



Flitch 'n Chips

Issue No. 265

July 2019



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi everyone.

Well, it's great to go on holidays, but it's always good to come home. That last leg of the flight from Dubai is just a bit too long.

While I was away, the club Expo and woodworking contest was held, and by all reports, it was most successful, with over forty entries in the contest. The quality of the wood work seems to be continually improving, which is a credit to the training officers and the members.

Next Tuesday (23rd) will be a sharpening demonstration by Carbatec which will be mainly for the sharpening of turning tools. We hope to be able to get the sharpening group up and running by the end of August.

The Introduction to Shed Captains Course will take place next Friday 26th July. All members are welcome to attend and be informed about what is involved in being a shed captain. The role of shed captain is a vital part of the club and the more members who are prepared to take on this position, the less onerous it is for the other shed captains and the more all members will learn about machinery and the workings of the club.

The club's financial records are currently with the auditor, and if the auditor's report is back in time, the next meeting on 17th August will be the Annual General Meeting. Members who have suggestions or items to be raised at the AGM should notify the secretary, so they may be included in the agenda. A reminder to all members that any correspondence to or from the club regarding club business of any nature should always go through the secretary and not be handled by individual members.

This has been an extremely busy year for the Management Committee and many of our goals have been achieved. These include the following.

- The club now has management committee insurance.
- All members are now completely covered with insurance while attending the club and on the way to and from the club. Also, members are covered while away on club business.
- The club now complies with the insurance sub-clauses and regulations.
- We have proactive safety officers.
- There is active female membership.
- The club has maintained high membership numbers.
- Working areas are now cleaner and safer.

- There is up to date equipment.
- Training and accreditation courses have increased in number and quality.
- Planning is in place for costed and well-organised projects.
- We are in the process of designing a monthly calendar to distribute courses and projects more evenly.

We had planned this year to establish a formal budget but because of the change in treasurer this had to be postponed.

We have also been able to maintain the club's finances in a positive state, with the balance a little higher than at the beginning of the term of office of this Management Committee.

Our good wishes to those members not feeling the best. I hope that you're back making sawdust sometime soon.

Rob Otto
President

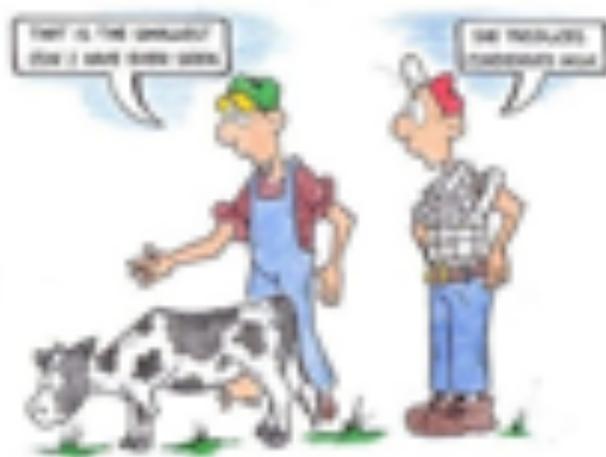
Maintenance Report *by Terry O'Connor*



Terry has taken a hit with the nasty bugs which have been floating around, which is why you have not seen him as frequently at the shed. We trust you are on the mend Terry and look forward to seeing you again in the near future.

There is not much to report this month. One incident could have resulted in injury and damage to equipment, however fortunately both were averted. The riving knife on the Woodman table saw is secured by two bolts, which are removed to facilitate changing off the blade. It seems the bolts were not tightened after being removed, and one bolt came away, allowing the riving knife to impact the blade.

This incident highlights the need for absolute concentration when performing such tasks, followed by a revision procedure to ensure that all steps have been executed appropriately.



Tips and Tricks



In the interests of freedom of the press, and narrowly avoiding a visit by the Australian Federal Police, following is an opposing view by John Muller to one expressed in the June edition of Fitch & Chips. There is always more than one side to a story !

For the ardent readers of wood magazines, you may notice there are occasions when a letter to the editor takes to task an article which appeared in a previous edition. Well, I cannot remain silent about the article in the last Fitch & Chips by Bob Flexner of Popular Woodworking. I disagree wholeheartedly.

Having participated in the fashionable trend of laminated timber bench tops for kitchen cupboards from the late 80' to mid 90's, there would not be one manufacturer who would have warranted their product if both sides were not sealed, and indeed, they would walk away from a complaint if the cabinet-maker did not seal the sink/hotplate cut-out. It is that important and all their instructions stressed that requirement.

Why?

Timber is hygroscopic and will always move with variations in the Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC) which is really governed by the moisture laden in the air or lack of it. That varies from season to season so in our dry winters (but not this one), the moisture is dragged out of the wood and in our usually hot moist summers, it goes back in and of course this creates shrinking and swelling in the wood fibres, thus movement. Some species are worse than others.

And yes, our modern lacquers, polyurethanes etc do not stop ingress of moisture; it merely slows it down.

If as is suggested that it makes no difference to seal only one side, and you only seal the top, leaving the underside raw, then the intake and loss of moisture into and out of the wood fibre will be uneven. The swelling or shrinking will be different on both sides. Something is bound to give. Cupping will generally occur unless the board is extremely well restrained, which is another topic entirely.

As an example of what to do if movement is to be restricted, the kitchen-top industry I mentioned specified only two-pack polyurethane finishes to be used. This product, which has a "dirty" name now for health reasons, was the only product which worked.

I would like to finish with advice that I have learnt whilst a member of the Woodies, actually from our Master Carver and that is simply,

THE UNDERSIDE SHOULD BE AS GOOD AS THE TOP!

Thanks Dave.

If you watch people at the Expo, they will generally feel and look under, if possible, so the underside should be finished if only for the sake of producing a good quality product.

John Muller

Thanks to Wood Magazine for the following article :

5 Problem-solving hand tools every woodworker should own and use religiously.

Not every woodworking task calls for a tool with a plug or a battery. Sometimes, the best tool for a job is powered by your own two hands.

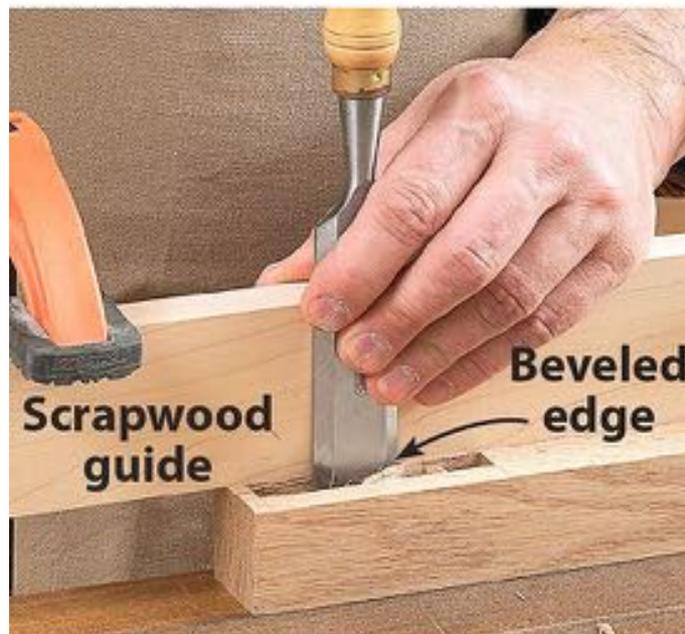
Peek inside the WOOD® magazine workshop and you'll see nearly every stationary and hand-held power tool imaginable. But open the drawers nearest our workbenches, and you'll find them filled with well-used hand tools ranging from utility knives to block planes. That's because even the greatest assortment of the best power equipment can't handle every woodworking task.

A simple card scraper, for example, has no speed adjustment, no accessories or attachments, and barely even an instruction manual. But it can peel off an old finish faster and cleaner than a random-orbit sander, and leaves an almost-burnished smooth surface when used on bare wood.

Some of these hand tools require a bit of skill and practice, but most produce excellent results right off the bat. All of them deserve drawer space near your workbench.

Bench chisels

Like a trusty pocket knife, you'll reach for a sharp chisel to help with a host of odd jobs. Ours get a regular workout smoothing the walls of mortises roughed out on a drill press. For this task, you'll want a chisel at least 1" wide to pare the walls, as shown *below*, and a 1/4 " or 3/8 " chisel (or the nearest metric equivalent) for the ends. We prefer chisels with beveled edges, which can reach into tight corners or between hand-cut dovetails.



Chisels flatten the walls and square the rounded corners on this drilled mortise. A guide clamped to the workpiece keeps the chisel at a 90 degree angle.

Other uses: Keep a set handy to tweak the fit of all kinds of joints, not just mortise-and-tenons. We also use bench chisels for everything from trimming off tiny bits of glue squeeze-out, to squaring router-rabbeted corners on the backs of frames, to shaving finish flaws from flat faces.

Success secret: Tougher steel generally costs more money. So buy the best quality you can afford, even if that means settling for the smallest available set or buying individual chisels as needed. Then learn how to hone a razor's edge on them. To see a free video explaining a no-fuss sharpening technique, visit woodmagazine.com/sharpeningvid.

Contour sanding grips

Look around your shop long enough, and you may eventually find some object the right size and shape to use as a temporary backer for sanding a profile. Instead, skip the search, and get a set of these pliable grips. Their varied contours sand everything from crown moulding contours to 1/8 " round-overs without altering the profile. A full set includes angled, concave, and rounded shapes.



Foam sanding pads work well on broad curves, but contour sanding grips reach into and around tight curves and V-grooves.

Other uses: Use the narrow handle to reach deep into grooves. Or flex the handle against a gentle concave profile in place of a foam sanding pad.

Success secret: The small sanding surface area wears quickly, so frequently rewrap the grip with fresh abrasive. Small sanding tools have a way of disappearing; keep them organised in a kerfed scrap block, as shown *above*.

Card Scrapers

Because it takes off so little wood, card scrapers smooth wildly figured woods without tear-out. On straight-grained wood, they also can eliminate at least one of the coarser sandpaper grits needed to remove tool marks. Use curved or goose-neck scrapers to shear tool marks off gently rounded profiles.

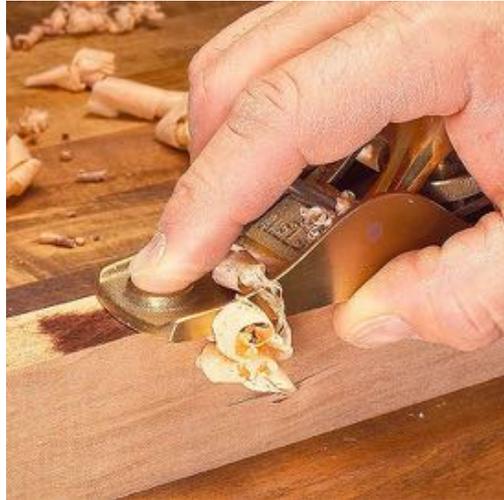


Other uses: Try removing a defective or damaged clear finish by sanding it away, and you'll quickly discover "cornering." That's when finish turns into hard globs that clog sandpaper and mar a surface. A card scraper quickly peels off film finishes -- including polyurethane, which resists abrasion, as shown above. If necessary, follow up by finish-sanding at 180 or 220 grit, and you're ready to refinish the surface.

Success secret: Card scrapers work by planing wisps of wood (or finish) using a tiny hook along the edge. To get a hook that's just right, see a free video at woodmagazine.com/cardscraper.

Low-angle block plane

You'd need a stack of sandpaper to produce the smooth surfaces left by a few strokes from a well-honed block plane. Keep a sharpened one handy to perfect mating faces before edge-gluing joints.



With the blade set to remove shavings less than paper thin, a basic block plane peels away burn marks in a couple strokes.

Other uses: Try a low-angle block plane to cleanly trim proud end grain from a butted corner joint or through-dovetail joint. Unlike sandpaper, a block plane removes an even amount of wood when chamfering a sharp edge.

Success secret: Tune up any new plane by first flattening the sole using 180-, 220-, 320-, and 600-grit wet/dry abrasive sheets lubricated with WD-40 on a piece of plate glass. Rub the sole back and forth, rotating it end for end periodically, until it's uniformly shiny. Then hone the blade using tips from the sharpening video mentioned earlier. Keep it sharp by storing the plane immediately after use.

Flush-trim/dovetail saw

With no tooth set, these saws help you trim plugs or dowels flush without scarring the surrounding wood. As an added precaution in soft woods, such as pine, first push the exposed plug through a hole in a worn-out sanding disc, as shown at right. Then sand flat the remaining nub.



A disc placed abrasive-side down around the plug prevents minor saw tooth scratches should you accidentally pivot the blade.

Other uses: At least one saw (see **Sources**, below) includes two interchangeable blades -- one for flush-trimming, and the other with a rigid back for making super-thin kerfs for hand-cut joints, such as dovetails. **Success secret:** For flush-cutting, flex the saw body to keep it pressed firmly against the wood surface, and cut on the pull stroke. Don't rotate the saw handle in a way that angles the teeth enough to dig into the surface.

Around the Shed



As Rob indicated, the Annual Competition and Sales Expo went very well, particularly given the terrible weather on Saturday, which was our best day by far. Sales were up slightly on last year, which is a great effort given even our local butcher is saying people are spending less on food, always considered a must. It is noteworthy that 18 members offered some 760 items for sale however before mandatory entry was introduced by the Co-ordinator (in the absence of the relevant members), there were 36 competition entries. Appropriate items were then selected from the sales tables and entered in the competition (with great results for those entries).

The independent judges were complimentary of the overall standard of entries, with one saying the standard had improved considerably since he last judged the competition two years ago. So congratulations to all those who entered, and those who won their categories, and in particular Greg Hiley for his lovely table which won his category and Guild Champion.

Two judges travelled from Maryborough and sat in the freezing cold hall very carefully judging every item, and diligently preparing the judging sheets, which the members were most appreciative of. We thank Trevor and Greg most sincerely for their efforts.

There has been some confusion as to who was eligible to enter, with documentation referring to those who have been members for more than two years not being able to enter the novice class. The entry criteria is now being reviewed by the Management Committee.

This year we enlisted the assistance of a renowned Interior Designer to provide advice regarding the table dressing and layout. Many thanks to Monita as there were great compliments concerning the overall presentation.

A very big thank you to Philippa who selected and bought the fabric for the table covers, and then sewed countless metres ably assisted by Julie and Glenys to give us the very smart look achieved.

As with previous Expos at the School, the hall fulfilled the purpose exceedingly well, and we thank Head Master Adam and his staff for the use of the hall, and the assistance throughout. Community spirit at its best.

John Muller and Ron Fishwick milled timber for sale, which was a huge hit, and mostly sold out by mid afternoon on Saturday. Thanks to John and Ron for their efforts, and next time we will have more, and perhaps even a little bit more commercial in price as visitors recognised the value it represented.



Club Events Calendar from Rick Vickers



Robert Sorby Pro-edge sharpening display	10 am Tuesday 23 July 2019
Shed captains refresher course	12 md Friday 26 July 2019
Cooroora inter-club competition	20 / 21 September, 2019
Christmas lunch	11.30 am Saturday 30 November, 2019

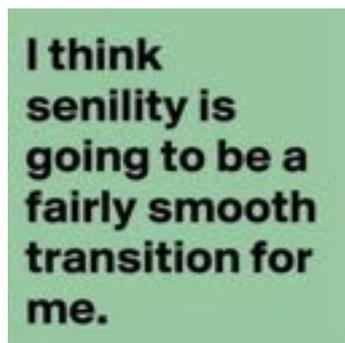
Members have been circulated to ascertain the level of interest in a wood turning demonstration by The Travelling Woodturner, Pat Johnson. He is offering a half day, full day or two day course. If you are interested, please let me know.



Timber Tales by Bruce Chapman

The kiln has been cycled last week. Silky oak and camphor has ben stacked on the floor to stabilise. There are a lot of goods boards with good colour in the camphor. The next load is also silky and camphor. Turning blanks which have been drying outside for 2 years have been loaded to complete the drying. No new logs have been added to the cutting queue.

As the term of the current Management Committee draws to a close, on behalf of all Management Committee members, I would like to say what a great pleasure it has been working with the Timber Crew who are without doubt the quiet achievers of the Guild, undertaking a demanding physical job with nary a whimper. Well done boys, and keep up the great work which is a critical element of the financial well being of the Guild.



I am starting
to think
I will never
be old enough
to know better.



Who's Who in BRWG Inc 2018 - 2019

Patrons - Andrew Powell MP, Cr Jenny McKay SCRC		
President	Rob OTTO	0407 466 260
Vice President	Greg McCOSKER	0418 746 420
Secretary	Don LEAR	0437 533 561
Asst Secretary	Graham BEAUMONT	
Treasurer	David EDMOND	5478 6932
Asst Treasurer	Julie BREEN	
Newsletter Editor	Greg McCOSKER	
Website Manager	David EDMOND	
Publicity Officer	John ANDREWS	
Recruitment Officers	Sarah ODGERS, John MULLER, Dave BANISTER, Julie BREEN & Keith MUIRHEAD	
Training / Demo Officers	Rob OTTO	
Safety Officers	Trevor Jorgensen, Rick Vickers, Warne Wilson	
Welfare Officers	Julie BREEN & Keiran SIMPSON	
Events Organiser	Rick VICKERS	
Shed Managers	Terry O'CONNOR & Michael BROSNAN	0409 050 418
Provider	Vicki SHULEY	
Purchasing Officer	Dick GRAVES & Keith MUIRHEAD	
Projects Officer	Keiran SIMPSON & Trisha BEETS	
Librarian	Max BARRENGER	
Social Media	Sarah ODGERS & Micheal BROSNAN	
Timber Management	Bruce CHAPMAN, Ron DONALD, John MULLER & Steve SQUIRES,	
MVA Sportsground Committee Representatives	John MULLER	

