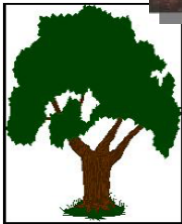


Flitch 'n Chips



Issue No.284
February, 2021

NEW MEMBERS

785	David John Coffey
786	Pamela Elizabeth Rahman
787	Vanessa Perske
788	Richard Monjo
789	Michael Colauto
790	Damien Tracey
791	Sunny Morton
792	Marcos Serrano
649	Anthony Joseph Green

We warmly welcome all these new members to our Guild and hope they enjoy their time here.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

G'day Woodies,

Rummaging around in the Club's records, as we digitise the mostly handwritten Minutes of the early years, I came across an entry in September 1999 that the Sports Ground at Montville could be a possible site for the location of a new shed. At this time the Club was using the shed in Western Avenue we now store timber in. They didn't have the whole shed though as the owner stored some of his things in one end. It was in February 2000 that things began to move more quickly and by early 2001 grants were being applied for and quotes obtained. And so the foresight shown then started the Club on the way to the wonderful facilities we have today.



Talking of facilities, the order is about to be placed for a new panel saw to replace the Hammer. This from John Muller and John Isles.....

Special considerations for choosing saw:

- Scoring saw included
- footprint of machine to fit our space
- Build quality
- support

After we visited an SCM installation at Caboolture, more information was sought from Brisbane Saw, the distributor for Minimax. The model quoted on has a rip table capacity of 900 mm to suit our footprint. It also has the safe saw guard which is easily raised, lowered and pivoted out of the way for blade changes. Both John & I felt the build quality is good.

The model number is SCM Minimax SC4E CE

There will be a machine (single phase) on the floor to look at in about two weeks and Brisbane Saw will advise when we can see it.

Delivery from Italy will take approximately 8 weeks.

====++++====++++====

As reported earlier, the uncertainty of events is making planning a nightmare. We have decided that we should start planning our next event now, even though we don't have a set date, so that we are ready for anything.

The Barung Wood Expo, normally held in May, is in serious doubt then but may be held in October (which was our preferred date for our Competition/Open Days). If we assume that is the case, it leaves us with their May date free or our old July dates to hold our event.

We will start organising this event to be held in the John Henderson Shed and surrounds so as to be ready for whatever - so please volunteer for positions on this sub-committee as this may be our only chance for some time to do any selling of the products you have made.

It's still a little disappointing to see members use a machine then walk away from it without cleaning up the mess on and around it. It's a good routine to get into both at the Shed and at home because cleaning up several small amounts as you go means a cleaner environment to work in and no big mess to clean up when finished.

To anyone not feeling 100%, or with family in the same condition, our thoughts are with you.

Max Barrenger
BRWG President
0408 437 375

Maintenance Report *by John Isles*



- Work has continued on the extension to the timber storage area
- We replaced the blade on the Wadkin due to build up of resin and glue on blade.
- We replaced the blade on the the Laguna due to the build-up of resin and glue on blade.
- We replaced several 1/8" blades on the Jet 14" Bandsaw.
- The new Woodman MBS300 table saw has arrived and has been assembled. Your patience is requested while we work out the best location.
- The panel saw and the table saw dust boxes need to be checked for build up of shavings and chips more regularly.
- As our dust extraction system is running on its maximum capacity, I would ask all users to consider shutting off some of the vents that aren't being used. Machines such as the 15" and 20" thicknessers, Wadkin Bandsaw, Router tables, Floor vent, Sanding machines.
Turn the vent on to use the machine- turn it off when finished
- The drum sander sandpaper clogged again with glue. With 120 grit sandpaper on this machine, it is not designed to remove glue. If you intend using this machine to remove glue, then you should use a 32 or 60 grit sandpaper.
- We need help to keep our grounds neat and tidy. Mowing and whipper snipping and some weeding in the gardens
- The Jessem router is back in and working.

DID YOU KNOW?

A group of Guild members were discussing Cooktown Ironwood at Smoko recently and Graham Bradford kindly sent this article to me for the newsletter. He wrote "As it is a relatively rare timber with special properties, I thought the article may be of interest to somebody looking to make a showpiece."

Cooktown Ironwood.

Botanical Name *Erythrophleum chlorostacys* (F. Muell) Baill. Syn. *E. laboucheri*. Derivation Genus- Greek, 'red+bark'; Epithet- Greek, 'green+spike', referring to the greenish, bottlebrush inflorescence. Family Caesalpineaceae (Leguminosae) (Orchard et al 1998).

Local names ironwood, camel poison, red ironwood, red ebony (NT) and leguminous ironbark.

Description/occurrence. A medium-sized tree up to 20m in height and 1m diameter bole, typically with a dense crown, although it is a semi-deciduous species. Boles are variable in form with a hard, coarsely tessellated grey to black bark. All parts of the tree are thought to be toxic and stock losses have occurred through ingestion of the leaves. No records could be found to confirm that the wood or sawdust has caused health problems, however caution should be observed as with working any timber species.

Wood appearance. The heartwood is an attractive bright red with contrasting light-brown sapwood. Cooktown ironwood has a medium and even texture, providing a good finish in dressed, sanded applications. Grain is often interlocked, showing as wavy vessel lines on longitudinal surfaces.

Density. Data published in Wood in Australia (Bootle, 1983) cites basic density at 1030 kg/m³ and air-dry density at 1220 kg/m³. Queensland Department of Primary Industries concur with 1220kg/m³ (air-dry) in their literature (Cause et al 1989; Smith et al, 1991). Cooktown ironwood, as indicated by its standard trade name, is classified as "very hard" in relation to resistance to indentation and working with hand tools. There is approximately 0.80m³ of sawn, seasoned timber per tonne in mass. Strength groups green S1; seasoned provisionally (SD1). Stress grades green F14, F17, F22, F27; seasoned F22, F27, F34 when visually stress graded in accordance with Australian Standard AS2082-2000 Timber- Hardwood visually stress graded for structural purposes.

Modulus of Rupture (MOR). The MOR for Cooktown ironwood (ex- Northern Territory) in an unseasoned condition is 140 MPa, which rates the species highly as a structural timber.

Janka Hardness. Published data for Cooktown ironwood sourced from the Northern Territory lists a green Janka hardness of 13kN. This is equal highest to only two other species in the literature, indicating that this species could provide one of the hardest wearing flooring and benchtop surfaces in the World.



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Crushing Strength. Published data is only available for unseasoned, Northern Territory material which attained 85 MPa. This was higher than for any other engineering timber listed in the literature and means that Cooktown ironwood rates as one of the strongest column timbers in the World.

Impact Strength (Izod). Published data for unseasoned, Northern Territory material is 22J, ranking Cooktown ironwood as one of the toughest timbers in the World.

Shrinkage Unit. shrinkage data are not available. Shrinkage from green to air-dry is approximately 3% tangential and 2% radial. This places Cooktown ironwood in a low shrinkage category.

Durability. Cooktown ironwood is durability class 1, that is, a timber of the highest natural durability which may be expected to resist both decay and termite attack for at least 25 years and up to 50 years or more.

Lyctid susceptibility. The unimmunised sapwood of Cooktown ironwood is lyctus susceptible.

Seasoning. Care must be taken to avoid surface checking during drying. This is particularly important for appearance grade products. Amelioration methods such as end sealing and hessian-shrouding are recommended. The highest volume usage of Cooktown ironwood to date has been for unseasoned products such as railway sleepers and fencing timbers and therefore little data has been accumulated regarding its seasoning behaviour.

Machining. The wood is hard to work due to its extremely high density and the presence of interlocking grain. Despite this, a good finish can be attained using low cutting angles (eg 15°) and sharp tools.

Fixing. As the predominant utilisation of the species to date has been for sleepers and fencing material, there is limited recorded information regarding the fixing of the timber. Gluing Data is lacking for the gluing capabilities of Cooktown ironwood, however as with other high-density species gluing procedures should be undertaken immediately after surface preparation.

Finishing. As with machining, fixing and gluing, little or no information has been recorded pertaining to the finishing of Cooktown ironwood.

Engineering/Construction. house poles, stumps, posts, beams, bearers, joists, flooring, lintels, wall framing, exterior cladding, plywood, internal staircase construction, external step treads and stringers, balustrading, transmission poles, cross-arms, posts, wharf and bridge components, railway sleepers, mining timbers.

Decorative. feature flooring (strip, parquet, overlay panels), decking, lining boards, indoor and outdoor furniture, veneer, hard turnery, knife handles. Others handcrafted wooden flutes, drums, recorders, cricket bales, tool handles, yard building timbers (rails, posts), fencing posts and strainers, vehicle decks, landscaping sleepers, potential for charcoal briquettes. Indigenous spear and harpoon heads, woomera pegs, cooking and digging sticks, axe-handles, music sticks, pierced nose pegs and drone tubes.

Summary. Cooktown ironwood is one of the densest, hardest, commercial timber species in the World. Timber suppliers will require the latest technology in processing equipment to minimise the effects of the extremely high density and interlocking grain, however a fine finish can be achieved. It has excellent strength characteristics for beam and column structural applications. Its extremely high density renders it one of the most suitable timber surfaces for flooring in high traffic areas, bench tops, truck floors and utility tray backs. Red-coloured timbers have always enjoyed popularity with architects, specifiers



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and homeowners and Cooktown ironwood is renowned for its deep-red hue. This infers markets for appearance grade products such as flooring, furniture, and lining boards. Cooktown ironwood's low shrinkage classification is another favourable attribute for these applications. As a musical instrument timber it has already found favour with several flute, drum and guitar manufacturers and several World Wide Web homepages testify to the timber's versatility in these niche markets. A resonator guitar featuring a Cooktown ironwood top and valued at \$2800 was recently awarded second prize in the high profile national Outback Timbers 2000 woodworking competition.

A specialty timber supplier in Brisbane holds approximately 4m³ in stock and sells an average of 2m³ per annum. They pay \$1300 to \$1700/m³ landed in Brisbane. Retail prices vary upwards from \$2000/m³. A laminated bench top manufacturer estimates the value of kiln-dried timber at \$700-\$1200/m³ landed in Brisbane. A flooring specialist indicated that T&G flooring could attract a retail price of \$2600/m³. A Melbourne specialty timber supplier estimated that furniture grade stock could wholesale for between \$3000 and \$5000/m³ and retail for up to \$10000/m³.

Due to the well-known toxic attributes of parts of the plant, handling of the timber through all stages of harvesting and processing should be undertaken with caution, until it can be determined if any undesirable toxicants can affect timber handlers. Many renowned timbers can cause health problems, such as red cedar, red siris and black bean, and these have been safely utilised so it is anticipated that Cooktown ironwood could be handled safely. Cooktown ironwood is a native hardwood with huge potential across a diversity of markets, from high volume flooring and structural products to low volume, high value niche markets such as musical instruments.

Safety Notes *by Russ Middlecoat*



My safety report for this month again focuses on wood lathe safety.

Earlier in the month we had another incident in which another member suffered minor injury and a big fright when the bowl he was working on shattered and was ejected from the lathe chuck with such force that it broke the heavy plastic dust extractor funnel also causing injury to his right hand. The lathe involved was one of the Vicmac lathes featuring electronic speed control. A follow up investigation was carried out and three points should be considered.

1. Apparently the work piece did have a crack in it. Turning blanks with such defects should be discarded. If you must use a cracked blank it is highly recommended that the crack be filled with epoxy adhesive. Allow to cure overnight. Also, consider using a chuck blank glued to the base of the turning blank or a dovetail face plate screwed to the base.
2. When using a lathe featuring electronic speed control, be mindful of the sensitivity of the speed control. The control knob is a very soft control and can easily cause an overspeed for the type of work involved.

Remember to operate the speed control slowly and always return the speed control to minimum when you are finished with the machine.

3. I cannot over stress the importance of using face shields (whether your own or club provided) when operating machinery capable of ejecting work pieces and/or offcuts.

All wood lathe accreditation officers should make a point of demonstrating to lathe trainees the correct and safe operation of the electronic speed control.

Stay safe.

Around the Shed



THE GAMES TABLE - EDSSEL WARD.

Evan, one of my sons came to see me one day and asked me to make a board-game table. I said 'oh, yes. What is a board-game table?' For playing board-games on, of course, was his reply. Of course, how silly of me. Now, where does one get the specifications for a board-games table? Evan got busy with sketches for me, minus dimensions. After decisions were made on materials and species, Camphor Laurel and Red Cedar out of my own racks fitted the bill. Now my next project was organised, I pulled out of the racks a 2.4 M x 800 mm x 50 mm thick slab of Camphor Laurel. How to break it down?

Without the help of my mate with his one tonne ute and willing helpers at the BRWG, I would have got nowhere. At the age of 90 years young, everything is heavier than it used to be, so I had to learn to stand back and get help. The Woodwiz was the first stop, then the saw bench. The timber in question had been carried around for 50 years, so it was very dry; so dry that complaints abounded about the dust. Perhaps I should have hosed it down.

I used a 19 mm plywood for the table top; very stable. I built the table up-side down using the Camphor Laurel for the legs, shaped on the bandsaw with very colourful (and dry) Camphor around the table top. Titebond III was used to assemble the table, without nails or screws. With that complete, I turned the table up the correct way on its legs. The top was completed with a 100 mm red cedar perimeter on the camphor laurel edging. All then sealed with sanding sealer and top coat of lacquer. Evan wanted the interior lined with blue felt, which not only made it look smart, but professional as well. I am currently making a plywood cover for the table and ply/cedar trays for the games.

Thanks to all members of the BRWG for the help in completing this project. We all had a lot of fun in the process. THANKS ALL!

Edsel Ward



FOOTNOTE BY John Muller.

There are quite a few BRWG members involved in seeing Edsel's project completed; members who gave their own time and experience to assist a respected member of the club. This spirit of sharing knowledge, skills and time is a hallmark of our Club, and makes me proud to be a part of this organisation, over and over.

Edsel, the games table was built with some assistance, but in reality, it was your project and congratulations on such a nice job. (And so say all of us! Ed.)



With a little help from her friends, Vicki Shuley completed this lovely piece - as it says, a picture of a Bunya Pine on a piece of Bunya timber.

ANOTHER WISHLIST PROJECT COMPLETED BY THE BRWG:

Wishlist, the charity we have supported now for some years, commencing with rehabilitation aids for Nambour and Kawana Hospitals, have a beautiful wall to display their sponsors. The sponsor is acknowledged by a plastic coating with printing on, glued onto Tasmanian Oak blocks of varying thicknesses, all permanently fixed to a wall.

Unfortunately, when a sponsor is no longer a sponsor, the plastic film is removed, and guess what? The printed image remains on the Tassie Oak. Our intrepid President got to work with all sorts of spirits- white spirit, metho and no, he did **not** try whisky, even when encouraged by his co-worker.

The solution (and I don't mean any sort of spirit) was to sand back the finish and re-spray. A big job and luckily Max found a quick-drying clear satin poly to do the job. Mind you, the fumes just about cleared the office for a while.

The project was completed and we both have to declare a fringe-benefit; we were thanked with a box of chocolates and a water bottle. Blow the diet!

Max's Off-sider,
John Muller





We were treated to a huge display of beautiful timber veneers by Bill Rangott on 17th February. So some of us had a bit of a buying spree! Bill was also kind enough to demonstrate a different method of gluing and flattening the veneer to its substrate, using a product called "Roarocket". Plus he gave more of his valuable tips for box makers. Thank you very much Bill.



Dave Southern made these 2 folding outdoor tables for his 2 granddaughters, after seeing the table Kev Devlin worked on in the shed. Needless to say, Tiffany and Natalie were overjoyed to receive such beautiful gifts.

Timber Tales *by Bruce Chapman*

Timber stocks for sale are low at present. The two months of no milling due to Covid has caught up with us. Our two main stay timbers Camphor and Silky are at their lowest ever level. There is however a good-sized load of Silky Oak in the kiln which should be available very soon.

Unfortunately, there is very little Camphor Laurel in the pipeline. We only have one stack of Camphor available for the kiln. We are cutting up some Camphor at present but it will be quite some time before it is available.

Jacaranda boards and slabs have recently been added to our available stock. We do have some new timbers that will be available in the near future. African Walnut, White Walnut, Cypress and a load of good Silver Ash. Another new timber waiting to be cut is Mexican Bean, at present an unknown regarding its use. On the racks outside the green shed are timber blanks for wood turners.

The secretary was asked to investigate the purchase of a more sensitive metal detector and report back to the next meeting.

Training Courses

Philippa Friend is preparing material for a beginners' pyrography course starting on 26th February.

Max Barringer is currently running an intarsia course.

Phil Lane is running a box making course at present and another is in the pipeline.

Leigh Boynton is continuing with his bowl turning course on Wednesdays.

Tips and Tricks *by Wood Magazine*

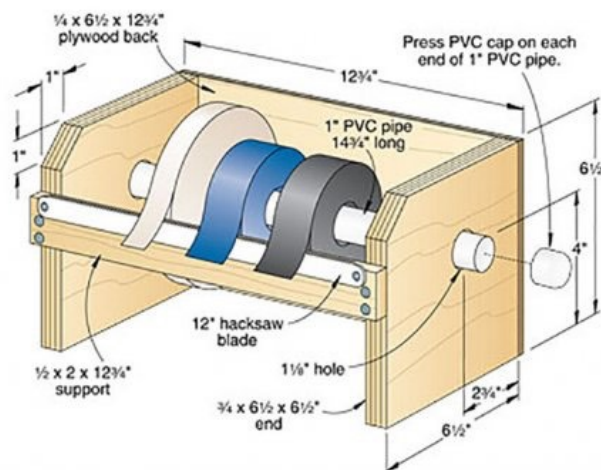


Shop setup solutions

Handy tape dispenser

To organise your shop tapes, build a dispenser from scrap wood to keep all the rolls in one location. For the centre, use plastic plumbing pipe or a piece of dowel as shown. A hacksaw blade reinforced with a wooden strip makes a perfect cutting edge.

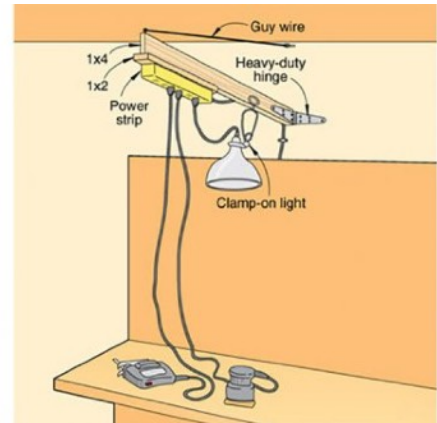
—Dwight Blakeney, Seaford, Del.



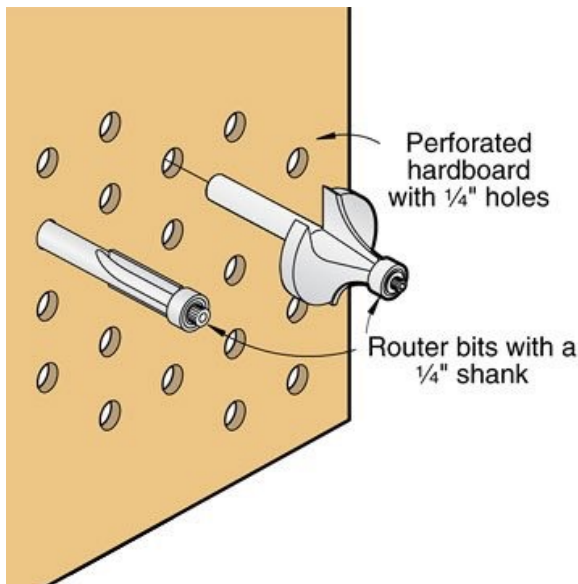
Boom puts power right above your bench

Electrical cords that get draped across a bench top are ripe for damage, and such a situation could easily result in a serious electrical shock. If you plug in your tools above the bench instead of behind it, you won't have to drag cords across the work surface. For an overhead outlet that goes where you need it, fashion a boom like the one shown from 1x4 and 1x2 boards. It should be long enough to extend from the back of the bench to slightly past the bench front. Attach a power strip to one end and hinge the other end to the wall behind the bench. For a long boom, add a guy wire from the free end of the boom to a point on the wall above the hinge. Rout a groove for the power cord, to avoid damage. Add a clamp-on reflector lamp for a simple, adjustable work light.

—G.E. Wallauz, Painesville, Ohio



Store router bits on perforated hardboard



When using multiple router bits to create fancy profiles, the bits tend to clutter up your work area unless you take the time to put them back in a case or holder. If you're using router bits with 1/4 " shanks, you can simply slip the shanks into the holes of any empty section of perforated hardboard with 1/4 " holes. The shank of the router bit will fit snugly, and the bits won't fall out. If you use 1/2 " shank bits, you can drill a few 1/2 " holes in your hardboard near where you do most of your routing. Space these holes far enough apart that the cutters on your bits don't touch.

—from the WOOD® magazine shop



WHAT IS IT?

Found in an elderly gentleman's workshop in Montville. Not exclusively used for woodwork.

A pair of old chairs if someone wishes to try restoration work. They're free.



Who's Who in BRWG Inc 2020-2021		
Patrons - Andrew Powell MP, Andrew Wallace MP, Winston Johnston (Local Councillor)		
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Projects Officer	Keiran SIMPSON	
Librarian	Max BARRENGER	
Social Media	Sarah ODGERS & Micheal BROSNAN	
Timber Management	Bruce CHAPMAN & Ron DONALD	
MVA Sportsground Committee Representatives	John MULLER	

