# Woodworkers Association of NSW PO Box 1016 Bondi Junction 1355

ABN: 51 544 262 364

#### WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.



Newsletter May June 2011



# At the Royal Easter Show 2011

This year's Royal Easter Show coincided with the Association deciding to award three \$75 annual woodwork prizes, as part of its mission to promote public awareness and appreciation of fine wood work.

The prizes are awarded for a small furniture item, a box and a musical instrument, all predominantly in wood. Quite a few members entered items in this year's show and some won prizes for their entries.

The Royal Agricultural Society makes Standard of Excellence awards for entries they consider of a very high standard.

In addition to winning first prize for the guitar he entered in the Musical instrument competition, John Brassell also received a Standard of Excellence Award for it from the Royal Agricultural Society.

Thank you to all members who entered items in the Association-sponsored competitions and congratulations to the winners.

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# The winners

Small furniture item

First prize: **Frank Bosci**Runners-up: Steve Maritz
and Tom Paley

Wooden box work

First prize: **Alex Springall** Runner-up: Peter Harris

Musical instrument First prize: John Brassell

Next meeting: Monday 6 June 2011 @ the Putney Bowling Club, Frances Road, Putney

# **WWA**Committee

#### **Chairman**

Phil Greenwood, 02 9235 2874 phgreenwood@optusnet.com.au

#### **Vice Chairman**

Kim Larymore, 02 9858 1578 klarymore@optusnet.com.au

#### **Secretery**

Gordon Joseph, 02 9488 9191 secretary@woodworkersnsw.org.au

#### **Treasurer & Website**

Miko Nakamura, 02 9805 1775 treasurer@woodworkersnsw.org.au

#### **Membership Secretary**

Peter Hunt, 0418 867 870 p\_j\_hunt@msn.com.au PO Box 1016 Bondi Junction NSW 1355

#### **Committee members**

Frank Duff, 02 9896 4017 fwduff@optusnet.com.au

Peter Harris, 02 9879 3329 peterh47@ihug.com.au

Peter Dunn, 02 4576 1590 bentneck@iprimus.com.au

John Brassell, 02 9894 4900 johnbrassell@bigpond.com

#### **Newsletter**

Jo Healy-North, 0417 667 367 jhn@bigpond.com and Peter Dunn

If you would like to join the committee, or would like to be more involved in the work of the Association, please call **Gordon Joseph** and let him know. The more the merrier.

# Congratulations

Kim Larymore - made Association life member for tireless effort way beyond any call. Thank you, Kim!

## From the Chair

Kim Larymore has been a tireless worker for our Association for many years and this has been recognised by awarding him Life Membership. Congratulations and well-done Kim. The honour will be bestowed at our next meeting, 6 June 2011 at the Putney Bowling Club. I hope you can join us to share this special occasion.

Kim joins a very select group of people who have dedicated over a decade of unselfish work for the benefit of the Association and woodwork. It is that dedication that keeps the Association going. And it was very evident recently at the Royal Easter Show!

Remember, as a child, how the Show was a special treat? Something to eagerly anticipate - the sights, the smells, the country and the city folk, the rides, the animals, the ring events, the fireworks. And the wood-chopping! The 1998 move from Moore Park to Homebush made economic sense but at a personal level the move of the traditional fair to new, fancy concrete surrounds just didn't seem right. The attraction of the Show dimmed. But having spent five days at this year's Show, I have to say I loved it. Much had not changed - the district exhibits, the animals, the stalls selling all sorts of things and even some freak shows, including "the girl from outer space".

The highlight of course, was the Feature Display on Woodwork. For 14 days, members demonstrated what we do and chatted to passersby. It was a joy to hear so many admiring comments about the items that members had put on display and to listen to their stories. It was a very successful venture for the Association and we all owe a great debt of gratitude to Kim Larymore who made it all happen.

Kim was there every day of the Show, as well as the setting up and dismantling. He was an absolute stalwart. He organised, he charmed everyone and he did everything.

There were many other members who contributed and I thank them all. I suspect, like me, they all enjoyed it thoroughly, and much more than expected. Congratulations to all the members who entered the RAS competitions and our three judges who awarded prizes.

As this is the first newsletter since the AGM, I wish to thank the old committee and welcome the new

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## ... more From the Chair

one (which looks remarkably similar but with the addition of John Brassell).

The committee has lots of plans for the coming year, which revolve around doing more for members. One such major plan starting in June is a series of monthly skills workshops at the Workshop (in Abbotsford). The workshops will be for small groups and vary from basic to advanced skills. Please watch the website for more details.

We also want to promote more the work of Association members to the public. And the June 17-18 Timber



### **Funds to Japan**

Takashi sends thanks to everyone who helped raise \$2,374.80 buying tools. It's been donated to the Australian Red Cross and will be sent to Japan.

Takashi will post the receipt on his site as soon as he gets it

www.japanwoodworking.com

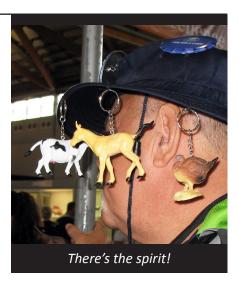
and Working with Wood Show is a good opportunity for the Association to do so.

Members demonstrate their skills by entering the Competition and/ or displaying their works at our stand. The standards have improved as members have become more involved. I also encourage members to help out at our stand. Please let Philip Harley (philipharley@gmail. com) know if you can assist.

We plan to have a busy stand that showcases what Association members do. People love to watch activity so we will be box-making, doing joints, finishing items, sharpening chisels - all sorts of things at all levels of skill.

I hope you can join us at the next meeting: we honour Kim Larymore, and David Norrie will present. David is an Association member, based with Splinter. Find out more about this innovative group: www.splintergroup.com.au

And in this edition, we welcome new members, Russel Green (#359) and Wesley Morrison (#360).



# ... more At the Easter Show

In addition to the woodwork competitions, a number of members provided items of woodwork for display on the Woodwork Feature Display stand. Terry Gleeson commented that any of these items of woodwork would have been contenders for a prize in the woodwork competitions, had they been entered.

All members are encouraged to make something to enter in the 2012 Royal Easter Show in the competitions sponsored by the Association.

#### Phil Greenwood

The Timber and Working with Wood show is fast approaching and we need helpers:

15 June (morning)

17 June (morning or afternoon)

18 June (morning or afternoon)

19 June (morning or afternoon)

19 June after show

Moving and installing the stand

assisting on the stand

assisting on the stand

assisting on the stand

dismantling, returning, storing

This is a great opportunity to talk NSW woodworkers in getting our woodworking is. You will get to know your colleagues better and may even learn something. In exchange for your help, we can provide assisted entry and assistance with parking for the day.

Please contact Phil Harley with your details, offers of help or questions philipharley@gmail.com or 0412 168 032

# 2011 Working with Wood show

Friday 17 to Sunday 19
June 2011

Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park, Sydney

10am to 5pm daily

Adult \$15 Concession \$13

A premier event for every woodworker! From the home DIYer to the most passionate of enthusiasts.

See the best in the industry share their expertise and try out new techniques and tools.

Relax and recharge in our complimentary visitor lounge and, at the end of the day, take advantage of the free parcel pickup service after stocking up on tools and specialty timbers.







# **Easter Show stopper**

I made this guitar, and one other at the same time to see if it was quicker then one at a time. It took about 620 hours, saving about 30 hours on each by doing them together.

Both are Martins triple
000 style designed in the
1930-40s. The show guitar
(pictured) is made of Tiger
Myrtle, back and sides, with
a Sitka Spruce soundboard.
The bindings and fingerboard
are Ebony. The neck is old
growth Queensland Maple.
The bridge is African
Mahogany.

Most of the work is done by hand. The only machining

is to thickness the backs, sides and top to a precise thickness and to router the rebates back and top for the bindings and purflings, using a special jig to follow the shape of the guitar.

One of the hardest procedures is shaping the bindings and purflings to fit the rebates, using wet or dry heat on a bending iron.

The finishing takes as long as the building, and like all woodwork can be a bit nerve racking. But it was all worth it in the end.

John Brassell

# Brush off the dust . . .

## . . . and find the woody below, conducted by David Hire

Our interviewee this month is an experienced furniture maker who has been a member of WW's NSW for over 10 years. Yet he is not seen often in Sydney. The tyranny of distance keeps Michael Borton near his northern NSW base of Murwillumbah.

**David Hire**: Welcome Michael. I seem to recall meeting you at the Sydney Craft Show about 10 years ago. I seem to remember you were exhibiting a very nice sideboard. Just how long have you been a member of WWNSW?

**Michael Borton:** I joined WWNSW in about 1990 after settling in Murwillumbah.

**David:** How did you get involved in woodworking?

*Michael:* I did an apprenticeship in carpentry and joinery and while there I met Richard Walker, a high school woodwork teacher, who was part of the Sydney Opera House exhibition. He showed me his work and I started making things at work after-hours.

**David:** Where did you do your training in wood work?

Michael: In Grafton, doing traditional timber and aluminium joinery and kitchen making. Then doing some carpentry before traveling around Australia for two and a half years. This proved to be my best training ground. As I went around, I found the training in the country joineries where we learned every-



Michael Borton with his coffee table entitled "Driftwood" made with satinay, also called Fraser Island Turpentine

thing was as good or better than the biggest joinery in Canberra.

As my portfolio of skills grew, so did my confidence in my abilities. I started getting jobs that reflected this. I left a good job in Perth working with a two-pack lacquer furniture factory to learn antique restoration from one of the city's best antique dealers.

After I moved to Brisbane, I also worked with antiques but with a workshop that also imported and made reproductions. All this time, I was going to galleries, and sketching designs and features I liked, later changing these or adding to them as my skills and knowledge grew. I have done short courses in marquetry with Geoff Hannah, French

polishing with Paul Gregson and Bruce Luckhurst, and woodcarving with Laurens Otto, Ben Harmes and Ian Norbury. So you could say I got my training on the road. The journey is long and I'm still on it.

**David:** Looking at your website, australianfinefurniture.com, I can see a wide variety of furniture. Is there a favourite item of woodworking that you like to make and has that changed over time?

*Michael:* No, the challenge to do the very best with whatever I'm working on is what I enjoy, and the satisfaction you feel with the finished piece.

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Driftwood coffee table in satinay, a rare wood not normally used in furniture and no longer allowed to be logged. It is for sale.

**David:** I see a lot of carving on some pieces on your website. Do you do your own carving?

Michael: A fellow woodworker once said to me it's no good going to an exhibition to put your work out there and have a member of the public come up to admire your work and you have to say you didn't do the marquetry, carving or polishing.



Bedhead in fiddleback redgum finished with floorseal

# ... more *brush of the dust*

So, yes, I do my own carving and I do tell people there are only two things I don't do and that is cutting the tree down and upholstery work.

**David:** How long have you had a website and do you find it a useful marketing tool?

*Michael:* Yes, I've had three web sites for over 15 years and yes, it has brought me work. But I have not utilized it to its full potential. I think it should be combined with print ads and other marketing.

**David:** Do you have a favourite species of wood you like to use?

*Michael:* Yes, Red Cedar followed by Blackwood.

**David:** What is your favourite finish?

Michael: French polish.

**David:** Is there a particular era of furniture that you like and do you make pieces in that style?

**Michael:** Art nouveau. Though when you study furniture design and styles like I do, there is something you like in all periods that you wish you could make.

**David:** Tell us about your workshop facilities?

**Michael:** My workshop is a small timber framed, corrugated iron, two-car garage. There is a car port and side section for the lathe and short end storage. Long lengths go under my Queenslander home and there's also a 6x3 metre shed for more timber, veneers, and turning

blank, etc. I have a Minimax tablesaw combo with a spindle moulder and sliding table. My jointer/thicknesser is a 350mmm Italian Technica, a Socamec, and my 450 mm bandsaw is also Italian. Plus all the electric and hand tools required to make plenty of dust!!!

**David:** What is likely to be the next power tool you obtain?

Michael: A compound mitre saw.

David: And the next hand tool?

**Michael:** A low angle block plane or cutting gauge.

**David:** What is your favourite thing about woodworking?

**Michael:** Designing, creating, making and finishing.

David: Least favourite?

*Michael:* Sanding, and timber movement.

**David:** What projects are you working on now?

Michael: I've just finished a fiddle-backed red gum media unit of my design. I am currently restoring an Italian marquetry tilt top table dated 1883. It has a lot of missing veneers that are 2.5 mm thick. This means they have to be cut from the solid wood (walnut, boxwood & mahogany). Also stringing and crossbandings. My project after that is a mahogany dining table to make.

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Fiddleback redgum media unit

seconds after you turn away or having finished and done all the hard work having a sideboard rollover on the ute as you start down the road to deliver it. Any of this sound familiar?

David: What is your favourite joint?

Michael: Dovetail.

**David:** Do you prefer machine power or are you a traditionalist? Michael: Both. You can't have one without the other in business. It's a matter of what will do the job quickly and efficiently, to give the desired finish for the job at the time.

David: How can fellow woodworkers contact you?

*Michael:* Via my website, by email on mborton@better.net.au, or phone 02 6672 4629.

David: What would you like to tell your fellow woodworkers?

*Michael:* Don't under-value your time or let other people de-value your skills. I see too many hobbyists doing fantastic work and pricing it just to cover materials.

**David:** Any closing comments?

Michael: I wish I could get down to Sydney to attend meetings and share in the fellowship and do the exhibiting I used to do.

Michael, thank you for your time and all the best with your wood working future.

David: What has been your greatest success?

Michael: Being awarded my Churchill fellowship award in 1999.

David: Would you like to share a woodworking embarrassment?

Michael: There's not a week goes by when I don't kick myself for making a stupid mistake, chisel dig-ins on the final cut, cutting timber 100mm too short, picking up the spray gun with the stain in it not clear lacquer, putting a panel you've just denibbed ready for the final coat on the corner of the bench and to hear the sound of it hitting the concrete



David is looking for more interviewees. if you are interested, please drop him a line at dhire@zip.com.au

## Competition



Where's the Hatter? David Teer

Entries are invited for the 2011
Woollahra Small Sculpture competition.
Prizes include a \$10,000 acquisitive
award, a \$2,000 non-acquisitive special
commendation award, and the \$1,000
Viewers' Choice Award. Pre-selection
judging entries close Friday 5 August,
finalists to be announced
end of August 2011.

#### **Judges**

The 2011 judges will be Dr Gene Sherman AM, Executive Director, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation and Professor Ted Snell AM Chair of the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council.

#### The Prize

The Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize is the first and only national prize for sculpture up to 80 cm.

#### **Exhibition**

The 2011 exhibition will run from Saturday 22 October to Sunday 6 November at the historic Redleaf Council Chambers in Double Bay, Sydney.

#### More information

For all the details, entry forms and conditions, visit: sculptureprize.woollahra.nsw.gov.au



# Member discounts

These people generously provide discounts to members of the WWA NSW. Please support them in return

#### Timber

Allwood Cabinet Timbers, Nowra 02 4423 3295 www.philipgould.com.au

Anagote Timbers, Marrickville 02 9556 6444 (10% discount)

Mathews Timbers, St Marys 02 9833 3100

Warringah Timbers, Dee Why 02 9981 3733

Trend Timbers, Mulgrave/Windsor 02 4577 5277 www.trendtimbers.com.au

#### Veneercraft

Padstow, 02 9533 4294 Wood veneers, (10% discount)

#### Tools and equipment

AngleMag, Magnetic saw guide Zahrina Snell: 04103 355 144 www.anglemag.com (10% discount)

CARBATEC, Auburn David Croaker: 02 9648 6446

F&K Electrics Power tools, Stanmore, 02 9519 7997 (10% disount -varies)

Roger Gifkin's Dovetail jig 6567 4313 (10% discount) www.gifkins.com.au

Henry Bros Saws, Vineyard, Saw blades, knives, cutters 02 9627 5486 (trade prices) HNT Gordon, Alstonville, 6628 7222 www.hntgordon.com.au Classic plane makers, (10% discount)

#### Equipment

Padstow 02 9708 3233 www.majwood.com.au Ryan, (5-15% discount)

#### Finishes

Feast Watson, H/O Scoresby, VIC 1800 252 502 www.feastwatson.com.au

Howard Products, Tamworth orange oil, wood care products 1800 672 646 www.howardproducts.com.au

Liberon Enterprises, Fyshwick ACT finishing materials 02 6280 9720 (25% discount)

www.liberon.com.au
The Natural Paint Place, King Street,
Newtown, 02 9519 0433
www.energyandwatersolutions.com.au

#### Other

Laminex Industries, Caringbah, NSW sheet products
132 136

Nover & Co, Eastern Creek, NSW Sheet products, kitchen hardware 02 9677 3200 www.nover.com.au

#### From the editor

Update your listing, or correct any unintended errors.
Simply email me at jhn@bigpond.com. Thanks.
Jo Healy-North

# Members' classifieds

AngleMag magnetic saw guide:

\$75 for members \$100 for non-members Contact a committee member (details page 2) for more information or to buy.

Triton workcentre and router table
For sale. Contact Peter Harris or Kim Larymore (contact details page 2)

# CARBA-TEC®

CARBA-TEC (NSW) offers a 5 per cent discount to WWA NSW members, when they present their member card at time of purchase of the following products:

- Machinery
- Merchandise (books, project gear, hand tools, etc but excl. Lie-Nielsen, Woodcut)
- Clock movements (excl. grandfather clock movements)

**Exclusions:** Discounts do not apply to stock already on special/sale or at reduced prices.

**Variations:** Conditions to this offer may change at the manager's discretion.

CARBA-TEC, 113 Station Street, Auburn (cnr Adderley Street West) near the M4 Motorway

#### Members' Classifieds

#### Richard Crosland's School of Fine WoodWork

Learn with the master. Richard Crosland's School of Fine Woodwork operates small, hands-on classes for students of all levels. The friendly, creative atmosphere fosters rapid pro-



gress and many beautiful pieces are the lasting result

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

Call Richard at the school 93134142

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jdavey@bigpond.com

Terry Gleeson

Furniture maker and woodwork teacher

1191 Old Northern Road

Middle Dural, NSW 2158

Phone 02 9651 1012

Fax 02 9651 1341

E-mail

thechairmaker@ozemail.com.au





Don't forget: a benefit of fully paid up membership is free advertising in this newsletter and the Association website.

If you have old machinery, tools, surplus wood, a service, or anything else of interest to offer,

contact a committee member (details page 2) and let us know.

# Traders' advertisments





#### SPECIAL TIMBERS

144 Renwick Street, Marrickville, NSW 2204 Tel (02) 9558 8444 Fax (02) 9558 8044

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www.trendtimbers.com.au

Australian Woodwork in the Huter Valley and Darling Harbour - 02 4990 4994 - are looking for supplies of small items such as bowls, boxes and chopping boards. Turned bowls in burl are particularly popular. Give them a call if you can supply same.

# Wood at Sturt 2011

#### Weekly Classes:

Mondays and Tuesdays 6-9pm

#### Short Courses:

Basic woodwork with Paul Nicholson 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>nd</sup> April 2011 Making joints with Jim Littlefield 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Power tools for women with Katalin Sallai 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011

Hand finishing (Tutor to be confirmed) 22nd & 23nd October 2011

Build a work bench with David Upfill-Brown 7th to 18th November 2011

#### Winter School 4th - 8th July 2011:

Wood carving with Grant Vaughan Marquetry with Katalin Sallai

#### 12 Week courses:

9<sup>th</sup> May - 29<sup>th</sup> July with James Carr 15<sup>th</sup> August - 4<sup>th</sup> November with David Upfill-Brown









#### Details & enrolment forms on our website

Cnr Range Rd & Waverley Pde Mittagong NSW Fax 02 4860 2081 Ph 02 4860 2083

www.sturt.nsw.edu.au

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

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