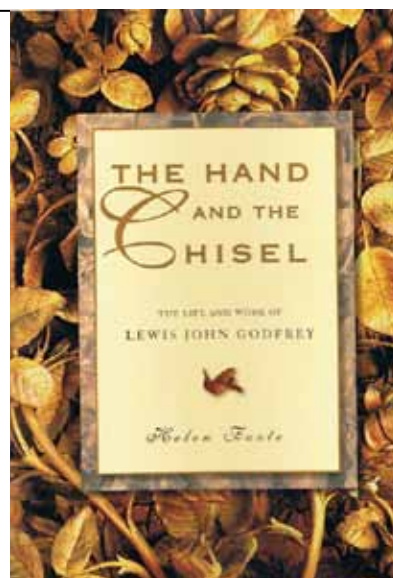
This colour illustrated record of Godfrey's known (Australian and NZ) work is a revealing and long-overdue tribute to his incredible talent.

The author, Helen Foote, is Lewis John Godfrey's great-grand-daughter. Before Helen began the book, the little she knew about him was that, in his day, he was a carver of some repute. What began as a casual enquiry became a quest, as Helen discovered more and more impressive works by Godfrey in Australia and New Zealand.

*Published by Melbourne Publishing Group Pty Ltd
 (A4 paperback with French flaps, 76 pp)*

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Router to the rescue: glue a block with a pivot point onto the book in the precise centre of the circle and use a router to cut a groove around the circle for the banding

The width of the bookcase was enlarged from the original so that it would accommodate modern A4 size books, and the height reduced to 2 tiers.

A 'Lazy Susan' bearing a 400kg weight loading was used for the revolving mechanism at the base. (The antique bookcase in my office had a metal pipe through the centre wood column and revolved on a cast iron spigot inside the top.)

A challenge during construction was how to inlay the book into the veneer for the top of the



bookcase since I had no means of using a donkey fretsaw to cut the book into the large veneer panel for the top.

However, I could use a fretsaw to cut the book into a smaller area, hence the use of a circle surrounding the book. The circle is Huon Pine veneer, which was hand cut with a knife into the myrtle veneer, and the veneer top was then glued to a plywood substrate.

Inserting the black banding around the Huon pine circle to cover imperfections in the join between the two veneers presented another difficulty.

After a frantic email to Silas the suggestion was made to glue a block with a pivot point onto the book in the precise centre of the circle and use a router to cut a groove around the circle for the banding. Hey presto - and with some trepidation that any slip would ruin the marquetry top - it worked.

The bookcase was disassembled for sanding and spray-finished with nitrocellulose lacquer, before reassembly.

Thanks must go to Terry for his wise counsel and my fellow Wednesday woodworkers.

John Evans



To contact the newsletter editor, simply email jhn@bigpond.com

2013 Newsletter deadlines 6 May, 1 July, 2 September, 4 November

Single column: 5.4 cm // Two columns: 11.2 cm // Three columns: 17 cm

From the chair cont . . .

much greater than was forecast by the museum, and we hope to have certainty about the date for a resumption of meetings at that location.

Master classes

We have continued our practice of having workshop visits, such as the upcoming visit to Stewart Faulkner's workshop on Saturday 6 April. We are always keen to hear of new suggestions and ideas for places to go and people to see. And planning is underway for a series of master classes with Geoff Hannah and other fabulous woodworkers.

Last year we experimented with an exhibition in the foyer of the Chifley building to give our professional members some exposure for a very small fee. There were limited sales, but thousands of people had the opportunity to see the works. Views will always differ about the best way to do these things. There is no one right

way. We could have done things differently and next time we certainly will. But it's always good to try something new and see how it goes - provided the cost and effort are not disproportionate.

The market for professional woodworkers remains difficult, as evidenced by recent exhibitions involving splendid works by some of our members at the Sturt Gallery and at the Bungendore Wood Works Gallery.

Winds of change

However, I think the winds of change are picking up. My sense is of an increasing appreciation and willingness to pay for well-made furniture. But how do everyday people find it. Where should they go? Might I be so bold as to suggest that the challenge for professional members is to meet the market with furniture that is attractive and suitable for the contemporary home. Very often I hear people say the pieces

they see are extremely clever, perhaps, but not something they would want to have in their homes. A major first hurdle! And unless that hurdle is cleared, the price of the piece is irrelevant.

Spreading the word

It seems to me that our association can play a valuable role in supporting woodworkers of all levels. At the most basic level, this is probably best achieved by having a vibrant community of members who share the love of woodworking. They can support each other and spread the word. People do not appreciate craftsmanship and skill until they understand what is actually involved. That is the case in most walks of life, be it bricklaying or arguing a case in court. It is only when people get close to the activity that they really understand. Reading or hearing about it doesn't have much effect. So we need to get more people close to woodworking.

. . . more on page 8



Phil Greenwood, 2012, on the occasion of Vice Chair Kim Larymore's birthday

Member's sharpening workshop

There's nothing like having a journeyed expert show you how it's done! Recently, NSW WA members enjoyed the privilege of a day of sharpening with Jim Davey at the association's Abbotsford workshop. (17 March 2013).

One of the several marvellous things about Jim Davey is he shares with you his sharpening journey. "There's no right or wrong way when it comes to sharpening tools!" But we'd all agree the only tool worth using is a sharp one.

Jim Davey makes the business of sharpening look like it's "easy-as" while making the processes involved accessible to everyone, no matter experience or skill level.

The day was planned to allow for some sharpening as well. Jim generously brought with him a myriad of sharpening stones including water and diamond stones along with every imaginable sharpening-associated accoutrement.

I brought with me to the day my own sharpening journey, which probably began when I was lucky enough to spend time in Roy Schack's workshop (then just near the Gabba). I was there to comply with the work-based placement requirements for a cabinet making certificate at Yaronga TAFE, in Brisbane.

And, I'd found some old EA Berg chisels (possibly at the Eumundi markets) which had been neglected for quite some time! So, I took my chisels to Roy's and made the best use I could of his top-shelf



Jim Davey: recreational woodworker, occasional tool collector, sharpener and plane fettler, and reseller of sharpening stones, plates and jigs.

instruction and supervision, his beautiful water stones, and the available workshop surface and space to restore them.

It took me forever, but finally, I had two mirror-back, very sharp chisels (still holding their edge). Jim Davey's workshop brought it all back. All that time I spent on those chisels has chunked into a

big block, particularly in the light of one of Jim's most valuable sharpening tips (my paraphrasing): don't spend more time than you need to, when you could be back at your bench, making. Great workshop, Jim! Thanks

Jo Healy-North

Member's sharpening workshop cont . . .



The workshop was the other star of the show on the day. Thanks to the significant efforts of several members, the workshop is set up. For more information, contact a committee member. (Back page for details.)



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From the chair ends . . .

As I write this, Easter is fast approaching. Congratulations to all members who entered and especially to John Evans for his success in the Royal Easter Show.

Thank you all

Our AGM is on Monday 8 April. It's time for me to vacate the seat and for us to have a new chairman. It has been a privilege to serve the Association. I have

loved every minute of it. Many people have been extremely helpful and supportive. There are too many to name. They include the members of the committee over the years as well as many other members who have been willing to help when asked. I have learned much from each of you. Thank you all.

Phil Greenwood



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Above: Will Matthysen. Below: David Upfill-Brown



Above: Roy Schack. Below: Alby Johnson



SWA

Studio Woodworkers Australia
Conference and Exhibition Sturt
Craft Centre Mittagong

Studio Woodworkers Australia (SWA) is a national association of professional designer makers and artists in wood. SWA's inaugural conference was held on 19-21 January 2013, with an exhibition of members' work to 17 February 2013. Forty members, including some of Australia's most celebrated woodworkers attended.

The exhibition was officially opened by Evan Dunstone. It was not the usual warm and fuzzy address: It was a brutal assessment of the current situation for professional craft people working at making a living in Australia in the current cultural and economic climate. Evan also spoke on "Sustainability of Studio Woodwork and New Markets".

Other speakers included David Emery, Rob Chapman, Ian Factor and Adrian Potter discussing "Marketing your Work".

David Upfill-Brown, Neil Erasmus, Richard Crosland, Jeff Phillips and Stuart Faulkner gave their perspectives on "Design and Woodwork Education".

The exhibition was an exceptional display of design and fine woodwork:

- Will Matthysen took out the Craftsmanship Award for his magnificent wall clock
- Neil Erasmus the Design Award for his chair, and
- David Upfill-Brown the Gallery Choice Award for his side tables.
- Roy Schack, Aiden Morris and Alby Johnson were highly commended.

Warwick Wright, SWA Secretary
www.studiowoodworkers.org.au

For a copy of Evan's address, contact him on 02 6280 9093 or evan@dunstonedesign.com.au

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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

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Create from a Crate Competition and Exhibition 2013

Create from a Crate is open to entrants from all Australian states.
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(at a Melbourne and regional Victorian Gallery - TBA).

More information at:

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SYDNEY SCHOOL FOR WOOD

Site visit: Sydney School for Wood

Stuart Faulkner

A successful career as a graphic designer brought Stuart to Australia and his desire to make furniture saw him graduate from the Sturt School for Wood in 1997.

Stuart then joined Splinter Workshop and began a career as a designer and maker of one-off commissions and production items.

Stuart's progression into teaching began when he was invited to present occasional short courses at the Sturt School for Wood.

About the instructors

He then accepted a position at the Lidcombe College of TAFE, the NSW Centre for Furnishing Trades, as a teacher and eventually Head Teacher of Design. In 2010, he took up the role of Director of the Sturt School for Wood.

In 2012 Stuart returned to Splinter Workshop to pursue a more rewarding working life that balances design, making and teaching.

Paul Nicholson

Paul Nicholson has been a member of Splinter Workshop since he graduated from the Sturt School for Wood in 2003 and he feels strongly about traditional aspects of wood craft and the use of hand tools.

The focus of his practice as a furniture maker has been on commission-based contemporary and classical pieces using traditional construction techniques.

Handmade drawers with secret compartments are a specialty and he enjoys making his own hardware. Paul also has a special interest in toolmaking.

Like many Sturt graduates, he feels a strong affection for the school and is occasionally invited to be a guest teacher there for the Certificate IV course, for short courses and for the Summer School.

More information at splinterworkshop.com.au/contact



Stuart and Paul invite you to come and have a look at the workshop and meet some of their students.

DATE: Saturday 6 April 2013
TIME: 11.30 AM – 2.00 PM
LOCATION: Sydney School for Wood / Splinter Workshop
Level 2, Building 1, 75 Marys Street,
St Peters, NSW 2044
REFRESHMENTS: Light lunch will be provided
COVER CHARGE: FREE
NUMBERS: Limited to 20
RSVP: Frank Duff fwduff@optusnet.com.au



SYDNEY SCHOOL FOR WOOD

To arrange a site visit to your workshop contact a committee member.
Details on the back page.

2013 NSW WWA Monday meetings

3 June, 5 August,
7 October, 2 December

Newsletter deadlines
6 May, 1 July,
2 September, 4 November



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- Richard Crosland's
School of Fine Woodworking

Learn with the master Richard Crosland's school provides small, hands-on classes for students of all levels. The friendly, creative atmosphere fosters progress and many beautiful pieces are the lasting result.

All tools are provided and work in progress can be stored at the Alexandria workshop.

Call Richard at the school
02 9313 4142, or visit
www.crosland.com.au



• Tormek 1002 SuperGrind tool sharpening system

Early model Tormek without internal motor (a drill drives the wheel). In as-new condition with tool attachment. Wheel is 250mm x50mm SuperGrind stone (RRP around \$300 on its own). Suits all current Tormek accessories and comes with drill as shown for \$250 (or best offer).

Contact Michael McGrath
02 9949 6683, or
accent@swiftdsl.com.au



- Jim Davey's User
Bedrocks-fettled Stanleys

Repairs and Service

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Trade prices on:

DMT diamond plates
 and King waterstones

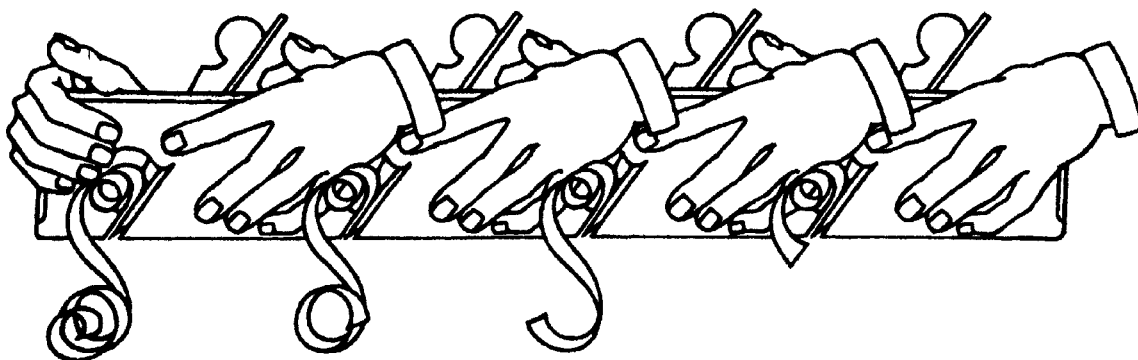
4447 8822 (bh)

4447 8790 (ah)

jdavey@bigpond.com

For new listings, or to update an existing listing, contact the editor
jhn@bigpond.com

2013 deadline dates: 6 May, 1 July, 2 September, 4 November



Association Committee contact information

Committee members

Chair: Phil Greenwood • 02 9235 2874 • phgreenwood@optusnet.com.au

Vice Chair: Kim Larymore • 02 9858 1578 • klarymore@optusnet.com.au

Secretary/Public Officer: Merv Walter • 02 9634 2066 • secretary@woodworkersnsw.org.au

Treasurer: Miko Nakamura • 02 9805 1775 • treasurer@woodworkersnsw.org.au

General committee members

Frank Duff • 02 9896 4017 • fwduff@optusnet.com.au || Peter Dunn • 02 02 4344 7806 • bentneck@bigpond.com

|| Matthew Dwight • 02 9945 0300 • dwightmatt@hotmail.com || Phil Harley • 02 9404 1852 • philipharley@gmail.com

|| Peter Harris • 02 9879 3329 • peterh47@ihug.com.au

Currently assisting the committee

Membership Secretary: Peter Hunt • 0418 867 870 • p_j_hunt@msn.com.au

Newsletter Assistant: Peter Dunn • 02 02 4344 7806 • bentneck@bigpond.com

Newsletter/Website: Jo Healy-North • 0417 667 367 • jhn@bigpond.com

Life members

Richard Crosland, Phil Lake, Kim Larymore, Leon Sadubin, Richard Vaughan, Alan Wale

New members update

Oliver Kemp-Rumens, Chris Nance, Darren Oates, Harvey Welman

If you'd like to join the committee or be more involved in the association, call Merv Walter

If undelivered please return to PO Box 1016 Bondi Junction NSW 1355

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