



# Flitch 'n Chips

Issue No. 211

January 2015

## Presidents Report

Hi Fellow Woodies,

Happy New Year to one and all.

Well we're certainly off to a flier with two Club projects ready to go. First is a nest of coffee tables for the Barung Landcare raffle at the Maleny Wood Expo, Chainsaw to Fine Furniture. Rob Otto will be the team leader and needs willing helpers.

Second is two park benches for the Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital, Walk of Remembrance commemorating the 100 year anniversary of World War One. The walk will be located within the hospital grounds behind the hospital building. John Holland will take charge of this project and would like members to help. If you join in with either of these projects you will be working with two of our most experienced woodworkers and you can't help but learn new skills.

Several Shed Captains have asked who is exempt from paying for timber and machinery use. The only exemptions are members working on authorised club projects like the above mentioned coffee tables and park benches and the Toy Boys [and Girls] working on the toys. No one else is exempt!

You use it, you pay for it. The club works on the honour system so please pay up without Shed Captains having to chase you for payment. If you don't pay it's unfair on the club and all the other members who do pay.

Although still several months away it's time to start planning for the Maleny Wood Expo in May. The event is always well attended by members of the public, so make sure you have plenty of products to sell. John Muller will be coordinating our participation and will be looking for volunteers so please keep this in mind, especially if you intend to have goods for sale.

Not only do we have Club projects on the go but Lionel has a great line up of courses and demonstrations in place for the first four months of the year. Check the notice board :- scroll saw course, turning courses, tool sharpening, glueing, basic machinery use and several refresher sessions on various machines on Saturday mornings. One demonstration not to be missed is Ken Ray's deep hollowing technique on the wood lathe. Ken has demonstrated throughout Australia and overseas and is a must to watch even if wood turning is not your forte.



Rick Vickers has now compiled a calender of events for 2015 and we will publish this shortly. If there is a course or demonstration you would like to see or conduct please let us know and any ideas on how to improve the club would be appreciated.

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



When it comes to big trees, this one is hard to beat. Its a Montezuma Cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*) that has stood in Santa Maria del Tule in Mexico for around 2000 years.





## Around the Shed this month



Don Meredith uses the Flapper Disk attachment on the Sand-Flie to finish off an abstract bowl that he created.

Brian Orr and Dave Banister work on some Dutch Elm for a table top.



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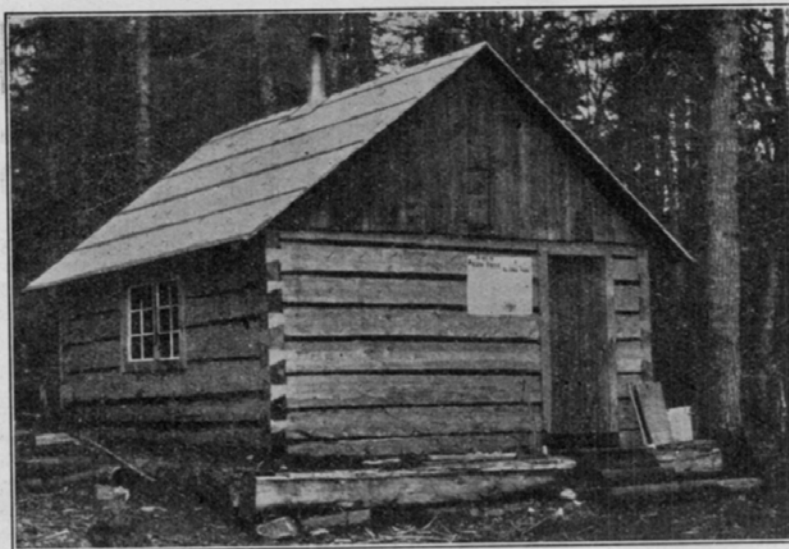
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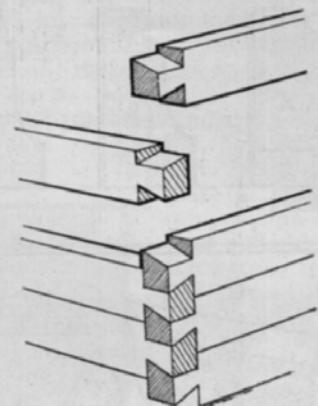
This article on Dovetailing? comes from a 1936 issue of Woodworker Magazine.



**FIG. 1. FIRE RANGER'S HUT IN A GREAT CANADIAN FOREST.**  
Note how the squared-up logs are double dovetailed.  
(By permission of the High Commissioner of Canada).

## DOVETAILING ON A GRAND SCALE

tightness of its fit and glue (if used). In the compound dovetail shown in this hut there is as much resistance in one direction as in the other. If the photograph is examined closely it will be seen that it is impossible to decide which is dovetail and which is pin, since there is a slope on both sides. The diagram, Fig. 2, makes this clearer. It will be realised that the whole thing could only be put together by the method of erecting the squares individually, one above the other. (881)



**FIG. 2. DIAGRAM SHOWING DOVETAILS OF LOGS.**

WE were specially interested in this photograph of a fire ranger's hut in one of the great forests of Canada because it shows a particularly interesting detail of construction. It is composed of roughly squared-up logs, and these are joined at the corners by huge dovetails, and readers will find it an absorbing exercise to decide just how these are arranged and made. In the first place, it is fairly obvious that the sides of the hut could not be made up complete and then all four assembled; it would be too much of an

undertaking. Instead, the squares are assembled one by one, the walls gradually rising in height.

Apart from its being infinitely more convenient in building, this method has a tremendous advantage in that it enables the dovetails to have a double or compound slope so that the walls cannot fall outwards. Readers know that in the ordinary dovetail the shape of the joint resists stresses in one direction only. In the other direction there is nothing to prevent the joint from being pulled apart beyond the





## Monthly Feature - Meet A Member - By Trevor Jorgensen

(This month another Club)

Last year I had the opportunity to visit Warrnambool on family business and the privilege to be taken along to the Warrnambool Triton Woodworkers Club with the secretary Louis Seater.

The Warrnambool Triton Woodworkers began in late 1999 out of a meeting of owners of Triton woodworking equipment. It was formally incorporated as a non-profit community organisation under the Victorian Associations Incorporation Act in March 2000 and is a member of the Council of Victorian Woodwork Clubs Inc.

Membership is open to all persons with an interest in woodworking (whether they own Triton equipment or not.) Their rented Club Room/Workshop is located in a small part of the old Fletcher Jones complex which covers a total area of approximately five acres, abandoned for years, and described in some reports as "A derelict rabbit warren of old offices and factory spaces littered with broken glass, water damaged ceilings, asbestos, peeling paint, mould, and the general decay you'd expect from a site that's had next to no maintenance and been terribly vandalised". The monthly meetings provide a forum for guest speakers and demonstrations on a variety of woodworking topics and include a "members helping members" segment. They have a membership of approximately 35, with morale very high – a good sense of camaraderie. The club workshop is open every Wednesday and Friday afternoon from 1pm through to around 4pm. Visitors are always welcome. Annual membership costs \$50. Club equipment is good quality, mostly Triton gear of course, some new. The club makes a large variety of products for community projects (such as hospitals), for kindergartens to

nursing homes, park benches to bus shelters, and combines with others in community displays. Local Council, Community projects and sales of toys and timber artifacts provide the revenue stream.



### Warrnambool Men's Shed

Contacted Peter at the Warrnambool Men's Shed Inc to take the opportunity to visit and see how they are travelling. As they only meet one day a week, I could not visit due to other commitments, but we had a long chat about what they offer. Peter is the president, secretary, treasurer, coordinator and holder of the keys to the place. There are seven members but nobody wants to be an office bearer he says. The club has a shed granted by the Warrnambool Special Developmental School, and the host organisation pays all costs associated with rates, electricity, insurances and maintenance. Club membership fees are modest at \$25 per year. They have all types of courses going there such as metal turning, welding, woodworking, bicycle repair, and computer skills.

Limited funding comes from the federal government, city council, Bunnings, and various community grants.

Both of these organisations provide a service to the community but have similar issues. The main issue being lack of a shed of their own with a secure tenure.

Other issues include static membership, and, in the case of the Men's Shed, declining membership, no volunteers for office bearers, shortfall in finance or no opportunity to grow financially, and promotional acumen.

But while both clubs have these issues, there is a sense that their efforts are worthwhile and the community is benefiting from their hard work. An achievement for both.

They were both extremely interested in the Woodies at Montville and the organisation we have behind our club here. I left the clubs with a copy of our monthly magazine and best wishes from our club to theirs.

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## Tips and Tricks

By Warne Wilson

### Cutting Board Finish

I am often asked what type of finish to use on cutting boards. The easiest answer is to suggest one that's sold as "non-toxic." However, this implies that other finishes are harmful, and this is not necessarily true.

Most of the harmful solvents evaporate as finishes cure, so are finishes really dangerous? Once they have cured completely, most should be safe -- but they may not be. To be on the safe side, you can use a finish approved for human consumption, like paraffin oil or cooking oils.

The ideal finish in my view would be to combine the penetration of an oil with the shine of a wax. One solution I read about is to make up your own mix using ten parts of paraffin oil to one part of paraffin wax. The easiest way to make up a mix is to half fill a coffee mug or similar sized container with paraffin oil (This can be bought at a pharmacy; it is sometimes used as a mild laxative, but hardware stores should have it.) then scrape shavings into the mug from a block of paraffin wax. You do not have to be exact; just keep to the rough proportions.

To dissolve the shavings, simply stand the mug in a pan of hot water. Just stay away from open flames -- paraffin is petroleum based and potentially flammable. In about fifteen minutes, the wax shavings should be dissolved and the finish ready to be applied. Wipe it on your cutting board after sanding with the grain to at least 240 grit. 320 grit would even be better. Next day, buff it to a sheen with a soft clean lint free cloth and your board will be ready for safe use.

## Safety Notes

By Warne Wilson and Dave Banister



This month we will touch on the duties of Shed Captain. While the Shed Captain has many duties and responsibilities, safety remains a primary concern. For the one morning each month he or she is rostered on, the Shed Captain must not engage in his or her own work and must be free to roam to keep an eye on machinery use and safety. There are many other duties including meet and greet of visitors to the Shed including a quick tour if deemed advantageous and arranging for new memberships. The Shed Captain will price purchases of timber and do his or her best to answer queries and decide on courses of action. The cash tin must be balanced at the end of the morning and members using machinery should be reminded to pay

before they leave. Of course all switches must be off and all buildings including the containers and the toilets closed and locked.

A note about the toilets: When the seat covers are left up, light on the water encourages an unsightly growth of algae. There are reminder signs on the walls.

One glaring problem we have is the untidy appearance of slabs and boards in the racks at the rear of the shed; this is also a safety matter because injuries have occurred in the handling of heavy slabs. This matter surfaces regularly at committee meetings, always sparking the same comments, "It is the Shed Captain's responsibility to tidy up the racks." While our wonderful milling crews ensure an abundant supply, and our

members continue to hunt through the racks in search of that perfect piece of timber or grain, without a thought of restoring the jumble left behind, the dogs breakfast will persist. Even if the Shed Captain rostered on for each of the six mornings we are open every week could pay a visit to the racks and tidy up one or two of them, this ongoing problem will be solved.

**Safety Incident:** An incident occurred recently when a small piece of wood was projected back from the Hammer saw. It struck a member in the leg who was standing directly in line but some distance away in the annex. Another reminder to everybody to avoid standing directly in line, and to any member using the saw to avoid standing directly behind the work.

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# WOODIES DEMO SCHEDULE 2015

## FEBRUARY

Saturday 14th	Update on safe use of sliding drop saw - 15 minutes	(John Holland)
Saturday 28th	Update on safe use of thicknessers – 15 minutes	(John Holland)

## MARCH

Afternoons	Rob Otto sessions on basic preparation of timber using table saw, thicknesser, jointer & creating a joint – 4 per session – maybe 4 sessions if required.	
Saturday 14th	Update on safe use of bandsaws – 15 minutes	(John Holland)
Saturday 28th	Demonstration on types of glue, how to glue, how to join the ends on window frames etc.	(John Muller)

## APRIL

Saturday 11th	Demonstration on hollow turning by Ken Reays.	
Saturday 18th	Demonstration on sharpening wood chisels	(John Holland)

An article from Mother Earth News may be helpful to anyone contemplating use of Wood Shavings and Sawdust as mulch.



By providing food for fungi, wood mulch builds garden soil by increasing levels of organic matter in your garden beds.

ILLUSTRATION: ELAYNE SEARS

Most organic gardeners find that following nature's patterns serves them well. When it comes to building richer soil, nature's plan relies heavily on trees — fallen limbs, leaves, cones, seeds and, eventually, the massive trunks. Adapting this plan for building garden soil by using a wood mulch — such as wood chips, sawdust or other woody residues — is a strategy that promises huge, long-term returns.

Field studies dating back to the 1950s — and as recent as this year — suggest that a high-fiber diet of woody materials is exactly what many soils need. Rotted bits of wood persist as organic matter for a long time, enhancing the soil's ability to retain nutrients and moisture, which results in bigger, better crops.

But wait: Woody materials are high in carbon and cellulose, so they need nitrogen and time in order to decompose. If you ignore these facts by mixing fresh sawdust or wood chips directly into your soil, the materials will bind up much of the soil's nitrogen and render the spot useless for gardening for a season or two.

The outcome changes, however, if you add nitrogen or time. For example, when researchers planted a new organic apple orchard in northern Maine in 2005, fresh wood chips combined with blood meal (a very high-nitrogen organic material with a typical analysis of 12-0-0)

and tilled into the top layer of the soil — plus a surface mulch of wood chips — proved better than three other treatments at promoting rapid tree growth. And, in less than two years, the organic matter content in the chip-amended plots went from near zero to 2 to 3 percent.

Sawdust has much more exposed surface area than wood chips do, so incorporating fresh sawdust into soil is not a good idea chemically (because of nitrogen tie-up) or physically (the mixture won't hold water worth a flip). But sawdust makes a spectacular mulch for perennial crops. As long as you scatter a bit of organic fertilizer, poultry manure, or other nitrogen source over the surface each time you throw on a fresh layer, sawdust makes unsurpassed mulch for blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries, and it can work well with asparagus, too.

Garden paths paved with sawdust-covered newspapers feel like carpet underfoot. After it has rotted, sawdust contributes mightily to soil's texture, because the spongy tidbits persist in the soil for a long time. The concern that woody amendments acidify soil is a myth. Only in the early stages of decomposition is there a fast flush of acids, when cellulose fibers begin to degrade. Long-term studies of the effects of wood chips and sawdust in soil actually show a slight rise in soil pH, which is good news for most crops in most gardens. (The lower the pH, the more acidic the soil.)




## Maintenance Report

by Brian Harris

- 14/1 Bobbin Sander - New centre drive shaft fitted as the previous one had been damaged beyond repair by a misunderstanding of the words 'LEFT HAND THREAD' when trying to remove bobbins.

Jointer - All 32 cutting edges will be rotated to give a much cleaner cut, this will mean the machine will be out of action on **Wednesday 21st Jan.**

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



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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 Barranger	
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 Barranger	
Timber Management	John Holland, Frank McDonald, Ron Donald, Phil Gibson	

### Shed Captain Roster - February 2015

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
2	Brian Harris	3	George Blowers	4	Hugh McKenna	5	Ted Martin	6	Frank McDonald	7	Keith Muirhead
9	John Muller	10	Tom Black	11	Rob Otto	12	Ray Bryant	13	George Blowers	14	Graham Bradford
16	Dave Banister	17	Bruce Chapman	18	Leigh Boynton	19	John Drewe	20	John Muller	21	Warne Wilson
23	Lionel Tilley	24	Frank McDonald	25	John Close	26	John Holland	27	Frank McDonald	28	John Clarke

### Shed Captain Roster - March 2015

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
2	Brian Harris	3	George Blowers	4	Max Barranger	5	Ted Martin	6	George Blowers	7	Keith Muirhead
9	John Muller	10	Tom Black	11	Hugh McKenna	12	Ray Bryant	13	John Muller	14	Graham Bradford
16	Dave Banister	17	Bruce Chapman	18	Rob Otto	19	John Drewe	20	Frank McDonald	21	Warne Wilson
23	Lionel Tilley	24	Frank McDonald	25	Leigh Boynton	26	John Holland	27	George Blowers	28	John Clarke
30	Brian Harris	31	George Blowers								