



Flitch 'n Chips

Issue No. 203

May 2014

Presidents Report



Hi Fellow Woodies,

Here we are edging closer to our AGM in August. Don't forget that all positions on the management committee become vacant, so if you feel that you have something to contribute please put your hand up.

The Maleny Wood Expo was a great success, thanks to all the volunteers, especially Bruce Chapman who took on the job of coordinator. Great job Bruce.

The Cooroy Inter Club Competition to my mind was a great success even though we came third. We gained 2 first places, and 3 second places out of the 6 categories. It seems hard to believe we didn't win. Thanks to Bob Callinan for his great effort in coordinating our effort.

1st place Toys:- Hugh McKenna
1st place Carving:- Kaz Depzcynski
2nd place Intarsia/Scrollsaw:- Brian McTaggart
2nd place Turning:- Graham Beaumont
2nd place General Woodwork:- Bill Rangott

Our raffle tickets are now at the Club so please find the envelope with your name on it and do your best to sell them at \$2 per ticket. The raffle will be drawn at our July Expo.

Please make sure you pay for your machinery use every day you use it. Maintaining our equipment is not cheap and it is to your advantage to have it kept in good condition. The Shed Captains should not have to ask for payment each time, it's an honour system so please honour it.

Don't forget to make plenty of items for our July 5th and 6th Expo at Montville and the open day at the Shed on September 6th and 7th.

There was a small band saw brought to the club and left for sale by one of our members, does anyone know where it has gone? Also there was a box of toys on the mezzanine floor put there by the toy boys which appears to have gone missing. Does anyone know where that has gone?

The Jet 1442 lathe is now for sale by tender and also the small linisher. If you are interested, place a tender price in the box on the end of the cupboard where the sandpaper is kept. Tenders close 28th June 2014.

To any of our members not feeling the best at the moment, remember we are thinking of you and wish you all a speedy recovery.

Keep the wood pile low and the shavings high.

Happy Woodworking,

Frank McDonald
President

A couple of reminders from our Secretary.....

- * On June 14, there will be a General Meeting. The main agenda item will be for the Club membership to endorse (or otherwise) the new lease arrangement currently under discussion with the MVA.
- * On Saturday June 21, there will be a general clean up at the Shed to be followed by a BBQ. We need all hands on deck to give the Shed a well deserved tidy up.

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Cooroy Wood Show

by Bob Callinan.

The Cooroora Woodworkers Club presented their Annual Wood & Craft Show at the Memorial Hall in Cooroy on Friday May 9th and Saturday May 10th. Once again this year the show featured outstanding examples of wood-turning, carving, scroll-saw work, pyrography and toy making as well as general woodworking such as cabinets, boxes and furniture.

For the fourth year in a row the Inter-club Competition brought together one of the best displays of woodcraft in Queensland. Once again BRWG was well represented and took out 3rd place in the Club Competition.



Hugh McKenna's Earthmoving Machine won First prize in Toys.



Bob Callinan's Pyrography Deep Hollowed Vase.



Kaz Depczynski's Carved Bowl - took out First Prize in the Carving section.



Graham Beaumont's Turned Segmented Bowl:- second in Turning section.



Brian McTaggart took out second place in the Scroll-saw section



Bill Rangott's Scales (second in General Woodwork section.

Cooroy Wood Show continued.....



Winner in the Scrollwork section



Viola - (another Club) Won the General Woodwork section and also Best in Show.

Demonstrations

From Lionel Tilley

FINE DINING CHAIR COURSE

Robert Otto, a newer member, has kindly offered to run a course on constructing a fine dining chair. The course will take several weeks and a notice is now on the white board where you can add your name if interested.

The cost is yet to be determined.



INNOVATIVE TURNING DEMONSTRATION

I'm sure most of you will have seen Graham Beaumont's wonderful bowls – he got second prize at the Cooroy competition!.



On SATURDAY JUNE 14 he will give us a talk on how he designs & turns these wonderful creations. Its a talk not be missed if you are a Turner interested in producing something really creative.



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Tips and Tricks

By Warne Wilson

A few tips for some of our newer members, in particular those who may not have had much experience with tools.

DRILLING HOLES with battery drills.

The first thing you will notice when you pick up a battery drill is its weight. This is partly due to the battery itself but also to the motor and the inside metal workings. Drills are designed to be balanced in your hand and will generally have a solid workmanlike feel to them. The weight also provides inertia which makes them more stable in use. The chuck, the part at the front which grips the drill bit, is usually "keyless". It grips by a twisting action. If you are unsure just ask one of the experienced members or the Shed Captain for the day. Familiarise yourself with the controls. Many drills have a setting for two speeds; fast for drilling, and slow for inserting screws. (Both speeds are variable within their range.) There will be a slide button which protrudes on both sides above the trigger. Press the right end for clockwise rotation, and the left end for anticlockwise. There will be a "Torque" setting ring behind the chuck with graduated numbers. This is mainly used for inserting, (setting), screws to prevent overdriving them and breaking their grip in the wood.

Before you start, note that the speed of rotation varies from slow to fast as you increase pressure on the trigger. Drill bits can wander a little on the surface, or in the wood grain, so start with slow speed, or preferably, drill a pilot hole with a small drill bit first. When the hole is through, or deep enough, keep the drill bit spinning as you withdraw it. If you stop the drill bit and try to pull it out, it may jam and you might break it. The twist flutes in the drill bit are designed to eject the drilling waste, but beyond a certain depth the waste will clog and cause friction. In this case keep the bit spinning and withdraw it. Either stop the drill and clear the flutes or touch the spinning bit gently into the surface of a piece of scrap wood. This will clear the flutes. You will soon learn to make little partial withdrawals to clear the flutes as you drill deeper.

If you wish to use the drill for inserting screws, ask someone to show you, or if you wish, contact me, and I will explain this art in next month's column.

Safety Notes

By Warne Wilson and Dave Banister



A frequent cause of concern for us is the loud and dangerous "bang" which occurs when someone presents the concave edge of a warped or curved piece of timber to either of the drop saws. This, not only may cause damage to the machine, but it may cause injury. The piece of wood you send flying could miss you and injure a mate. How would you feel if this happened! Also, a finger may become jammed between the wood and the fence when the wood gives way at the end of the cut. Remember the "Vex" and not the "Cave". If both edges are concave, do something about it before you attempt a cut on a drop saw. Either straighten the edge on the jointer if that is possible, or set up some sawhorses and use a power saw.

A spiral cutter has been installed in the 20" thicknesser. This has reduced noise considerably but we still advise that hearing protection must be worn. The cutting action is much more efficient than the old blades but please treat the machine with care and respect. Remember, small advances only, please do not overload the cutting action, and always have someone with you. It is Guild policy that timber must be checked with the metal detector before starting.

We have acquired a newly invented sanding machine. It has a fast rotating small diameter sanding drum exposed in a metal topped table. This is for small accurate work only such as jewellery boxes. It will create a perfectly flat fine finish and must not be used for larger work, which is what the large drum sander is used for. Please be aware of the exposed, fast rotating drum and keep your fingers away.

THINK

CARELESSNESS IS DANGEROUS

Congratulations

To the team at Spicers Clovelly Estate
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THESE MACHINES BITE.

Wednesday 1st May was just another day at the shed. The regulars were there, things were going on all around as usual and I was just squaring up some wood on the table saw before joining the people in the tea room and looking forward to enjoying the usual banter, biscuits and with luck a piece of Jan's cake. Nothing out of the ordinary, nothing different. After all I had been doing much the same for many years now, week after week after week. And perhaps that was the trouble.

The funny thing, if there is anything funny about what happened, is that I still don't know how I managed to do what I did, but suddenly the Hammer saw had bitten me, and bitten me hard! That much I do know. As I pulled my hand back my first thought, having looked down at what was once my finger, was that I had lost it. The bone was visible, in fact the X – rays showed that some of the bone had also been removed, and a large, deep flap of skin was hanging down.

I have now had surgery and a skin graft to put things back together again. Wire has been inserted into the finger to stabilise it and the surgeon will inspect the success or otherwise of his work next week. Meanwhile I am excused from woodwork and most everything else that requires two working hands, and it isn't much fun.

All you "Woodies" out there please take note and please take care. Whatever the machine you are using please remember that it is just sitting there waiting to bite. A millisecond of inattention, a moment's complacency, lack of concentration, failure to observe the safety instructions, trying to take a short cut, and you may not be as lucky as I was. Any and every tool that you use is capable of biting! Think about it for a moment and run through the list of the tools that you use regularly. Table saw; Band saw; Router; Jointer; Thicknesser; Linisher; Belt sander; Even the humble chisel if used incorrectly can cause you grief. So for everyone's sake, especially your own, please stay alert, stay aware and stay safe.

My thanks to all those who were present on the day and who did so much to help patch me up initially and get me to the hospital, almost in one piece.

Jeff Harrison

Maintenance Report

by Brian Harris

- 2/5 #15 Lathe - New on/off switch fitted also drive belt replaced.
- 10/5 Jet Air Filters - All three primary air filters cleaned and replaced.
- 14/5 Band Saw for Blanks - Two thrust bearings renewed and new blade fitted.
- 21/5 20" Thicknesser - New Shelix spiral cutting head is being fitted to improve cutting and reduce noise from machine. Bearings and oil seals also renewed.

THINK
OUR AIM, NO
ACCIDENTS

One day an Irishman, who had been stranded on a desert island for over 10 years, saw a speck on the horizon. He thought to himself, "it's certainly not a ship." As the speck got closer and closer, he began to rule out even the possibilities of a small boat or raft. Suddenly there strode from the surf a figure clad in a black wetsuit. Putting aside the scuba tanks and mask and zipping down the top of the wet suit, stood a drop dead gorgeous blond! She walked up to the Irishman and said to him, "tell me, how long has it been since you've had a good cigar?" "Ten years" replied the Irishman. With that, she reached over and unzipped a waterproof pocket on the left sleeve of her wetsuit and pulled out a fresh package of cigars and a lighter. He took a cigar, slowly lit it, and took a long drag. "Faith and begorrah" said the castaway... "Ahh that is so good! I'd almost forgotten how great a smoke can be!" "And how long has it been since you have had a good drop of Bushmills Irish Whiskey?" asked the blond. Trembling, the castaway replied, "Ten Years". Hearing that, the blond reached over to her right sleeve, unzipped the pocket and removed a flask and handed it to him. He opened the flask and took a long drink. "Tis nectar of the gods!" shouted the Irishman. "Tis truly fantastic!!" At this point the gorgeous blond started to slowly unzip the long front of her wetsuit, right down the middle. She looked at the trembling man and asked, "And how long has it been since you've played around?" With tears in his eyes, the Irishman fell to his knees and sobbed, "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, don't tell me you've got golf clubs in there too!"

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TIMBER OF THE MONTH - PREPARED BY GRAHAM BRADFORD

Gidgee

Scientific Name:- *Acacia cambagei* Family:- Fabaceae

Genus:- *Acacia*

Common Names:- Gidgee, Gidga, Gigya, Gidyea, Stinking Wattle.

In indigenous languages, Gidgee is a name for the red kangaroo in Western Qld. and Gigya is a name for the tree.

Features:- Gidgee is the common name given to this acacia species endemic to the drier to arid inland areas of eastern Australia from central Queensland into the Northern Territory and southwards into northern South Australia and north-western New South Wales. It mainly grows on plains and gently undulating topography in areas subject to irregular flooding. In open forest it is associated with eucalypts such as *E. cambageana*, *E. coolabah* and *E. populnea*, and in arid areas, follows drainage lines and forms ribbon-like groups in an otherwise treeless landscape.



Trees are long-lived and irregular shaped, 5-15 m tall with multiple stems at ground level or with a single trunk up to 30 cm diameter, a wide crown, usually quite dense, and deeply furrowed bark. Flowering is usually in May – September. Heavy flowering follows substantial

rainfall but may be several years apart. About 21000 viable seeds are present in a kilogram of seed pods. Unlike most acacias, the seeds have a thin seed coat and germinate without pre-treatment. A significant stand occurs in the Mazeppa National Park near Clermont - 40 square kilometres of wall to wall Gidgee. The trees are susceptible to fire damage and do not regenerate readily. They are vulnerable to termite attack and larger specimens are usually hollow. Other species of Gidgee occur in western areas of the continent.

Timber Properties. Colour: Dark chocolate brown to near black. The sapwood is a rich deep yellow and makes an interesting contrast. The grain is variable. Mostly straight grained but some trees produce wood with a very wavy figure which is much sought after for turnery. Texture is very fine.

Mechanical properties: A very high density timber which will not yield to steam bending techniques. High strength and crush resistance. Suitable for both internal and external applications. Kiln dry density of 1200 kg/m³. Janka Hardness 18.99 kn.

Working properties: Due to Gidgee's density and grain variations, cutters need to be very sharp and the angle reduced to 15 degrees to avoid grain tear. Pre drilling is necessary before nailing or screwing to overcome resistance and splitting. Gidgee glues well and finishes to a very high polish. Boards are limited to 1 m length due to the irregular trunk shapes.



Uses: Exclusive furniture, cabinet work, turnery, parquetry and small carving. Not available as a veneer. It is sought for musical instruments due to the resonant sound it produces.



The species produces excellent firewood and hard, heavy, durable timber that has been historically used for fence posts. It is recommended as a shade and shelter tree for dry areas but should not be planted close to dwellings because the leaves emit a strong, offensive smell during humid or wet weather. It has limited value as fodder but is a valuable source of pollen for bees. Availability as a milled timber is limited. Chewing the gum is reputed to cure a sore throat.

A smaller related species is *Acacia Georgina*, common name Georgina Gidgee, and confined to the Georgina River basin. Leaves are grazed by sheep and cattle, but the seeds and pods can be toxic to livestock, (fluoroacetic acid).



Mulga is a similar arid land *Acacia* species to Gidgee, with a density of 900-1100 kg/m³ and with a more honey coloured timber. The name Mulga is derived from an aboriginal name for a shield made from the tree. It was used by aboriginal people for boomerangs, sticks for digging roots, the shafts of spears, nulla nullas and spear ends.

Following European settlement, mulga has been used for making vases, jewellery boxes, pens, serviette rings, ink stands, candlesticks, walking sticks, bowls, knife handles and musical instruments. It is the extraordinarily handsome figuring and hardness of mulga that makes this wood so desirable.

Links to articles of interests relating to hard and dense timbers.

<http://www.wood-database.com/wood-articles/top-ten-hardest-woods/>

<http://www.wood-database.com/wood-articles/top-ten-heaviest-woods/>

<http://www.tit.id.au/index.htm>

Our display at this years Maleny Chainsaw to Fine Furniture Expo was certainly impressive.



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Shed Captain Roster - June 2014									
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Saturday	
2	John Muller	3	Tom Black	4	Hugh McKenna	5	John Holland	7	John Clarke
9	Dave Banister	10	Ray Curry	11	Leigh Boynton	12	Phil Krisanski	14	Keith Muirhead
16	Lionel Tilley	17	Frank McDonald	18	John Close	19	Ray Bryant	21	Graham Bradford
23	Brian Harris	24	George Blowers	25	Max Barrenger	26	John Drewe	28	Warne Wilson
30	John Muller								

**** All Fridays = Frank McDonald

Shed Captain Roster - July 2014									
		1	Tom Black	2	Hugh McKenna	3	John Holland	5	John Clarke
7	Dave Banister	8	Ray Curry	9	Leigh Boynton	10	Phil Krisanski	12	Keith Muirhead
14	Lionel Tilley	15	Frank McDonald	16	John Close	17	Ray Bryant	19	Graham Bradford
21	Brian Harris	22	George Blowers	23	Max Barrenger	24	John Drewe	26	Warne Wilson
28	John Muller	29	Tom Black	30	Hugh McKenna	31	John Holland		