

WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.



July– August 2008

[www.woodworkersnsw.org.au](http://www.woodworkersnsw.org.au)

## The Association wins award for best feature stand at the Sydney Timber & Working with Wood Show

Phil Lake reviews the Show on page 5



Tracy Gumm with Lars Apelmo relaxing at JoINT, Sweden

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**Next meeting: Monday 4 August 7:00 PM for 7:30**

**Tracy Gumm will give a presentation on the international designer / makers workshop in Sweden - "JoINT"**  
( see page 5 )

**POWERHOUSE MUSEUM, ULTIMO**

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## The Woodworkers' Association of NSW, Inc

ABN 51 544 261 324

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### Aims of the Woodworkers' Association of NSW, incorporated

To provide a forum for networking and to encourage camaraderie amongst all those who work in wood.

To promote public awareness and appreciation of fine woodwork.

To encourage creativity, design and development of skills and application by all woodworkers.

To represent professional woodworkers and promote sustainability of fine woodwork as a career.

To promote awareness of environmental issues including encouraging the judicious use of our precious native timber resources and use of sustainably harvested, recycled and reclaimed timbers.

### Welcome to new & returned members.

**Richard Parsons**

**Greg Brace**

**Steven Thomas**

**John Evans**

**Christine Hurst**

**Eugene Zacharewicz**

Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the Committee of The Woodworkers' Association of NSW Inc.

Articles for the next newsletter should be forwarded to Paul Barton by September 2008.

**woodworkersnsw.org.au**

**For contact details, discounts, members gallery and much more**

Membership is open to anyone interested in woodworking, both hobbyist and professional. The Association meets every second month; the first Monday of every even month.

## From the Chair

The Timber and Working with Wood Show was not blessed with great weather this year, but it takes more than a bit of rain and cold to dampening the enthusiasm of woodies. Phil Lake, who has done so much work for so many years on this Show, reports in detail later in the newsletter and challenges us to do even better next year. I would just like to add my thanks to those who helped with the planning and erection of our new Stand and all those members who came along and represented the Association on the Stand.

Many people were involved who deserve special recognition, especially Phil Lake, Tracy Gumm and Kim Larrymore. Planning has already started for next year's show. We are wanting some "fresh blood" to be involved, so please let me know if you are even mildly interested.

At the June general meeting, Richard Parsons of Canaple Timbers provided us with a fascinating account of his work at the new Twin Creeks Golf Club at Luddenham. The scope and detail of the work is very impressive. A report of the meeting is on page 10.

One of the ongoing, burning issues for the Association is finding a home where we can have our meetings and establish a working area for members. The committee and interested members have been exploring possibilities at various locations, but so far without much success. We have been looking mostly in the "inner west" area so that it is geographically convenient for as many people as possible. However we may need to widen that focus. The need for a home is intensifying as our membership is expanding and we are wishing to undertake more activities with and for our members. If anyone has any ideas about suitable buildings or locations, or any contacts who may be able to assist, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Whilst we continue the search for a home, a number of other activities are planned. The next is a workshop visit to Terry Gleeson's School of Woodwork at Middle Dural on Sunday, 7 September. All members are welcome and a tour of the workshop will be followed by a convivial barbecue and refreshments. There will be an opportunity to "workshop" any particular problems that you want to solve on a current job that is underway in your workshop, or that is on the drawing board. Many thanks to Terry for opening his unique place for this event. If you

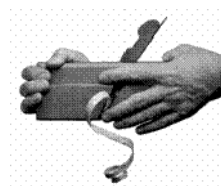
would like to attend, please let our esteemed secretary, Alec Horley, know.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that I consider the Association can be a force for good. An opportunity has arisen for members and friends who have accumulated gear to the point where they now need to recover some precious workshop space. A friend and colleague of mine, John O'Reilly, has established a charity that is doing wonderful work with orphaned and abandoned children in Tanzania (see [www.committeeassist.org](http://www.committeeassist.org)). They have recently acquired some land and are seeking donations of any used or new tools and hardware items such as saws, drills, sanders, set squares, mitre boxes, vices, clamps, safety equipment, benches etc, even screws, nails and bolts. Between us all we should be able to put together quite a collection. I invite you to have a look around your workshop, see what you might be able to contribute and bring it to the next general meeting on Monday, 4 August or send me an email and we will arrange to collect it from you. I would also invite you to mention any other good causes that you think the Association could support in this kind of way, or even with the input of some labour.

The Association receives notification of some unusual events sometimes. A recent one that I enjoyed hearing about (you may all know about it already) is the Apple Blossom Festival in Batlow. It is on 18 and 19 October and includes a competition for woodworkers - challenging them to make something worthwhile out of an apple bin! I am told that apple bins are constructed from hardwood or softwood, with three or four boards on each side of a square bin that stands about 70cm high. You can see more about this festival, and the competition, at [www.batlowfestival.org](http://www.batlowfestival.org). If you enter the competition or attend the festival, please take some photos for the newsletter.

I hope you can join us for our next general meeting on **Monday, 4 August 2008, 7pm at the Powerhouse Museum** for a special presentation by Tracy Gumm on the Swedish woodworking workshop that she recently attended.

Phil Greenwood





## Member's 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.



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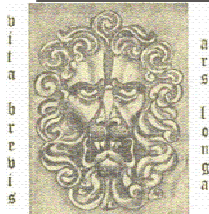
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TABLE MAKING  
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9810 6769 or 0403 567 662 Joe Westbury

### Appeal for Tools

A charity working with abandoned and orphaned children in Tanzania has appealed for tools. Take a look around your workshop and bring something you can do without along to the next meeting on 4 August.

If you can't make the meeting you can email Phil Greenwood and he will arrange collection.

See [www.committeeassist.org](http://www.committeeassist.org)

## The Next Meeting:

### JoINT – An international makers collaboration in Sweden

The next meeting will offer something quite different and enlightening. We are fortunate to have a presentation on the recent JoINT workshop in Sweden.

Tracy Gumm was invited to Sweden to join designer/ makers to participate in an international furniture makers workshop and she will share the experience with members at the next meeting on Monday 4 August.

The inspiration for the workshop came from Per Brandstedt, a Swedish furniture designer/maker, and involved a 7 day workshop and 2 day conference followed by a travelling exhibition of the finished work throughout Sweden. Makers were invited from Australia, Japan, Senegal and Sweden.

There will also be and some images from final year students at Capella Gordon, which is a well know Swedish woodworking school.

### Appeal for Tools.

Can you please bring along tools that you can do without for kids in Tanzania? See details p 4. opposite.

Visitors are most welcome.



Copella Gordon woodworking school, Sweden



### FOREST TO FLOOR: A TABLE'S JOURNEY

The Association's stand at this years Timber & Working with Wood Show picked up the best feature stand award.

The newly designed stand made from 100% recyclable material invited the public to participate in the process of designing and making fine furniture. The Association chose a table to illustrate the development from conception to finished article.

The Eco- friendly stand was made from Xanita X-Board manufactured from 100% post consumer, recycled paper fibre waste.

### Phil Lake reviews The Timber & Working with Wood Show

I believe we have with this show through interaction the opportunity for a stimulating and invigorating conversation for all woodies whatever our current skill & knowledge background in things wood.

The show promoters wanted a presentational change for the show and this year concentrated on the human involvement aspects of working with wood as a profession, as a trade and as an interest through life.

For the first time professional woodworkers were invited, on a complementary platform, with the ability to sell their work. The feedback from

## Exhibitions & Shows

### Design + Wood 2009

**Start planning that special exhibition piece now.**

Following the success of *Design + Wood 2007*, the Association will be staging a new exhibition in August 2009.

All pieces are to be made from predominantly Australian timbers.

Cath Fogarty, co-ordinator, is making preliminary arrangements and we are currently discussing sponsorship proposals.

We expect to once again secure Depot Gallery and inclusion in the Powerhouse Mu-

seum's *Sydney Design* program.

Inclusion in *Sydney Design* provides another dimension to promoting fine woodwork by appealing to a far wider and appreciative audience than those who may attend a "woodwork" exhibition. The promotional benefits also exceed those which we could achieve solely from our own resources.

Members who have nominated as being professional or semi-professional will be contacted with details of entry fee and selection criteria.

Contact Warwick Wright or Phil Gould

### Professional Stand at the Timber & Working with Wood Show

The opportunity for members to exhibit their work increased significantly with the new "Professional Stand" at the Sydney Timber & Working with Wood Show.

There are now 3 separate opportunities: the Association stand, the TWWWS Competition and The Professional Stand.

The Professional Stand has the potential to be an excellent opportunity to provide an outlet for promotion and sale of fine woodwork to fill a void in the market place with the demise of the annual Craft Show and other traditional outlets. However there are some credibility issues to be addressed.

The organisers of the Show did make an effort to promote the professional stand and appeal to a wider audience. More targeted promotion will be required to attract sufficient numbers of buyers rather than lookers/ woodies.

The feedback from those who did exhibit their work is encouraging for future shows. One veteran exhibitor made more sales than at other craft type shows and was absolutely delighted.

Other exhibitors had lots of interest but no sales and little in the way of prospective sales.

However, exhibitors expressed confidence in the future of the Professional Stand as people get to know about it and the stand attracts a larger number of established makers.

Warwick Wright

#### Look out for upcoming exhibitions by members.

Phil Gould & John Gallagher, Depot Gallery, Danks St Waterloo, 11—29 August 2008 (Closed Sundays)

Ian Factor & Alex McDowell, Peter Rozea & John Dixon. Gig Gallery Glebe, November 2008

Paul Nicholson, David Norrie, Ed Garcia & Chris Watt as part of Splinter Workshop exhibition at Sydney University. Early 2009

Design + Wood 2009. Woodworkers Association, Depot Galleries I & II, August 2009



## Timber & Working with Wood Show continued from page 5

this mixed group was overwhelmingly positive ( see review page 6 ).

Your Association sponsors "The Les Miller Memorial Young Achiever Award" to promote and honor the achievements of young school leavers in working with wood. The award is named after Les Miller, a founding member of the Association and above all an educator.

Entries for this award are entered in the Young Achiever category of the fine woodworking competition "Putting Timber on Show in NSW". This year the winner is James Moulder for his entry, a side cabinet in Wenge and Silver Ash. James, a student at Galston High, made the cabinet as his major project for the 07 HSC.

### The Woodworkers' Association stand

Your Association wanted a new image to present to the public. Tracy Gumm came up with the concept of "Forest to Floor" and the design for the new stand. David Factor was the graphic designer. The Association, and all those involved, can be proud of the fact that our stand won an award for the best feature exhibit.

This approach was fresh and instructional, a fitting image for our Association. "From Forest to

Floor, A Table's journey" graphically portrayed from concept through design, timber selection, joint selection, fabrication and finishing the production of a table that was satisfying to both client and maker.

The panels for our stand were produced in recycled paper having a crated inner layer and faced with craft paper having the graphics directly applied.

The story of a table's journey wrapped around the outside of the circular stand and a display table stood out from each graphic message carrying the illustrated materials or form that supported that part of the journey. Stand attendants engaged the public in conversation on the topics and generally promoted the Association.



James Moulder of Cherrybrook, the winner of the Les Miller Young Achiever's Award

Within the circumference of the stand were displayed various tables which had kindly been provided by members.

In close proximity to our main theme rotunda sat our area dedicated to members with schools of wood to promote themselves with a large seminar area opposite to give the public information with demonstrations of their delivery skills.

Finally there was our raffle with its excellent array of prizes to raise funds and engage the public in conversation. Without the support of all our members becoming involved in selling tickets, a source of necessary income augmentation for your Association, your committee would need to consider alternate fund raising measures to support your Association's viability.

Continued page 9





## Tuition in Fine Woodwork

*Irminsul* caters for the novice to the professional woodworker

**Looking for a woodworking class or expanding your horizons in technique?**

Tracy and Max at Irminsul provide general woodworking classes to Master Classes for intensive specialist tuition from some of the best and most celebrated woodworkers in Australia & New Zealand.

Tracy Gumm tells us about the idea behind Irminsul Workshop at Enmore and courses available.

In a former life, as a hobbyist woodworker, I attended weekly woodworking classes. I was eager to learn more but it was very difficult to find extra training or classes in Sydney. I would have been happy to take a week of my vacation time, but nothing was available. I wanted to see this type of training available to furniture makers, teachers and hobbyists.

Later, while attending the School of Fine Furniture in Tasmania I met many great woodworkers, who were also great teachers. That made me more determined to set up a school and share these experiences with others.

Last year I was able to run 3 masterclasses in my workshop on veneering, steambending and torsion boxes. They were a great success. We had some great teachers and a good cross section of woodworkers came along - hobbyists, teachers and furniture makers. Some of the hobbyists had never had any formal training and were amazed at who much they learnt in such a short period of time.

### **Veneering with Neil & Pam Erasmus**

Run by Australia's well-known and respected furniture duo Neil and Pam Erasmus ([www.erasmusdesigns.com](http://www.erasmusdesigns.com)), this class covered veneering, laminating and vacuum pressing. The main focus was on creating a star burst veneered pattern for a demi-lune table. The table top and laminated skirt was created in the class and the students completed the rest of the table in their own workshop.



### **Steambending with Alan Livermore**

One of Australia's most experienced steam benders, Alan Livermore ([www.ald.net.au](http://www.ald.net.au)), who runs a successful designer/maker business and uses steam bending in many of his pieces. During this hands-on class techniques were demonstrated for creating lippings for tables, seat frames and some free form bending.

### **Torsion Boxes with Malcolm Harris**

Taught by Malcolm Harris ([www.circa.net.au](http://www.circa.net.au)), a well-established designer/maker and teacher, students made a small table using the torsion box technique. They also created a beautiful veneered layon for the top of the table.

## **Classes for 2008/9**

There are currently 4 masterclasses arranged for 2008/9. I hope to see some of you come along.

**CHAIR MAKING, TAUGHT BY NEIL & PAM ERASMUS**, 6 days, Aug 24th to Aug 29th 2008

**CURVES WITH SOLID WOOD, TAUGHT BY DAVID HAIG**, 6 days, Nov 24 to 29 2008

**MARQUETRY WITH GEOFFREY HANNAH**,

6 days, Mar 22 to 27th 2009

**BOX MAKING WITH DAVID UPFILL BROWN**, 6 days, Jul 20 to 25th 2009

More details on the masterclasses can be found on our website [www.irminsul.com.au](http://www.irminsul.com.au), ring (02-95160380) or email ([tracy@irminsul.com.au](mailto:tracy@irminsul.com.au)) if you would like more details.



## Timber & Working with Wood Show

continued from page 7

The manager of the show Patrick O'Reilly, seeks to balance the commercial venture (timber and tools) with the creative (expressions in wood) whilst maintaining a commercial return. Space in the "Horden" Pavilion is made available to the Association and other special interest groups at no cost and provides a valuable opportunity for those groups to mix.

Patrick's thinking led him to believe a gallery competition would allow members of woodworking clubs and others to display and show their skill and creativity. It is a place to challenge themselves and provide inspiration to others. To this end historically he set up and promoted the competition that ran parallel to the special interest groups displays.

Several years ago the competition was failing for lack of support (probably because the promotion and orchestration of the event had not received sufficient attention.) I suggested we should meet with the clubs (special interest groups) and seek their feelings on the value of the competition. The club representatives at least were greatly supportive of the concept and with their support in promoting the event the response with entries increased dramatically.

Last year in an attempt to provide a professional gallery atmosphere to the display I brokered a deal with Patrick where the show would supply the materials and the clubs would supply the labour. We now have partitions and plinths that with the clubs ongoing support (erect, dismantle and maintain) will continue to provide a fitting backdrop for the display. The clubs also take part in monitoring the competition display during show time.

The judges this year were Richard Vaughan, Richard Raffan (both well known and respected woodies) and Dr Paul Donnelly curator of international decorative arts and design at the Powerhouse Museum.

State Forests sponsored the category prizes. The award ceremony on the Saturday afternoon was MC by Peter Marcia (from radio national "The Saturday Morning Woodies" program), the prizes were presented by Nick Roberts CEO for State Forests.

Next year I'm hopeful that more members will decide to enter the competition

The exhibition in the "Horden" pavilion was the sum total of all who displayed. Overall there was a fresh approach and the show team was thrilled with the presentation. Thanks to all who participated in a venture well won.



The Competition Stand



Alex McDowell & Helen White on the Professional Stand



Inside the Woodworkers' Association stand

## The last meeting

**Richard Parsons** , "the big man with the big machines", gave an update on the Twin Oaks Golf Club at Luddenham plus other projects.

Richard is , amongst other things, a timber recycler , timber miller , builder and fine woodworker.

His business, Canaple, specialises in urban timber salvage which he re-saws through possibly the largest band saw the Sydney region and then dressed with huge jointers and thicknesses salvaged from the former Everleigh workshops at Redfern.

For his latest project he converted the band saw carriage ( used to hold whole trees) to a vertical thicknesser to dress massive Iron Bark sections for the Twin Oaks Golf Club. Then he went about designing the construction in conjunction with the architects and engineers and erecting the structure.

Richard provided some images of other impressive work from huge pergolas to fine cabinet work.

Here are a few images of the completed golf club featuring recycled Iron Bark.





***Naturally Australian closes at the End of August after 32 years since John Ellerton and his late business partner, Clive Barker, commenced business at The Rocks.***

We intend to have a function for John at the end of August. The date has not yet been finalised but if you wish to attend please advise the secretary, Alec Horley

**NATURALLY AUSTRALIAN 1976 - 2008**

**A Farewell** by Leon Sadubin.

A recent letter from John Ellerton owner of Naturally Australian at Circular Quay West at the Rocks, Sydney, conveyed the sad news that my favourite gallery of Australian made furniture will close its doors at the end of August.

I say my favourite because this is the one gallery that has consistently sold items for me over many years. It is a gallery that I could see works by all my woodworking compatriots. It was a place that consistently sold Ginny Sadubin's line of Aussie Animal Trees which recycled all my off cuts. It was a space that many members of the Woodies Group ( including myself ) took their unsold exhibition pieces from venues such as OTC House in Martin Place, the Opera House Exhibition space, the State Library gallery, ABC Foyer, and more recently Depot Galleries at Danks St. It was a space that always treated you well: John Ellerton and his late business partner Clive Barker were genuinely pleased to see you. And to top it all off, they paid you pronto. John had an aversion to hold onto your hard earned portion of the sale for any longer than necessary.

My earliest recollection of John and Clive was at a small shop on Victoria Rd. Gladesville where some local made furniture was on display, must have been mid 1970's. Then a burst of colour and styles and makers names, materialised on the first floor at the famous Argyle Centre at the Rocks in September 1976 at the height of the Craft Movement. A move to the "just below street level" at the Spaghetti Factory, George St. was probably the glory days of "Naturally". This spacious, well lit showroom, presented Australian timbers in a meticulously selected range of furniture, sculpture and woodware.

John and Clive always contrasted the individually designer made with that of production work by

such companies as Piper Furniture from Ulverstone in Nth Tasmania and Catt Furniture from Western Australia. They gave opportunities to many emerging makers and gracefully represented established ones.

Their stoushes with the Rocks Authority and Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority were legendary. "Naturally" was a prize gallery to have in the precinct, but John and Clive were forever beset by spiralling rent. Their commission as a result was high but who cared when the sales were consistent. The gallery moved for times in the Rocks and ended its days - 14 years - in the location just behind the Overseas Terminal in an old bond store built with magnificent Bluegum, Blackbutt and Ironbark posts and beams.

John and Clive were generous. They always supported the Woodworkers Association of NSW ventures. They also hung on to some pieces of furniture for far too long, and were happy to take on pieces that have cycled through first owners and looking for the next home.

Their clients were legendary too, with rock and opera stars, politicians, big end of town business people, lawyers and medical practitioners, wealthy tourists and Sydneysiders, flicking their credit cards onto the counter to transact legendary sums, in return for some fine items in Australian wood.

And if you were just cruising through town, you were assured that wrapping up the 3 meter long refectory table or sculptural rocking chair or highly detailed sideboard, and despatching it to Brussels or Toronto was an easy matter and a regular event. And the Visa card would be dropped onto the counter once again, ever so casually...

In more recent times with Clive sadly departed, with the Craft movement sadly unsung and unsupported, with the world heading for some sort of change and renewal, "Naturally" has reached an impass which inevitably led to its final chapter. Perhaps a dynamic new owner will "emerge from the woodwork....", perhaps this is the last chapter in the history of our craft, or just maybe we are heading for a Revival, a Renaissance, a new Movement, a new Beginning.

I suspect some kind of new Direction. And I suspect that John and Marilyn Ellerton and, Clive and Pat Barker, will all have played their role, in paving the way to the next wave, by supporting us for so long, so generously.



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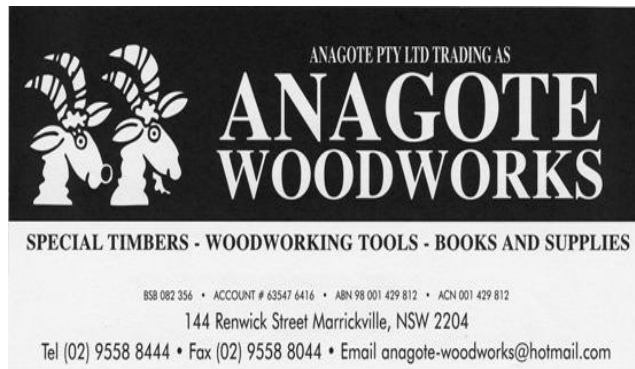


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**Not all members with web sites are  
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**[paulbarton@bigpond.com](mailto:paulbarton@bigpond.com)**

**Wrought Artworks Open Day  
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**Australian Technology Park (former  
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Tours, demonstrations, bag pipes & a  
sausage sizzle in the Blacksmith's shop  
which, says Blacksmith Guido Gouver-  
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grated collection of steam powered  
blacksmithing equipment left in the  
world". Sunday 10-3.

[The Association met Guido some years ago.  
We seriously considered an exhibition in his  
space. He and his staff including 4 appren-  
tices work in one of the most unique work-  
shops in Australia in the middle of a modern  
development. You have to see it to believe it.  
It is remarkable he was able to preserve the  
old Eveleigh Blacksmith Shop as a working  
link to our industrial history. It now it is under  
threat by the State Government and is seek-  
ing public support. Ed]

[www.wroughtartworks.com](http://www.wroughtartworks.com)

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