



Flitch 'n Chips

Issue No. 209

November 2014

Presidents Report



Hi Fellow Woodies,

The year's end is creeping closer and there is still plenty to do. Our Christmas Expo is on the 6th and 7th December at the Montville Hall and still needs volunteers. Make sure you finish of articles for sale in time for it.

The plan for the Christmas Party at Flaxton Gardens is for everyone to meet at the Shed at 5pm to view the exceptional array of toys made by our Toy Boys and Girls, have a few nibblies and then move on to Flaxton Gardens for dinner.

A big thank-you must go to Hugh McKenna for his donation of one of his fabulous fire trucks as 1st prize in our Christmas raffle.

Also to John Muller who donated a lovely Lazy Susan for 2nd prize and Bruce Chapman's donation of a nice decorated bowl for 3rd prize.

You may have noticed a new microwave, thanks to Ron Fishwick and a new fridge thanks to Keith Muirhead, what a club!

With everyone busy making items to sell at the Santa Shop and for Christmas presents please remember, safety in the Shed comes first.

The timber management sub committee have met and we are drawing up a protocol for the selecting, gathering and milling of timber and we hope that this will make it easier for members to understand the process.

To any members not feeling the best at the moment remember, we're thinking of you and wish you all a speedy recovery. If there's anything the club can do for you, please let us know.

Keep the wood pile low and the shavings high.

Happy Woodworking,
Frank McDonald
President



The slabbing teams have been hard at work clearing the large number of logs that had built up. All storage areas are now full to overflowing and no more timber will be accepted for the Club. We will now be able to mill members logs at a cost of \$5 start up fee and \$2 per metre per board. Logs need to be a minimum of 350mm in diameter and will need to be transported to the club by the member and removed on the day of milling. If you have timber you wish to have milled contact a member of the Timber Management Committee - Frank McDonald, John Holland, Phill Gibson, John Muller or Ron Donald. *Do not* bring the logs to the club until you have made arrangements with a member of the committee.



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Max demonstrated finishing with a spray gun.



Around the Shed this month

Graham Bradford completed another Blanket Box.



.....and Brian kept on fixing stuff!



.....and John Vorstman shows off his recently completed London Bus



The Christmas Toys are piling up. What will the final tally be this year?



Oooooops



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This month we introduce Warne Wilson - Member No.022 and talk to him about his very interesting life and the enjoyment he receives from the Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild (the Woodies).



Warne Wilson – October 9th 2014

While we know Warne as a very gentle sort of a bloke and an accomplished woodworker, not many of us know that Warne is also a very successful prize winning author and is currently on his next book (so far 200,000 words). A writer of historical fiction, his new work is about the Ballarat gold fields, and the social impacts on the diggers who worked there and the families who supported them.

Warne moved to the Sunshine Coast in 1981, joining the Woodies in 1996. He voted in favour of forming a Woodcrafters Guild at the first meeting in the little hall at Montville. Always one to put his hand up and take on more responsibilities, he was President of the club in 2007, and is a popular shed captain, always willing to introduce newcomers to wood machining and to teach the tricks of the trade. And he makes no judgements!

You say you get a lot out of being a member of the Woodies? What is the most that you do get out?

“Just to be regarded as an equal with the greatest group of talented people it has ever been my privilege to know”.

And the best piece of woodworking you personally prize?

“A carved wine table I made out of a four by two of Bunya for the 4x2 competition. And a French polished violin I made for my grand daughter, Phoebe. It won the clubs Grand Champion prize that year”.

What about the mistakes in woodworking? We all make them. What is your worst one?

“I can’t think of one that stands out but I recall a neighbour remarking that he heard me smashing up one creation with a hammer!”.

You have been told at the BRWG that you are a good teacher and many agree. What is it that keeps you at it?

“I love the satisfaction that comes when I teach a timid newcomer to achieve competency on the lathe. I enjoy helping members who come to me with their woodworking problems”.

What is a word that best describes you do you think?

“Persistence”.

When did you begin writing? And what gave you the inspiration?

“I have always loved English Expression and the choice of words. I started writing when I bought my first home computer 20 years ago. Writers don’t need inspiration, writing

is a craft requiring work and problem solving, similar to a “Woodie” converting a piece of an old tree to a work of art. Solving one problem leads to another”.

And who is your favourite author?

“Thomas Keneally”.

Why?

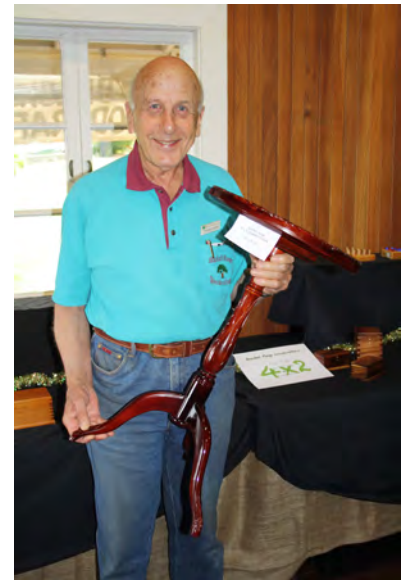
“He makes history come alive”.

Every person has a story. Do you draw inspiration from anyone in particular?

“No, but Winston Churchill figures, with his, “*Never give in!*” stubbornness. And Tom Keneally. But there was a man at the pottery when I first started work, an alcoholic, denigrated by everyone. I saw him empty a railway truck loaded with 22 tons of coal with a shovel by lunchtime. Everyone has worth, and a contribution to make”.

If you had a handful of kids about you and were giving advice, what would you say to them?

“Learn to set goals, simplify them, and work to achieve them. Understand that the world is not fair – but life is the greatest adventure!”.



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Tips and Tricks

By Warne Wilson

Recipe for grain filler:

Sometimes we wish to add a special finish to one of our creations, whether it be a jewellery box or a piece of furniture we want to French polish or finish carefully with any of the many fine finishes we can choose from. In the case of a timber with open grain, some red cedars, silky oak, banksia and other softer woods, it can be a good idea to fill the grain surface first.

I once read of this home made filler and I have used it sometimes to get a special finish:

Simply tip a quantity of talcum powder (Any talc or baby powder will do) into a screw topped jar.

Guess the quantity you will need, you can easily add to it if you need to, or store it if you make too much.

Add French polish and mix. Keep adding French polish and mixing until it changes from a paste to being a thick liquid. Rub this mixture liberally into the surface of the wood and let dry. Sand off the excess along the grain with 180 grit sandpaper to remove

most of the filler (It will sand easily because of the talc) then sand the surface out to a fine grit. This will remove any raised grain and fill the pores to provide a surface ready for fine finishing.

French polish can be sourced ready made at U-Beaut Polishes, some hardware stores or you can make your own with shellac flakes and methylated spirits (this takes a fortnight of soaking) then store in a glass jar for future use.

Safety Notes

By Warne Wilson and Dave Banister



Routers:

Among the most useful and popular power tools.

Routers are based upon a simple idea; Just a powerful motor in an adjustable frame and a cutting bit that will remove wood at up to 28,000 revs per minute.

Most Woodies have them and there are several at the Shed in various sizes. They are safe when used with care, but the following should be observed.

When using a router freehand: Make sure that the work piece is well secured and cannot move. Always move the router against the direction of cut. Looking down on the router, the cutting bit is rotating clockwise and the direction of cut must be away from you. The bearing

on the cutter bit must be kept in contact with the work by pressure to the left.

Never, ever, fit or remove a cutter bit with the power connected. PULL THE PLUG (Just switching off is not enough.)

Take two or three passes to reach the depth you need if the cutter is to remove more than a small amount of wood. (A fine finishing cut will help avoid burring and burn marks. Always wear protection; Ears, Eyes, and Lungs.

When using a router table: Looking down on the table the cutting bit is rotating anti clockwise and the workpiece must be kept in contact with the work by pressure to the right against the bearing on the cutting bit or against the fence.

Never, ever, try to move the workpiece between the cutting bit and the fence. Damage to the machine or injury may result. The workpiece may become a projectile. Think about it: A piece of wood held captive between a cutting bit rotating anti clockwise at 28,000 revs and an immovable fence?

The above cannot be read as covering all of the precautions which must be observed. If you are not accredited to use any machine or tool you must not use it; seek assistance. If you are accredited and you are unsure, just ask the shed captain of the day, he or she will be pleased that you have shown a careful and responsible attitude and assistance from an experienced member will be arranged.



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Last month we welcomed a visit from Clinton Ostrofski and his family to the Woodies Shed.

For those that might not be aware, Clinton supplies all of the pine offcuts to our club for the making of toys for Christmas. He has been extremely generous to the BRWG in both time and supplies and without his generosity, the “Toy Boys” would have found it difficult to provide the hundreds of toys to the Salvos and other organisations for the kids at Christmas.

Another unknown fact – are members aware that some of the toys made by our dedicated team of members have found a place in the Christmas stockings of some kids of our Pacific Island neighbours? A good feeling and thank you to the BRWG members, and especially to Clinton.

L to R Rachel, Joan, Clinton, Karla Ostrofski



The student received 0 score in this exam.....

- Q1. In which battle did Napoleon die?
- Q2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
- Q3. River Ravi flows in which state?
- Q4. What is the main reason for divorce?
- Q5. What can you never eat for breakfast?
- Q6. What looks like half an apple?
- Q7. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea what will it become?
- Q8. How can a man go eight days without sleeping?
- Q9. How can you lift an elephant with one hand?
- Q10. How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it? *Any way you want, concrete floors are very hard to crack.

- * His last.
- * After the bottom line.
- * Liquid.
- * Marriage.
- * Lunch and dinner.
- * The other half
- * Wet.
- * Sleep at night.
- * You will never find an elephant that has only one hand.

Maintenance Report

by Brian Harris

- 22/10 Timber Trolley A new inner tube fitted to another wheel as previous one had perished.
- 25/10 Drum Sander New abrasive belt fitted.
- 5/11 Rexon Saw Resharpener blade fitted.
- 15/11 Disc Sander Velcro pad had become detached from the aluminium disc, this will be cleaned of old glue and reattached.
- 19/11 1442 Lathe The lead screw within the quill of the tailstock has seized and requires a replacement that is being obtained.

Quoteable quotes.....

The best cure for sea sickness is to sit under a tree.
~ Spike Milligan

If life were fair Elvis would still be alive today and all the impersonators would be dead.
~ Johnny Carson

Merbau/Kwila

Family: Fabaceae. Genus: Intsia Species: bijuga

Botanical name: - Intsia bijuga

Local Names. In Australia, commercially known as merbau and kwila.

Other names. Johnstone River teak, scrub mahogany (North Queensland), merbau (Malaysia), vesi (Fiji), Moluccan ironwood (United Kingdom), go-nux (Vietnam), ipil, taal (Philippines), hintzy (Madagascar), melila, bendora (Papua New Guinea), lumpo, lumpaw, makamong (Thailand), kivolli, vuvula (Solomon Islands).

Description. Intsia bijuga is a species of flowering tree in the pea family, Fabaceae, native to the Indo-Pacific.

It ranges from Tanzania and Madagascar east through India, Malaysia, Borneo, Indonesia, New Guinea and Nth. Queensland to the Pacific island of Samoa.

It grows to 60 metres tall and to 1.5 m diameter, with a buttressed lower trunk, smooth bark, a dense spreading canopy, and often favouring swampy areas. The timber is very durable and termite-resistant, making it highly valued for flooring and structural uses. The wood can also be used to extract a dye. Merbau can contain a water soluble "gold" fleck that runs through the grain which identifies it from similar species, but which can cause 'bleed' problems. The bark and leaves are used in traditional Asian medicines.



Wood appearance.

Colour. Heartwood yellowish-brown or orange-brown when first cut, turning darker with age to brown or deep reddish brown. Sapwood white, pale yellow or buff and sharply differentiated from heartwood.

Grain. Grain variable but usually interlocked or wavy, texture is coarse but even. Attractive figure on backsawn material.

Wood properties. Density. 830 kg/m^3 at 12% moisture content; approximately 1.2 m^3 of seasoned sawn timber per tonne. Hardness. Hard (rated 2 on a 6 class scale) Janka Hardness 7.62 kN.

Durability above ground. Class 1 - life expectancy over 40 years. In ground Class 3 5-15 years.

Lycetine susceptibility. Untreated sapwood susceptible to lyctid borer attack. Termite resistant.

Seasoning. Seasons well with kiln or air-drying, with little degrade and very little shrinkage or movement.

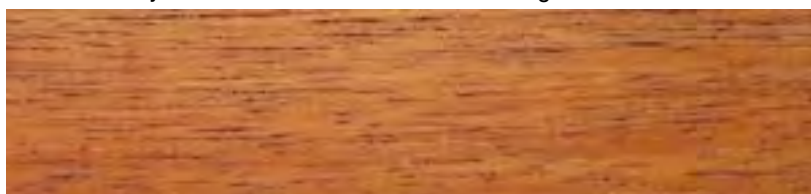
Machining. Working properties variable. Cuts cleanly but may have a blunting or gumming effect on cutting edges. Turns well. Tends to split unless pre-bored, but holds fastenings well. Glues satisfactorily with PVA and epoxy glues, but as with all high density timbers, surfaces should be precleaned.

Finishing. It takes stain and polish well, but gum bleed-through or oily patches may affect the finish.

Burning splinter test. A match size splinter burns to white ash.

Common Uses in Aust. Flooring, outdoor patios, musical instruments, turned objects, and other specialty wood items. This wood has excellent strength characteristics, along with excellent stability, making it ideally suited for use as decking and similar applications where strength and durability is important. Despite claims by some merchants, merbau is not sourced commercially in Australia.

Illegal logging. Due to extensive logging of the tree, it is endangered in much of Southeast Asia, and almost extinct in some areas. Extensive amounts are sourced by China, which is the largest importer of the wood. The wood is used for flooring in U.S. and European markets where it is commonly sold under different names. Both licensed and unlicensed mills harvest the wood. According to Greenpeace large amounts of merbau timber sourced from illegal logging is being imported into China where there are lax import rules. Greenpeace is targeting users in Western countries in order to halt the trade in merbau wood, and claims that at the current rate of logging, stocks will be depleted within 30 years. What will we use when it's all gone.



Consumers should purchase only commercial timber of all species which bears certification by the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) (Link to FSC <http://au.fsc.org/>) or Australian Forestry Scheme (AFS) Chain of Custody. (Link to AFS <http://www.forestrystandard.org.au/about-us/what-we-do>). This provides that products are sourced from sustainably managed and legal forestry.

Shed Times 8.00 - 11.30	
Monday	General Activities
Tuesday	Turning & Carving
Wednesday	General Workshop & Toys
Thursday	Furniture & Joinery
Friday	General Activities
Saturday	General Act. & Demo's

<i>New Members this month.....</i>	
576	Don Lear of Reesville
577	Glenda Websdale of Forest Glen
578	Alan Friend of Forest Glen
579	Tony Haigh of Parrearra
"A Big Woodies Welcome"	



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Who's Who in BRWG Inc. 2013-14		
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Vice President	John Muller	
Secretary	Graham Beaumont	
Asst. Secretary	Dave Edmond	
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Asst. Treasurer	Hugh McKenna	
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Activity Officers	Ray Curry, John Drew, John Clarke, Warne Wilson Dave Banister, Keith Muirhead, Brian Harris, Max Barrenger	
Safety Officers	Dave Banister, Warne Wilson	
First Aid Officer	John Drewe	
Events Organiser	Rick Vickers	5494 3555
Shed Managers	John Holland, Brian Harris	
Amenity Officer	Pat McDonald	
House Officer	Julie Breen	
Purchasing Officer	Rob Otto	
Training Officer	Lionel Tilley	
Librarian	Brian Holdsworth, Max Barrenger	
Timber Management	John Holland, Frank McDonald, Ron Donald, Phil Gibson	

Shed Captain Roster - December 2014											
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
1	Lionel Tilley	2	Frank McDonald	3	Rob Otto	4	Ray Bryant	5	Frank McDonald	6	Graham Bradford
8	Brian Harris	9	George Blowers	10	Leigh Boynton	11	John Drewe	12	George Blowers	13	Warne Wilson
15	John Muller	16	Tom Black	17	John Close	18	John Holland	19	John Muller	20	John Clarke
22	Dave Banister	23	Bruce Chapman	24	Max Barrenger	25	Santa Claus	26	Frank McDonald	27	Keith Muirhead
29	Lionel Tilley	30	Frank McDonald	31	Hugh McKenna						

Shed Captain Roster - January 2015											
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
						1	NYD	2	George Blowers	3	John Clarke
5	Brian Harris	6	George Blowers	7	Rob Otto	8	Ted Martin	9	John Muller	10	Keith Muirhead
12	John Muller	13	Tom Black	14	Leigh Boynton	15	Ray Bryant	16	Frank McDonald	17	Graham Bradford
19	Dave Banister	20	Bruce Chapman	21	John Close	22	John Drewe	23	George Blowers	24	Warne Wilson
26	Lionel Tilley	27	Frank McDonald	28	Max Barrenger	29	John Holland	30	John Muller	31	John Clarke