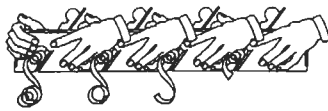


December



2005

THE WOODWORKERS

Association of New South Wales

incorporated ABN 51 544 324

<http://woodworkersnsw.org.au>



side table

Phil Gould:

One of the younger members of our association, Phil graduated from Sturt in 2003.

He started his own business as a designer/maker in November this year. The table was on display at The Sydney Craft Show in November.

Phil has also exhibited under the Association's *Woodmasters* banner at the Sydney Craft Show and the Canberra Craft Show in 2004.

There will be a Phil Gould exhibition at Sturt Gallery, Mittagong in February/March 2006.

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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**Phone: 02 9651 1012
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e-mail: thechairmaker@ozemail.com.au**



Welcome to our New Members

The Woodworkers' Association welcomes the following new members

David Davenport

Aris Ruicens

Michael Billinghamurst

Geoff Billingsley

Membership Secretary

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.

From the Chair

When the new Committee was elected it undertook to conduct a survey of members to help plan Association activities and the content of general meetings. Thank you to all who completed the survey. The prize-winner will be drawn at the Xmas general meeting. We also discussed the need for a permanent home for the Association. An Expression of Interest has now been lodged with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust to take over the former joinery shop at Cockatoo Island.

The Survey

The survey produced a few surprises, particularly in the ratio of professional to amateur members. It has been commonly believed that the Association consists of predominantly amateur woodworkers. The respondents comprised: 50% amateurs, 23% semi-professionals and 28% professionals. Has the inclusion of 'semi-professional' as a category found a whole bunch of members previously considered to be amateurs?

It is not surprising that members, major interest is woodworking techniques. However I am heartened that the next major interest is design. There has been very little talk about design since I have been a member.

Since the last Newsletter, where I raised some issues about design, I came across an article written by life member Alan Wale, about design from the perspective of a wood-craftsman, published in 1977. I hope the editor will reprint the article, or an edited version, in a subsequent Newsletter.

Other interesting results of the survey include the many members wishing to display their work and the overwhelming desire to increase the Association's public profile. Peter Hunt has prepared a separate report on the survey for this Newsletter.

The Committee will need to address many issues raised by the survey. We will need to augment the member profile information to include categories that do not exist on the old form. We will ask members to complete this information with their membership renewals in the New Year. To encourage younger members, commencing in 2006 there will be a 50% discount for full-time students.

Cockatoo Island: a permanent home?

The Committee has recently discussed a possible permanent home for the Association. A non-binding Expression of Interest has been lodged with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust to take over the former joinery shop at Cockatoo Island. This Newsletter includes details of the facilities on the Island. The Committee awaits the response from the Trust and will report back to members. We will not proceed with the proposal unless (a) there is sufficient support from members, (b) we are able to secure sponsors, (c) the Trust guarantees the appropriate infrastructure and (d) the Association is granted a suitably subsidized rental on the premises.

Exhibitions

Thirteen members have taken up the Association's offer of organising transport of exhibition pieces to Woodworks 2005 in Melbourne. Thank you to the Victorian Wood Workers Association of their generous offer of financial assistance. Also I thank our member Evan Dunstone for arranging the truck and driver. It is assistance like this that really makes the Association more than just a forum for meetings.

The Sydney Craft Show is on at the Hordern Pavilion from 24 to 27 November. The work of five members will be presented at our Woodmasters stand. The show is an important annual event in promoting fine woodwork. Please encourage friends and acquaintances to visit our stand.

Further exhibitions are planned for 2006 and 2007. Members interested in exhibiting should contact Robert Chapman or me.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Xmas bash and a good opportunity for members to participate in 'Show and Tell'. There will be extra door prizes, special supper and drinks at nominal prices. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Warwick Wright

The WoodWorkers' Association of New South Wales Inc.

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Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the committee of the Woodworkers Association of NSW.
Contributors are requested to submit all articles via e-mail or CD, wherever possible.
Photos and discs should be accompanied by a stamped, self addressed envelope to ensure prompt and safe return.

Our Website: <http://woodworkersnsw.org.au>

NEXT MEETING

Monday 5 December

Christmas Special

Show and Tell

No ABC personalities

No guest speakers

Just members and guests

Bring along that special something you have made and share it with others, have supper and a drink.

Your Workshop

**Unit 2, Building 5, 75 Mary Street,
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**from 7pm for a 7.30 start
until 9.30pm**

**\$4.00 member's meeting fee
with lucky door prize.**

(visitors welcome - 1st visit free!)

or visit <http://woodworkersnsw.org.au>

Les Miller Family Thanks

We, the family of Les Miller, would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to so many Members and their families, for the cards, telephone calls and letters expressing their condolences in the loss of our beloved; husband, father and grandfather.

We are overwhelmed by your kindness and will forever remember your friendship to Les and our family. There have been over 700 cards and letters and we will attempt to answer all the correspondence in due time. Thank you so much for your continued support and friendship to Les over the years, we will truly remember.

*Sandy, Leslie & Peter, Lisa, Paul & Natalie and
Poppy's Precious little Granddaughters;
Rochelle and Kristy.*



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Member's Survey Results

There was a good response to the survey sent out with the last newsletter with 40 questionnaires returned by the due date for entry into the prize draw.

I thank those who took the trouble to fill it in and send it to me. The results will be of great assistance to the committee with the future structure of our association.

A summary table shows the preferences of the majority of respondents. These results are fairly self-explanatory but a few points are worth noting.

Furniture was the chosen main interest but clearly a stronger emphasis has to be placed on Design in upcoming talks and articles. This same emphasis was echoed in the meeting topics question with Techniques, Design and Tools being the main responses.

There was a high level of desire to exhibit and promote one's work, somewhat at odds I suggest, with recent history. Some indicated that cost is an issue. Similarly a high percentage was interested with group projects and would be prepared to assist in activities to benefit the association and/or a charity. This is very encouraging.

Clearly the website did not rate too highly (or to lowly!) and the committee is already in the process of reviewing this issue.

Finally we need to raise our public profile and in doing so draw in more active members. A number of useful suggestions and comments were offered.

Again I thank those who participated in the survey and be at the next meeting to see if your entry wins the prize.

Peter Hunt

Question	Response
Age range	71% > 51 years
Professional/Semi-Prof/Amateur	28% Prof, 23% Semi-P, 50% Amateur
Main Interest	Furniture then Design and Small Items
What do we want from the WWA?	Exchange of Ideas then Promote Fine WW
Meeting topics	Techniques then Design and Tools
Meeting frequency	As now (24% more often, 0% less)
Attend social occasions?	Yes 62%
Workshop visits (WeekEnd/WeekDay)	Yes to both (65% WE & 78% WD)
Exhibit to promote your work?	Yes 68%
Assist with group project?	Yes 75%
Participate in WWA activities?	Yes 70%
Members with beneficial contacts	Yes 20%
Accessed the WWA on the net?	Yes 70%
Website rating	7 to 8 (50%), 4 to 6 (42%)
Newsletter by email?	No 64%
Participate in Members' database?	Yes 88%
WWA to raise its public profile	Yes



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Phil Lake: Honorary Life Member

At the August meeting, Leon Sadubin presented Phil Lake with a framed certificate that recorded his newly awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Woodworkers, Association of N.S.W. Inc.

Leon spoke of the history of Life Membership and the reasons for Phil's award. Phil thanked Leon and the Association; although most pleased to receive this award, he hinted that he may make some contribution to the Association around membership renewal time, and spoke of his support and enthusiasm for all aspects of our Association, both professional and amateur. For those members who are new or a little far from the action, Phil has served on the Committee for at least 6 years, as Chair, Vice Chair, Show & Exhibition Coordinator, liaison with FIAA, DMG., Craft Show, etc. He has run toy and skill share workshops, in-house competitions, is a contributor to the Newsletter, and the list goes on.

A worthy recipient. Good on you Phil.

Kim Larymore

Academy Saws: support welcome

I hope all my fine friends in the association have been keeping well! Perhaps you can use the enclosed straight-edge in your Christmas raffle.

A safe and happy holiday to all ! Very Best Regards.

Paul Williams, Academy Saws, Queensland.

Kim Larymore comments:

Paul also makes 'THE' plane iron, one of which we received last year for our Christmas members raffle without any prompting. The same generosity has been shown this year. Compliments of the Season to all members.

Frank Duff notes:

From the HNT Gordon website:
<http://www.hntgordon.com.au/paulwilliams.htm>

Paul Williams has been making blades and other types of tooling for machines and hand tools under the 'Academy Saws' banner long enough to say he has done it all, and would be regarded in Australia as one of the top experts in this field.

Terry (Gordon) often rings Paul for advice when it comes to the blade side of making planes. Paul supplies HNT Gordon with the HSS blades.

Paul has recently wound up his large business in Sydney and moved north to concentrate on making the best M2 HSS replacement blades for all the old Bailey pattern bench planes and others.

If you have a good quality metal plane and you want to improve its performance these blades will certainly help. HNT Gordon can recommend these blades to you without hesitation.

WHAT'S ON

Sturt "Finish" nov 26 to Dec 5
the sturt gallery, range road, mittagong, nsw
02 4860 2083 web: sturt.nsw.edu.au

Woodworks 2005 2 dec to 18 dec
see page 9 for details

Wood works in Transformations: The language of craft

at the National Gallery of Australia 11 Nov to 29 Jan
The exhibition can be viewed on the internet at
www.nga.gov.au/Transformations.

There is also a very handsomely illustrated catalogue of the exhibition available for sale in the Gallery bookshop.

Exhibitors include:

Grant Vaughan (NSW) is showing an Ovoid Form in Australian white beech.

Peter Prasil (TAS) and Helmut Lueckenhausen (VIC) are each displaying wooden cabinets as is John Cederquist of the USA.

Patrick Hall (TAS) also presents a cabinet, constructed in plywood and covered in aluminium.

Donald Fortescue (now working in California) is showing a large sculpture in rosewood made with cooping techniques.

There also are small sculptural works in wood carved by Catherine Truman (SA), Sue Wraight (VIC) and Sharon Church (USA).



finish

sturt school for wood
exhibition 2005
nov 26 - dec 11

Frank Hutchinson
Gregory Jenner
Trevor Jones
Mark McClelland
Ian Monty
Neil Osborne
George Polding
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Meeting Report 10 October 2005

Sturt School for Wood: Tom Harrington presents



The guest speaker at the last general meeting was Tom Harrington, (pictured above) Director of the Sturt School for Wood in Mittagong. Even though it was a late finish the level of interest was extremely high.

The Wood School is part of the Sturt Craft Centre which also has workshops for jewellery, weaving and pottery located within beautiful grounds adjacent to Frensham School. Tom took over from Alan Wale in 1992.

Tom showed slides of the magnificent Sturt gardens and gallery followed by examples of students work. His presentation focused on the structure of the course and examples of students work. He did not present many slides of students, final exhibition pieces - so if you want to see a first class exhibition of contemporary woodwork go to the exhibition is in November/December (see below).

The one-year full-time course is limited to 12 people, men or women. Most of the students intend to take up woodworking as a career; some just want to try it out, while others take a year off from their regular occupation.

The course is project-orientated. During the first 6 weeks,

students develop their hand skills and are introduced to machinery, and involved in projects making basic tools - T squares, marking and cutting gauges, and mallets. Tom employs a similar process to each segment of the course. He provides a brief which establishes the parameters around which the student is to work. Initially there isn't much scope for individual variations but the briefs get progressively wider.

The brief usually includes a particular feature or technique. One project is to make a container or containers with a minimum of two drawers. The slides revealed the diversity of ideas students had come up with to complete this project. The „lamination project% is particularly popular, producing spectacular designs each year.

The last 12 weeks are devoted to making a major exhibition piece. Students have full licence (subject to guiding advice and helpful suggestions from Tom).

The 2005 graduating students exhibition titled Finish will be held in The Sturt Gallery from 26 November to 11 December. The Sturt School for wood can be contacted on (02) 4860 2091 or via: www.sturt.nsw.edu.au

A more detailed account of the Sturt course, including its accreditation for overseas students can be found in The Australian Woodworker September/ October 2004.



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*Some images from Sturt through the years.
above: John Gallahger concentrates.
below: unnamed student works on the polishing wheel.*



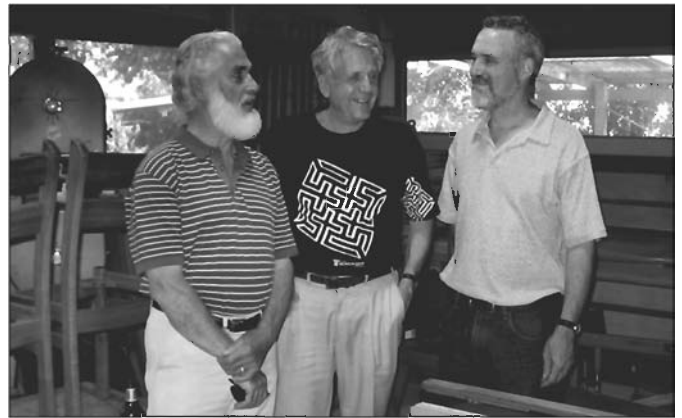
Workshop Visits

On Saturday, 22nd October, about 20 members and friends were treated to not one, but two workshop visits. The first was to Rob Chapman's place at Unanderra, just south of Wollongong. Rob is a self-taught designer/maker who creates a wide range of desirable furniture. His specialty is chairs and if you are not familiar with his work think of Tony Kenway or Bob Howard or check out his work via our website.



Rob enjoys a spacious workshop that is thoughtfully laid out. It accommodates the usual assortment of dedicated machinery plus custom made apparatus and well made jigs. The raised timber floor allows all dust extraction ducts to be routed below and this produces an uncluttered workspace. Another reason for lack of clutter is that all bulk wood storage, mainly acacia melanoxylon, is in an adjoining factory unit.

What most impressed, however, was the showroom that Rob has created as a fully enclosed mezzanine above his workshop. This dustproof sanctuary, with tasteful finishes and effective lighting, really allowed the pieces on display to speak for themselves. Here Rob whets his client's appetite with the finished samples; they can then select the tree from which their order will be made. All the flitches have been stacked in the sequence in which they were milled to ensure grain and colour matching. It is this attention to detail that sets Rob apart.



The visitors thanked Rob for making time in his very busy schedule to show us his operation. We then headed off in convoy, including Rob, to the workshop of Leon Sadubin, a little further south at Woodhill near Berry.

This was not just a workshop visit. It was more like an open house. Leon and Ginny welcomed us all with a smile and a popular sausage sizzle. They have built in an idyllic hilltop location where you could mistake the call of king parrots for distant yodelers. Alan Wale from Mittagong was there too and pretty soon the valleys were echoing with animated conversations.

So pleasant was the setting that Leon had trouble initially drawing us away for a look at his workshop. But, like moths to a light globe, we were drawn. The entrance was familiar to those who frequented Woodworks Book & Tool at Thornleigh for it shared the same door. Inside was packed with older, well-tuned machinery and tools, including a Wadkin jointer that could double as a landing strip for a Cessna. Some older chairs undergoing refurbishment underwent close scrutiny.

Back inside for afternoon tea, Leon showed us an album of recent commissions. Then there was a tour of the property for the more able bodied, before we had to head back to our own humble workshops.

The hospitality shown to this large group by Rob, Leon and Ginny was greatly appreciated.

Con Downey



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Cockatoo Island Visit:

On Thursday the 20th of October, Warwick Wright, Paul Barton, Ian Factor, Phil Lake and Peter Hunt were ferried from Woolwich Dock to Cockatoo Island for an inspection of the old Naval facilities. These, and other ex-military facilities, have been turned over to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust for development. In three hours we managed to see most of the island.

The Trust's vision is to make this unique place into a landmark harbour attraction. New maritime activities and a step-by-step re-occupation of the site by commercial and community users will revive the island. The great maritime industrial heritage will form the backdrop to small boat construction, marine repair and maintenance, and the operation of the Fitzroy and Sutherland docks. Commercial maritime activity will constitute just one layer of activity. The interpretation of the dockyard and its convict and industrial school heritage will bring the past alive. A network of walkways and island tours will retrace the pattern of occupation from convict gaol to large-scale industry.

Cockatoo Island's extraordinary buildings and fixtures will provide a unique setting for studios, offices, functions and meetings. It could become a great cultural centre, with parkland and spaces for cultural events. Although a huge amount of work has been carried out at the site, there is a lot more to do.

The Trust has called for expressions of interest from interested parties by 18 November. The Committee of the Association is considering it as a possible permanent home, to include workshop areas and, possibly, even public-facing areas.

The island is a fascinating place to visit, with much

evidence of relatively recent activity. It was once virtually a self-contained community - only shopping was missing. Old photographs show massive undertakings that the island once saw. It is rather sad to realize that grand ships are no longer built there, or in Australia for that matter. There was a temptation to play the tourist but we were really there to see if any facilities could be of use to the Woodworkers' Association as a permanent home. The Trust people briefed us on where we could go and on the overall plan for the island. Some areas would be earmarked for predominantly tourist-oriented commercial activities while others would be for workshops and the like.

There were several buildings that had possibilities - the joiners shop on the plateau area was wonderful - and huge! There are remains of a rather large dust collection system with only the electric fan and the cyclone missing. There is also a timber store nearby - clearly, this was designed for air-drying of timber so it was a trifle breezy! Other buildings still have some gigantic equipment in place, including enormous lathes that would comfortably accommodate an entire tree for some enterprising woodie.

A lot has to be considered before we make any decisions: in particular cost, and access to an island in the middle of the harbour! But first the Trust has to decide whether we meet their criteria.

Cockatoo Island is the largest island in the harbour, located at the junction of the Parramatta and Lane Cove rivers. For more details of the future of the island as envisaged by the Trust, see www.harbourtrust.gov.au

Paul Barton



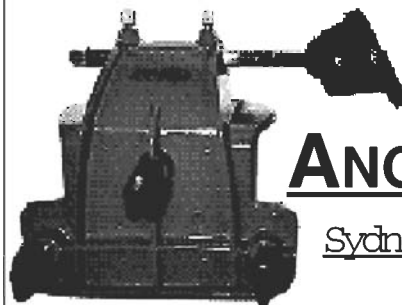
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