



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

G'Day all Woodies,

Our annual Christmas dinner is now a memory and I must say it was a very enjoyable night. Thanks go to VP John Henderson for organizing it and a special thanks to Warne for handling the Emcee job so well. Congratulations to Allan & Pam for winning the hamper. You may be interested to know the raffle raised \$485, a great effort; only sorry there were only two winners! Thanks go to Greg McCosker for donating the DVD.

At the dinner, I thanked all those members who helped with Club projects during the year. We did undertake some ambitious projects this year with the prayer kneelers and the Mapleton Library Multi-Media display units in particular. These types of projects provide members with the opportunity to learn new skills or polish up old near-forgotten skills and are beneficial to both the Club financially as well as assisting other community organizations.

Also at the dinner, the Presidents awards were part of our usual format. In the two terms I have been President, it is a difficult task to make these awards because there are so many worthy members whose contributions to the Guild are outstanding. The selection process of narrowing it down to just four is not easy. But congratulations to Hugh, Greg, Ray and Robert.

We have been very fortunate of late to be given some very good trees which are predominately Silky Oak. Thanks to the milling crews, the quality of wood going into the racks is very high. It is perhaps important to note that members do benefit significantly by the value of our selling prices. As an example, while Southern Silky Oak is not readily available in commercial quantities, Northern Silky Oak is retailing at about \$5,000/M3 if you can buy it. Red Cedar is now \$11,000/M3.

Thanks to Rick Vickers and Dave Southern's negotiating skills, it looks like we will have a set of doors to make for the new Mary Caincross Centre. The Club will be undertaking this endeavour with a view to adding to our funds for the new building as well as providing the opportunity for member's involvement in learning skills.

Speaking of the new building, the building application is now underway and the slab is financed. We are awaiting word on our eligibility to apply to the Gambling Fund to complete the contract.

This will be the last report for 2016 and Christmas is not far away. To all members, wives, girlfriends, husbands etc, Lorraine and I wish you the happiest of Christmases and a safe and satisfying 2017.

To all Woodies not feeling the best, look after yourself, get well and keep creating in wood.

Cheers
John Muller

Maintenance Report *by Graham Bradford*

1. New main shaft fitted to the vertical spindle sander. Operating instructions revised.
2. V.S. drives on all Jet lathes serviced to eliminate noise and stiff operation.
3. Adjustments to work table of finisher to correct misalignment.
4. Damaged sanding element on Sandflee renewed.

Sanding elements on the finishers and drum/disc sanders are still not being cleaned with the rubber stick during and after use by some members. Keeping these units cleaned is part of the accreditation to use the machine. Please cooperate.

The timber milling team is currently processing a few logs of Dutch Elm and Japanese Maple. These timbers show some interesting figuring and may be worth reserving.

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Dutch Elm

Common Name: Dutch Elm

Scientific Name: *Ulmus* × *hollandica*

(Dutch Elm is a European elm hybrid, coming from *U. glabra* × *U. minor* and/or a variety of other species)

Distribution: Europe

Tree Size: 25-35 m tall, 1 - 1.5 m) trunk diameter **Average Dried Weight:** 575 kg/m³

Specific Gravity @ 12% MC: 0.48, 0.58

Janka Hardness: 3,790 N

Modulus of Rupture: 68.7 MPa

Elastic Modulus: 7.52 GPa

Crushing Strength: 32.0 Mpa

Color/Appearance: Heartwood is light to medium reddish brown. Paler sapwood is usually well defined.

Grain/Texture: Grain is interlocked (making it very resistant to splitting). With a somewhat coarse, uneven texture.

Rot Resistance: Rated as non-durable; susceptible to insect attack. Living trees are susceptible to Dutch elm disease.

Workability: Can be a challenge to work because of interlocked grain, especially on quarter sawn surfaces. Planing can cause tearout and/or fuzzy surfaces. Poor dimensional stability. Glues, stains, and finishes well. Responds well to steam bending, and holds nails and screws well.

Odour: Elm usually has a strong, unpleasant smell when green; though once dried has very little odour.

Allergies/Toxicity: Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, Elm in the *Ulmus* genus has been reported as a sensitizer. Usually most common reactions simply include eye and skin irritation. See the articles [Wood Allergies and Toxicity](#) and [Wood Dust Safety](#) for more information.

Common Uses: Boxes, baskets, furniture, hockey sticks, veneer, wood pulp, and papermaking.

Comments: Elm trees are commonly infected with Dutch elm disease, a fungal disease spread by elm bark beetles. D.E.D. has wiped out millions of Elm trees worldwide.

Japanese Maple.

Common Names: Tamo Ash, Japanese Ash, Manchurian Ash

Scientific Name: Fraxinus mandshurica (sometimes spelled mandschurica)

Distribution: Northern Asia (China, Korea, Japan, and Russia)

Tree Size: 20-30 m tall, 0.3 - 0.6 m) trunk diameter.

Average Dried Weight: 560 kg/m³

Specific Gravity @ 12% MC: 0.50, 0.56

Janka Hardness: 4,490 N

Modulus of Rupture: 74.6 Mpa

Elastic Modulus: 8.24 GPa

Color/Appearance: The heartwood is a light to medium brown color. Sapwood can be very wide, and tends to be a beige or light brown; not always clearly or sharply demarcated from heartwood. Deeply figured grain patterns are possible, sometimes called “peanut” figure, so called because the rotary-sliced veneer has an almost three- dimensional patterning that looks like peanut shells.

Grain/Texture: Grain is generally straight, though portions with wild/figured grain are commonly sold. With a coarse uneven texture.

Rot Resistance: Heartwood is rated as perishable; poor insect/borer resistance.

Workability: Produces good results with hand or machine tools. Glues, stains, and finishes well.

Odor: Gives off a distinct, moderately unpleasant smell when being worked.

Allergies/Toxicity: Ash in the Fraxinus genus has been reported to cause skin irritation, and a decrease in lung function. See the articles Wood Allergies and Toxicity and Wood Dust Safety for more information.



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Pricing/Availability: Sold almost exclusively as veneer, and nearly always with figured grain of some sort. Reportedly quite rare, and in limited supply; most veneer is exported from Japan. Prices are high for an imported veneer and are linked to the degree of figure in the grain: higher figure means higher prices.

Sustainability: It is not on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Common Uses: Veneer, musical instruments (drum shells and guitars), fine furniture, marquetry, and other small speciality wood items.

Comments: Tamo Ash has a grain pattern and figure that is completely unique (the closest in appearance may be Quilted Maple). In its plain, unfigured form, Tamo Ash is very similar to the North American species Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), and is usually simply referred to as Japanese Ash (with the name Tamo being reserved for the more figured sections of wood).

It is anecdotally reported that the peanut figure found in higher grades of Tamo Ash are caused by vines which wrap themselves around the tree's trunk, restricting the flow of nutrients and causing the tree to grow in an uneven stop-and-go manner. Allegedly, propagators in Japan grew trees and tied ropes around the younger trees—successfully duplicating the peanut figure as the trees reached maturity.

When stained, ash can look very similar to oak (*Quercus* spp.), although oaks have much wider rays, which are visible on all wood surfaces—even on flatsawn surfaces, where they appear as short, thin brown lines between the growth rings. Ashes lack these conspicuous rays.

Tips and Tricks

by Warne Wilson



A seemingly never-ending question concerns how to finish cutting boards.

You don't need any finish on a cutting board. Water won't hurt it and no finish will keep water out after a few knife cuts. Nor will the finish continue to look nice after daily use. If you are selling cutting boards and want them to look nice, apply wax or some type of oil finish. You don't want a film-building finish because chips of finish will be cut away and get into the food.

Mineral oil will work fine but will leave the wood looking dull. A drying oil such as boiled linseed oil or a blend of oil and varnish ("Danish Oil") can be made to look shinier and nicer with several coats. But be aware that if you make the cutting boards look too nice people won't buy them because they won't want to cut on them and spoil the attractive appearance.

You don't need to worry about the safety of any finish for food contact. This is a myth that refuses to die. All finishes are totally safe to eat off of and even to ingest in small amounts once they have totally cured. But if you are selling the cutting boards, the people you sell to might be concerned. So the best policy is probably to finish the boards with wax or mineral oil and promote the finish as food-safe.

Here's a classic tip that everyone should know: It's not hard to make a dent in wood and fortunately, it's not hard to get one out, either. All you need is a household iron (don't worry, it won't get wrecked, but you may want to ask permission if it's not yours) and a damp cloth. Put a couple drops of water onto the dent and let it soak for a minute. Then lay the damp cloth over the dent and press the hot iron over it. The water in and around the dent is heated to steam which quickly swells the wood fibres back to their original shape. Don't over do it with the iron. Once you see the steam, remove the iron and cloth and give the fibres a little time to swell. If the dent isn't completely gone after the first try, repeat the process. A little light sanding will complete the repair.

From the Editor

Have you ever had trouble with your stock slipping when gluing up ? Well, help is as close as the kitchen. Spread a small amount of salt on to the wet glue, and hey presto, no slippage !

Safety Notes *by Warne Wilson and Dave Banister*



A few safety reminders this month;

We have quite a big organisation compared to many woodies clubs, and to ensure its smooth working we should all be aware of club rules. From time to time over the years, accidents and incidents have occurred which have led the committee to lay down rules about shed routines and safety practices. This month I have listed four of the rules and some notes about the drum sander.

1. Stout shoes or boots must be worn in the shed. Wood is heavy and a hazard when being handled; footwear that offers little or no protection to sensitive toes is not permitted.
2. Many of us like to watch the Holland saw team turning logs into useable timber. It is a fascinating sight, but remember to stay behind the witches hats which define the working area – in the event of a catch or a blade break. A person standing close or walking through the perimeters instead of walking round, may be at risk of injury.
3. The drum sander remains a cause of frustration to our machinery maintenance engineer, Graham Bradford. Even though members must now ask the shed captain for the key, some fail to clean the drum before, during and after use. And a reminder to all shed captains; the shed captain for the day must be advised if you wish to use this machine.

A five-minute refresher on how to use the drum sander is easy and welcome – just ask the shed captain for the day.

Some points to remember:

- A. Be extra careful not to run a glue line straight through, even after you have cleaned all squeeze out from the wood. For the first couple of very light passes present the wood at an angle so that there is no chance of leaving a line of glue on the drum.
 - B. For your first pass set the stopped machine so that the drum is out of contact with the wood. Start the machine and gently lower the drum until you hear it start to sand. From that point on advance a quarter of a turn for each pass. If the piece is wide, an eighth of a turn or less to reduce stress on the motor and the drum would make sense. And please do not put your piece through the middle only, present it each time on a different track through. (This goes for thicknessers too!)
 - C. Short pieces must be carried through on the sled provided. Several cases have occurred where a short piece has jammed and ejected forcefully.
 - D. If you have damaged the sandpaper by leaving a glue line or for any other reason, **tell the shed captain**. You will not be in trouble; do not leave the damage for someone else to discover.
4. Recycled timber is not permitted in the shed. Paint will gum up blades and sanders. Hidden nails can do expensive damage.

Newer members may not understand that the shed and its wonderful range of machines have been worked for across some 20 years of shows and sales and raffles. Sure, we have been fortunate on a few occasions by receiving grants, but most of what you see is the result of members' work, sweat and dedication. The few members who are left from the original formation of the guild will attest to the fact that we started with nothing. Please respect the work of our members over the years by using our precious machines carefully.



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Around the Shed

Scope for collaboration between canoe builder Ian Colledge and guitar maker Spike Bettega ?



The kneelers have been delivered and look very smart indeed !



For those looking for exotic timber, Bob Schmidt can probably help (I know, I know, he does not have an axe but you get the idea). From now, you can only reach Bob on his mobile, **0401 339 356** (not his disconnected home phone).





Another fantastic effort from the Toy Boys & Girls. Hugh and the team really do us proud, and there will be 900+ very happy children.



And of course the year cannot conclude until we have the Woodies Christmas Dinner. President John announced his winners for the year, but somehow he forgot to announce that Hamish won the award for Mr Suave. For such a prestigious award, Hamish won his choice of scrap timber from the bin to make a new neck tie. Very smart and well deserved Hamish !



Santa Shop

This year there were 35 contributors to the Expo with an enormous amount of wooden articles for display and hopefully to be sold. The hall was beautifully decorated in a Christmas theme by the ladies of our Club, and the set up just happened as it does every year.

Saturday started at 8am and before we had the till set up we had customers. Later in the afternoon the Sausage Sizzle tent was going well and continued whilst the band Shake It Up Music from Nambour played until Santa Claus arrived to distribute gifts to the children, most of which had been made by our members. After Santa had left our trading picked up with many buyers coming into the hall. By 7.30 all had quietened down, then the heavens opened and everyone vanished leaving just five stalwarts to close up shop, then getting soaked as we ran for our transport.

Sunday was a much quieter day and we took less money, hence we had a chance to talk to customers. Their observations were that there was too much on display, so it looked like an op-shop and they could not see anything properly.

Another was, that the quality of the items was superb and would demand a much higher price if they were for sale elsewhere. Many commented on how cheap we were. But at the end of the day it is better to sell than take the stock home.

We sold over \$7500 worth of goods of which \$295 were Club sales. A total of \$6155.13 was paid out to members.

The Raffle made \$434.95 ! The Sausage Sizzle made \$250.11 after expenses.

The club profited by \$1887.45 which was disappointing as last year the figure was \$3110.08



Timber Tales by Bruce Chapman

We are steadily progressing through the large pile of timber. All the camphor and some of the Bunya pine has been cut, and we have just started into the Dutch Elm. The pile seems to be the same size as more Silky Oak has already been added.

Last month back sawn boards were briefly mentioned. In our milling process we are plain sawing down the log which predominately produces back sawn boards. Plain sawing is the only practical way for us to mill as it is too difficult to be lifting and rotating the logs before each cut. Many of the logs we get would not be accepted by a saw mill as they only take the lower branch-less portion of the tree.

The branches add a lot of tension into the wood. The plain sawing method is the best procedure for high-tensioned boards.



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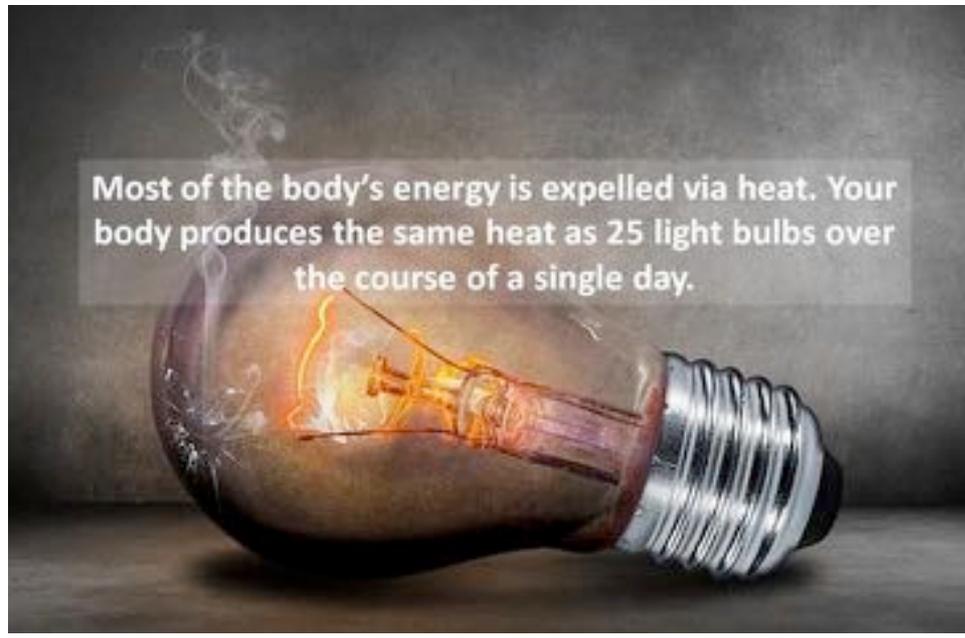
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As was mentioned last month, back sawn boards have a greater tendency to cup . This is however minimised in our drying procedure with correct flat fillet stacking and by being well weighted down in the kiln.

The new procedure to stand the timber after leaving the kiln is further adding to the stability of our boards. Also, in our quest to produce as stable a board as possible, we always cut out the central pith of the log. Therefore any quarter sawn boards are a narrower board.

The kiln has not yet been emptied. Timber from the kiln will not be available until early January.



Did you know ????

Want to save money on your power bills ? Maybe this is the answer. Just got to work out where to plug it in.

An elderly retired gentleman had had severe hearing problems for some time. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the man to hear better than he had ever heard before. One month later, the elderly man went back to the doctor. The doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." The gentleman said, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

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

