



## Presidents Report

To all members of the BRWG.

At this Annual General Meeting (AGM), I will have reached the end of three one year terms as President. I want to congratulate the new Management Committee on their election and say to them, whilst their roles bring responsibilities, it is a lot of fun and very rewarding to be able to serve such a great organisation and membership. Enjoy.

Over the last three years, in the role of President, the support afforded me by the other members of the Committee and the management team has been outstanding; more than I could have hoped for. Thank you all.

Now down to business!

### THE NEW SHED:

I know you are all probably sick of me banging on in each of my reports about "the new shed" so please bear with me for one last time.

The achievement in getting this facility should not be underestimated. As with the building of the first workshop to allow the Club to move from Western Av., both were Club efforts of huge proportions and to all those who worked tirelessly on this latest project, I find it difficult to express my gratitude to all involved. It was a great effort! THANK YOU ALL!

But wait, there is more. The project is not quite finished with three tidying up jobs to be done:

1) Fitting of three roof ventilators. The fact that we were not able to insulate the underside of the roof means when there is high humidity, inside the shed is like being in a rain forest in summer, due to the heavy condensation. Roof ventilators to fix this problem are in the shed waiting for fitting.

Do we have any competent roofers in the Club?

2) Brackets for an awning over the front doors are in place awaiting sheeting and flashing. A job to be done before the wet season.

3) The front doors supplied with the Army kit are not water-proof as they were never designed to be. Our expert EBay bargain hunter, VP Greg, picked up a pair of aluminium doors, waiting to be fitted. Again, a job to be attacked prior to the wet season.

We did apply for a grant to build an outdoor covered area but missed out. This is a project the new Committee may wish to pursue.

Of course there is the new garden; a work in progress thanks to Ron Fishwick.

## **2017 - 18:**

Apart from the new facilities offered by building the new shed, other benefits for members have been achieved. By relieving space in the existing workshop, additional workbenches were made and the complete reorganisation of the lathe area became possible. The purchase of four new lathes and the new turning footprint have made for a much safer work environment with a choice of lathe configurations to suit all projects; well, nearly all.

Thanks go to Greg, Terry, Robert, Dick, Ted and the rest of the crew involved in this improvement. Thanks Greg for all the research into the turbo charged extractor system and its installation, which has relieved the main dust extraction system, making it more effective.

Whilst it is not yet delivered, we have at last purchased a defibrillator, an asset which a Club like ours should have. This has been paid for by the IGA's CBC and the revenue from our school oval car parking. Let's just hope it sits on the shelf and is never needed.

Our footprint for the lease with the MVA was amended to include the site of the third tennis court and the old tennis club building. We are utilising this building as an office while it is still for all purposes known as the "Tennis Club" for MVA strategic reasons. As a condition of our lease renegotiated in 2014, the BRWG will maintain two members on the MVA Sports Ground Committee. This is very important to the Club moving into the future in light of past experiences with the MVA and I would recommend that future Management Committees positively engage with MVA Management in this way.

Our involvement in community projects this past year has perhaps fallen in comparison with previous years, mainly due to the huge effort by members on the construction of the new shed.

Our involvement in the Barung Maleny Wood Expo with the introduction of the children's workshop has paid off handsomely with the organisers gifting us a five metre space in the main pavilion in addition to our paid site in the cow pavilion. We can look forward to making better use of that free site next year with more displays and maybe more sales.

## **FINANCES:**

As I pointed out in my President's Report in the May Flitch & Chips, all organisations need money to lubricate the wheels of the organisation and Club endeavours. I would also point out here in this, my final report as President that organisations such as the BRWG raise funds for the benefit of its members and the Management Committee has applied that principle. Large sums of money sitting in bank accounts may be satisfying and comforting for Management Committees but do not always serve the members.

With the construction of the John Henderson building, bringing into our books a new substantial asset, a lot of which was financed by grants and donations, it was considered prudent to take that extra value into the accounts with a revaluation. Funds expended on this project are as follows:

BRWG Funds	\$24,137.00
Grants	\$30,000.00
Revaluation.	\$36,537.87
Total value of building	\$90,674.87

*\* This value was calculated using the first quotations from Just Sheds as a contractor to do the whole structure.*

An audit of the assets and depreciation schedule was undertaken and it was evident this needed to be updated. All disposed of and sold assets have been deleted and three plant and equipment schedules have been consolidated into one.

On checking the schedule, it was noted there was a single entry of \$42,932 dating back to 2003 for several items which had never been depreciated. A list of these items has now been made, and the obsolete and sold items deleted. To bring the true value of these items into the balance sheet, there has been a substantial amount of depreciation accounted for in this year's profit and loss account. This is reflected in the profit and loss expenditure which shows a depreciation for this year at \$33,523 compared to last year when it was reported as \$4,014.

It was also noted in our audit that a revaluation of plant and equipment of \$17,995 dating back to 2006 was made and this has been reversed in this year's financial accounts.

A loss of scrapped assets of \$17,703.91 has also been accounted for.

Finally, it was deemed by the Management Committee to have an updated, true and correct record of assets for future accounting. A paper trail of all the above has been maintained.

### **TIMBER:**

During the past year, our timber stocks have grown and there is ample supply of sawn wood thanks to the milling crew. They have adopted a cutting pattern which is yielding excellent recovery and well sawn boards. They have also been cutting turning blanks which are all waiting to be used.

### **THE FUTURE:**

As with any organisation such as the BRWG, members needs should prevail in all future management decisions and there will always be something to be built, replaced or purchased to make the workings of the association benefit all members. Financial decisions should always be approached with fiscal responsibility to benefit members. We had a vision in 2015 to extend the workshop facilities and improve the existing workshop amenities; three years later, I would like to think that vision has come to fruition.

For the future, I would encourage the incoming Management Committee to review the long term plan defined by members in that general meeting in September 2015. It is not a document written in stone, more so a basis for the future.

### **CONCLUSION:**

I know this is a wordy report and for that I apologise. There is a lot of ground to cover after three years.

The BRWG is a wonderful organisation with facilities the envy of some other clubs. It is the membership which is so inspiring with characters from all walks of life coming together with one common interest; woodcraft. It is an organization that I am proud to be a part of and willingly want to continue to be involved in.

The Management Committees I have worked with have been sensational and I wish to thank them sincerely for their support over the last three years.

Congratulations to the incoming Committee; I am confident you will find the positions you are embarking on to be rewarding and fulfilling, while sometimes frustrating. No, only kidding!

Enjoy!

John Muller President

## Maintenance Report by Terry O'Connor



1. Micheal Brosnan put his clever laser cutter to good use by making a new off switch out of durable plastic for the Hammer Table Saw. Thanks Micheal for you donation .
2. The new Jessum Router has been installed and is working well.
3. Both the Carbatec and Hammer Jointers needed recalibration following the fitting of new spiral cutters and are once again accurately machining a strait edge on boards.
- 4.The intermittent problem of the Woodman Table Saw mysteriously cutting out proved to be loose wires in the electrical cord connection and it is now repaired and back in service.
- 5.The sliding table on the Hammer Saw was very stiff in its operation, and required a major overhaul to clean and lubricate the bearings.Thank you Micheal for your fine work in fixing this important piece of machinery .
- 6.Two of the ceiling mounted dust filtering machines have been cleaned and serviced. The remaining third unit will be done as soon as possible.
7. The Bosch mitre saw has been serviced and is again available for service as needed.
8. The Laguna bandsaw is currently out of operation as new bearing guides are manufactured to replace the original ceramic guides.

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### **Safer Wood Machining - Australian Wood Review**

17 July 2018

**Words and photos: Philip Ashley**

I have delivered machine safety training in Trade Colleges for over 35 years. I have been an 'expert' consultant to WorkCover (Victoria) in several workplace prosecutions and was a member of the Australian Standards committee for woodworking machine guarding. It's fair to say that I know a little about machine safety and I would like to share some of that with you in this article. This is not just another safety commentary about machine settings; it's about how you can take some extra steps to ensure your woodworking remains safe and enjoyable for life.

Now I have to confess that I've received a few stitches from workplace accidents and I am ready to admit that in certain situations things happen that you have no control over. Notwithstanding this, there are steps you can take to minimise these events. My three serious incidents requiring medical attention all occurred during my apprenticeship when I was learning the trade and when I think back I can honestly say that on each occasion I could have prevented the injury by thinking about the situation more thoroughly.

Before you start any machine, stop and think about what you are going to do, where your hands will be and if you have done everything you can to make the job safe.

To give you an idea of the simple things that can cause an accident, here are my mistakes. On one occasion I was tightening a cutter with a loose spanner. The spanner slipped, causing my hand to run down the length of the 12" cutter blade.

On another I cut towards myself with a box cutter and sliced my left hand so badly that I could touch the back of my hand with my thumb.

On the third occasion I was setting up a multi-spindle moulding machine while someone else was setting another cutter head. This machine (illegal now) had only one motor that drove all the cutter heads. When the other person rotated his cutter, mine rotated too and my finger was crushed between the blade and a guide-post.

I consider that each accident was my own fault because with a little thought I should have seen what was coming and changed the outcome.

Experience has taught me to set up the job, then stop and think about how I'm going to physically do the work. Have I forgotten something? Are all the guards in place and set correctly? Am I using the correct tool? How am I going to hold the wood?

A ten second pause at this stage can save a lot of pain and would have prevented all three of my 'accidents'. People tend to develop habits like that golf swing you need to change but can't because you've always swung it that way. If you don't do it right from the start it's very hard to change later on.

Have you had professional machine safety training? If not, how do you know you are working safely? Remember the saying: 'you don't know what you don't know'. Assuming your machines are in good condition and well maintained, that your cutters and saws are sharp and you know how to set the guards properly, the rest of your attention should be on your hands and fingers. Accidents happen when your hands are in the wrong place so let's look at some ways to keep them away from the sharp bits and in one piece. No one machine is safer than the next so we'll look at several common ones to set the scene for what we should be looking out for.



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## Surface planer



*1. Keep fingers 100mm from the end of the board and your hands on the wood at all times.* The rotating cutter head is the area you will pay most attention to. A straight edge is achieved when your timber is held down onto the rear table as it comes off the cutter.



*2. Get your hands onto the rear table as soon as possible.* The rear table is also the best place to have your hands so get them there as soon as possible. There is no need to press down hard on the front table because it contributes nothing to a good result.





*3. Hold the board against the fence with your fingertips so you can keep an eye on them.*

You only need light pressure so why not use a push block . Get your left hand onto the rear table as soon as possible. Once your hands are past the cutter the risk of an injury is significantly reduced. Hands tend to slip forward when feeding wood so keep your fingers at least 100mm from the front and back of the board and take light cuts.



*4. Having a finger on the wood when using a push block provides some feel.*

When shooting the edge of a board you won't need much pressure at all because the edge being cut is very narrow.

Placing your hands flat against the face of the board and pressing it onto the fence will not allow you to see all of your fingers. You only need your fingertips to keep the wood against the fence and doing this enables you to see all of them so you won't be cutting any off .



*5. Following the board with a thumb is never a good idea.*

Your right hand should be on top of the piece and never, ever have a finger or thumb pushing from the back of the board . This is a habit that's very hard to break and one day the wood and your overhanging finger will be about the same size and guess what happens then? If your planer has a mutton guard it should spring back to always cover the cutters. If you have the more common bridge guard you must adjust it manually so the cutters are always covered; the only exception being when you are shooting an edge.

## **Sawbench**

Whatever saw bench you use, the safety principles will remain the same. The tips of a saw blade travel at over 200kms depending on the size and RPM of the blade. This means that if your wood jams against the side of the blade it could potentially be thrown back at you at this speed. I have seen a stick of wood ejected back and go through a brick wall! If you are standing behind the wood when this happens, your groin area is going to take quite a wallop!



*6. Set the short fence to the depth of the gullets.*

If there is tension in the wood and you cut it with a saw blade the wood may either spring out, away from the blade, or spring in onto the blade. If it springs onto the blade the riving knife (splitter) should keep the wood off the blade. Either way the wood will be jammed between the saw blade and the fence. This is particularly dangerous on a panel saw where the rip fence is usually long and extends past the rear of the blade. But you should be able to find a shorter fence amongst the bits and pieces that came with the machine and this can be set so the end of the fence extends just to the depth of the gullets. Any bow will have room to move as shown in the photo below.



*7. When cut, the wood is not jammed between the blade and the fence.*



## Shaper and router



*8. Keep fingers well away from cutters.*

The shaper is possibly the most deadly of all woodworking machines because of its potential to do short, narrow and curved work that's difficult to hold safely. A detailed account of shaper safety cannot be covered here but suffice it to say that your hands should never be closer than 100mm to the cutter on any woodworking machine.



*9. A simple guard keeps hands away.*

*Here especially, you should stop and consider what's going to happen if the cutter gets hold of the wood and throws it out of the machine...and you have all your weight pressing the wood against the cutters. When the wood is gone, there's nothing between you and a certain serious injury.*



#### *10. Easy to make comb guards.*

Complex jigs are used in industry to prevent accidents but most serious furniture makers now use CNC machines on these small complex pieces. These photos show two simple ways you can keep your hands away from the shaping (router) cutter when doing straight mouldings.

### **Bandsaw**



#### *11. Keep hands away from the line of cut.*



This machine is responsible for far more accidents than you would think, mostly because the guidepost and guard were set too high. If you can get a finger between the top of the wood and the guidepost, it's too high. Another problem with this machine is that the position of the cut is constantly changing in relationship to your hands. It's for this reason that you should never have your hands on the line of the cut and this applies to any sawing machine.



*12. Keep guidepost as low as possible and your hands clear of the line of cut.*

As with the surface planing machine, once your hands are past the cutter (in this case the blade) it will be infinitely safer. Practice moving your hands behind the blade about half way along the cut and pulling the work through rather than pushing. With the guide post almost sitting on top of the work, the only way you're going to hurt yourself is if your finger is at the end of the cut and right on the cut line.

There are other things that can make your work unsafe, especially on machines. If you are working alone, does someone know you are in your workshop? Do you have an intercom with the house? How is your stress level? If you're working long hours or have a heavy workload you may not be concentrating as much as you should. Do you take regular breaks? Schedule your most demanding tasks early in the morning when your concentration is at its highest level. Need I mention not to drink alcohol while working machinery.

Check the lighting and dust extraction to make sure they are adequate for the work you are doing. Have you enough room around the machine to work safely without bumping into other equipment. Many machines can be fitted with extension tables and these help you to work safer. Make sure your floors are in good order and of course keep the place neat and tidy. I've still got ten fingers and with a little planning and thought, you can keep yours as well.

## 12-Point Checklist

- 1 Arrange your work area so everything is within easy reach.
- 2 Use mechanical aids if possible.
- 3 Remove setting tools from the machine before turning on the power.
- 4 Ensure cutters and blades are sharp to cut freely, not forced.
- 5 Isolate the power supply before changing, cleaning, or adjusting a machine.
- 6 Use jigs if possible to keep hands safe.
- 7 Use a push stick or block to push material into the cutting area.
- 8 Keep hands out of the line of the cutting blade.
- 9 Clamp down and secure all workpieces when drilling.
- 10 Wear protective equipment to suit the task.
- 11 Avoid awkward operations and hand positions.
- 12 Wear close fitting clothes and remove loose jewellery.



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## Tips and Tricks

by Warne Wilson



Need to evenly divide a board in half? or into thirds? fourths? But the board width is an odd dimension and you don't want to do the math? Then angle the tape measure until it measures an easy to divide number. In the picture, the board measured 5.25" wide. To divide it in half, angle the tape measure until it measures 6" and then mark the 3" line. Likewise, to divide it into thirds, measure every 2." This, of course, works with millimetres too!



Faced with a problem one of the girls had with joining an unusual combination of boards to make an arrow shape recently, I thought of the Kreg Jig. What's that? Was the question, leading to my call to the shed "Does anyone know where the Kreg Jig is??" A couple of the oldies knew and pointed to an overhead cupboard, and there it was – out of kilter and unloved, screws which should allow movement jammed up tight, the square drive screw driver missing; it had been misused and was in a sorry state. We found the driver and located a plentiful supply of square drive screws under the sign-in desk. I used it to drill the pocket holes, and with glue on the contact faces (not really necessary with pocket holes) the screws went in so tightly we had glue squeeze out at the joints. If you want to learn the tricks that can help you, ask an oldie to show you how to use the Kreg Jig; one of the most forgotten and most useful tools in the shed.

If you want to get a Kreg Jig for yourself (you would not regret it!) just click to one of the major woodies suppliers; there is a great range of Kreg Jigs on the market. Just give me a call if you want advice, but my favourite and the cheapest is the original little hand held one – just clamp it on and you are in business!



## Around the Shed



Dave with one of the staff at Eden Rehabilitation Hospital, Cooroy who was very grateful for the items made by Dave and others.

### One of Philippa's lovely puzzles



We have just completed our first beginners course, which covered basics of how a tree develops and how that relates to the timber we use, selecting a piece of timber for your project, then using the surface planer, many of the seven types of saw we have in the shed, the thicknesser, and finishing with the Festool domino to join the boards we had dimensioned, and putting a round over on the joined boards. I had anticipated it should take three hours, but we clocked up over seven hours and were still talking. Would the beginners like a section in Flitch & Chips dedicated to issues you want discussed, which you provide each month ? If so, let me know.



Timberbits is a Sydney based supplier of specialised wood working equipment. A 10% discount is offered for purchases made for the club itself and members receive a 5% discount. However the discount does not include Festool, Fein/Multimaster, Hamlet or Vicmarc products. They ask that we nominate one person to deal with, and that orders be placed by email or by phone.

Keith Muirhead, Purchasing Officer, has been nominated to be the contact, and an account is being established, so contact Keith if you want something. Timberbits has a good website and if you are looking for specialised items which your local hardware does not carry, give them a go.

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This month has seen the Guild and members support the Buy a Bale charity to help farmers who are struggling with drought, which in some areas is the worst experienced since 1902. So if you have not yet donated to the cause, please do so, at the shed, and show the donation on the Day Sheet, or by EFT to the Guild bank account. The photo typifies the Aussie spirit.







A lovely piece for Selangor Rehab Hospital, with timber work by Hamish, and scroll saw work by Max.



Now there is a lesson in that for everyone; ALWAYS read your emails. I imagine the Nigerian Government now has the \$27 billion so it may be too late this time.

The Wildlife HQ Zoo Gala was a hugely successful night and auction, raising funds for their animal welfare projects. They have expressed their thanks for the support provided by Guild members who donated items for sale; and we thank you as well.

## Timber Tales by Bruce Chapman

The kiln has been emptied, the timber has been rested and distributed into the racks. Stocks of camphor laurel are now available. This should continue with camphor being available with each load for quite some time.

Quandong and some Jacaranda have also been added to the the racks. The new timber in the kiln consists of camphor, silky and some fiddle wood.

For the carvers, I have brought up some air dried basswood from down the back corner which is in the racks at the far end. There are some 30mm boards and three 50mm slabs.

At the mill we have started cutting into the big stack of camphor but have had a few new logs added. We have a good beech log and a very good silver ash log along with some smaller logs of silver ash.



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## Did you know ????

1. Australia is as wide as the distance between London to Moscow.
2. The biggest property in Australia is bigger than Belgium.
3. More than 85% of Australians live within 50km of the coast.
4. In 1880, Melbourne was the richest city in the world.
5. Gina Reinhart, Australia's richest woman, earns \$1 million every half hour, or \$598 every second.
6. In 1892, a group of 200 Australians unhappy with the government tried to start an offshoot colony in Paraguay to be called 'NewAustralia'.

## Innovation Corner

In May I got to spend two weeks working with Chris Williams, a Welsh chair maker. While Chris was teaching a class in building his Welsh Stick Chair I spied his cabinet scraper on the bench.

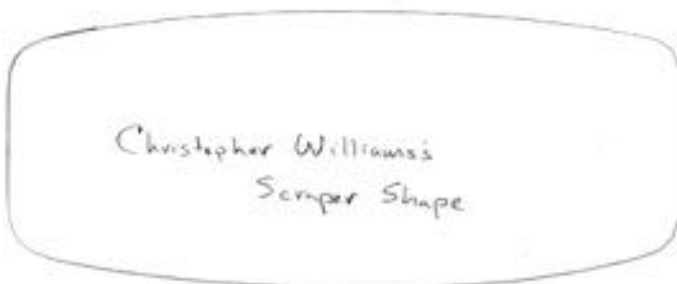
It was thick like mine (I prefer thicker cabinet scrapers so they can actually level a surface). But what was unusual was its overall shape – two broad curves with rounded corners. I've long experimented with different shapes of cabinet scrapers, but I'd never seen this particular shape before.

After watching Chris use it for a few minutes while cleaning up a seat, I asked permission to trace the shape and immediately ground one of my scrapers to that shape.

For almost two months I've been using this shape and have found it to be superior in every single way to a traditional rectangle. You have to do a lot less bending of the tool to get the scraper into small (or deep) hollows in a chair seat. Yet the thing works just as well on the flat faces and edges of boards.

I have yet to find a time when I would prefer the rectangular tool. I encourage you to give it a try. The image below is the shape I traced from Chris Williams's scraper. Print it out at 100 percent and stick it to one of your old scrapers (or make a template and trace around it). Then take the scraper to the grinder and grind the tool to shape. If it gets hot to the touch, cool it in a bucket of water to prevent it from overheating and becoming soft. Then stone and burnish the tool like you would normally. Give it a try. If you like it, you can thank the Welsh for one more contribution to society.

— Christopher Schwarz - Popular Woodworking 5 July 2018



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## Who's Who in BRWG Inc. 2017 - 18

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