



# Flitch 'n Chips

Issue No. 208

October 2014

## Presidents Report



Hi Fellow Woodies,

Christmas is approaching at a rapid rate of knots so just a reminder that our Santa Shop is on the 6th and 7th of December at the Montville hall so if you intend making goods for sale there are only 6 weeks to have everything ready. Volunteers will be needed for the Expo to be a success so please help if you can, see Bruce Chapman who will be the coordinator. Our Christmas Party, on the 12th of December will once again be held at Flaxton Gardens and Brian Harris will be taking bookings and payment in a couple of weeks time, we'll let you all know exactly when. A table plan will be available so those of you who would like to be seated together will be able to select your seating and tickets will be issued - standard table size is 10.

Rob Otto ran an excellent demo on the Hammer saw last Saturday which was well attended. John Holland will be running a refresher demo on the Woodwiz next Saturday morning, 25th October at 9am and Max Barrenger will run a spray painting demo on the 8th of November. Both should be very interesting so a good attendance is always appreciated.

Another event to put in your diary. Ken Urquhart, one of our past presidents, has sent through a flier to let everyone know that once again the Caloundra Rise Woodcraft Group is holding a "Show, Tell and Sell Day" at the Caloundra Rise Retirement Village at Little Mountain on Saturday, 15th November from 10am to 3pm. There will be around 50 tables of woodcraft, other arts and crafts, various hobbies and other things of interest. Members who have well finished articles to sell are welcome to contact Ken to arrange a table. A flier is on the notice board for anyone interested.

Finally, for those who want to visit

what looks to be an exceptional day out and don't mind travelling, Pittsworth Woodcrafters Club, near Toowoomba, are holding an open day on Saturday, 29th Nov. 9am to 5pm with first class specialist demonstrators with just the donation of a gold coin on entry. The flier is on the notice board.

To all new members who are also new to working with wood, it is essential that you start with the basics to learn methodology and correct use of machinery before trying to make fine furniture and expecting other members to leave their own work to assist in projects far beyond your capabilities. Members don't mind offering a little assistance with technical details but they are not at the club to leave their own projects to do yours for you if it's way beyond your expertise. Please be considerate of other members time.

I'm sorry to keep on about this, but to all members, please remember to pay for the timber you use and for your machinery use including sandpaper, screws and glue etc it all has to be replaced at some considerable cost to the club.

Finally, to finish on a lighter note. It was great to see Ray Curry up at the club the last couple of Saturdays looking really well. It's always pleasing to see members on the road to recovery.

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.



A message from your friendly Timber Management Team (seen above out the back of the Shed)

The Club will not accept *any more* logs for milling until further notice due to an over abundance of timber and limited space to dry and store it.

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Here's an interesting free website that those new to woodworking may find interesting. Its part of Fine Woodworking magazine and offers some great information. Ed.

<http://www.startwoodworking.com/>



Last week a large group of Woodies were treated to a very enlightening demo by Rob Otto of the do's and dont's of using the Hammer table saw. Safety was the overriding feature of the demonstration as well as the use of Jigs to achieve repeated accurate results.



Rob demonstrates the use of a gauge block set to accurately adjust the cutting depth of the blade.

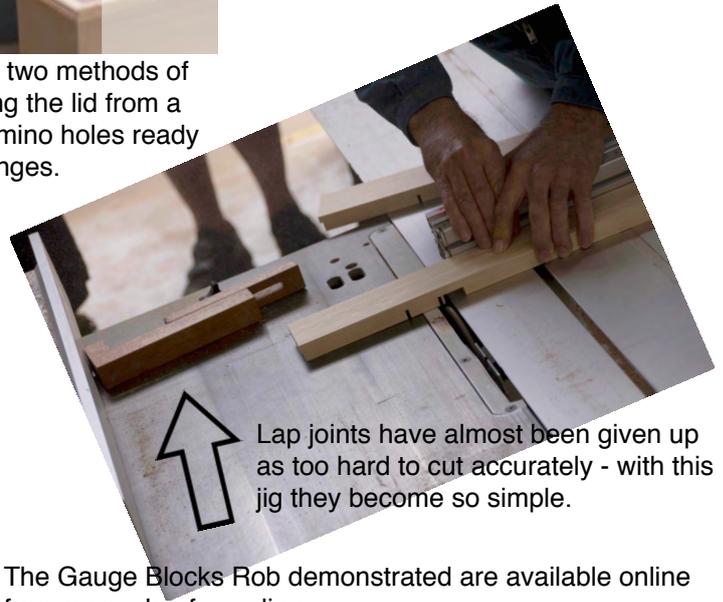


This jig is for repeatedly and accurately cutting thin strips.

Rob demonstrated two methods of accurately removing the lid from a box....note the Domino holes ready for installing the hinges.



Who said you can't cut a circle on a table saw? All you need is the right jig and voila!



Lap joints have almost been given up as too hard to cut accurately - with this jig they become so simple.

The Gauge Blocks Rob demonstrated are available online from a couple of suppliers.

<http://www.woodpeck.com/setupblocks.html>  
<http://www.leevalley.com/US/wood/Page.aspx?>

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**MEET RAY CURRY - Member No 006**

Last week we welcomed an old friend Ray Curry back to the fold. Ray is a very popular and long serving member of the Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild and a past President of the Club. In fact Ray is a Founding Member of the Club back in 1996 and has been a consistent supporting member of the Club since. "Should have a bloomin' long service medal! Does the club give them out, Frank?"

Regularly attending the Woodies and bringing with him a good humour with his many stories of a colourful and long career in shipping in Queensland. Ray managed tugboat operations and coastal shipping for McIlwraith, McEacharn Ltd. All this after Ray started out as a marine engineer with Comalco in 1970, before moving on to Weipa Tug Services (owned by McIlwraith McEacharn Ltd) for 11 years in 1975.

Still with McIlwraith, McEacharn Ltd Ray went to Dalrymple Bay in charge of tug operations for another 11 years. This bulk coal terminal near Mackay in Queensland was handling ship sizes up to 200,000 tonnes and ship movements of three or four a day. 24

hours a day made heavy demands of tug operators like Ray.

**"What's the best woodworking job I have ever done?"**

"A kitchen dresser from brown pine. Without any plans, it simply evolved and still today takes pride of place. Looks bloody good too."

**"And the worst job?"**

"Well, there is a trophy of mine at the club (in a room where some of the member's bad mistakes are hidden – ask around – they are all there and have a story) its in the shape of a split circular turning blank that broke at high speed on the lathe, and the delinquent fractured bit flew off and speared me in the chest with the force of a whaler's harpoon. I was saved from serious injury by my Pacemaker; it acted like a shield, would you believe that? The good old Pacemaker seems to still work too, although I sometimes question it. The next balls up was a busted fruit bowl from Mackay cedar that was turned too thin and ended up as a beautiful and much admired pedestal instead. And nobody knew it grew from a mistake!"

"Sometimes it pays to keep your mouth shut."

**"If I had a handful of kids about me and was giving advice, what would I say to them?"**

"I'd say always think before cutting. Don't think 'cut once, measure twice'. Always measure twice, and cut once. And apply that to your life's journey as well!"

**"What is my philosophy on life?"**

"I read where Wayne Bennett once

said, 'If you only do what you have always done, you will only get what you have always got'. Very true. Good bloke is Wayne. That's my philosophy too. It's about getting out what you put in."

"See you next week!"

*Each month we will be profiling a member of the Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild to introduce all members to each other, and to newer members of the club. Ed.*

**Demos**

On Saturday 25th October John Holland will be demonstrating the safe and correct use of our 'WoodWizz' which is used to level slabs. Once again this machine produces great results if used correctly.

Saturday November 8th Max Barrenger will demonstrate Spraying Equipment and its uses.



Picture shows a big thank you and the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Bob Schmidt from Keith Carter on behalf of B Company 2RAR Vietnam Vets recognising Bob's generosity in supplying the timber for the making of the plaque that Keith is holding.

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## Tips and Tricks

By Warne Wilson

### BLIND NAILING:

For those unfamiliar with nails, they come in many thicknesses and a wide range of metals for use in fixing an almost endless variety of materials. The common nails and brads we use are of bright steel and are available in two types – flat head, and bullet head. Bullet head nails, as the name suggests, have a small bulbous head, flat on top to accept hammering and designed to be driven flush with the surface, or countersunk to make them less noticeable in a finished project.

One of the problems with countersinking nails in a project is how to cover the nail holes.

The easy solution is to drive in the bullet headed nail or brad, countersink it with a nail set (Often

called a nail punch) and to fill the hole with wood filler; but getting an exact match with the wood colour is difficult. Nail sets come in several sizes, from fine for small brads, to a range of sizes for larger nails. Nail sets, no matter what the size, are made from hardened steel and have a clever little dished profile at the point, designed to resist the hammer slipping off the nail head when being driven. This is good, but the problem remains of attempting to make nail holes invisible.

Blind nailing has been a method used by woodcrafters for centuries. To do this you lift up a chip, drive and countersink the nail, and then glue the chip back in place over the nail. This can be done using a 6mm sharp

chisel; carefully cut a shaving along the grain by tapping the chisel gently with a mallet. Ideally, the shaving will curl away while still held at the far end – or a specialised “Blind nailer” like a miniature plane can be used, these are available at woodies suppliers.

TIP: Grip the brad with a pair of long nosed pliers, drive it most of the way, then use the nail set to countersink it. Use a minimum of glue and carefully push the chip back in place. Either hold it down until the glue grabs, usually about a minute, or lightly clamp it with paper and a block. When the glue is dry, sand the surface flat and finish the project as usual. The nailing will be undetectable.

### Safety Notes

By Warne Wilson and Dave Banister



On Saturday 11th October, we were treated to a great demonstration on the workings of the Hammer table saw by Robert Otto, a veteran of many years in the joinery industry.

Not only did Robert show us how versatile this saw is, he devoted time to the issue of safety and backed up his words with A4 sized colour prints of mangled hands and fingers, the results of misadventures with saw benches. His advice; “Keep your eyes on your hands. If you are aware of where your hands are in relation to the blade at all times, the chances of

an accident will be minimised.

Robert mentioned instances of bad practice by our club members he has seen: A member helping to tail-out picking out offcuts from the space between the spinning sawblade and the fence with his fingers. Members using the saw without the guard in place, which can lead to the piece of wood being picked up by the saw teeth and thrown at high speed. This led to a safety precaution many of our members ignore; always stand to the side when using the saw – stay out of the line of fire. And a potentially bad

one; members bringing warped wood to the saw – if a piece of wood is twisted, it will not lie flat, at a critical point it can rock, pinch the saw blade and cause an accident.

Robert’s final statistic; a survey of injuries in America found that most saw bench accidents occur with wood 600mm long by 20mm thick and 150mm wide. Commonly worked boards that everyone should agree should be safe to cut. Another interesting fact; the survey revealed that most accidents occurred during the hour or two after lunch.

### Maintenance Report

by Brian Harris

- 24/9 New silvered carbon filter fitted in water line to kitchen. (Coffee no longer tastes of Possum! Ed)
- 27/9 Drum Sander - Yet another abrasive belt fitted to sander as previous one was destroyed by mis-use.  
  
Belt Sander - Part of the belt was again destroyed by mis-use.  
  
Morticing Machine - The broken plastic lever that secures timber being morticed has been replaced with one fashioned from Engineering Plastic kindly provided by Alan Boag which should stand up to the task.
- 1/10 Hegner Scroll Saws - The bellows on both Scroll Saws have been replaced because they had hardened and cracked over time and were useless for the job. All working good now.
- 8/10 Biscuit Joiner - New blade fitted as previous appeared to be blunt.

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## Tung Tree

Family: *Euphorbiaceae*. Genus: *Aleurites* Botanical Names: *Aleurites fordii* and *Aleurites montana*

### Description and natural Occurrence

The *A. fordii* tree grows well in cooler climates, but can survive up to sub-tropical climates. *A. montana* is restricted to a more tropical climate. The trees are small to medium sized to 20 m with a spreading crown, fast growing, deciduous, with smooth bark and soft timber. They bear small flowers similar in appearance to Hibiscus, developing to clusters of hard, woody pear-shaped fruit, 4–6 cm long and 3–5 cm diameter, containing four or five large, oily seeds, green initially, becoming dull brown when ripe in autumn. The trees are productive for about 30 years.



Tung oil, also known as China Wood Oil, is made from the crushed seed kernels of the Tung Tree.

Over 200,000 tonnes of oil is produced annually from plantations in China, Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil and the USA. The oil has been used for centuries in Asia as a wood preservative. It is a component in a variety of industrial products such as oil based paints and printing ink. In its pure form, Tung oil has the consistency of honey, and proprietary brands will be blended with a small amount of citrus terpene to promote penetration into the wood grain. It provides a superior, lasting natural appearance to cabinet timbers, giving a perpetual wet look that highly accentuates the grain of the wood, commonly referred to as "making the grain pop". Because of this, the color of the wood is slightly darkened, giving wood a rich, warm pleasing colour and depth that develops with age.

Tung oil cures by oxidation with the atmosphere to a relatively hard but flexible surface finish.

In its pure form, tung oil is non-toxic and ideal for surfaces that are expected to come into contact with food. This includes wood cutting boards, salad bowls, salt and pepper mills and any other project imaginable. Though the dried oil is relatively hard, the finish it provides is not the most durable, and is usually chosen for its aesthetic appeal rather than its wearability. It is not UV resistant.

Advantages. The following refers primarily to pure 100% tung oil (with citrus terpene). As long as the surface bearing the tung oil has not been damaged, tung oil provides the following benefits:

- Waterproof (or at least highly water resistant on a well maintained surface)
- Resistant to alcohol
- Resistant to acetone (such as nail polish or remover)
- Resistant to fruit acids and vegetable acids (such as orange juice)
- Flexible. Oil finishes continue to protect as the wood expands and contract.
- Accentuates the texture and grain of the wood
- Easy to apply (rub on, rub off)
- Very forgiving during application.
- Easy to re-apply if the original finish becomes worn or damaged
- Non-toxic and food-safe (Pure form only)



Preparation. Since tung oil will highlight the grain and surface of the wood, it will also highlight any surface blemishes and scratches. Take time to prepare the wood surface, using progressively finer sandpaper to 240 grit and removing all visible scratch marks.

Use any clean, lint-free rag to apply tung oil. Apply a small amount of oil to your cloth and proceed to apply the oil along the grain. Do not starve the wood, meaning you should not have to rub hard or often to get the surface wet. Do not over saturate the surface either, meaning the surface should be wet but should not have any free oil or runs.

Approximately ½ to 1 hour after applying the oil, remove any excess surface oil with a clean rag. Let the project stand for at least 24 hours to ensure all oil is absorbed and dry. Rub the surface with 0000 steel wool. The dust produced from this sanding should be a white powder, but if you get a gummy resin instead, wait another day before proceeding. Apply a second coat using the same process. To get maximum protection, apply 3 coats of pure tung oil.

As an optional step, the first coat of tung oil can be thinned with 50% citrus terpene. This will greatly increase its penetration into the wood surface, but still apply three coats of full-strength tung oil on top. Note that if the first coat is thinned with mineral turpentine, the project will no longer be considered food-safe. Tung oil produces a distinctive odour for a few weeks after application. If the tung oil is to be coated with some other finish such as wax, this odour is not noticeable.

To check the surface is fully cured and has achieved its full hardness, push your fingers across the grain at various locations on your project. Your fingers should slide smoothly and easily across the surface without any drag or grab. If there is any resistance, then the surface is not fully cured.

Tung oil will take at least two weeks to cure. During this time, enhancement in the wood appearance will develop. Allowing a few weeks to cure, and then polishing the surface with a soft buff, will result in a pleasing satin finish. Do not be in a hurry as the finish achieved will be worth the wait. Alternatively, apply Carnauba wax.

N. B. The seeds in the centre of the Tung fruit are cold pressed to obtain pure "Unmodified Tung Oil". The crushed seeds are then heated and/or chemically treated to release the remaining oil, which is known as "Modified Tung Oil", used in the manufacture of products called "Tung Oil Finish" which is not pure tung oil. These products usually include metallic drying agents, thinners, or less expensive oil additives. These additives improve the penetration, hasten the drying time, and keeps the product cost reasonably low. These products, while providing obvious benefit to the consumer, no longer behave or look like pure tung oil, and often contain only a small amount of tung oil and some do not contain any tung oil at all. Note carefully that all these additives render the finish toxic. Only pure tung oil which has not been modified and mixed only with citrus terpene can be considered non-toxic.

Citrus Terpene or d-Limonene is a naturally pure oil produced from citrus fruit skins by the distillation process. Being produced from organic plant material, it is biodegradable. Undiluted Citrus Terpene can replace a wide variety of products including mineral Turpentine, Acetone and Toluene. It can also be combined with a surfactant to produce an effective household cleaner, able to dissolve many stubborn to remove substances. It is an ideal thinner for Tung Oil, to assist with penetration of the oil into porous surfaces e.g. timber, concrete, mud brick, slate, terracotta. Pure Tung Oil and Citrus Terpene are locally available in the Feast Watson and Organoil brands.

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

<b>New Members this month.....</b>	
574	Noel Everon
575	Glen Fraser
"A Big Woodies Welcome"	



<b>Who's Who in BRWG Inc. 2013-14</b>		
Patrons - Peter Wellington MP, Andrew Powell MP and Cr Jenny McKay		
President	Frank McDonald	5435 2495
Vice President	John Muller	
Secretary	Graham Beaumont	
Asst. Secretary	Dave Edmond	
Treasurer	Brian Harris	
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Recruitment Officers	Dave Banister, Lionel Tilley, Tom Black, Jeff Harrison, Frank McDonald	
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 - November 2014											
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
										1	Keith Muirhead
3	Lionel Tilley	4	Frank McDonald	5	Leigh Boynton	6	Ray Bryant	7	John Muller	8	Graham Bradford
10	Brian Harris	11	George Blowers	12	John Close	13	John Drewe	14	Frank McDonald	15	Warne Wilson
17	John Muller	18	Tom Black	19	Max Barrenger	20	John Holland	21	George Blowers	22	John Clarke
24	Dave Banister	25	Bruce Chapman	26	Hugh McKenna	27	Ted Martin	28	John Muller	29	Keith Muirhead

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						