



May - June 2007

www.woodworkersnsw.org.au

Timber &
Working with
Wood Show

Competition

Gallery

! 1

Brush Off the 6
Dust - Laurens
Otto

Visits 5, 9

Adjudication 8
Guidelines

Exhibitions: 7
Design +
Wood 2007

Studio Furni- 10,11
ture 2008

IT'S SHOWTIME!

TIMBER & WORKING WITH WOOD SHOW, SYDNEY 2007
HALL OF INDUSTRIES & HORDEN PAVILLON
MOORE PARK

June 15th - 16th - 17th
10 am to 5pm daily



Once again, we have our best opportunity for each and all of us to show the fruits of our work.

The gallery competition - All of the clubs present at the show have worked hard to produce a backdrop to enhance the display of your entries; we now have a backdrop that creates a gallery atmosphere.

Have you finished a piece in the last twelve months and as yet haven't thought of entering the competition? If you think of the competition as a show and tell with a bonus perhaps of winning a prize then there is every thing to gain by being there!



The show and its offering - Go to the Timber & Working With Wood website www.workingwithwood.com

Continued Page 5

Next meeting—
Monday 4 June 2007 7:00 PM for 7:30 PM
New Venue
POWERHOUSE MUSEUM, ULTIMO

Meeting fee \$4-00, incl. draw for door prize.

Visitors welcome - 1st visit free!

The Woodworkers' Association of NSW, Inc

Correspondence to PO Box 1016 Bondi Junction NSW 1355

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Exhibition Committee

Leon Sadubin; Robert Chapman; Warwick Wright; Tracy Gumm; Adam Crosland

Membership Secretary Peter Hunt

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Editor Paul Barton

Assistant Editor Frank Duff

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 July

**Welcome to new and returned
members.**

Christopher Watt

David Norrie

David Herring

Tony Sulsters

Paul Laszlo

Aims of the Woodworkers Association of NSW, incorporated

- To foster creativity and the pursuit of excellence in the crafting of the wooden form.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of expertise and to foster camaraderie among those who work in wood.
- To provide for the networking of information and material supply.
- To promote public awareness and appreciation of this work.
- To be a respected voice concerning the management of our precious native timber resources and to promote best practice in land management.

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.

“The simple challenge is to marry the possible with the practical, and tailor both to the customer’s pocket in such a way that they perceive *good value*. Simple!” - Minerva Coulter

From the Chair

The New Committee and Public Officer

Peter Rozea was elected Secretary at the AGM on 2nd April. He will also take on the role of Public Officer with the "retirement" of our long serving Public Officer, David Buick. The former Secretary, Peter Hunt, remains on the Committee and will continue in his role as Membership Secretary. Welcome back Kim Larymore. The office holders and committee members are listed on page 2.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank Peter Hunt and David Buick. Peter, for his invaluable contribution as Secretary, and David for his long and valued contribution as the front man between the Association and the NSW Office of Fair Trading; for being the custodian of important documents; for his humour, and not least, his wise counsel to successive WWA Committees.

In response to representations made prior to and at the April meeting, I gave an undertaking that the Committee would review the Membership Rules and the Association's adjudication guidelines.

Changes to the Rules of Association require a special resolution and approval of members at a general meeting. The adjudication guidelines are an administrative matter and need to be dealt with differently.

Rules of Association

From the reaction at the April meeting, it is evident that many members are not aware that the Rules of Association provide for two categories of membership; Exhibiting Members and Normal Members.

On incorporation of the Association, the members of the former "Woodworkers' Group" became

Exhibiting Members. For others the status was dependent on having work adjudicated under the Association's guidelines. This usually took place prior to public exhibitions. However not everyone who had their work adjudicated and accepted for a public exhibition was awarded Exhibiting Member status.

The original rationale for dual membership has dissipated over the years, and the dual membership fee structure has long been abandoned.

A special Committee Meeting was held soon after the April meeting to examine the present Rules and make recommendations on adjudication guidelines. The Committee considered that the following changes should be recommended to members at the June meeting.

- Update the Objects of the Association;
 - Provide formal recognition in the Rules for Honorary Life Members;
 - Change the former dual membership rule to one category of member; and
- Amend other rules as a consequence of the above plus some other minor changes.

All members have been sent special resolutions to effect the above changes together with an explanation for the changes.

The Committee has also decided that the adjudication guidelines should be reviewed. New draft guidelines will be available at the June meeting for members' comments.

August Exhibition

The "Dank Street" Exhibition planned for August 2007 has been renamed

Design + Wood 2007: An exhibition of contemporary studio furniture.

Proposals for exhibition pieces were considered, and the final selection



made, in April. Thank you to all who submitted applications.

The exhibition is included in the program for *Sydney Design 2007* hosted by the Powerhouse Museum. The major sponsor is Forests NSW - other sponsors are presently being finalised.

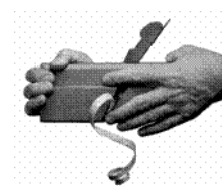
The next meeting

The June meeting will be an opportunity for members to have their say on a range of issues including the Objects and Rules of the Association and the adjudication guidelines. It will also be an opportunity to raise related issues including what members want from future meetings.

I appreciate that most of you would rather that the meeting be devoted to woodwork - that's why we have general meetings. However, this is an opportunity to clear up some old issues and set a new direction for the Association.

I look forward to your participation.

Warwick Wright



Member's Classifieds

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NEW WOODWORKING CLASSES STURT SCHOOL FOR WOOD, MITTAGONG

Sturt School for Wood is now offering **two full time 12 week courses in Fine Woodworking commencing in 2008**. Full details can be found on the website at: www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/wood_12wk.htm

Other short courses include

Windsor Chairs with **Howard Archibald** and introduction to fine woodwork with **John Gallagher**. Suitable for beginners and intermediate woodworkers.

Further information on these Short Courses and enrolment forms can be found at: www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/course_short.htm or phone Megan Patey or Dale Dryen on 02 4860 2080.

Visit to the Powerhouse Furniture Store Discovery Centre, Castle Hill

On Saturday 12 May members were led on an exclusive tour of the Museum furniture store by Anne Watson, Curator Architecture and Design.

The Museum has an extensive collection on exhibition and in store including iconic designs by Charles & Ray Eames, Hans Wagner, Gio Ponti, Rietveld, Bottoni, Bertoa, Mackintosh and many more. There is a sizeable collection of Australia's own Marc Newson's designs.

There are also many earlier pieces from known and unknown makers.

Association members are well represented in the collection. All items are listed on the PHM database -

<http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/>

The database can be viewed by anyone and searched by category, e.g. timber, furniture; or by makers name. A quick search reveals items by Paul Kafka (4), Richard Raffan (5), Leon Sadubin (1), Grant Vaughan (3), Richard Vaughan (1), Alan Wale (4); not forgetting one invention by our recently departed friend Jeff Snell" (The AngleMag Multiple Angle Guide).

We thank Anne Watson for arranging the tour and taking time out on a Saturday to accompany Woodworkers' Association members through the store.

On behalf of the Association, Anne was presented with a tray designed and made by Richard Vaughan which was generously donated by John Ellerton of *Naturally Australian*.

From Front Page **Timber & Working with Wood Show**

Have you finished a piece in the last twelve months and as yet haven't thought of entering the competition?

It's not too late, if you haven't a form just go to the Timber & Working with Wood website and download the forms (but be quick) – (www.workingwithwood.com)

Our stand – Show your work – have you a piece more than 12 months old or more importantly an unfinished piece (we are constantly amazed at the interest in work in progress).

This year we are highlighting (literally) our display of members work. We will be using lighting we have used at several of our professional exhibitions.

Our display includes as well as the above a workshop demonstration area showing how it's done, promotional area in support of our association, woodworking education (an open possibility for members offering schools of woodworking to sell their programs), seminars on woodworking practice and finally our raffle (our secondary and important means of income for the association).

You are invited to be part of our show team, what day or days can you help?

The benefits of being a helper – You receive a pass into the show and if required subsidized parking in the adjoining parking lot (all day \$12)
Please liaise with Phil Lake

There is nothing like being there, the experience is everything!!

We set up shop on Wednesday 13th, the stand accoutrements arrive about 10 am and the stand is erected that day. As the competition entries have to be at the venue that day also we will receive stand exhibits **if it is your intention of showing at both levels.**

Alternatively stand exhibits should be delivered to the stand on Thursday 14th. We will take delivery between 10am and 6pm on Wednesday and 8am and 8.30 pm Thursday.

Please liaise with Phil Lake

Move in move out transport – can you help? Truck, van, trailer.

Please liaise with **Phil Lake**

Brush the Dust Off and Find the Woodie Below

Laurens Otto

Have you ever felt you were in over your head? That you were in the presence of Royalty? Our interviewee this month has specialized in one area of woodworking that most woodies shy away from. In fact he is third generation in this specialized area of woodworking.

The speciality is wood carving and our interviewee is Mr. Laurens Otto. Among his commissions are:

- Coat of Arms, High Court of Australia, ACT
- Coat of Arms, Parliament, ACT
- Australian Coach 1988 for Queen Elizabeth II - London
- The Royal Coach *Britannia* currently being built in Sydney!!!

See what I mean, ROYALTY!!! Welcome, Laurens.



dh Tell us about this family tradition i.e. your father and grandfather.

lo My father Peter Otto and his brother Frank came to Australia from Holland in 1951-1952. They founded Otto Brothers Carving in 1952. The workshop was in Botany Street, Randwick. Their father, my Grandfather was Pieter Otto. Peter and Frank had been apprenticed to Pieter in Holland. Pieter came to Australia in 1956 at the age of 70. He worked in the business for 17 years until he was 87. Then he did design for the business for another 4 years.

I started in the business part time in 1963. I worked Thursday nights and all day Saturday. I did my apprenticeship in upholstery, before I started wood carving full time. During this time I worked Saturday and Thursday evening in the woodcarving workshop and did drawing

By David Hire

and design classes with my grandfather 2 nights per week. I was apprentice of the year in 1968. By now the workshop was in Esther Lane, Surry Hills.

A major portion of our work was doing the carving for furniture manufacturers who did not have in-house carving staff. It was all to set patterns in their product lines.

dh Is there a fourth generation waiting in the wings? **lo** No.

dh Tell us about your current project.

lo It is Stage 1 of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. This involves the carving for the Exhalation, Cathedra, and Ascension. I am doing this with the help of Don Powell of Queensland. It will keep us busy for 2007 and early 2008. It needs to be ready for the Papal visit in June/July 2008. As yet we don't know what stage 2 will consist of.

dh What wood is that being carved in?

lo Queensland Maple

dh You have had some very high profile commissions. Which was the most difficult and why?

lo This one. Because of the variety of the pieces.

dh And which are you most proud of?

lo All of them.

dh Is Queensland maple the wood you most like to carve?

lo It is a wood used frequently in church work and most importantly it is a reliable source of supply.

dh Do you have a favourite brand of chisels?

lo Addis

dh What method do you use to sharpen your carving chisels?

lo Slip stones and a buffing wheel. The buffing wheel is quickest.

dh Your business card says Individual designs of Period Furniture also Fine Upholstery. What period/maker do you like most?

lo I very much like Georgian.

dh And the fine upholstery?

lo I try to stay away from that.

dh Many times fathers and their sons don't work well together. Was this the case in your family?

lo No. After my father and I did the High Court Coat of Arms we were invited and went to the opening of the High Court. On the way back from Canberra my father said to me "I think your apprenticeship is finished."

dh Have you ever tried a career outside of wood-working?

lo Not to speak of, although odd jobs when carving work was slow.

Continued back page



Woodworkers Association of NSW Inc

DESIGN+ WOOD 2007

An exhibition
of contemporary
studio furniture

DESIGN+WOOD 2007 will feature the work of established and emerging designer/makers as well as a number of recent graduates

This is the first time such an exhibition has been part of **Sydney Design**, the annual design festival hosted by the **Powerhouse Museum**, which is held annually in August.



The exhibitors are focused on contemporary design yet retain the tradition of workshop based production. Their work captures the spirit of the maker in concept and dedication to craftsmanship.

Proudly presented by the
Woodworkers Association of NSW

WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION OF NSW



www.woodworkersnsw.org.au

Date and Time:
14 – 25 August 2007

Location:
Depot I & Depot II Galleries
3/2 Dank Street, Waterloo

Open Times
10am – 6pm, Tuesday to Saturday

Exhibitors:
Tony Kenway, Leon Sadubin, Evan Dunstone, Nick Statham, Robert Chapman, Richard Crosland, Philip Gould, John Gallagher, Warwick Wright, Tracy Gumm, Ian Factor, Adam Crosland, Paul Nicholson, David Norrie, Chris Watt and Ed Garcia.

Contact details:
Warwick Wright
Chairman, Woodworkers
Association of NSW Inc.
(02) 9555 7960
warwick@grainwoodworks.com.au

Major Sponsor



Rules of Association and Adjudication Guidelines

Following representations at the last meeting, the Committee has reviewed the Rules of Association and considered the issue of adjudication guidelines. The proposed special resolutions will be put to members at the June meeting. Adjudication guidelines will be discussed at the June meeting

Adjudication Guidelines: A Personal view

Adjudication guidelines have been around in one form or another since before incorporation of the Association. The former "Woodworkers Group of NSW" had exhibition criteria to encourage creativity and ensure quality at public exhibitions. The criteria changed over time, became overly prescriptive, and were subsequently buried in the archives.

One view is that formal guidelines are unnecessary. People selected to decide on whether work is suitable for public exhibition will be well qualified to make that judgement without formal criteria.

However, exhibition criteria can serve the purpose of giving members some indication of what to expect from adjudication process or indeed what should they aim for in their own practice of woodworking even if they do not aspire to exhibit their work.

The danger is that formal guidelines - if too prescriptive - can discourage exploration in design, technique and materials and inhibit the evolution of woodwork. There are so many examples of celebrated woodwork that would fail the last revised guidelines simply because of "machine marks" and/or less-than-prestine surfaces.

A few examples are Leon Sadubin's *Woodhill Windform* benches; Roy Schack's beautiful band-saw-cut *Sentinel* cabinets; Gay Hawk's rustic furniture; and Nick Hill's bush fire salvaged benches.



Leon Sadubin: *Woodhill Windform*

Adjudication involves more than technical proficiency

Formal adjudication, if it takes place at all, is only one aspect of accepting work for exhibitions and shows. Many exhibitions and shows are not formally adjudicated at all, e.g. the Timber and Working with Wood Show.

Public exhibitions have a promotional purpose and must appeal to the public - not just to other woodworkers. There will generally be a specific theme or brief. *For Tomorrow* had a theme of updating the image of fine woodworking and repositioning contemporary Australian woodwork for the new century. Not all exhibitors paid attention to the brief. The success of the exhibition was not as great as it could have been. The lesson was not addressed in subsequent exhibitions.

Accordingly, the adjudication for public exhibitions may start with selection of proposals long before the exhibition in order to give certainty that exhibits will not be inconsistent with the theme of the exhibition.

Guidelines cannot ensure quality

At the end of the day, or on the exhibition floor, the real test is whether the design, the materials, construction and surface treatment come together as a well balanced, well-proportioned, well-made and aesthetically pleasing whole. There are no rules or guidelines for this. (Alan Wale, "Woodcraft" *Craft Australia* 1977/1)

Warwick Wright



Roy Schack: *Sentinels*

WORKSHOP VISIT



Members visited Phil Gould's workshop and specialty timber business, Allwood Timbers, at Nowra on Saturday 28 April.

Phil is a prolific producer of one-off and limited production furniture.

He has represented the Association in The Sydney Craft Show and The Australian Craft Show (Canberra) since 2004 after graduating from Sturt School for Wood in 2003. He has also had a two-man exhibition with John Gallagher, another Association member.

Phil recently bought Allwood Timbers at Nowra and runs his furniture business in conjunction with the timber sales. The large workshop is dominated by timber racks and piles of timber but there is also a spacious work area and a recently completed show-room.

Members were greeted by Phil and his wife, Alison,

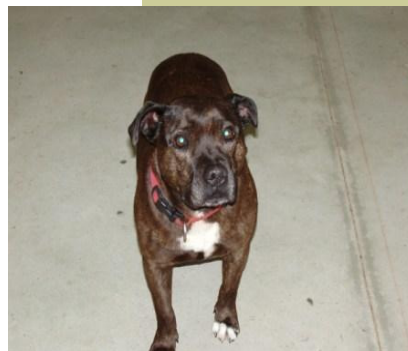
with freshly made espresso coffee before a tour of the timber racks and some insights into buying and selecting timber and making furniture for a living. While we were absorbed in the talk, Alison kept up the coffee and quietly prepared a BBQ lunch which was enjoyed by all.



Phil is an ambassador for the Association. He has often acknowledged the opportunities made available by the Association to a young designer/ maker embarking on a career in woodwork. The Association has been mentioned in articles in South Coast newspapers and talks to students and other wood-working groups.

Contact Details

8 Geary Place, North Nowra
Ph/fax 02 4423 3295
Website www.philipgould.com.au



Thanks to Biddy without whom the event would have had a surplus of sausages at the end.

AWR COMPETITION



studio²⁰⁰⁸ FURNITURE

This is your invitation to enter
Studio Furniture 2008!

Your work could be part of a touring exhibition...or
win one of three cash awards totalling \$10,000
sponsored by Bungendore Wood Works Gallery!

Studio Furniture 2008 is an AWR awards competition organised in
conjunction with and sponsored by **Bungendore Wood Works Gallery**.

You are invited to be part of this landmark event for Australian furniture
designer/makers. Selected works will form part of a touring exhibition
supported by **Craft Australia**. This could be your opportunity to gain
entry into Australia's premier galleries for wood. The competition
and exhibition will be promoted to galleries, craft organisations and
mainstream media. Selected work will be featured in AWR in 2008.

The exhibition will open at **Bungendore Wood Works Gallery**,
NSW, on Australia Day, January 26, 2008.

Further details of touring program will be announced in AWR#56.

Please note: galleries interested in participating should
contact Linda Nathan, AWR Editor at woodreview@ecn.net.au

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CALL FOR ENTRIES **AWR**

Studio furniture is one-of-a-kind or limited edition work, usually made in the workshop or factory of an individual designer/maker. Not mass produced, these works are individually designed and made.

The maker's philosophy and lifestyle are reflected in the sourcing and selection of materials, and in the construction and finish of the work.

Studio furniture is functional but it is also art because it is concerned with form, colour, tone and surfaces which are arranged to provoke a feeling or response. A variety or combination of materials may be used.



DVR desk, Neil Erasmus



Seren chair, Evan Dunstone



Wattle cabinet, Frank Wiesner

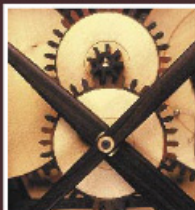
**Entry
deadline
for selection
Nov 28, 2007**



Donnelly bedside, Ironwood Studios



Sey chair, Gray Hawk



Clock, Adam Evans

**Exhibition opens
at Bungendore
Wood Works
Gallery
Jan 26, 2008**

The Brief

The brief is for a well considered and crafted piece of furniture, made with saleability within a gallery setting in mind.

The design and finish should communicate a studio furniture attitude; that is, an emphasis on individually designed and made work.

Your piece should show an appropriate use of hand work so as to distinguish it from mass-produced manufacture. Your entry must describe and detail the concept, materials and techniques used.

Wood and/or wood products (manufactured boards) should be the primary material of your piece, however other materials may be incorporated.

Eligibility

Entry is open to all makers: professional, non-professional and student. The final selection for awards and exhibition will be on the basis of the criteria in the brief above.

Eligible furniture works include tables, chairs, cabinets, boxes, mirrors, clocks or furniture with combined function.

Items produced in limited production runs (2-100) are eligible. Your piece will have been made within 12 months prior to the exhibition, and not previously exhibited. It must be for sale.

Staff and family members of the publishers, gallery owners and competition judges may not enter, however contributing writers to AWR may enter the competition.

The Awards

Three cash prizes donated by Bungendore Wood Works Gallery will be awarded: First \$5,000, Second \$3,000, Third \$2,000.

How to Enter

Download an entry form from www.woodreview.com.au

Post a completed form with a CD of up to six professional quality (unaltered) digital images to AWR, PO Box 4336, Loganholme DC Qld 4129. Your images should include full and detail views of the piece. Your entry should be accompanied by colour printouts of your images. Receipt of entries will be acknowledged.

You may submit one or two entries. Each entry must be accompanied by a separate entry form. If you wish your mailed entry to be returned you will need to include stamped and pre-addressed packaging.

There is no entry fee.

The deadline for entry is November 28, 2007.

If your work is selected for award or exhibition you will be notified by December 17 and your piece must be delivered to Bungendore Wood Works Gallery, NSW, by January 15, 2008.

Selected works will be required for an extended period before being available for either shipping to purchasers or return to the maker.

Transport and insurance costs to BWVG must be paid for by the maker. Forwarding and return costs will be paid by the galleries.

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(Windsor),
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Exclusions: Discounts do not apply to stock already on
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Brush Off the Dust

David Hire with Laurens Otto, continued

- dh** If you did try something other than woodworking what would that be?
- lo** Skiing & travelling & sculpting stone.
- dh** I understand that you teach classes in carving. Tell us about that?
- lo** I have been teaching since 1976 with my father. It started at Ryde. I have been teaching at the McGregor Summer school in Toowoomba since 1984 with my friend Geoffrey Hannah from Lismore. I have also taught at the Grafton Arts Festival on several occasions. I will be at Grafton Arts Festival in April. Other than that, private teaching is on hold until St Mary's is finished.
- dh** In your estimation how many hours of instruction would it take for a typical woodworker to need in order to incorporate a simple flower in a piece of furniture they were making?
- lo** You can teach someone to carve a particular item, be it flower or other fairly quickly. That of course does not make them a carver.
- dh** How long have you been a member of the NSW Woodworkers' Association?
- lo** My father and I were involved since the beginning in about 1978.
- dh** Laurens thank you so much for your time and all the best in your future woodworking.

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

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