

Woodworkers Association of NSW Newsletter

March April 2012

PO Box 1016 Bondi Junction NSW 1355



ABN: 51 544 262 364



The Abbotsford workshop in 2012

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Marquetry
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Developmental work on readying the Abbotsford shed for habitation as a reasonably equipped workshop is well advanced. We are still waiting on the arrival of the Hammer saw bench and under and over thicknesser/jointer now expected late March or April.

We have three workbenches with two vices in each, affording workspace for six people, and one further European style bench with one vice. We anticipate that the workshop will accommodate six people working on projects as well as one space for a supervisor.

Some basic hand tools are available but we encourage you to bring your own. If you want to know specifically what's available, contact Peter Harris (0419 164 098) or Phil Lake (0403 114 712).

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Sturt Wood Courses 2012

Weekly Classes:

Mondays & Tuesdays 6-9pm, Tues 10-3pm

Short Courses:

Tuning & sharpening with Daryl Ingate
10th & 11th March

Intro to wood with David Upfill-Brown 22nd March

Joints for woodworking with David Upfill-Brown 26th & 27th May

4week cabinetmaking with Roy Schack 20th Aug-14th Sept

Shaker boxes with Phoebe Everill 18th & 19th August

Woodwork for women with Phoebe Everill 15th & 16th September

Intro to woodwork for kids with Phoebe Everill 30th September

Hand finishes with Tim Foster 27th & 28th October



10 Week courses:

30th January - 5th April 2012 with David Upfill-Brown

23rd April - 29th June 2012 with James Carr

Winter School: 2nd-6th July 2012

Marquetry with Katalin Sallai

Make a small table with Leon Sadubin

1 year Certificate IV in Fine Furniture Making

Graduate Exhibition 24 November - 9 December 2012



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Details & enrolment forms on our website

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fax: 02 4860 2081 ph: 02 4860 2083

Email: ddryen@sturt.nsw.edu.au

www.sturt.nsw.edu.au

Come visit the workshop to see what the possibilities are for you. We have a workshop day with barbecue provided (\$4 charge for the food) on the last Sunday of every month. So we may cater, please let Kim Larymore (9858 1578) know no later than the previous Thursday. The day is also open to those who wish to work on their current project. In practice, people using workshop equipment will be required to have accreditation before personally using the machinery. This status is achieved by doing a one-on-one session with a supervisor.

There will be at least two people present before equipment is used. Everyone will be required to wear closed footwear and have your own ear protection and safety glasses.

There are planned activity days: for personal projects there will be at least two people present - one being accredited. This can be the public workshop day, or a day by negotiation. In either case you must advise us of your intention to attend.

For equipment accreditation: book an appointment for a one-on-one induction; weekdays or weekend.

For groups up to seven people including an accredited supervisor: as personal or group projects.

For plant and building maintenance including tool sharpening: A specific week day once a month.

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Meeting venues for 2012

2 April – Putney Tennyson Bowling & Community Club

4 June, 13 August, 8 October and 3 December – Powerhouse Museum

From June 2012 onwards, our meetings resume at the Powerhouse Museum. On arrival, you will notice that the courtyard between the steps near the boom gate, where we normally enter, and the doors to the foyer of the meeting rooms are now covered over. But access to the meeting rooms hasn't changed and the parking arrangements are also the same as they were before.

Deadlines for the 2012 newsletters

Friday 4 May for the June edition

Friday 6 July for the August edition

Friday 31 August for the October edition

Friday 2 November for the December edition

For planned charity work: as for group work. Projects will be advertised in the newsletter and by email by Peter Hunt (no charge).

Workshop Development: further projects are planned to provide storage for consumables, containment boxes

for power hand tools including specific operational tools and ancillary devices and a mezzanine storage platform.

Further work restoring the building cladding and drainage around the building (public car park side and face to street to preclude water seep-

age into the building. These days are weekdays twice a month and will be advertised by email by Peter Hunt. Please respond to Phil Lake if you intend participating (no charge).

Phil Lake

Chair, Phil Greenwood's report to the AGM

2011-2012 has been an active time for the association on several fronts. The Committee has met each month and we have had a productive, happy and harmonious year. Let me remind you of some of the association's activities over the last 12 months . . .

At our meeting last April, Terry Gleeson and John Brassell displayed various shooting boards and the different purpose of each.

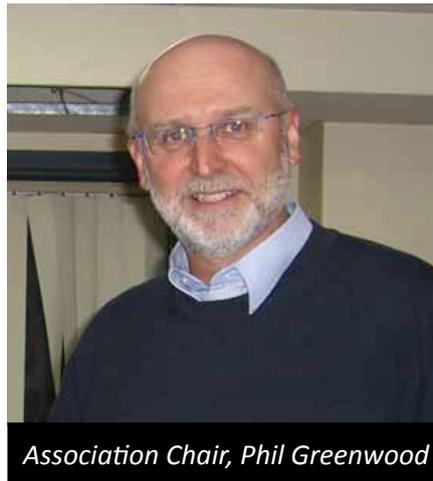
Easter Show

Then we participated for the first time in a major display at the Royal Easter Show. This involved a lot of members over the two weeks of the show and was a resounding success. We showcased fine woodwork to thousands of people, inspiring interest and enthusiasm. We sponsored three RAS prizes: "small furniture item, predominantly in wood", "wooden box work" and "musical instrument, predominantly in wood". We are proud that members featured in the prize winners.

In June, David Norrie from the Splinter group talked us through how they are working and their plans for the future.

TWWA

Then we participated in the annual Timber and Working with Wood Show. As well as our stand, which contained items made by members, we had people doing various woodworking tasks constantly and demonstrations were given on a range of woodwork topics and techniques by David Caddies, Rich-



Association Chair, Phil Greenwood

ard Crosland, Ian Factor, Terry Gleeson, Tom Paley and Alan Perry. Moreover John Brassell won first prize in his category for a magnificent guitar.

In August we had a double general meeting, firstly with Rhys Jones, the overall winner of the 2011 Timber and Working with Wood Show competition, talking about the design and construction of his winning chair. Then Leon Sadubin taking us through the trial and tribulations of the students at the course he taught at Sturt.

Workshop visit

Then we visited the workshop of one of our members, Geoff Wilson at Narrabeen and enjoyed his hospitality around the BBQ. In September we went to Sturt for a tour, a talk from Stuart Faulkner about design and another delightful lunch.

Our new website also went live in September, thanks to lots of work from Jo Healy-North. This form of website will allow us much greater flexibility

with enhancements in the future.

In October Hugh Jones confounded and inspired us with the intricacies of harp making and his extensive research on the use of Australian timbers to enhance sounds.

In November the venerable George Eden hosted us to his property to experiment with steam bending again.

Our December meeting continued the tradition of merriment and engagement with members. We met at the Workshop and played with a variety of planes that Terry Gordon kindly provided as samples.

In February 2012, wheelwright and blacksmith Mike Hendrickson gave a fascinating insight into some of the secrets of wheelwrighting.

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Hugh Jones and harp



Wheelwrighting revealed

And in addition to all that, we have had our monthly workshop open days and BBQs at Abbotsford and various working bees to get the workshop organised for skills classes as well as members' use for specific projects.

Over the past 12 months our newsletter has been given a boost with new editor, Jo Healy-North. Jo's work on the website and the newsletter provide an

important way for members and potential members to become familiar with the activities of the association.

And there has been all the planning and work for our involvement in the Easter Show in April and the Chifley Exhibition for professional members in August. All these things happen only with a lot of effort from many people. I would like to take this opportunity

to thank you all. But I want to also formally recognise the very extensive and diligent work of Gordon Joseph, our retiring secretary this year. He has ensured that our ship has been seaworthy, kept on an even keel and fully and properly provisioned at every port. We all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Phil Greenwood

Next meeting (AGM) - 7 for 7.30pm, Monday 2 April 2012 **Putney Tennyson Bowling & Community Club, Frances Road, Putney**

This meeting is the 2012 Annual General Meeting, which won't take long . . .

In accord with association rules, committee members are required to stand down at each AGM. They can re-nominate for the following year if they wish, but new faces on the committee are very welcome. Being on the committee is not onerous or difficult and can be lots of fun. All members are encouraged to nominate.

For more information, contact President/Chair Phil Greenwood or Secretary Gordon Joseph.

Their details are on the back page.

Speaker: Gerard Gilet, from Gilet Guitars

Gerard Gilet is a Sydney based guitar maker who has been at the forefront of acoustic guitar design in Australia with over 30 years of experience making for a clientele of serious musicians and professionals.

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Association Show Subcommittee

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Silas Kopf Marquetry workshop

Sydney 10-11 March 2012



World marquetry expert, Silas Kopf (centre): to see his work, visit www.silaskopf.com

What a fantastic two days. For many of us, it was the first attempt at making a picture out of wood veneers. Most are very experienced woodworkers who took up woodwork because they weren't artists, and here they were giving it a try.

The venue was Putney Bowling Club, and we were all assembled by 9am on a sunny Saturday morning. Fifteen optimistic participants arrived with a view to improving and/or gaining some woodworking skills.

The first morning, involved an introduction, discussion and demonstrations by Silas. The demonstration was a double bevel 12-degree angle cut to provide a clean constant contact between different shaped pieces of veneer. The demonstration piece was simple: two leaves off a central stem

consisting of a background veneer, four other coloured timbers, some changes of grain orientation and a number of intersecting cuts.



The master makes it look like play

The basic process is to create a template on tracing paper outlining the various segments of the final picture. Pieces of veneer were selected for each of the segments. Wherever two segments were going to be joined, the two veneers were taped on top of each other. Putting the template in the right place to mark the join, some carbon paper was slipped in between the template and the wood and a trace of the cut line was transferred to the wood. It was then simply a matter of cutting along the line with the fret saw blade slightly tilted. When the cutting was complete and the taped bits separated, the two beveled edges of the join should be exactly the same because they were both cut at the same time.

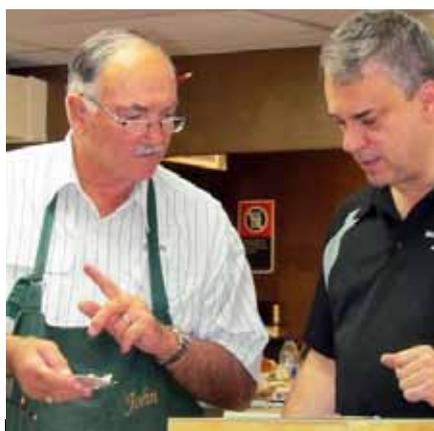
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Silas Kopf and Woodworkers Association of NSW members at the March 2012 workshop in Sydney

Silas' demonstration was so smooth and easy, and the cut pieces fitted so well, it was clear that this was a simple process. The descriptions were eloquent, the demonstrations were clear and concise, and the results were tight and effective. It was then up to us to replicate the practice piece and the general thought was "what could possibly go wrong?"

The afternoon started with us attempting to replicate the simple practice piece. This generally started with asking each other, "how did he start this?" and moved on from there. Don Rowland, a guest from the ACT Woodcraft Guild, seemed to have got the



How did he start that, again?

message and had his piece available for clamp pressing by 3.30pm and was genuinely surprised that we all weren't finished about the same time.

However, many of us experienced practical mistakes such as cutting the wrong angle, the wrong line, individual pieces moving during the cutting, inconsistent cutting pressure etc, etc. By the end of the day, there were some great results, some were adequate, and a couple were a complete disaster.

Day 2: As is the thing with a master class, people have different reactions.

Some were deeply inspired with the results of the first day, while others took the work and materials home to complete the task, yet others took a more Zen approach to reflect on what happened and plan for the following day. There were mixed emotions, although there was an overwhelmingly positive approach.

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Photo cap



Photo cap



Challenged but happy participants on the home stretch



Silas: world expert and gifted, generous teacher

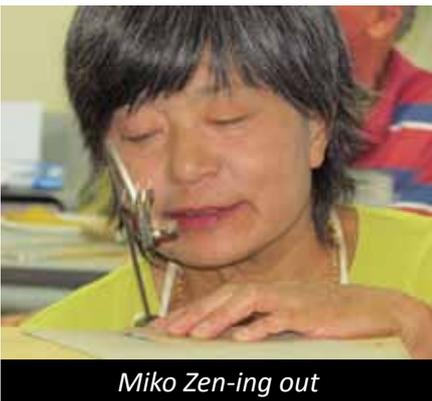
As a group of enthusiasts who had chosen to learn more, the second day proved the value of having these types of events. Whatever people had finished on day 1, the Sunday seemed to fulfill individual expectations. Without exception people finished a very credible version of the practice piece and had varying stages of completion of their selected projects. Possibly the most important part of the process was a much greater understanding of what was possible. For some it took a little longer for the penny to drop, but by early on day 2 it was only a matter of practice and imagination.

Asking the participants about their reactions to the workshop, there was a universal response that it was a skills challenge, but that it was achievable and at the end, there was no doubt that we had all developed techniques and an understanding of different ways this could be incorporated into our work.

Silas is a gifted teacher with the highest expertise, a fine sense of conveying appropriate information, and a deeply charitable sense of humour. He was tolerant of incomplete success, and generous with sharing skills and expertise. For someone who is one of the world experts in this discipline, it is difficult to imagine a better tutor. For some examples of his work go to www.silaskopf.com and be prepared to be amazed.

From all attendees, we send heart felt thanks to the organizers of this event (and please include others I am not aware of) and the assistance of all concerned, especially Gordon Joseph, Peter Hunt, Phil Greenwood. Without their efforts this connection with Silas would not have occurred, and the association must encourage similar valuable events in the future.

Brent Gerstle



Miko Zen-ing out



Terry Gleason gives it a red hot go

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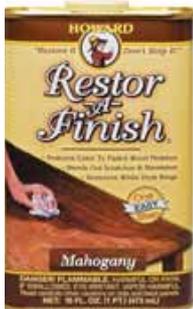
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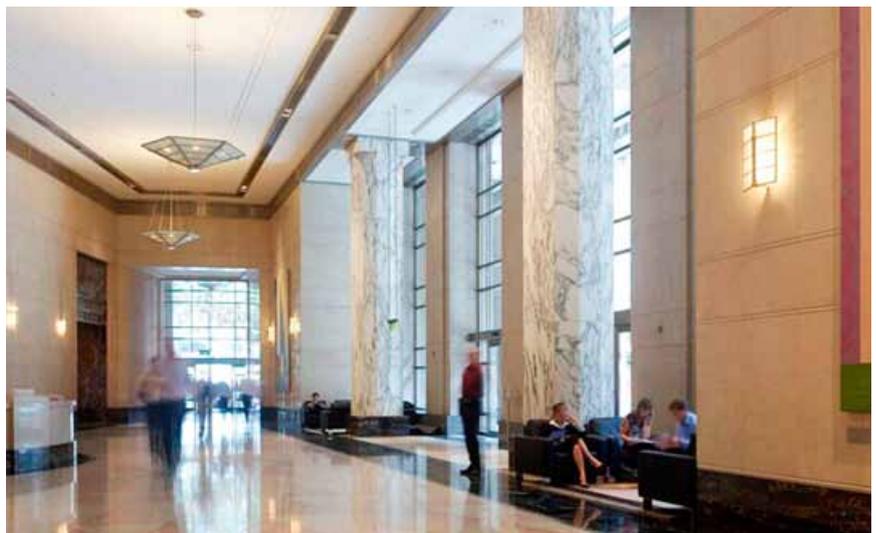
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Professional members' exhibition August 2012

Twenty-one professional association members are exhibiting at the WWA Chifley Exhibition in August.

Mark AYLWARD, Paul BARTON, David BOUCHER, Richard CROSLAND, John GALLAGHER, Jon GASPARINI, Geoffrey HANNAH, Peter HAYES, Hugh JONES, Piers JONES, Tony KENWAY, David Mac LAREN, James McGARRY, Michael McGRATH, Paul NICHOLSON, Takashi NISHIURA, David NORRIE, Craig SARGEANT, Artie SZABO, Nikolaus TEPLY and Geoff WILSON.

There is a wonderful selection and diversity of works. Some new and some old favourites. Traditional and unusual designs.

An eclectic and fascinating collection.

Please note the Exhibition in your diary for August and tell everyone who loves fine woodwork to do the same. Watch the website for more detailed information as it becomes available.

Member discounts

These people generously provide discounts to members of the WWA NSW. Please support them in return

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www.nover.com.au

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Contact Michael McGrath
02 9949 6683
accent@swiftdsl.com.au

For sale

• AngleMag saw guide

\$75 for members

\$100 for non-members

Contact a committee member (details page 12) for more information or to buy.

• Triton workcentre and router table

Contact Peter Harris or Kim Larymore (contact details as above)



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• Terry Gleeson's

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Phil Lake

Kim Larymore

Leon Sadubin

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If you'd like to join the
committee, or be more
involved in the association,
please call Gordon Joseph

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