



# Fitch'n Chips

F & C Issue 309 March 2023

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello one and all,

Another month has gone and the Maleny Barung Wood Expo is around the corner, We have so much more room to display our items for sale we are needing lots of your amazing objects for sale.

Thank you to Philippa for painting all of the puzzles to be donated to the Expo for donation to the less fortunate.

We still need more people to help out with the mill on Fridays. We will try a roster and see if it's easier for people to commit to helping.

Also we would like to implement a buddy system to be mentors to new people. It would make a huge difference if the new members could have someone to guide them until they are confident enough to be accredited themselves. All you really need is to already be accredited on machinery that you use. So if you feel you could mentor a new member could you please let us know.

The wood wiz dust bag was left over full and the bag had not been correctly put on. It's a two man job to put the bag back on, Make sure it is sealed ALL the way around. If the bag is anywhere near  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, it needs emptying. Don't walk away and leave it for someone else to do it and if you can't do it please tell us it needs to be attended to.

We need some more shed captains to replace us when we can't come in. So if you are able to give the time and you know your way around our sheds would you please let us know.

OK it's time to start thinking about our teams for the August AG meeting. All positions will be vacant so if you feel you like to be on the management side of things don't be shy and come and have a chat.

Our members who are not well take care. Hoping to see you back here asap. We need you.

Happy Easter to everyone.

Cheers,

Julie



# A CHAIR FOR THE GOLF CLUB

Rob finishing the chair for the Golf Club



The finished chair.

Money was left in a Will for a chair to be made for the Golf Club. The Golf Club members will apply the final finish.



***Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild Inc has recently received grants of \$12,500 from Sunshine Coast Council for an upgrade of its solar powered drying kiln and for two new pieces of woodworking equipment. These grants will assist Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild Inc to continue to produce first class woodcraft for its members and continue its long-established reputation for donating woodcraft to non-profit organisations on the Sunshine Coast.***



Proudly supported by  
Sunshine Coast Council's grants program



## 2 Perpetual Trophies for the SCUH

Made by RobForsyth

1 for 'Wishlist Giving Day SCUH's Biggest Planker'

This is a competition we will be running on the day for who can plank for the longest. This is an annual competition so we thought it would be good to have a perpetual trophy for staff to have as a bragging right if they win. Thinking a 'plank of wood' could be a good play on words that stands up?

1 for the Climb the Carpark competition.

This again is a competition for health staff to participate in where they race up the carpark stairs winner will get the 'bragging right' trophy...



Just in case there is someone other than your Newsletter Editor isn't sure what planking actually is.



Carpark climb trophy

### Mitre 10

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# Shed Managers Report

March 2023

## New Equipment

In a big break from the last couple of months, no new equipment turned up this month. Good to see the new stuff getting plenty of use though. Members are becoming familiar with the new equipment, and seem to be enjoying it.

## Maintenance:

Damage to equipment has again not been too bad this month. Some exceptions have included:

- The Festool Drop Saw is now back in service, and has had a few new components, including the back guide and the safety guard return spring. We also think we are now on top of the issue that was causing it to be hard to lower. Time will tell. The saw has been adjusted to cut square, so please treat it correctly. The rule for using this is pretty straight forward. If the piece of wood you are attempting to cut does not lie fully in contact with the back guard, and the base, it should not be cut on that machine. If it is not regular, it gets cut on the up-cut docking saw. Please treat it accordingly. Kickbacks on that saw are expensive (and will make the Committee question your accreditation on it.)
- The Hammer Jointer Thicknesser, and the 20inch Thicknesser have both been operated with the dust extraction flexible lines fully blocked. Members are asked to check that the machine is sucking normally before use, and see your Shed Captain if it is not.
- The Jessem router lift is now fully operational, but has an annoying feature now that if it sticks on the slides, the adjusting knurl can come up above the base plate. If this happens, please tell the Shed Captain, and if you are feeling lucky, give it a gentle. (and we mean gentle) tap.

## Projects

We have a number of projects underway on upgrading BRWG facilities, and the following is a progress update for members.

Kiln Upgrade. This has been progressing pretty slowly, as it has been a bit hot for work on that building. We now have the actuation of the air valves basically complete and are currently working on the draft tubes that will go above the fans. We have been getting some interesting info from the data loggers we now have installed, and hope to get a lot more scientific about our wood drying in the future.

## General

This month has been a big one for stuff being either left open, unlocked, or powered up after the shed is closed. The examples are too many to enumerate, and happen on most days. Please be a bit more comprehensive in your final checks.

Kev Devlin and Brian Harris

## The Thirty Year Anniversary Project – Initial Call for Contributors

2026 will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of BRWG and a planning committee has been formed to produce by that time an updated history of all aspects of this club. We need your help! If we start now and share the written contributions amongst many of us, this will not be a mammoth effort on the part of just a few. SO ... take a look at the categories listed below and if you have experience and/or expertise in one of them, please send us (David Friend) your offer to write an outline of that area of activity. Don't worry if you are a shocking speller or were told at school that your talents were not in written English! All offerings will be edited.

Photographs coordinator – find representative photos of activities

Carving

Toy making

Furniture making

Machinery use accreditation

Community contributions (seats, lecterns, doors, fake bus stops ....)

Box making

Timber acquisition and milling

Hand tool use and maintenance

Introduction to timber

Raffle prize making

Old furniture restoration

Scroll sawing

Woodturning

Financial history – including grants received

Personal profiles of individual members

Social functions over the years

Competitions and wood shows participation, open days

## WOODS SUITABLE FOR CARVING FROM THE AUSTRALIAN WOODCRAFT GUILD

The list of woods given below is aimed at the inexperienced beginner. Clearly any wood can be carved but there are reasons why you should exercise caution. Some woods, particularly the sawdust from them, are positively dangerous and can give rise to breathing problems and severe reactions. Other woods can have physical properties which make carving a sustained conflict rather than a satisfying hand, eye, brain exercise in coordination.

- 1) Lime, Linden, Basswood (Genus *Tilia*): As used by the German masters and by Grinling Gibbons. Bland, some grain, trees can grow large so can sometimes be obtained in large blocks. Expensive to purchase from Europe but *Tilia cordata* (small-leaved European linden) grows to small sizes in Canberra.
- 2) Huon Pine (*Dacrydium franklinii*, Tasmania): Because of its slow growth its properties are consistent and it carves well. It may have some colour variation and has a characteristic pleasant odour. Expensive and relatively scarce but available in Tasmania.
- 3) Jelutong (*Dyera lowii*): Bland, almost no grain. Used extensively by pattern-makers for precision moulds. It absorbs sweat, etc so handle with cotton gloves. Less useful for the beginner as the lack of grain does not give the experience that you need to acquire. Indonesian source, so is not cheap.
- 4) Boxwood (*Buxus* sp. Europe & Central America): A slow-growing hardwood used for rulers, chess pieces and Netsuke. Not available in large sizes. *Buxus sempervirens* (common European box) is planted in Canberra.
- 5) Oak (*Quercus* sp., mostly northern hemisphere): Much used by Medieval carvers BUT probably in a green state. Long term stability is good as evidenced by many surviving church carvings. It is a relatively hard timber when dry with large pores and prominent ray figure on the radial face. A number of European and North American oaks are planted in Australia and can grow to large sizes.
- 6) London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*): A hybrid of Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) from North America and Oriental plane (*Platanus orientalis*). It is also called Lacewood from its delicate ray figuring. It is grown extensively in Canberra as a street tree.
- 7) Walnut (*Juglans* sp.): The heartwood has beautiful colouring and it finishes well. Grain not a problem and it is used extensively for furniture. *Juglans regia* (English walnut) has been planted quite widely as a nut tree in Australia. However, the timber of *Juglans nigra* (Black walnut from North America) is considered superior.
- 8) Claret Ash and desert ash (*Fraxinus oxycarpa*): Desert ash is native to southern Europe and claret ash is horticultural selection of it which originated in South Australia. Timber is pale to cream with clear growth rings and large pores. It cuts cleanly and density helps with cross grain cu



9) Mahogany (*Khaya* sp.): There are many trees known as ‘mahogany’ but the African mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*) is probably the best known. The timber works well and often has a ‘lustrous’ finish.

10) Fruit woods (Pear, apple, cherry etc): Pear has a close grain and little colour. It carves well and can sometimes be obtained in large sizes. Cherry can have interesting colouring. The sapwood of many of the fruitwoods can split badly on drying so they should be slabbed soon after the trunk is cut.

11) White Beech (*Gmelina leichhardtii*): Is a native of coastal NSW and southern Queensland. It has been recommended in Aust. Woodworker as the best Australian carving wood. It is easy to work and is somewhat oily, hence has poor gluing properties.

12) Kauri pine (*Agathis* sp.): *Agathis australis* was originally sourced in large quantities and very large sizes from New Zealand. This source has largely been cut out or reserved but some kauri comes from Queensland (*Agathis robusta*) and Pacific islands.

13) Box Elder (*Acer negundo* from North America): It is actually a maple, not a box or an elder! It is relatively soft, has a fine grain and carves well. It has been quite widely planted around Canberra and grows well so trees become available from time to time.

#### Woods to be avoided

1) Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*, previously *Tristania conferta*): Native to NSW and Queensland. It has dense, close-grained, often curly and interlocked timber that contains silicon which quickly dulls your tools. This is less of a problem these days with modern high-speed steel tools but would still be a challenge.

2) Desert Acacias (*Acacia* sp.): Many dry-country acacias are extremely hard but can have beautiful dark grained heartwood. Some have tendency to break away. It would be best to use files on them.

3) Many eucalypts (*Eucalyptus* sp.): Many of the native eucalypts have very dense, hard timber that can also have interlocked grain. These difficult woods are often found in groups including iron barks, boxes and bloodwoods. While with perseverance, they can produce items with interesting colour and grain, they are probably best avoided until some experience has been gained.



Camphor laurel

Don Lear



Cedar branch

Don Lear



Chilean Myrtle

Very hard to carve

Dave Southern

# Timber bits from Bruce Chapman

**For Sale** - unchanged from last month

A list of the timbers available in each bay.

- 1- Fiddlewood
- 2- Fiddlewood
- 3- Red Cedar
- 4- Red Cedar
- 5- Camphor Laurel (new)
- 6- Silky Oak
- 7- Silky Oak
- 8- Silky Oak
- 9- Mixed western timbers
- 10- Black Wattle
- 11- Tallowwood
- 12- Messmate (type of gum tree)
- 13- Tallowwood
- 14- Fiddlewood
- 15- Fiddlewood
- 16- Hoop / Norfolk Island Pine
- 17- Hoop / Norfolk Island Pine
- 18-Camphor Laurel
- 19- Camphor Laurel (new)
- 20- Camphor Laurel (new)
- 21- Camphor Laurel
- 22-
- 23-
- 24- Silver Ash slabs
- 25- Silver Ash
- 26- Mango

## **NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE RACK.**

Timber here is stabilised after being taken from kiln. Generally moved to sales area in one week. Please keep the front of this area clear. We need to access the timber here every Friday.

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**DAVID BLACK**  
PROPRIETOR

Phone: (07) 5443 9211  
Phone: (07) 5443 9527  
Mobile: 0413 945 798  
Fax: (07) 5443 5714  
4/20 Kayleigh Drive  
Maroochydore Qld 4558



**The STAIR  
COMPANY**  
5445 2189



## Who's Who in BRWG Inc 2021-2022

Patrons - Andrew Powell MP, Andrew Wallace MP, Winston Johnston (Local Councillor)

President	Julie BREEN
Vice President	David FRIEND
Secretary	Pam McLEOD
Asst Secretary	
Treasurer	Danny NOLAN
Asst Treasurer	Russ MIDDLECOAT
Newsletter Editor	Lesley MOTT
Website Manager	Max BARRENGER
Publicity Officers	David FRIEND, Peter RICH
Recruitment Officers	Sarah ODGERS, Julie BREEN, Max BARRENGER, Terry O'CONNOR, Graham BEAUMONT, David SLATTER
Training / Demo Officer	Steve SQUIRES
Safety Officers	Max BARRENGER, Richard MONJO
Welfare Officers	Pam McLEOD
Events Organiser	Rick VICKERS
Shed Managers	Kevin DEVLIN, Brian HARRIS
Providor	Kellie DENDLE
Purchasing Officer	Brian HARRIS
Projects Officer	Robert FORSYTH
Librarian	Robert FORSYTH
Social Media	Sarah ODGERS & Micheal BROSNAN
Timber Management	Bruce CHAPMAN & Ron DONALD
MVA Sportsground Committee Rep.	Keith CARTER, Danny NOLAN
MVA Representative	Bruce BARRETT



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PO Box 150 Montville 4560

Email [newsletter@blackallrangewoodies.org.au](mailto:newsletter@blackallrangewoodies.org.au)