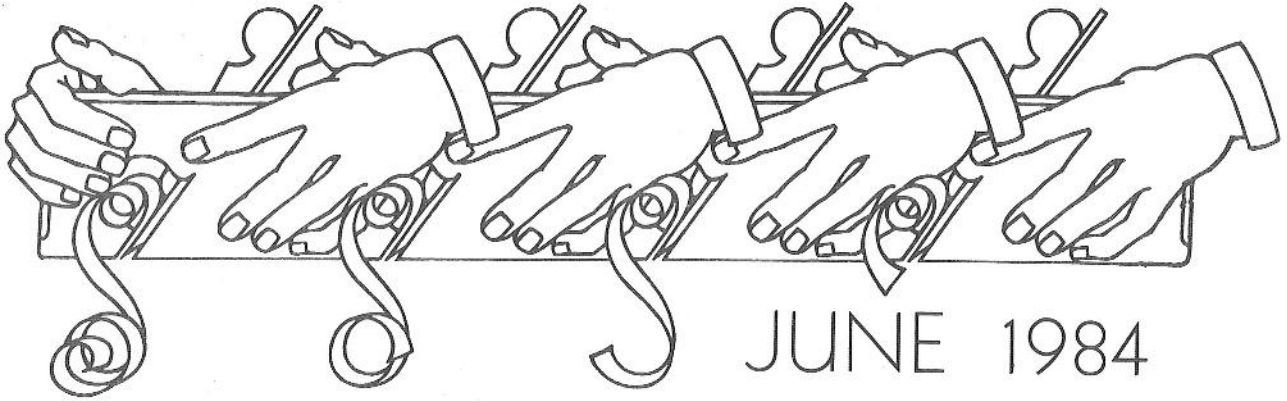
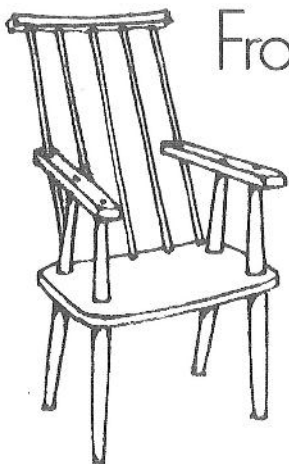


# WOODWORKERS' GROUP OF N.S.W.



**CHAIRMAN** — Alan Wale, 74a Castle Howard Rd, Beecroft 2119, Tel. 869 8714  
**SECRETARY** — Les Miller, 6 Balmoral St, Waitara 2077, Tel. 48 2682,  
**TREASURER** — Leon Sadubin, 199 Pennant Hills Rd, Thornleigh 2120, Tel. 84 1183  
**SUBSCRIPTIONS** — Paul Freeland 4/29a Shirley Rd, Wollstonecraft 2065, Tel. 438 2907  
**TIMBER RESOURCES** — Gerard Gilet, 34a Beatrice St, Balgowlah 2093, Tel. 94 3638  
**LIAISON** — Richard Crosland, 20a City Rd, Chippendale 2008, Tel. 211 5114, 32 2411 (ah)  
**TOOLS and EQUIPMENT** — Henry Black, Canberra, Tel. (062) 49 1516  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** — Michael Gill, 1 Bank St, Pyrmont 2009, Tel. 660 7357



## From the Chair...

Well, it turns out that the three openers are back in the crease again and preparing for another innings. Fortunately, this time we are not on our own, but have instead a well known team of eight bearded workers (well, nearly all bearded. We are working on the recalcitrant few!). Each has his own particular interests and

individual style of work as well as independent point of view

— but all have the welfare of the Group at heart. So at this stage I would like to personally thank each member of this new executive committee for his willingness to contribute to the future of our Group.

### And now for the heavy stuff...

The public awareness and acceptance of woodworking as a craft has come a long way in the past decade, due in no small part to the efforts of groups such as ours. However, there is still a long way to go, and much to be done to improve the woodworker's image.

I think the stage has now been reached where our Group can and should become a more professional body, consciously promoting the work of its members, catering to their interests and generally "spreading the gospel".

But this will not happen overnight, nor can the work involved be left to the few at the top, he will need support — active support from you, the members.

In short, let us aim high individually so that collectively we will all benefit from being members of the Woodworkers' Group of NSW.

See you at the next meeting,  
Alan

### OUR LAST MEETING (April 29th)

The last meeting of the Woodworkers' Group of NSW was a landmark in its history. At that meeting, a resolve was made to strengthen the Group, to clarify its aims and its purposes and to establish a standard by which the Group may better serve and represent the Woodworkers of NSW. It was a lively afternoon, to say the least, with some hot discussion and much productive comment.

### THE COUP

The above Executive Committee presented itself to the Group for acceptance as the future governing body, each explaining his function. Paraded before the assembly, "The Gang of Eight", or "The Junta" as it was then labelled, a veritable rogues gallery, was very graciously approved of without exception. Thanks to all present for your confidence and support. As Alan has said, it was noticed that six of the eight were bearded... Despite this dreadful handicap, efficiency is promised. (The dreadful handicap being, of course, the two clean-shaven rebels.)

Alan Wale, as chairman, acted as spokesman for the committee and extorted from the assembly an agreement that final decisions concerning the Group's affairs were to be entrusted to that committee.

### RESTRUCTURE

Many of the executive committee's number expressed dissatisfaction in the Group's direction, its loose structure and its lack of basic standards for membership. A re-organisation, it was left, should be undertaken to establish the Group as a more professional organisation, as a pool of expertise, and a mouthpiece for excellence in NSW woodcraft.

Leon Sadubin outlined the design of the Group's very first exhibition in 1978, emphasising that all exhibitors had been approached by personal invitation, the particularly high quality of their work ensuring the great success the exhibition enjoyed. This criterion has been resumed by the executive committee as that by which the re-structuring of the Group is to be achieved.

**THE WOODWORKERS' GROUP OF NSW** As of this notice, comprises two categories: Members and Associates.

#30 sent on 16/7/84

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**A Member** is a practising woodworker whose standard of work has been accepted by the Group.  
**An Associate** is a subscriber sympathetic to the aims of the Group.

At present all woodworkers who have previously exhibited at the Woodcraft Exhibitions are automatically accepted as members. Members have voting rights and may participate, by selection, in exhibitions.

Associates may gain membership by submitting examples of their work for consideration by a selection committee. This committee will consist of a minimum of five members of the Junta and such submissions may be made by previous arrangement, on any of the Group's meeting days.

The sincere aim of the committee is to provide a challenge to aspiring applicants and all criticisms will be courteous, constructive and encouraging. It is not a matter of putting people down or turning them away but rather of presenting an achievable goal in a spirit of benevolence and comradeship.

Technical and artistic assistance is offered at all times and it is expected that the woodworker refused membership will view it as a deferral and resubmit further developed work until membership is awarded him. Associates are entitled to all the benefits of belonging to the Group (including newsletters, lectures, attendance at meetings, outings, workshops, etc.) except those of exhibiting and voting.

An invitation is hereby extended to all woodworkers who seek membership to submit their best work. Please ring your chairman Alan Wale, well in advance of the next meeting so that a workable schedule may be arranged. Problems of size and/or mobility can be solved by use of slides or photographs at least as a preliminary. (I refer to work-pieces and not to those of us with problems of overweight.)

#### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Member ... \$40 p.a.

Associate ... \$30 p.a.

The previous idea of including stamped self-addressed envelopes in subscription rates has been dropped as impractical for many reasons. Concessions are offered to pensioners, students/apprentices, and the unemployed or financially troubled (and that should cover every last one of us). Subscriptions will be calculated by calendar year.

**1984 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE WELL OVERDUE. PLEASE FORWARD THEM NOW.** Paul Freeland is your man.

**NOTE:** Only paid-up subscribers will receive the August newsletter. Only paid-up associates may submit work to qualify for membership.

#### **THANK YOU**

The Executive Committee, on behalf of all those involved in the Group would like to thank the out-going co-ordinators for their hard work in the past two years.

#### **WOODMILL CRAFT and EDUCATION ON THE BOX**

Les Miller, your secretary and Film-maker Extraordinaire, showed his video tape film of Woodcraft '83 at our last meeting. Les is offering this valuable record of a fine exhibition for sale, especially to schools and colleges throughout NSW and interstate. Les would appreciate criticism and comment. If you have anything to say on the subject, please put it in writing (anonymously, if you like) and send it to the editor for discussion at the next committee meeting and for inclusion in the August newsletter.

#### **WOODCRAFT '84?**

The question of Woodcraft '84 — to be or not to be — was well thrashed out at the April meeting where the view

was expressed that due to the current re-organisation of the Group, and a general feeling that the venue should be changed, too little time remained for organisation. It was felt that our next exhibition should be the very best of which we are capable and after a show of hands here and a show of hands there it was decided that a staging of Woodcraft '85 in mid to late April of that year would provide us sufficient scope for a strong effort.

Pending negotiations, it is hoped to mount Woodcraft '85 at the Opera House. Thanks are due to Mike Jefferys for his services on our behalf in the arrangement of these matters.

Other possibilities are the Crafts Council Gallery, Design Centre, Margaret St, Entertainment Centre. Please give us your thoughts. It was agreed that no theme should be imposed upon the exhibition.

#### **CRAFTS COUNCIL**

Richard Crosland, your liaison officer has joined the Crafts Council on the Group's behalf and will be keeping his ear to the wall and ensuring close relations with sympathetic and allied bodies.

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to the new format of your newsletter. It will continue to appear 6 times a year. As a group, we are scattered far and wide throughout NSW and despite the wonderfully regular attendance of many of our country members at meetings, this newsletter remains our most important form of communication.

It must not be a mere catalogue of business matters nor just a vehicle for Committee propaganda. Its quality will depend upon the enthusiastic contributions of all in the Group and be a reflection of the spirit of the woodworkers of this state.

Your editor requests articles, notices, reminders, declarations, pleas, criticisms, humour, advice and warnings.

If you know of a particularly interesting project being undertaken by a fellow woodworker (you may be chopping out something exciting yourself), let us know. Better still, get together and scratch out a few paragraphs and include some good, sharp snaps for publication. Drawings, plans and sketches are a welcome addition. Monologues and articles on technical matters — safety, tricks of the trade, jigs, tools, machinery, timber-seasoning, milling, storing, finishing — are requested.

Many of us are designer-makers — notes on design and aesthetics would be invaluable. We have amongst us chainsaw wood-butchers, sculptors, musical-instrument makers, boat-builders, carvers, and inlay artists, as well as joiners, pattern-makers, turners and furniture makers. What about sharing an anecdote, an amusing incident, a horrifying experience or a heart-felt gripe with us all?

Have you scoured the earth for a stick of New Guinea Walnut or a metric dowelling bit? Tell the Group — dozens of us may be going round the same bend. One of us will know how or where.

We are also businessmen, marketing men, collectors, botanists, conservationists and teachers as well as shaving-makers. Share your slant on the subject with the whole Group.

#### **SEXIST LANGUAGE**

Sexist terms, such as the above few lines, will continue to be used by your editor until such time as we have a female of the species join our ranks. It is an indictment of this paternalistic mob that, despite the number of strapping, bearded Samsons that abound, no Delilah has ventured into the temple. If you know of the existence of a woodwoman, please send me her name, address and telephone no!

Alan Wale wishes it to be known that for him, "Chairperson" is an obscenity and until his chisel slips, he will insist on the title "Chairman".

## ADVERTISING

Advertising space will be sold in the newsletter as a means of bringing relevant products and services before the Group and also to ensure high standard of publication.

A classified ad section will be included in each newsletter. This will be a free service for all members and associates.

## FUTURE MEETINGS '84

Here are the scheduled dates of our remaining general meetings for 1984: JULY 1st, SEPTEMBER 2nd and NOVEMBER 4th.

They fall on the first Sunday of every alternate month. This advance notice should give everyone a better chance of arranging his weekends well into the future and assuring that the maximum number can be mustered at each gathering.

## JULY MEETING

Alan Wale will host the affair with a barbecue lunch at his Beecroft home. Bring your own snags and steaks with you, please. Henry Black will give an illustrated talk on his recent tour of the United States. Henry visited many well-known American woodcraftsmen and was a guest in several of their workshops. Those who are familiar with Henry's own virtuosity and with the very high standard of American woodwork (as witnessed in such publications as "Fine Woodworking" magazine) await this lecture with great anticipation.

Details of special activities and features of coming meetings will appear, along with their venues, in subsequent newsletters.

## FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

Many thanks to Phillip Bohringer for news of the Forest Products Association (previously the Associated Country Sawmillers of NSW). He has undertaken to keep us informed of important developments in the industry and to pass information between the two bodies.

Phillip has stressed that, though this could be developed into a valuable source of difficult-to-obtain timber for the Group, orders would need to be large ones. An old problem. Phillip suggests a co-operative store where Group orders for custom-cutting could be delivered for distribution. We need the appropriate Real Estate and unanimity as to species, type of cut and dimensions.

Who is interested and what volumes of particular timber do you need? I should also be interested to hear your ideas on how to apportion the stock. Who gets the best boards and who gets the sap? Your thoughts on the matter, please.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

"Craftworks in Australian Architecture", highlighting the work of twenty-six craftspeople.

12th June - 2nd July 1984, 9am - 5pm weekdays  
Architecture Gallery - 1016 Miller Street, North Sydney  
arranged by the Crafts Board, Australia Council.  
(Leon recommends this exhibition as well worth a visit.)

## OUT WEST

Timber Resources Consultant, Gerard Gilet along with Mike Jefferys went bush recently covering around 3500 kilometres of hard country, tracking down some beautiful timbers, including some of the fine slow-growing acacias. They made contact with many sawmillers and woodmen and blunted the odd chainsaw blade on some of the local timber. We may read an account of this excursion in a future newsletter or perhaps be offered a talk on the trip, illustrated with slides - a great opportunity to share their travels in the sort of fascinating country that many of us

may never see, otherwise. Welcome back to the brown haze!

## SPECIAL WORKSHOP/LECTURE

John Brooks, Woodcraftsman from New Hampshire, USA, has been doing a stint at the Tasmanian School of Art, University of Tasmania as Lecturer in Applied Design (Wood).

Richard Crosland has arranged for John to give a slide lecture on Sunday, June 17th, 2pm at the 20a City Road, Chippendale workshops.

John Brooks produces one-off sculptural furniture incorporating found timber, and his work in Tasmania where he has recently exhibited, has drawn him even deeper into this field.

John, who will be in Sydney for only five days, will take the opportunity to visit some of our workshops and get an idea of just what the Woodworkers Group of NSW represents in skills and diversity.

Visits and talk/demonstrations by craftsmen of John's calibre are a window on the world of our fellow woodworkers overseas, eagerly awaited and, alas, none too common.

A special effort, please, from all in our Group on June 17th to extend to John Brooks a very warm welcome to Sydney.

Our speaker will be remunerated from Group funds, so admission will be free. There will be wine and cheese. See you at 2pm.

## HENRY KENDAL COLLECTION

Just don't let it slip your mind. This is (and will grow more so with time) a social and historical record of national significance. (Not to mention the great moral and financial boost it gives the winner of such an acquisitive prize.) Put that beautifully figured block to one side today and look it over now and again while you're waiting for some glue to go off somewhere or a first coat to dry. You have ten months before Woodcraft '85.

## NATIONAL WOOD CONFERENCE, 1985

The group is receiving newsletters from our colleagues throughout Australia and also from overseas. Recent contacts include: The Auckland Guild of Woodworkers, The South Australian Woodgroup, The Victorian Woodworkers' Association and the Bay Area Woodworkers' Association of San Francisco, USA. This, and all our future newsletters will be sent them in return, in the hopes that even stronger ties can be formed in future.

The South Australian Woodgroup advises that they propose to convene a National Wood Conference scheduled for August-September 1985 - a follow-up to the 1979 Melbourne Conference. They have asked us for submissions and ideas for topics and activities to help formulate their programme. Let us give them as much support as we can - those wishing to contribute their views may do so in basic point-form, or indulge in a flowery five-page essay. Send it all to your Chairman or Secretary, please. The enclosed page of numbered suggestions from the SA Group is presented to provoke your comment. What really fascinates you? Should we travel down en masse? Should we seek travel subsidies? Charter a coach? Minibus? Hijack a glider?

**ALAN'S CHAIR** illustrated on page 1. Do you recognise it? If you do, put into writing all you know or can discover about this particular chair's maker, influences, provenance, timber, species, age, etc, and send it to the editor for publication in August. Thanks and good luck.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

RICHARD VAUGHAN is going squirley looking for a workshop - about double garage size, up to \$40 pw, within 10 mins drive of Balmain. Please phone 818 1515 with any lead.

## NATIONAL WOOD CONFERENCE 1985

*Some suggested topics for the National Wood Conference are listed below. You may wish to elaborate on these or let us know of others.*

1. *Woodcraft as a livelihood* — talks and information about those woodworkers who have made a living from their craft since the 1979 Wood Conference.
2. *Current attitudes* or trends in
  - a. Contemporary designer/craftsperson furniture design.
  - b. Woodturning — functional and decorative.
  - c. Woodsculpture.
3. *Education*
  - a. Public awareness of fine woodcraft practice and philosophy.
  - b. Design in Wood Courses.
4. *Native Australian timber* and its sensible utilisation as a renewable resource for fine woodcraft.  
— current research information on native timbers (publications, research papers, etc.)
5. *Marketing of Woodcraft* — 'one off' versus semi-production articles.
  - a. Good galleries and bad galleries.
  - b. Private and public commissions.
  - c. General promotion of fine woodcraft, i.e. exhibitions.
  - d. Sales tax.
6. *State and National Collections* of fine woodcraft. For example: The Henry Kendall Collection of Fine Wood Arts and Crafts (the Forestry Commission of N.S.W.).
7. *International developments* and attitudes to fine woodcraft. For example: The International Wood Collectors Society.
8. *Duration* of the 1985 conference
  - how many days should it go for?
  - what type of facilities do people require — low cost accommodation, etc.
9. *Assistance* from the Crafts Board of the Australian Council for the Arts, and the Crafts Council of Australia to help with air fares to interstate and international keynote speakers.  
— assistance with travel (subsidy) for conferees who have to travel longer distances.
10. *Sponsorship* (air travel, equipment, advertising, awards, etc.)