



# Flitch 'n Chips

Issue No. 206

August 2014

## Presidents Report



Hi Fellow Woodies,

Now the AGM is over I'm pleased to announce the new [and old] members of the committee. For my sins I've been elected as President for a third year. John Muller is again the vice president, Graham Beaumont has taken over from Dave Edmonds as Club Secretary, Brian Harris has taken over as Treasurer from Tara Jackson and John Holland is our very capable Shed Manager. Congratulations and thank-you gentlemen for putting up your hands to be on the committee and thanks also to all members filling all other positions to help take our club into what I hope will be an exciting, safe and fulfilling new year for all members.

Don't forget the Club Open Day will be held at the shed on Saturday, Sept 6th. Volunteers are still needed for what has always been a very good day both as a recruitment drive for new members and for sales of members woodwork. People are always amazed at what our club has to offer, not only our fabulous building and equipment but also the friendliness, companionship and access to help from whom I consider experts in all the various aspects of working with wood.

Unfortunately I have to mention again that we seem to have trouble getting the message through to certain members that there is a cost for use of the machinery and Shed Captains should not have to be chasing them for this money. Remember that machines do wear out and need repairs or replacement so it's only fair that user pays what is a reasonably moderate amount for access to good quality equipment. Also, timber price is to be calculated by the Shed Captain, not the member doing the purchasing. Although the timber is mostly donated to the club, it is not free! There is the cost of transport and processing the logs up to saleable standard so please pay for your timber, we are so much cheaper than buying from a retail outlet.

For members looking to upgrade their skills, there are a number of interesting courses running at the moment so check on the notice board and if you are interested, please put your name on the list. There are also two club projects under-way at present and we need help. It would

be ideal for newer or long time members to get their teeth into working as a team and learn the skills involved. If you are interested in working on constructing a blanket box contact Graham Bradshaw or if building a bookshelf is more your cup of tea then contact John Holland. Both are excellent in what they do and you would be made most welcome.

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.

Looking forward to another great year for the Club.

Keep the wood pile low and the shavings high.

Happy Woodworking,  
Frank McDonald  
President.

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<b><i>New Members this month....</i></b>	
557	Lindsay Thomas
558	Wayne Smith
559	Sandra Toyer
560	Ivan Koch
561	Martine Nash
562	Donna Cervantes
563	Glenna Mason
"A Big Woodies Welcome"	

## Tips and Tricks

By Warne Wilson

### STAINING WOOD.

This is a skill we see very little of at Woodies, it can be a very difficult subject to define because of the huge range of variables. I have gained a workable understanding by my own many trials and many errors over the years – some of my older woodies friends will attest to my penchant for experimenting.

There are many ways of staining wood but stains are commercially available in a range of popular wood colours; and I mean available in hardware stores locally and at Bunnings. There are two categories: (1) Spirit Stains, and (2) Wiping Stains.

**Spirit Stains** are the strongest and the most indelible – and therefore the most risky; they quickly penetrate into the wood and they will happily highlight spots and fingerprints of oil and wax by being repelled by them, plus they will show up the slightest scratches in 3D, particularly cross-grain scratches, unseen until stained, but left by sanding.

I learned to outsmart this tendency by making up a mix of what I called “Tell-tale” a very weak mix of a few drops of stain with turps; little more than a tint really. Tell-tale can be sanded off easily and the defects it detects can be sanded out. (To sand with the grain is the word, even orbital sanders can leave millions of little circles, normally invisible but revealed by the stain.)

Stains are usually brushed on. Once you start, keep going, and try to maintain a wet edge, (Extend the area of stain continuously at the edges). Don't let the stain dry on one edge and come back to it later – a double lap of spirit stain will be noticeable.

The second type of stain is **Wiping Stain** – Cabots have a good range of colours in their water based stains – much easier to control – the stain has a lot of pigment in it. Stir it well and brush it on, leave it for a few minutes depending on the depth of colour you require, and then wipe it off with a clean rag (always test on an offcut before you start). The pigment lodges in the grain, highlighting it, and the non-grained areas retain a natural looking muted stain. Let this dry for twenty-four hours before spraying or finishing. Once again, “Tell-tale” - Make it with water if you are using a water based stain - can save much heartache by highlighting scratches and “Dings”. If you intend to use a wiping stain, do not sand with paper finer than 180, or at the most 240 grit, the pigment in wiping stain needs a “Key” in most woods.

**Varnish Stain.** The easiest way to stain as the colour is added to the finish, but it carries with it a hidden weakness, and we have all seen it. If the item later suffers a knock or a scratch, which damages the surface coating, the raw wood will show through because the stain does not penetrate.

Test first. Always test the stain on an offcut of the same wood before you commit to staining the whole project. Different woods absorb stain to a greater or lesser degree. Sand your offcut to match the sanding on your project to get a proper comparison. Check the effect on the end grain; end-grain will absorb more stain than the long-grain and will therefore be darker.

**Finishing.** Stains are formulated to accept any of the normal finishes, from shellac through to cellulose lacquer, polyurethane, and waxes.

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### Safety Notes

By Warne Wilson and Dave Banister



### LATHES

Like motor cars, lathes can be a pleasure to use, but experience teaches us to be careful and to be vigilant for anything that may indicate a problem – a vibration, a strange noise, a distraction. The first thing is to ensure that the wood to be turned is secure; whether it is in the chuck, on the faceplate, or between centres. If turning between centres, after starting, a gentle advance in pressure on the tailstock wheel will ensure that the teeth of the drive dog are gripping securely. Full-face visors are provided for your use. Please use them.

A beginner will not, at first, have an understanding of the simple physics at play between the tool and the spinning wood. The tool rest must be as close as possible to the wood while giving good support for the tool. Always stop the lathe before adjusting the tool rest – if adjustment is attempted while the wood is spinning, contact may occur which may be disastrous. Likewise, always put the lathe tool down before making any adjustment – a sharp lathe tool in your hand while speed or other adjustment is made to a spinning project is a combination too dangerous to think about!

Lathe tools, whether gouges or scrapers, are made deliberately with long lengths of metal and long handles.

This is to provide optimum advantage against the wood on one side of the tool rest, spinning at perhaps a thousand revolutions or more a minute, and a steady hand on the other side of the tool rest near the end of the long handle. If you are unsure about any aspect of turning, do not hesitate to ask the Shed Captain for the day; he or she will be pleased to help you.

A very common problem is to persist with turning when the lathe tool becomes blunt. Blunt tools can be dangerous because of the extra pressure needed to make them cut, often leading to “Tear out” on the surface of a project. Learn to sharpen lathe tools properly as soon as possible. Once again, ask the Shed Captain.

When polishing your spinning masterpiece with wax and rag, please keep the rag small and enclosed in your hand – never wrapped around a finger and certainly NEVER WITH A LONG TAIL. A catch on the wax can take the rag in a millisecond, and a finger, or worse, with it.

Just be careful. Think, and enjoy being in control.

**THINK**  
**THINK**  
**BEFORE YOU**  
**ACT**

### Around The Shed

Jenny Regeling is the inventor of Sandi Hands and came along to the Club last Saturday to share her invention with us..... "after many years of Vintage & French Shabby Chic Furniture Recycling & Restoring, my poor old hands were taking toll of all the manual work. Arthritis starting to set in and as for my nails - don't even go there !!! I had to come up with a tool that would allow me to continue doing what I loved without all the repercussions, thus the birth of "Sandi Hands".



For more information, check out the website.....

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## Queensland Kauri

Other Names: South Queensland Kauri, Dundathu Pine, Black Kauri, Blue Kauri, Mountain Kauri, North Queensland Kauri, Bull Kauri, *Agathis palmerstonii*, *Agathis atropurpurea*, *Agathis microstachya*

Queensland Kauri is an Australian native softwood with a fine even texture, pale cream to light or pinkish brown heartwood and a straight grain. Most people think of conifers as having needle like foliage but not *Agathis robusta*. It has broad, flat, thick, leathery foliage. If you look closely the leaf consists of a number of parallel veins.

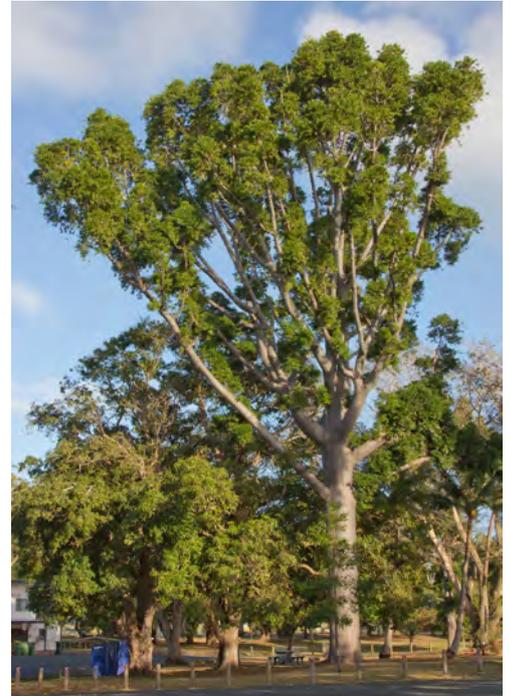


Its species name, *Agathis robusta*, is derived from its cones, which look like a ball of thread (*agathis*), combined with its vigorous growth (*robusta*). An attractive timber suited to many indoor uses, including fine cabinetry, the Queensland Kauri was heavily logged in the early years of European settlement. Large trees are therefore more rare now than in pre-European times; despite this, the species is not classified as endangered.

Queensland Kauri occurs mainly in two localities: in southern Queensland on Fraser Island and around Maryborough; and there is a northern population on the Atherton Tableland west of Cairns. Although these two populations were once given different scientific names (*A. robusta* in the south and *A. spatulata* in the north), they have since been discovered to be the same species.

Queensland Kauri is a large, coniferous tree with a straight trunk, growing to a height of 25-40 metres with a trunk diameter of between 100 - 200cm. The trunk is clear of branches for over half its length. The characteristically straight and symmetrical trees are covered with smooth to flaky grey-brown bark. Woody scales from collapsing cones gather at the base of these trees.

The timber yielded by this species has a fine even texture that is pale cream to light or pinkish brown in hue, with a straight grain. Queensland Kauri withstands some exposure. It dries quickly with little degrade but needs protection against blue stain, microscopic fungi that commonly infest the sapwood of trees.



The wood of the Queensland Kauri is creamy-white. The surface is plain in appearance, and the timber has a fine grain and clear, even texture that is much darker than Hoop Pine. The shimmering ray flecks that occur on the face of quarter-cut timbers distinguish it from Hoop and Bunya pines, that produce a less startling figure. Heartwood and sapwood of this species are difficult to distinguish. Finished timbers have a warm golden appearance, ideal for use in interiors.

The logs can be massive and in early years, in order to transport them from the Atherton Tablelands to Cairns by rail, a limit of 22 feet (6.7 m) was set as the maximum size of the logs so that they could fit through rail tunnels on the Kuranda Range.

The first European settlers fashioned Queensland Kauri into kitchen sinks, breadboards, bench-tops and flooring. Today the timber is still used in a wide range of interior situations. Common applications include cabinetmaking, turnery and joinery. The durability and regular colours of the timber make it well suited to furniture design and indoor fittings such as shelves. Less sturdy grades of this timber can also be made into plywood, crates and boxes. Panels of Queensland Kauri are used to line boat interiors. Luthiers also favour this timber for fashioning violin bellies and guitars because of the good resonating properties created by its regular grain.

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## TOOLS AND HOW TO USE THEM ....



### TABLE SAW:

A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity. Very effective for digit removal !!



### PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER:

Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.



### STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER:

A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.



### HAMMER:

Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.



### BAND SAW:

A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut large pieces into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

### SON OF A BITCH TOOL:

A handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling 'Son of a bitch' at the top of your lungs. It is frequently the next tool that you will need.

## Maintenance Report

by Brian Harris

25/7	Belt Sander - New sanding belt fitted.
29/7	Drum Sander - A new platen belt has been fitted to replace the one damaged by misuse in trying to sand too much off the timber in one pass.
	Hammer Saw - Resharpended blade fitted.
1/8	Sand Flee - New abrasive belt fitted.

So, do you think you can stack firewood?



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Purchasing Officer	John Holland	
Training Officer	Lionel Tilley	
Librarian	Brian Holdsworth	
Timber Management	John Holland, Frank McDonald, Ron Donald, Phil Gibson	

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

Shed Captain Roster - October 2014											
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
				1	Leigh Boynton	2	Phil Krisanski	3	Frank McDonald	4	Keith Muirhead
6	Lionel Tilley	7	Frank McDonald	8	John Close	9	Ray Bryant	10	George Blowers	11	Graham Bradford
13	Brian Harris	14	George Blowers	15	Max Barrenger	16	John Drewe	17	Frank McDonald	18	Warne Wilson
20	John Muller	21	Tom Black	22	Hugh McKenna	23	John Holland	24	George Blowers	25	John Clarke
27	Dave Banister	28	Ray Curry	29	Leigh Boynton	30	Phil Krisanski	31	Frank McDonald		