

November - December 2007

www.woodworkersnsw.org.au

Brush the 5
Dust Off

October 6
meeting

"Xylo" 10
Sturt
School



Festive Season Edition.

Next meeting—
Monday 3 December 2007 7:00 PM for 7:30 PM
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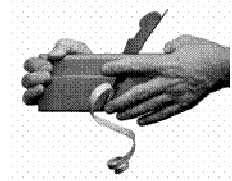
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Exhibition Committee

Warwick Wright;; Robert Chapman; Tracy Gumm; Adam Crosland; Phil Gould



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 13 Feb 20078

Welcome to new and returned members.

Christopher Low
Colin Lipworth
Gayle Adams
John Velik

We're on the web
www.woodworkersnsw.org.au

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.

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

“This carving doesn't look finished. Were you in a hurry? Don't you have a sander?”

- Minerva Coulter

From the Chair Nov/ Dec 2007**From the Chair**

You would think that as we get older we would wise up to preparing for the festive season and learn how to effortlessly manage end of year deadlines, family commitments and pre-Christmas festivities. Maybe some of you have mastered this coup in organisational achievement – but I confess that it continues to allude me.

Master Classes

Despite some overdue projects, I spent last weekend attending a master class on torsion boxes organised by Tracy Gumm. I had signed up for the class months ago when I planned to have most of my work finished by the end of November. Of course that didn't happen. However, I don't regret attending the class for a moment. Tracy has done an excellent job in organising these short courses with an impressive line up of distinguished designer / makers. Anyone who has attended one will know just how much can be gained from a short time out from your own workshop. The course was also a lot of fun. Tracy is organising fur-

ther classes for 2008.

Design + Wood Reviews

In the last edition of the newsletter I gave an account of the opening night of the August exhibition *Design + Wood: An exhibition of studio furniture*. I refrained from commenting on the actual exhibits leaving that up to others. Evan Dunstone's review appears in the current issue of *Australian Wood Review* (which happens to have Life Member Richard Vaughan on the cover.)

I take issue with Evan's assertion that the exhibition was "primarily intended to promote the work of the association's professional members". The exhibition was in fact primarily intended to promote the Woodworkers' Association. The benefits to professional members were consequential rather than the reason for the exhibition. I might add that the selection of images for the review was entirely the responsibility of AWR.

A review by Neil Erasmus will appear in the March 2008 issue of *Craft Arts International*.



Thank you Evan and Neil for taking the time out to prepare the reviews. They will form an important part of the history of the Association and provide some substance for future promotional purposes.

The Next Meeting

There are no planned guest speakers or other activities for the next meeting. It will be a chance to get together, share information and have a good time. Hope to see you at the Powerhouse on 3rd December.

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2008.

Warwick

Henry Kendall Collection**HELP. Can you help find some "Lost" woodworkers**

Forests NSW is working on restoring the Henry Kendall collection of fine woodwork. They have asked our assistance in finding some of the makers with pieces in the collection. If any one has contact details for the following designer / makers would they please contact Warwick Wright.

Alain Babinard;
Neil Cromer;
Gene Willsford;
Clive Price;
Bob Harris;
Lex Whadcoat.

Member's Classifieds

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Heading Overseas?

Gayle Adams, a student of Richard Crosland and new member, is heading for the Milan International Furniture Fair in April 2008. This is a major event over six days and it focuses on contemporary furniture and design. This should be tremendously interesting and it sounds like there could be fun to be had.

If anyone is interested in going and meeting up with Gayle while she is there, contact her on gayleadams@optusnet.com.au



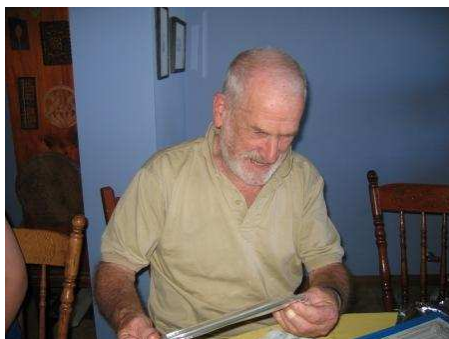
Merry Christmas to all from the committee.
Is that something for you in Santa's sack?
Let's hope that you get what you asked for!

Brush the Dust Off and find the woodie below

conducted by David Hire

Before we meet our interviewee this issue, there is something that might be of interest - for the woodworkers who make Christmas gifts and like wooden puzzles - have a look at www.johnrausch.com/PuzzlingWorld.

Our interviewee this issue is Mr. Graham Tilly,



dh Welcome Graham. How long have you been a woodworker?

gt All my life in one way. Now that I am retired I get to spend more time at it. I started out as a school teacher in South Australia, teaching mathematics. I was lucky enough to win a Fulbright exchange to USA for a year. When I returned I went to work at Sydney University in the mathematics department.

dh I heard a rumour that you almost had a career in aviation?

gt Well I did quit teaching for a while and joined the Australian Air Force as a pilot. Unfortunately after I incorrectly "parked" a Wirraway aircraft the Air Force felt I would make a better navigator than pilot and I wasn't interested.

dh What aspect of woodworking is your speciality?

gt In the past I have tried to do them all. I used to repair a lot of chairs but when I started charging what the job was worth, customers lost interest. If I had to choose only one it would be carving/sculpture.

dh I understand you also do a lot of turning?

gt Well yes. I belong to the Woodturners Guild. The eastern suburbs section of the Guild meet in my workshop once a month.

dh Do you have a favourite wood species you like to use?

gt Definitely recycled, failing that Blackwood or Aust cedar for furniture and white beech, mahogany or huon pine for carving.

dh What is your favourite finish?

gt Well, French Polish where it is appropriate. More frequently, an oil based finish. On turnings, frequently just a seal and buff.

dh I noticed a rocking horse in the lounge, is that your work?

gt No, that one is a Roebuck. But I have made several for family and friends including the carousel type.

dh How can fellow woodworkers contact you?

gt Phone is 9660 3071 or grahamtilly@optusnet.com.au

dh What would you like to tell your fellow woodworkers?

gt ENJOY ENJOY

dh Is there a particular era of furniture you like and if so do you make pieces in that style.

gt I like the history of furniture. But if I had to choose I would say Chippendale and then Art Nouveau.

dh Do you have your own workshop?

gt Yes, a garage workshop, mainly with older equipment including 2 lathes.

dh What is likely to be your next power tool purchase?

gt Probably a copy carver. There are 2 that I am interested in, one from Belgium and the other from the USA. The one from Belgium can be set up to carve in reverse ie give it a right foot as a model and it will carve a left foot. Or maybe a variable speed drive for one of the lathes.

dh What is likely to be the next hand tool you obtain?

gt Probably a specialist carving chisel of some type.

dh What is your favourite thing about woodworking?

gt Doing it. Making things.

dh Least favourite?

gt Dust.

dh What is your current project?

October General Meeting

Featuring a presentation on Forestry Stewardship and Certification by Peter Musset of The Woodage in Mittagong

At October's meeting, we were fortunate enough to have a presentation by Peter Musset of The Woodage in Mittagong about his involvement in the Forestry Stewardship Council and how it addresses the certification of timbers sourced in an environmentally responsible manner that gives fair compensation to the traditional landowners who manage the forests.

Peter was a graduate of Sturt in 1988 but became interested in the supply of timber to the extent that he even built his own kiln.

He was inspired by Greenpeace and attended a meeting in Papua New Guinea on certification. Peter has now taken on the whole issue of certification in earnest and is happy to advise people and also supply certified timber.

mania is certified. This certification is industry based and is not a world wide process as is FSC. Timber certified under FSC has been subjected to more stringent tests for accountability than timber certified under AFS.



Compare the damage done by the large corporations to the photos at left and below, where locals are also engaged in regeneration of the forest after their logging.



Peter Musset shows us the more environmentally friendly methods of retrieving timber from the Forests.

The whole issue of certification is rapidly becoming important to a number of people particularly in the building and architecture areas. The Woodworkers' Association's experience at Design + Wood 2007 was that there were a number of enquiries from the public about timber from certified sources.

The certification process in which Peter is involved is that under the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC). For more information, visit their web-site at <http://www.fscaustralia.org/> There is another certification under Australian Forestry Standards (AFS) to which Gunns in Tas-



The timber from PNG is felled and milled by local people in an environmentally sustainable manner before going to a Central Marketing Unit (still in PNG). This also has the benefit that the local people, the owners of the forests, get a fair price for their timber and their efforts. The money earned in this manner is substantially greater than that paid by the large logging companies, the biggest of

which is Malaysian owned. The other differentiating factor is that the impact on the environment is much less in the certified process. Peter showed us a number of photographs that amply demonstrated the difference when compared with the activities of the large corporations.

Many thanks to Peter and his son Will for their presentation. Don't forget to visit Peter's web-site at <http://www.thewoodage.com.au/>



Milling of the timber is carried out using portable mills. Obviously there are no Workcover inspectors in the area!



Timber is often harvested in areas with no port facilities. This timber is on its way to the Central Marketing Unit



Timber being air-dried at the Central Marketing Unit.

From Page 5—Brush the dust off.

a 21st Birthday.

gt I am making another batch of tea boxes.

dh Would you like to share a woodworking embarrassment?

dh What has been your greatest success?

gt No, get used to them.

gt I don't know. I guess completing things. I made an Escher Sphere out of NSW Rosewood for a friend that was retiring and it was very well received. Also a box for

dh What is your favourite Joint?

gt A well made mitre joint. (Note: Graham has some very clever jigs for shooting mitres which he might be coaxed into showing at a meeting)

dh Do you prefer machine power, or are you a traditionalist?

gt Both. Recycled hardwoods need machine power.

dh Any closing comments?

gt I still enjoy it!!!!

dh Thank you for your time and all the best success with your woodworking.



Time is running out! Your chance to showcase your work. For more details, see Australian Wood Review magazine or their web site at www.woodreview.com.au
Deadline extended to 14 December 07



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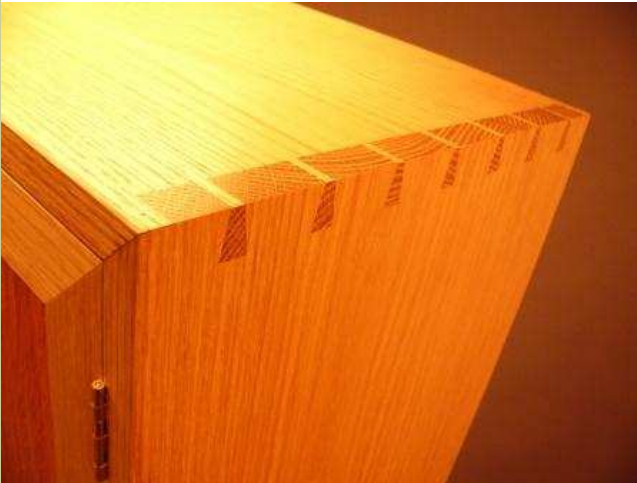
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“Xylo”- Sturt School for Wood 2007 Graduate Exhibition

“Xylo”- the exhibition which opens at **Sturt Gallery** in Range Road Mittagong on Saturday **1st December** will feature a selection of the works completed by graduating students of the **Sturt School for Wood**.



The exhibition will be open from **10am to 5pm daily until Sunday the 16th December**.

This year's class of eleven students came to **Sturt** with a diverse range of careers spanning legal, medical,

financial and technical professions - all have sought to retrain to the highest standards to meet the challenges of personal expression in this demanding medium.

The works of the graduating students is the culmination of a year of intense and comprehensive study. Students began the year by making some of their own tools and throughout the year there has been a focus on making works by hand in order to ensure a solid foundation in traditional techniques of furniture making. Pieces included are from a diverse range of styles, personal creativity and integrity, all completed to the high standards of technical excellence, and demanded by the **Director of Sturt School for Wood, Tom Harrington**.



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