

The Woodworkers' Association of NSW Incorporated

ABN 51 544 261 324

From the President

Let's start with the good news...

Constitutional reform need not be difficult! At the June meeting, the members present adopted an up-dated constitution for our Association. Thanks to **Clare O'Reilly**, **Gordon Joseph** and the other members of the Committee for assisting with the lengthy drafting and proofing process.

The second item of good news is that the Committee has approved an investigation into the feasibility of holding a large exhibition of fine woodwork at a major location in Sydney, similar to the 1985 and 1987 exhibitions held at the Opera House by the NSW Woodworkers Group (that became our Association in 1988). It is an ambitious project that will take some time and will require professional assistance. If anyone has some constructive suggestions, please email me. I will keep you updated on progress but please start thinking about what you might like to make for such an exhibition.

Thirdly, we have two engaging speakers for our upcoming meeting on **Monday 9 October**.

Michael Gill, who was a member of the NSW Woodworkers Group and our Association back in the 1980's, will be giving a presentation on his magnificent Harbour Bridge cabinet that has been 40 years in the making. **Chris Pothof** will also be our guest to tell members about his Woodtamer business that is burgeoning.

But now the not-so-good news for us...

Our esteemed and excellent Secretary, **Mark Angelo**, is going to have a break from the Secretarial role to pursue some enticing business opportunities. Mark generously accepted the Secretary job in early 2022 when our much loved former Secretary, David Palmer, became unwell. Mark continued David's excellent work with great diligence and reliability. He also took on the role of project managing the rejuvenation of our website with Kain Tietzel which was completed on time and on budget. The new website has brought more enquiries from the general public (about all sorts of things!) which Mark has fielded with great courtesy and patience. He has also been heavily involved in the establishment of the WWA's social media presence. I hope you will join me in wishing him well with his new endeavour and we hope to see him frequently at the Workshop and taking part in the Association's activities.

Lastly, some bad news. The organisers of the Timber, Tools and Artisans Show have not refunded monies paid to them by the WWA for our stand at the 2022 Show that they cancelled at the last minute, despite numerous promises to do so. If anyone know Candy Tocknell-Gray or Brendon Gray personally, please feel free to reach out to them. The Association will continue our efforts to have them honour their promises and their legal obligations.

WWA Objectives

The objectives of the Association are:

- 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 and amateur woodworkers in New South Wales
- to promote the 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

WWA Life Members

Richard Crosland
Geoff Hannah
Phi I Lake
Kim Larymore
Les Miller
David Palmer
Leon Sadubin
Richard Vaughan
Alan Wale

New Members

A big welcome to recent new Members:

Edward Byrne
Garth Gollan
Barry MacGregor
Vincent Massey
Anthony Seiver
Miguel Sonnak
Joe Rapisarda
Tiana Sun
Gabriel Telesca
Edward Weitsman

News, News, News,

General Meeting

Next General Meeting

Because our usual meeting venue is not available for our 2 October General Meeting, it will now be held on the following Monday, 9 October 2023. As usual, the meeting will be held in the William Room on the first floor of the Canada Bay Club, 8 William Street, Five Dock: 19:00 for a 19:30h start.

The Meeting Agenda includes presentations from Michael Gill and Chris Pothof. Michael will present his HarbourBridge cabinet and Chris will tell us about wood taming.

Members are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the company of other members and eat a meal at the bistro or restaurant available at The Canada Bay Club.

Members are welcome to invite family and friends. Visitors welcome.

What's new

Members are advised that the left hand storage shed, since our last Workshop Maintenance day has an added facility for members to store ongoing projects.

The added shelves are marked and are generally for those members who have difficulty transporting "work in progress" items.

The work in progress items should be no larger than the available shelf capacity with consideration given to the limited availability of storage for other members.

This facility is intended of benefit to members who have storage limitations for "work in progress" items or for those who make use of public transport to visit our workshop.

A new section will be included in future newsletters in which members can advertise for sale, exchange or simply for collection, any woodwork machinery, tools, timber, books or any other woodwork items they no longer need.

Next time you upgrade or have a clean-up, consider if your surplus items could be of value to other members.

To advertise in the newsletters, send a few words describing the item, how much you want for it, your phone No and one photo to:

- newsletter@woodworkersnsw.org.au

WWA Committee

Office Bearers:

Chair: Phil Greenwood

0404 083 499

chair@woodworkersnsw.org.au

Vice-Chair: Clare O'Reilly

0423 360 023

clare.oreilly@inet.net.au

Secretary: Mark Angelo

0405 303 646

secretary.woodworkersnsw@gmail.com

Treasurer: Gordon Joseph

0409 488 919

treasurer.woodworkersnsw@gmail.com

If you would like to join or assist the Committee or be more involved in the Association, please call any member of the Committee.

Committee members:

Frank Duff

9061 3061, 0422 778 380

fwduff@icloud.com

Peter Harris

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peterh47@ihug.com.au

Richard Leniston

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Tim Major

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jtmajor@bigpond.net.au

Phil Nanlohy

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Workshop Maintenance

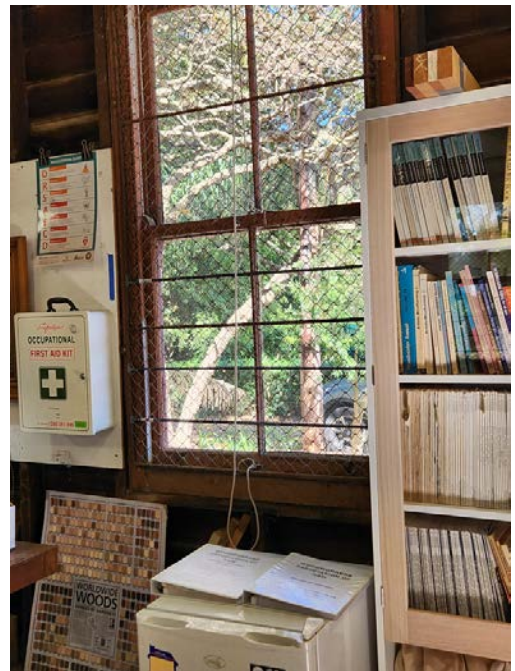
Monday, August 28th

Thanks to Tim Major for managing the maintenance day. The crew on duty was:

- Henry Black
- Gordon Joseph
- Peter Harris
- Peter Munro
- Tim Major
- Kevin Wallace
- Richard Leniston and
- Phil Greenwood

The team carried out the following works:

- Weld extra bars to existing window grills (to enhance security).
- Carry out a thorough clean of windows while the grills were removed.
- Alter hardware to the main entrance door to provide added security.
- Check and clear the dust extractor pre-filter.



- Fix a shelf to the Lathe wall.
- A regular clearing of debris and dust from beneath the table saw.
- Attend to concerns raised re both the jointer and thicknesser

- Re-organize the left hand storage shed so as to further accommodate Association equipment and increase available storage for members ongoing "work in progress" projects.

It was a long day but a good day with thanks to the attending crew and to Phil Greenwood for providing the sausage sizzle lunch.

Sharpening Day

9th September

Before the day began there existed many unhappy, blunt chisels in the suburbs of Sydney.... but then a new day dawned - the Annual Sharpening Day at the Association's Workshop - 50A Spring Street, Abbotsford.

Members flocked to our Abbotsford workshop with chisels, plane blades and even a few drill bits that needed to be sharpened.

We again welcomed Mitch, from Japanese Tools Australia, who demonstrated the use of diamond and water stones, and other interesting methods and jigs.



Elsewhere in the workshop, other clever sharpening demonstrations were provided by Brian Dawson (using sandpaper), Peter Harris (drill bits) as well as Tim Major, Peter Dunn & Kevin Wallace using a variety of grinding and stone techniques.

Thanks also to James Brodie for demonstrating his terrific jointer plane and displaying his collection of quality tools, to Dom Ullio for bringing along a delicious chocolate mud cake for morning tea and to Phil Greenwood for firing up the BBQ at lunchtime!



Gidgee

By Gordon Joseph

On a trip around western Queensland in June of this year, I couldn't resist bringing home some more inland timbers, particularly gidgee, to add to pieces I have left over from earlier trips out west.

Gidgee or acacia cambagei is one of Australia's hardest timbers as ranked on the Janka hardness scale.

The Janka hardness scale is a measure of the force required to embed an 11.28mm (0.444 inch) steel ball halfway through a sample of wood. The newtons (or pounds) of force required to push the ball halfway through is the timber's Janka rating or value.

How does gidgee's hardness compare with a few other Australian timbers? *[sourced from various documents and web sites]*

Timber species	Janka rating	Average dried weight
Waddywood (acacia peuce)*	20,600 N or 4,630 lb _f	1,430 kg/m ³
Gidgee (acacia cambagei)	18,990 N or 4,270 lb _f	1,150 kg/m ³
Mulga (acacia aneura)	17,000 N or 3,820 lb _f	850–1100 kg/m ³
Spotted gum (corymbia maculata)	10,360 N or 2,330 lb _f	940 kg/m ³
Jarrah (eucalyptus marginata)	8,270 N or 1,860 lb _f	835 kg/m ³
Blackwood (acacia melanoxylon)	5,180 N or 1,160 lb _f	640 kg/m ³
Huon pine (lagarostrobos franklinii)	4,110 N or 920 lb _f	560 kg/m ³
Australian red cedar (toona ciliata)	3,130 N Or 700 lb _f	485 kg/m ³

* Is the hardest timber in the world by Janka rating

Due to its hardness, machining gidgee has its challenges. It is known for its depth of colour and figure, particularly ringed gidgee, which is popular with knife makers who use it for knife scales. Given gidgee's somewhat limited availability and then mainly in smaller sizes, woodworkers typically use it in boxes, pens and other smaller items.

The photos below show a gidgee log I collected (with permission) in June from a private woodheap near Quilpie, the top of a Huon pine box I made a while back using booked-matched ringed gidgee for the lid and ringed gidgee knife scales I put on a leatherwork knife I made.



Gidgee log from a woodheap

On our travels throughout western Queensland, in addition to gidgee, I have been able to buy pieces of other slow growing and hard inland timbers including mulga, dead finish and budgeroo.



Book-match ringed gidgee box lid



Ringed gidgee knife scales

What an incredible variety of timbers we have in Australia most of which are suitable for woodwork - from the heavy, hard and dense such as gidgee and mulga to the lighter, softer and less dense such as Australian red cedar.

Workshop Courses & Events

August Box Making Course

Members Mark, Lisa, Alistar, Clare and Saskia arrived full of enthusiasm for the Box Making Course led by Tim Major and supported by Peter Munro.

As the focus of the course was to develop and refine the basic skills of matching grain, cutting accurate mitres, routing rebates, fitting lids and bases and gluing up, it was agreed that all participants would make the same size and type of box.

After Tim demonstrated the necessary steps to prepare the timber, the group set about marking out their African (Sapele) mahogany to make a 200mm x 110mm x 65mm box with a lift off lid.

The timber was rebated top and bottom, then the new drop saw was put to good use with everyone cutting their blanks. Then on to the tablesaw with the mitre jig fitted for the difficult but essential task of cutting accurate mitres. That successfully completed, everyone glued up, squared their sides and stopped for lunch.



The afternoon saw plenty of fine work, measuring and cutting of top and base to exactly fit the individual boxes and gluing into the rebates for overnight setting.

Day 2 focussed on finishing - sanding, then more sanding. Next followed the cutting and

separation of the lid from the body of the box then more sanding. The excitement was beginning to rise as each person saw the beauty and individuality of their boxes take shape.

Then on to finishing with a coat of shellac, more sanding



What a great 2 days with everyone heading home with a box that will be treasured. A big thank to the five members who were so great to work with and made our roles as course leaders so enjoyable.



Course availability is provided on our web site: www.woodworkersnsw.org.au

Domino course

Unfortunately we have no report from Stuart Faulkner's Domino course, but in view of Stuarts highly developed skills, it is safe to assume it was a great success!



This is a Festool Domino machine...



Pay attention to the adjustments



Clamping - make or break!



Making the "cut"

The Association's visit to Woodpatch

Saturday 2 September 2023

On a beautiful sunny September spring morning, members of the Association were welcomed by Derek and Chris from Woodpatch House and Garden at their retail shop and huge workshop at Mulgrave.

Woodpatch sells a range of woodwork products, items and timber (in particular timber slabs). Click here [Woodpatch House and Garden](#)

Our members were made very welcome and presented with an agenda for the morning's activities and morning tea.

After viewing some completed timber furniture and an assortment of amazing timber slabs for sale, we moved on to view the cutting, drying and thickening of timber slabs. We were all amazed at the "Wood Wiz" thickener a few members looked at it longingly, but the Wood Wiz is a very large machine that needs to be housed in a warehouse, rather than a home workshop / garage.

Members were also shown a demonstration of the coding and operation of a large CNC Router, and we also poured the liquid glass resin into a river table.

Next we were shown the impressive Rubio Monocoat (single coat) product that we had all heard about, the



The amazing "Wood Wiz" thickener at work



Members surrounding a river table with freshly poured resin

small quantity of hardener was measured and added using a syringe ! The Rubio tints come in a range of natural timber colours, but also some standout colours like the 'Peacock Green' used in the demonstration.... it certainly was a standout!

A good time was had by all, and the Association is grateful for the hospitality provided to us by Woodpatch - thank you Derek and Chris.

Courses Report, September 2023

We have eight courses left and they are all, almost full. A few of the bookings have not been secured by payment yet and this means that there might be some last-minute availability. If you are interested, please check out the Courses section of website. Click here for our [Courses](#). Because we have repeated some courses there is one running on every Saturday from now to the end of November.

The following summary statistics assume that all the participants signed up for the remaining courses will attend. This year 69 (or 39%) of our members chose to complete one or more courses. Of the 118 places available 114 or 97% were taken up. Only one course was cancelled, and it made way for a repeat of a popular course that has filled rapidly. Most participants attended just one course, (63%) though a significant number attended two (22%) or three (10%). One person attended 6 courses. An estimate of the gender breakdown of our current membership has 14% women and 86% men. Women were 17% of the members who completed a course this year and made 22% of the bookings.

And now, 2024

The success of this year's program has only been possible because of the support of the members who paid to attend and the many presenters and Committee members who created the events. The question now is what do we do to improve this aspect of the Association's activities in 2024? There have been courses for novice woodworkers. There have been courses that focused on specific skills or techniques. What other areas of woodworking should we include? All the courses have been offered at the Association's workshop. Should we seek to run courses in other venues? How can we encourage the experienced woodworkers among our membership to lead a course? What support would they need to feel comfortable sharing their knowledge? Most importantly we need to find out what you, the members, would attend if it were offered in next year's program.

Please let us know what you think:

- Send a quick email to Phil Nanlohy: philnanlohy@gmail.com
- Send a message to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WWANSW>
- Send a DM from our Instagram account: <https://www.instagram.com/wwansw/>

When your hands get tired....watch a video!

It's a fair bet that most of us watch videos on Youtube. There are many to choose from, ranging from professional studios such as Rob Cosman, through to Stumpy Nubs. Following is a short selection of presenters that you may find interesting.

- [Paul Sellers](#)
- [Rob Cosman](#)
- [Wood Whisperer](#)
- [William Ng](#)
- [Stumpy Nubs](#)

If you have a favourite site you'd like to share please email: newsletter@woodworkersnsw.org.au

New Finishing Course !

Due to popular demand, the Association has scheduled another Finishing Course to be led by the talented Nick Teply. The original Finishing Course filled within hours of the course being announced, so if you want to attend, best to book sooner rather than later!

Nik has kindly agreed to repeat this popular course which demonstrates a number of different finishing techniques for your completed projects. This course will be scheduled over two (2) days - Saturday 4th and Saturday 11th of November 2023. Member's bookings may be made via the Courses section of the Association's website .



Nik's earlier course

Maker of the year

Maker of the year award closed on 4th September, 2023. Judgement will not be finalised until November. However, images of some entries are available on the web site: (click below)



Don't forget....

Reflections of Time... exhibition - 6th – 15th October.

11am – 4.30pm daily

Balmain Watch House, 179 Darling Street, Balmain

Sydney Royal Easter Show - 22 March - 2 April, 2024

The Association sponsors two woodwork competitions at each Royal Easter Show, namely (i) Small Furniture Item predominately in wood and (ii) Wooden Box Work.

Members will be advised details of the 2024 competitions by email in mid-November. At this stage entries are expected to open on 15 November 2023 and close on 17 January 2024.

We are all encouraged to seriously consider entering one or more pieces in these two Association sponsored competitions.

Final General meeting for 2023, 4th December- the big reveal!

The last meeting for 2023 will be on 4th December.

Expect a grand display of works interpreting the Challenge first presented in July to make an item from two lengths of dressed timber:



Do you have a future event that may be interesting to Members?

Email to: newsletter@woodworkersnsw.org.au



Terry Gleeson's School of Woodwork

We teach woodwork, turning, carving, dovetailing and other joinery in our workshop at Middle Dural in Sydney's North West.

Tuition to suit all skill levels from novice to advanced.

Fully equipped workshop. Small class sizes.

1191 Old Northern Road, Middle Dural
Phone 02 9651 1012
tgchairmaker@gmail.com

Canada Bay Club membership - Just \$3.30 pa or \$11 for 5 years

Benefits of membership include - reward points every time you swipe your membership card to purchase food, drinks and other services at the club, discounted food and drink benefits, free parking, birthday rewards, health and fitness classes, discounted holiday accommodation in NSW's beautiful Forster

Join at reception next time you visit the Club.

More details at
<https://canadabayclub.com.au/membership.html>



Finishing for the recreational woodworker

Take the mystery out of finishing furniture. Learn how to prepare and finish a wooden surface. Increase your knowledge of the different materials and tools used. You will learn how to finish with: oil, shellac and water-based polyurethane

For bookings
call 0425 217 269, or
nik@
nikteplyrestorations.com.au



Richard Crosland's

School of Fine Woodwork

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

Phone 02 9313 4142

www.crosland.com.au

