



Flitch 'n Chips

Issue 291.
September,
2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



G'day Woodies,

This is the most delightful weather for woodworking, don't you think? Warm days, low humidity and good light to work by. Make the most of it while it lasts.

Following protracted negotiations with the Range Soccer Club, we have been unable to secure use of the non playing surface for car parking which reduces the available area by 80%.

All other options have been investigated and we have been unable to find a safe and convenient alternative.

It is with deep regret that we must now cancel the Open Day event at our Shed. This is very disappointing especially to the Club members who have put so much effort into producing articles for sale and the volunteers organising the event.

This situation places a cloud over future use of our site for holding events that are open to the public and we need to put the thinking caps on to find new venue/s

.

Competition entries will be accepted **after 1pm on Thursday** and be setup for judging on Friday morning.

We were approached recently to consider the inclusion of mildly disabled people in our membership. The committee has decided on a three month trial period, where two people with their carers will become full members and they will be allowed to use hand tools only in the Henderson Shed and will be guided in making small objects from wood. At the end of the three month period we will be able to assess the results and a decision made on future involvement. I hope that other members will help in this area with suggestions and preparation of small projects for the group.

The Mapleton Craft Group recently delivered the hand made bedding and dolls that they have crafted, to go with the wooden doll cradles they we make to go to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy children. This arrangement has been in place for many years. If anyone is interested in joining a Craft Group, the Mapleton Group are a very welcoming bunch that meet every Wednesday morning at the Mapleton Bowls Club.

John and Kev are worried about our router bits at the Club and will soon send them all for sharpening and culling of the bits no longer viable. Suggestions are welcomed as to the make up of a basic kit that the Club should have for use by members. More specific router bits would need to be purchased by members for their own use. The Dynamic Duo will advise when sharpening is happening as the bits will all be away for several days.

The "Logo" discussion and voting is going well so please if you haven't voted, make your thoughts known.

A booking has been made at the Orangery for this years Woodies Christmas Party on the 11th December. We have been promised exclusive use of the main area for our group and details will be available soon. (See events section. Ed.)

And to any members who themselves or whose loved ones are not enjoying the best of health, our thoughts are with you.

Max Barranger
President

Maintenance Report *by John Isles & Kev Devlin*

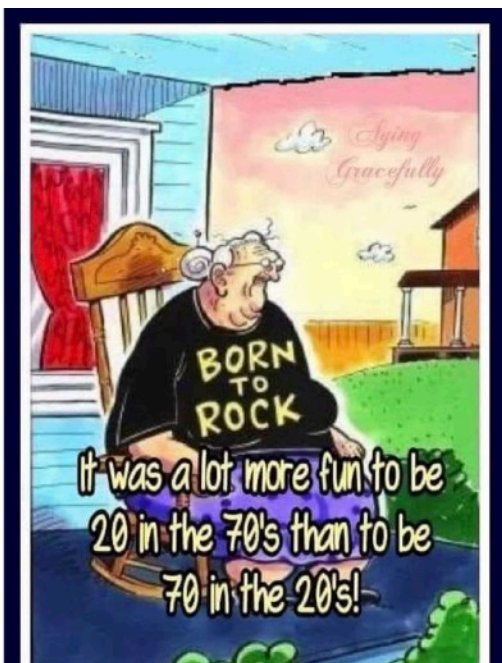


- Once again, we are having issues with bandsaw blades gumming up with resin and saw dust. In particular the Laguna bandsaw which gets used mainly for re-sawing. Before using a bandsaw, it is up to you the user to check the bandsaw is in good working condition before commencing using it. If the blade is gummed up, then you need to clean it before using it. Get a wire brush and clean it. If you choose to use it with the blade gummed up, then all you will succeed in doing is ruin the blade and it will need replacing. Cost of a new blade for the Laguna is \$70.00. if any member has any suggestions as to how to prevent this then please talk to the shed managers.
- Let's turn our attention to the Hammer Panel saw. I removed a blade from this saw and sent it away to get it resharpened. On its return I noticed that they had to reverse the alternate bevel to sharpen the saw. Several teeth on this blade had been damaged. Damage is usually caused by something not operating correctly on the saw such as the riving knife hitting the blade, or the piece of timber had a foreign object in it. Someone must have noticed something not right when using the panel saw but failed to mention it to the shed captain. If these incidents aren't reported then we can't correct them.
- Here is a web page link to help explain saw blade. We use the ATB and the Flat top Blade.
<https://www.toolboxtoday.com/the-types-of-saw-blade-teeth/>
- Some work has been done on the Holland timber mill. Replacing bearings and realignment. Next, we are going to work on the blade tensioning. Hopefully we will be able to purchase a tension gauge to help us with this.
- I would like to say thanks to those members on a Friday who get in and help our timber guys to unload and reload the kiln. Your help is appreciated and it enables the milling crew to mill timber for our use.
- Don't forget when you are selecting your timber from the racks to leave the racks neat and tidy. Return timbers to their correct location. I am sure everyone is enjoying the benefits of Bruce's sorting and labelling, but it only works if planks are returned to the correct space in the rack.

- There are a lot of off cuts from timber being left lying around. Please either offer it to a box maker if you think they may be able to use it, or, if not wanted, then toss it out.
- You will have noticed the work last month on the power board in the main shed. Since then, there have been a couple of occasions when particular machines have tripped either breakers or RCDs in the board. If this happens, please tell the shed captain so they can record it in the book. That way we can trace any emergent issues with particular machines.
- Project under way at present is the making of 3 more outdoor picnic tables for the Montville State School.



Bench made by the Thursday Crew for the Rotary Club of Nambour.
Thanks fellas. Job well done!



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How to Work With Natural-Edge Slabs

Let Mother Nature be your co-designer as you build dazzling projects with wavy edges, bristly burrs, bark inclusions, and other “flaws” that give wood a look of unrefined beauty.

The rich contours of natural wood edges give tables, benches, and other projects a sculptural quality, almost as much art as furniture. Thankfully, anyone can build such stunning projects because doing so requires only basic techniques and tools.

Another great thing about building these types of organic projects: There’s really no right or wrong way to do it. No two slabs will be exactly alike, making each project unique. Simply let the natural shapes, and the tips here, lead you through design and building.

Tips for sawing your own natural-edge slabs

What to look for

- Logs felled during spring and summer give up their bark easier once dry, and have more unusual colouring due to higher moisture content.
- Search out logs with multiple knots, burls, limbs, and other unique characteristics.
- To create even more character in your wood, allow the logs to lie on the ground or in a stack for a year or two uncovered. Exposure to weather increases the chances of getting spalted streaks and colour variations. (Cherry, soft maple, birch, box elder, and most softwoods break down quicker, so limit their exposure to a year.)

Cutting the logs

- Bark contains grit that dulls blades quickly, so remove as much as possible before firing up the mill. Start with a sharp blade, and keep extras on hand.
- Cut slabs a minimum of 2" thick to minimise warping. Saw thicker slabs for specific purposes or projects. If you want to use the warp-prone pith (the log’s centre), cut it as a 4–5"-thick slab. If the slab warps or splits later, remove the pith and make two slabs with single natural edges—great for shelves and mantels—or glue them together to form a wider slab with two natural edges.

Drying the slabs

- Air-drying maintains the best colour of your wood; kiln-drying, although quicker, tends to even out subtle differences in wood tones.
- After cutting, don’t leave the slabs stacked for more than a day or two without stickering (adding spacers to promote air circulation).
- Place slow-drying thicker slabs at the bottom of the stack so down the road you can access the thinner, drier slabs without dismantling the whole stack.

First, grab a slab

With the slab in hand, you probably have a general idea of what you want to build (large table, small table, long bench, short bench, for example). Now consider the following in order to match the unique characteristics of the slab to your personal tastes:

Let the slab drive the design

- The face of a table, bench, or headboard might look good with a little waviness; but a desktop must be flat. (We’ll show you how to flatten a slab later in this article.)

- Unless you're working with a full cross-section burl, most slabs will have been cut off at the ends by a chainsaw. Those ends usually look best when sawn smooth and perpendicular to the face. If you want to sculpt the ends similar to the natural edges, use carving tools or an angle grinder (using coarse, beveled abrasive wheels) followed by sanding flap wheels.
- Determine parts that must be certain dimensions—such as table height or seat width—and design the other parts in proportion to those dimensions.

Time to remove the bark

Even though you might like the look of the bark, it tends to fall off later. Besides, there could be eye-catching surprises lurking below the bark, such as the worm tracks shown at top right. Begin by removing a 6–8" section of bark, starting at an end. The cambium layer, the fibrous “glue” that connects the bark to the wood, can add depth and character to the edge if you leave it. (It won't come loose later.) Scraping away that layer creates a slippery-smooth edge with more rounded features.

You don't need to sand the edges smooth at this point. And if you leave the cambium, you'll do little to no sanding to maintain the texture.



To dislodge the bulk of the bark, gently push a rounded chisel beneath the bark. To prevent gouges, work along the slab edge rather than across it.



With the bark removed, use a small nylon or wire brush to gently scrub away loose or stringy cambium-layer fibres.

Use a rotary tool and tiny sanding flap wheels to clean and smooth intricate details.



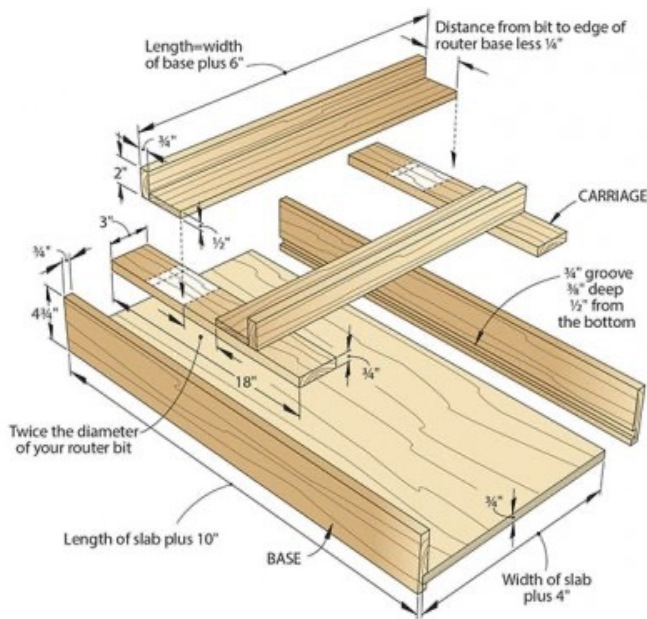
Flatten the slab faces

If you bought the slab pre-cut, it might come with the faces already planed or sanded. Otherwise, flatten both faces with a plunge router and jig. Begin by building the jig *below*, sized to fit your slab. We built ours 42" wide to accommodate a redwood burl, as well as most future slabs.

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Cut natural-edge project parts to rough finished length so you're not flattening more stock than necessary. With the jig resting on sawhorses, place the slab where it will be easiest for you to reach with the router. Level the slab with wedges and "trap" it with screw-on cleats.

Install a wide, flat-cutting bit, such as Freud's 1 1/2"-wide mortising bit (#16-128), in your router. With the router resting on the carriage, find the highest spot on the slab and set the cutting depth to remove 1/8" at that spot. Now plunge and rout across the slab, alternately holding the router against the carriage sides. Slide the carriage along the rails and repeat the length of the slab. Continue in 1/8"-deeper increments until flat.

Turn the slab over, secure it with the cleats—no wedges this time—and flatten the other face as you did the first. Leave the slab as thick as possible to prevent warping. Power-sand both faces with 60- or 80-grit abrasive until the router marks disappear, but don't finish-sand yet.

Now you begin to see what the slab will look like when finished. Evaluate it for splits or other defects and decide how you want to treat them. Because splits could continue to open up, deal with them first to stabilise the slab, using butterfly keys as shown *below*.

Lay your keys across the split and trace around them firmly onto the slab with a craft knife or marking knife.



After freehand routing close to the scribed lines, use a sharp chisel to clean up the sidewalls and corners. Epoxy the keys in place



Once the epoxy has cured, use a block plane or power sander to trim the keys flush to the slab surface. Then sand smooth.

Next, clean out loose bark inclusions (small pockets of bark within the wood's interior) and either fill them with epoxy (coloured or clear, but avoid epoxy that dries to a milky colour) or leave them empty. Tight bark inclusions will likely remain intact. Glue torn or loose fibres or splinters back in place and sand the repair to blend in.

SHOW AND TELL



Digby and the guitar he made.

Two mysterious people
live in my house.

Somebody
and
nobody.
Somebody
did it and
nobody
knows
who.



The Buddy Bench built by the Thursday crew, John Holland, Ian Colpoys, Roger Scott and John Drewe, painted by Dave Bannister, and sponsored by Andrew Powell MP, was handed over during a ceremony as part of the Schools Assembly on Friday 27 August.

John Drewe and Dave B were unable to attend. The photo shows two of the happy students, Principal Adam Montgomery, President Max, Ian, Roger and John H.



Club Events Calendar from Rick Vickers



1. Thu 30 Sep –0830 to 1130 - set up for competition displays. Bring in Competition items **after 1pm**
2. Fri 1 Oct am - competition judging
3. Fri 1 Oct pm – competition awards announced.

Woodies Christmas Lunch on 11 Dec at The Orangery. Details to be published later. See attached menu. Select your own meal and main when paying. A ticketed seating event, no walk-ins on the day.

Barung Wood Expo at Maleny Showgrounds Fri 29 Apr to Sun 2 May. No details yet but we may again be involved in three aspects: the children's workshop ,sale of woodcraft items (Cattle Shed) and artisan sales (Pavilion). We will need volunteers for each activity for all three days.

Christmas at The Orangery

group bookings available

Christmas Function Lunch Menu

2 Course \$35
alternative drop

Mains

Roast Chicken with Cranberry + Nut Stuffing (GF)
w/ roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables + Cranberry jus

Pumpkin, Ricotta + Spinach Rotalo (GF)
with eggplant 'pasta' napoli sauce + rocket

Citrus + Herb Crusted Salmon
w/ Crushed potatoes + seasonal vegetables

Desserts

Apple crumble + Custard (GF)

Home Made Christmas Pudding + Brandy Custard (GF)

Mini Pavlovas with Mixed Berries + Cream (GF)

Special

Single Drop Roast Chicken + Nut Stuffing
Alternative Drop dessert \$29.50 (drinks not included)

Christmas at The Orangery

Group bookings available for Christmas Parties

TO BOOK 5435 2545

The Orangery

High

Timber Tales *by Bruce Chapman*

FOR SALE

A list of the timbers available, in clockwise order from the back of the shed.

Pink Cedar, She Oak, Silky Oak (new boards added), Swamp Cypress, Qld Maple (low stock), Black Wattle, Tallowwood (more tallowwood available on air dried stacks outside), Mango, Silver Ash (new stock added), Mexican Bean (new), Camphor Laurel (new stock added), Jacaranda boards, White Walnut, African Mahogany, Lemon Scented Gum.

Outside the shed there is wood for turners and some slabs of Avocado, Jacaranda and Silky Oak

DRYING RACK

NOT AVAILABLE for purchase

Timber here is stabilised after being taken from the kiln. It is generally moved to the sales area in one week.

Please keep the front of this area clear as we need to access the timber here every Friday.

KILN

Silky Oak and Swamp Cypress



Answer to last month's mystery item.

It's a tool to clean battery terminals and the lead leads. It has a positive and negative side.

The oldest known bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*), estimated to be 4852 years old, is found in Inyo National Forest, Madera Co, California

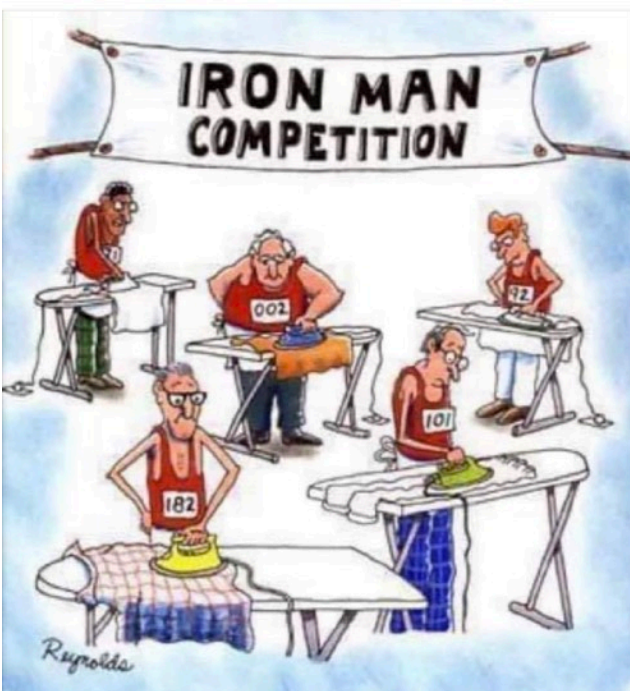




Some more projects from
Dave Southern:

Camphor Laurel chest with a
carved design on the front.
(above)

Hand carved decorative tray
made for his daughter, Kay
(right)



**The STAIR
COMPANY**
5445 2189

Who's Who in BRWG Inc 2020-2021

Patrons - Andrew Powell MP, Andrew Wallace MP, Winston Johnston (Local Councillor)		
President	Max BARRENGER	
Vice President	Julie BREEN	
Secretary	Graham BEAUMONT	
Asst Secretary		
Treasurer	Tony GALLWEY	54459554
Asst Treasurer	Danny NOLAN	
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Publicity Officer	Graham BEAUMONT	
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Training / Demo Officers	Phil LANE	
Safety Officers	Sarah ODGERS	
Welfare Officers	Pam McLEOD	
Events Organiser	Rick VICKERS	
Shed Managers	John ISLES & Kev DEVLIN	0409 050 418
Provider	Kelli DENDLE and Sarah WINDLE	
Purchasing Officer	Brian HARRIS	
Projects Officer	Kev DEVLIN	
Librarian	Max BARRENGER	
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Timber Management	Bruce CHAPMAN & Ron DONALD	
MVA Sportsground Committee Representatives	Geoff COUGHLIN	