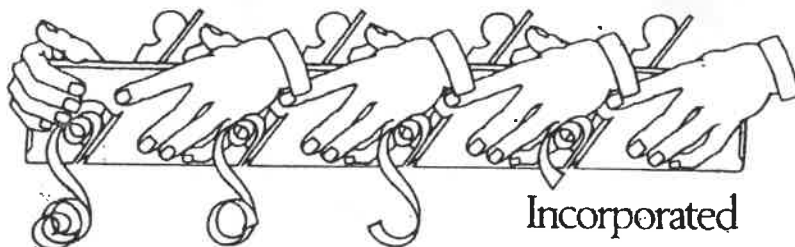


WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.



FROM THE CHAIR

As this goes to print a number of the eleven exhibitors for the 'WOOD AT THE ROCKS' exhibition will be burning the midnight oil. All but the very final details have been completed for a show that will offer a range of work from superb small boxes through to contemporary cabinets and more.

Alterations at Craftspace are completed and a new track lighting system is in place; this really makes better use of the space. Make sure you don't miss it - for full details see page 4.

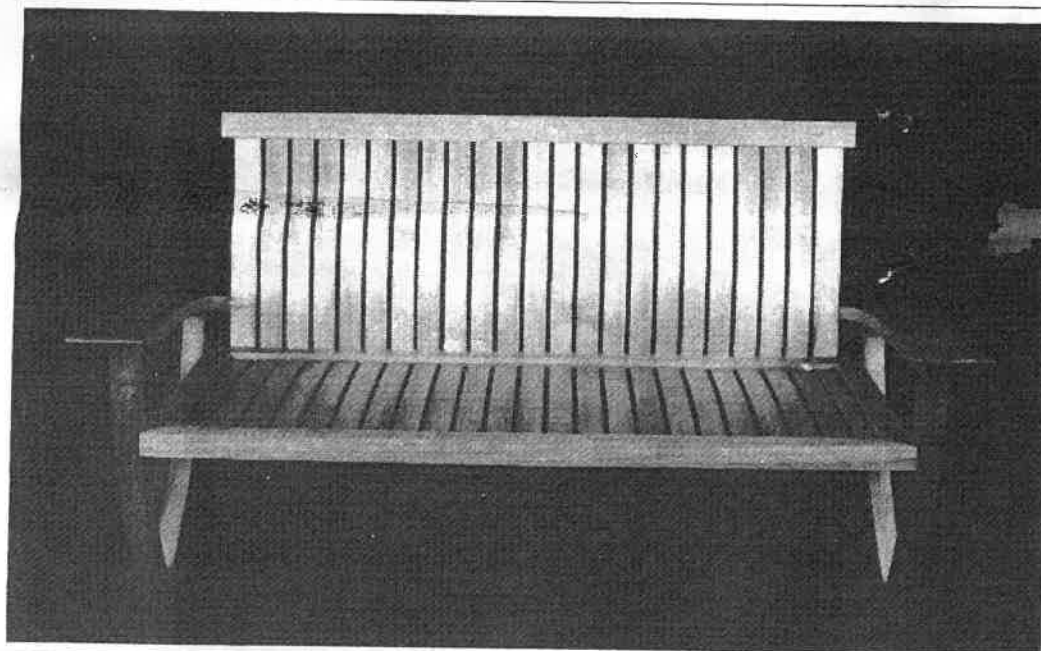
The Timber & Working With Wood Show has just finished in Sydney and our Association successfully

made their presence clear. We had a number of people join over the weekend with many others expressing interest. Thank you to all those who assisted over the weekend.

Our next meeting on August 7th will comprise the general meeting, a practical demonstration on veneering and a talk not to be missed from none other than Michael Gill. We have booked some extra seats and expect a full house. Look forward to seeing you there.

Regards

Paul Floyd



Parque Bench by Roy Schack - designed and constructed at Sturt School for Wood in 1994. Timber is Kauri Pine.

OUR NEXT MEETING

Guest Speaker : **Michael Gill**

Practical Demonstration : **Veneering**
Courtesy of **Alan Perry**

Michael Gill is well known to many of the membership who have been around awhile. He is currently lecturing at Canberra School of Art and will be discussing the development and design of his own woodworking.

One of his more well known pieces is a gorgeous settle. This is now part of the Australian Furniture Collection in the Powerhouse Museum. If you have seen Tom Darby's book 'Making Fine Furniture' you would have seen some of Michael's sculptural work as well. If you like being entertained whilst being informed then you will enjoy his talk.

Our practical demonstration will be on the art of veneering - a most useful way to stretch our precious resources and to decorate pieces. Arrive at 7pm for a 7.20 start - enjoy a light refreshment before getting under way. Limited parking may be available on site. Reserve a space by phoning Paul Floyd on (047) 35 2033 before midday on the day.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Monday, August 7th
Powerhouse Museum
500 Harris Street, Ultimo
(entry via Macarthur Street)
from 7 pm

Change of Address ?

Was this newsletter correctly addressed to you?
If your name or address is incorrect, please
drop a line to the editor so that our records
can be updated for next time.

Enquiries from Craft Council Referrals

I thought members may be interested in the variety of calls referred from the Craft Council. Since I took the position of Secretary, I have had enquiries for tree removal, a request from a film production company looking for a pre-1950s wood workshop within the Sydney city area for a new film starring Judy Davis and Sam Neill, a request for a carver who would also be able to frame a stained glass window, and a Japanese tour company which wants to show 40 Japanese tourists through a workshop in October. There was also a referral about marquetry which I sent on to the right people.

Karen Miles

WOODWORKERS' ASSOCIATION OF NSW COMMITTEE

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70 Nepean Avenue
Penrith 2750

Vice Chair: **David M. Linton** tel: (02) 949 6384
21 Kirkwood Street
Seaforth 2092

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Jon Gasparini tel: (047) 57 1915
Andy Stewart ah tel: (02) 449 7150
Dan Taylor ah tel: (047) 39 5377

Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are not
necessarily those of the editor or the committee.

Minutes of the General Meeting June 5th 1995

* Apologies received - Tony Stirton, Bob Howard

* Minutes of previous meeting accepted.

* Finance report - \$3520.00 including \$900.00 for the Craftsplace exhibition.

* Michael Gill has been confirmed for August; possibly he will bring the video the school is developing on itself.

* Sturt Trip :

Michael Gill and Tom Harrington are happy to oblige. The tentative plan is to go to Canberra and perhaps Beaver on the Saturday with dinner in Canberra on the Saturday night. On Sunday visit Peter Mussett and Sturt. We will hire a minibus and with accomodation will probably come to about \$100.00. Apparently we can stay at ANU during semester break for \$20.00 a head. Need to go in Spring before the exhibitions so we can see the students at work. List posted in order to gauge interest. Need about 22 for it to be viable.

* Timber & Working With Wood Show :

Karen asked for members who were interested in supplying an exhibit for the stand and also were interested in volunteering to man the stand.

* Craftsplace :

The Exhibition will be called 'Wood at the Rocks' An Exhibition of Fine Woodworking by 12 Members of the Woodworkers' Association of N.S.W.

Karen asked for volunteers to help man the space. This will be organised mid-July.

* A reminder that there is a flat fee of \$3.00 per head for all the refreshments on meeting nights.

* General Business :

Country Road are offering a Country Homeware Design Award. Closing date 30/6/95. Prize is \$5,000.00 and there is a furniture category.

Barry Carson from the Central Coast Woodturners asked for our help in filling out surveys for an assignment being completed by his son Andrew. This assignment was to develop a study of wood businesses for his 3 unit HSC wood course.

Karen Miles

WORKING WITH WOOD SHOW

Many thanks to the following for their participation in a successful display : Karen Miles, John Brassell, Jim Davey, Peter Maddock, Ray Johnson and Paul Floyd.

Thanks also to those who tended the stand over the weekend. The response was great. In addition to wooden items being displayed we had a loan of a very slick auto changing slide projector (thanks to John). This allowed us to handsomely display some of our Association's slide collection. We also now have approx. 36 m2 of carpet tiles for such displays courtesy of a donation to the Association.

NEWSLETTERS RECEIVED RECENTLY

- .By Hand & Eye
from the Sydney Woodturners' Guild Inc.
. Forest Hill Woodturners Inc.
. Illawarra Woodworkers Group Inc.
. Kiama Woodcraft Group Inc.
. Mid North Coast Woodworkers Inc.
. Northern Rivers Woodcraft Group Co-op Ltd..
. Queenscliff and District Woodworkers
. South Australian Woodgroup Inc.
. The Yarra Turners
. Victorian Woodworkers Association Inc.
. Warragul Woodwork Club
. Woodcraft Guild of ACT Inc.
. Woodturners Society of Queensland Inc.

The Sydney Woodturners' Guild Inc., the South Australian Woodgroup Inc. and the Warragul Woodwork Club have just begun exchanging newsletters with us.

All newsletters we receive from other groups are worth a read. Feel free to browse or borrow newsletters from other groups at our meetings. Are you aware of other woodie groups who regularly produce a newsletter? Please supply details to the editor.

The Association warmly welcomes the following new associate members :

Pia Bartlett
Stephen Conyers-East
Russell Day
Warwick Dent
David Ellis
Roy Howard
Andrezej Kosmider
Ross Pearson
Roberto Viola

MEETING DATES FOR 1995

AUGUST 7th
OCTOBER 9th
DECEMBER 4th

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

7th SEPTEMBER
2nd NOVEMBER

City of HOBART Art Prize

Applications close September 4th, 1995 for the City of Hobart Art Prize. Selection of successful applicants will be by slide. An exhibition of the work of successful applicants will be held in the Hobart Town Hall starting on 29th December 1995.

There is an acquisitive prize of \$5000 to be awarded in each of two categories :

"Works on Paper"

"Contemporary Designer-made Furniture"

There is also to be a non-acquisitive peoples' choice prize of \$1000 for the "most popular piece on exhibition"

All enquiries should be addressed to :

Philip Halliday
Cultural Development Officer
Hobart City Council
GPO Box 503E
HOBART TAS 7001

Phone (002) 38 2770

Fax (002) 36 9365

WOOD AT THE ROCKS

Venue : CRAFTSPACE
88 GEORGE STREET
THE ROCKS
SYDNEY

Official Opening Wednesday, 2nd August 6-8pm

Exhibition 11am - 5pm
Thursday 3rd - Sunday 20th August
CLOSED on Mondays

The Association would like to very sincerely thank the following sponsors of our exhibition

Major Sponsor - State Forests of NSW
CSR Timber Products
Trend Timbers
Cabots

Without their generous contributions we would not be able to hold the exhibition. In addition, thanks to Vivien Reid and the staff at the Crafts Council for their support of this project - nothing has been too much trouble.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unfortunately, there were no letters for this issue, so as punishment this has become the editor's column.

This issue of the newsletter is a bit later than usual, but still in time for you to receive it before the next Association meeting.

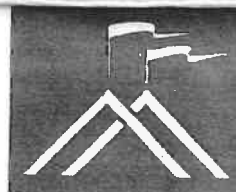
Anyone who managed to get to the Sydney Timber & Working With Wood Show would have found at least one thing to interest them I'm sure. Once again I had the pleasure of helping out on the Association's stand with an enthusiastic bunch of volunteers. With Karen's proven organisational skills the whole effort went like clockwork. From among the small but quality selection of exhibits provided by members, that which attracted the most interest was John Brassell's clamped laminated chair leg. Over at the Traditional Tools Group display, the most popular demonstration was simple hand planing. Both examples reinforce my belief that in this hi-tech world many people are still seeking understandable answers to simple questions.

One enquirer expressed great surprise that such an active Association existed to promote fine works in wood. I asked if he might be interested in joining, but he said he was not from Sydney. Eventually, he told me he was from Canada and went on to say that he knew of no surviving group with the same aims in his country. It sometimes takes something like that to remind me of how good it feels to be part of such a vital group.

CON

Letters from readers on any topic of interest will appear in the next available issue of the newsletter. If your letter is not typed, please write legibly.

Your letter must be signed, but your name will be withheld if you so wish.



The Woodworkers of the Northern Rivers Region Exhibition runs from July 28th until September 10th.

Around 50 of the region's leading woodworkers are participating in an exhibition expected to be diverse. Fine furniture, bush furniture, sculpture, turned wood and much more. There will also be demonstrations on weekends.

Contact Dympna Horan on (066) 223 200 for details.



CAREERING AWAY

One of the harder aspects of being a designer/maker is establishing a reputation early enough to provide a cashflow. Up and coming designer/maker Simon Witt used the Interior Designex '95 at Darling Harbour Exhibition Centre recently to jump start his career. The following are his thoughts on the experience :

"The night before the exhibition deadline I got three hours sleep as I sanded and sprayed to put the finishing touches on a couple of cabinets. Nothing much went right that night and when I finally got the spray gun working the lacquer started to run all over the job. It was then that I remembered Bob Howard's advice back in January that the event would be on me before I knew it, and didn't I know it now.

"Interior Designex got underway on the 28th April and ran for four days until the 1st May. During this time it was estimated that over 15,000 people saw the show and I think I must have spoken to half of them. To stand from 10 am to 6 pm for four days and keep up appearances was exhausting but extremely fruitful and rewarding none the less.

"The exhibitors included a broad range of designers, retailers and manufacturers. This in turn attracted a varied range of people to the exhibition and I found myself discovering new ideas and information as well as promoting my products.

"The stand I was located in was a part of the so-called "designer/maker" gallery which I found an excellent area to display. Due to the open layout and close proximity of the exhibitors it attracted the interest of everybody and generated a flow of people which surprisingly some of the larger stands seemed to lack. I let myself down by not 'dressing' the stand but I was lucky my work stood up for itself against the black partition backing. I think it's important to put more effort into this area, something a bit special is needed, something to catch the eye and enhance the work on display.

"I didn't have any brochures to give out either, which at the time I felt was a mistake. In hindsight it seems I was able to meet the people who had real interest in the product and business. Now I can follow up with personal calls without wasting a lot of resources.

"A trade exhibition can be seen as an expensive proposition. Many people seemed to be turned off by the price and expense involved in getting there. I don't think I could have found better value in comparative advertising as compared to the output and returns from this trade show.

"Since the exhibition I have had excellent feedback. I've obtained some good magazine exposure and met lots of new clients. This was just the start I needed for my business, to open up new doors and to get work on the books without having to run all over town chasing it. I'm looking forward to a good year and have already signed for next year's Designex which will again be held in Sydney and will then alternate between Melbourne and Sydney".

Simon Witt runs Lime Design at 380 Botany Road, Alexandria NSW 2015. Phone (02) 319 5666.

Enquiries regarding INTERIOR DESIGNEX 96, contact the organiser
Australian Trade Exhibitions Pty Ltd, PO Box 193 Camberwell 3124
Phone : (03) 9819 0211 Fax : (03) 9818 8553

A GRAND SCULPTURE PRIZE

The Waverley Art Prize is one of the most prestigious art competitions in Sydney, attracting more than 700 entries from all over Australia.

Now in its 10th year, the Prize has been expanded to include a Sculpture Section for the first time.

A prize to the value of \$500 will be awarded for a work in timber, metal, stone, ceramic or mixed media in each of the two categories :

TRADITIONAL and CONTEMPORARY

Applications close 26th August.

For details and entry forms, please contact :

**Margaret Kearns, Administrator
Waverley Woollahra Arts Centre**

Tel : (02) 387 2461

Fax : (02) 389 1486

Market Place

* Big River Timbers have stock of F32 A-bond ply, faced with flooded gum. Although graded as C/D face, they are knot-free. 22mm is \$31.88 m2, and 17mm \$23.13 m2. Other F grades and sizes available. 2440 x 1220 sheets available. Phone (02) 757 2755, or fax (02) 757 2125.

* Furniture grade radiata pine is being carried by Armour Timber. Sold in 3m lengths, 75 x 75 at \$8.26. Clear and straight. Phone (02) 810 0677 or (02) 555 1566.

* Stimsons in Balmain are running special prices on Bessey clamps. Prices on the TG quick action clamps are:

160mm - \$20.00	200mm - \$21.50	250mm - \$26.50
300mm - \$28.50	400mm - \$36.00	
500mm - \$40.50	600mm - \$43.00 plus sales tax.	

The KT edging clamps are:

KT5-1 Single spindle - \$13.50

KT5-2 Double spindle - \$21.00 plus sales tax.

They are also carrying the RS75 3/4" pipe clamps at \$65.00. These have a "tiltable jaw" to 15 degrees. Til stocks last. Phone (02) 810 1007.

* Re pipe clamps. Garrett Wade have the Jorgenson 3/4" at \$23.00 including sales tax. Phone (02) 744 3458. However, they will not work well if used on galvanised pipe. Black pipe is readily available and can be rust-proofed by waxing it which also helps prevent glue dags. Cut and threaded pipe can be ordered from Davison Engineering at Mascot.

* Moving workshop recently required new Public Liability cover. Quotes ranged from \$200 to \$800, and usually involved full inspections of premises, title deeds to grandparents' home and something about thirty pieces of silver. Finally McGrath Insurance Brokers were recommended. No inspection, over-the-phone instant cover and an extremely reasonable price and good advice. Other insurance products are also available. Phone (02) 418 2599.

* Anagote Timber has good stock of camphor laurel, including flitches. They are also carrying good stocks of 1 1/2" hardwoods such as brushbox, blue gum, spotted gum, blackbutt and jarrah. Phone (02) 558 8444.

* Users of the #60 1/2 block plane from Stanley will already know the joys of this small tool. Henry Black at Garrett Wade has secured stock of laminated blades from Japan. An excellent tool made even better. Phone (02) 744 3458.

* The Woodage at Welby (just passed Mittagong) has good stock of dark Australian red cedar (*Toona australis*, or whatever its new name is) in a range of sizes - 12" x 3m, 10" and 6" x 4m. Bigger flitches are available. They also maintain permanent stocks of plantation-grown Brazilian mahogany (*Swietenia* sp.) from Fiji. Turners and veneer users can access WA hardwood burls such as salmon and rough bark gum, and gimlet. Other species are available. Phone (048) 721 618.

* Beautiful Australian cedar, over 100 years old, from demolished Paddington terrace staircase. Long lengths up to 3.5 metres - handrails, strings, balisters etc. Intended for sculptural dreams but I need to raise cash and available for reasonable price. Phone Ron on (02) 356 4516 anytime.

To make this column work, your input is needed. If you come across anything you think may be of interest to other members, please pass it on. Opinions or information on new products may also be of interest to other members - for example, has anyone out there bought or used the new biscuit joiner from Makita? French products need not apply.

Either phone me on (02) 818 4264, or drop a line to Con (Mr Ed.)

Kim Johnston - Associate Member

Rare Timbers Tasmania

We received some correspondence from Mr. Henry Tams of Rare Timbers, Tasmania. This company salvages Huon Pine trees felled twenty years ago during the construction of the Strathgordon Dam. Their emphasis is on environmentally sound retrieval. From stock currently they can supply limb wood, squares, bark to bark slabs, turning blocks, lining boards, craft material, sawn timber and sawn veneers.

Their contact number is 018 145 699 and the fax is 003 433 787. If any members require further information or a copy of the latest price list, please contact Rare Timbers on this number.

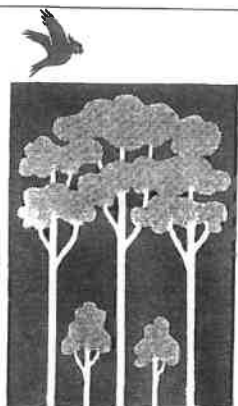
Karen Miles

KINDY BIZ

WE ARE SUPPLIERS OF EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTS AND FURNITURE FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES AND KINDERGARTENS.

WE NEED INNOVATIVE PEOPLE TO MAKE FURNITURE FOR US.

ENQUIRIES : JAN (02) 368 1976



S T A T E
FORESTS
MANAGING • CARING • SUSTAINING

Guest Speaker : Hans Drielsma

Summariser : Andy Stewart

At the June meeting we were treated to a presentation by Dr. Hans Drielsma, Managing Director of State Forests of New South Wales, on the business of developing our State forests.

At dinner parties Hans may sometimes have preferred to introduce himself as, say, a shopkeeper than have the hostess feel things would have been less controversial had she invited the Grim Reaper. But this merely reflects the strength of feeling many have about Australia's forests. Indeed, at our meeting there was a sense that there might be a shark or two lurking deep in the audience. However, only occasionally did a fin ripple the surface with questions about woodchipping or old growth conservation.

Government Policy

One of the major forces directing the management of the State's forests is the policy of the State Government of the day. The recently elected Labor Government had a strong electoral platform on the environment and in particular on the forests. Their desires are :

- . To protect High Conservation Value (HCV) old growth forests and wilderness areas
- . Related to this is the intention to shift commercial timber production to timber plantation and regrowth forests
- . However, the Government has a very strong plank to its policy in that it wishes to see an efficient high technology, ecologically sustainable forest and timber industry
- . As part of fulfilling these aims it is intended that there should be comprehensive regional assessments (CRA) of all aspects of forests as well as regional forest agreements (RFA).

With respect to a timetable, there will be an immediate rescheduling of logging activities into plantations and regrowth forests followed by an interim assessment program over 9-12 months in order to identify old growth forests of high conservation value, then a move into the comprehensive regional assessment process over the next 3-5 years. The aim is to have a comprehensive and adequate representative reserve system (CAR) - the criteria for this have been under discussion (including public input) and should be formulated during the year. In the CAR system the full range of biological and conservation values will be reserved.

As well as this the areas for commercial production will have been identified - there will, therefore, be security for conservation values and, importantly, security for production

State Forests Corporate Plan

In the corporate plan five key performance areas have been identified:

- . At the top of the list are their commercial customers: there must be awareness of their needs and a desire to improve customer satisfaction.
- . At the same time it is important to be responsive to community needs as well as, in the other direction, to develop the community's recognition of what is being done in order that the organisation is seen as environmentally responsible. Community support is essential to the business of forest management.
- . Environmental considerations are a major area of focus - for example, one way of demonstrating that the basis of the business is sustainability is by accelerating the transition into plantation and regrowth production.
- . Commercial performance: the organisation has a revenue base of about \$130 million with a capital program of \$70 million. The aim is for the business to grow and to improve competitiveness internationally as a provider of sustainably produced timber.
- . The last area of focus is the organisation's people.

Business Plan

The corporate plan is underpinned by a three year business plan, recently completed and published.

- . This is based on what is seen as a competitive advantage in Australia: we are one of the few countries around the Pacific rim (others are New Zealand and Chile) whose wood supplies are actually increasing.



The potential capacity could double timber production in the next 20 years. Prices are now rising as a result of resource reduction outside Australia and because of increasing demand in the Asia-Pacific region. This means that the market is becoming increasingly attractive to Australian producers, particularly for the more expensive plantation timber which is 90% plantation softwood. That our ability to produce timber sustainably is increasingly being recognised worldwide will further improve our competitive advantage. Australia has the land and climate as well as world class expertise built up over the last century to permit considerable forest expansion. What is more, Australia has a \$2 billion trade deficit in timber, so apart from exports there is a great market opportunity in replacement of imported timber.

. Because the plan has a commercial thrust there is a need to capture the full price potential of the products.

. A fair effort will be put into community education to ensure the long term security of the business.

. About \$5 - \$7 million per annum will be available for environmental assessment. At the moment there is around 15 environmental impact statements in preparation which will be fed into the comprehensive regional assessment program: there costs are being covered by commercial operations.

Significant resources are to be put into monitoring forest management, in particular the identification and establishment of quantifiable sustainability indicators. This is a new and innovative area of work.

. 37,000Ha of plantations (22,000Ha softwood; 15,000Ha hardwood) are to be established over the next 3 years, costing around \$200 million.

. Considerable effort will be put into genetic improvement aimed at improvements in timber quality and growth rates, to accelerate both production and the transition to regrowth and plantations.

Timber Production

. At the moment, softwood plantations account for \$54 million of production with hardwoods (all sources) being about \$45 million (a small contribution is from plantation hardwood and cypress). In 3 years expanded production of softwood will lead to a larger proportion (\$79 million) hardwoods (\$51 million) which will come predominantly from regrowth and a small but rapidly increasing amount coming from plantation hardwoods. It should be remembered that this represents timber produced from an area of 200,000Ha of pine and 3,500,000Ha of hardwoods, mainly mixed species in

native forests. This area may or may not decrease depending on future conservation requirements.

. Hardwood production: this was broken down, first by volume, then by value according to various categories. About one third in volume is woodchip representing about a quarter by value. Given the relative values there is no financial incentive to downgrade logs into lower value categories such as woodchip in spite of what you might hear. There has always been better market demand for sawlogs than woodchip. A proportion of the top-grade logs goes into high value use: furniture, veneers etc. In fact, one of the government's major objectives is to expand the high value markets, something which is somewhat neglected at the moment.

Conservation and Environmental Protection

. The CAR reserve system will be put in place (as mentioned above).

. The forest management plan will then deal with the resource and set the sustainable yield, that is what can be harvested annually without exceeding the growth capacity of the forest. This policy has been in place for many years.

. Detailed harvest plans, underpinned by thorough environmental assessment, are prepared for each area prior to harvesting.

. These plans are subject to a rigorous and comprehensive regime of external regulation requiring the approval from the EPA, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Minister of Planning. This can be a long and detailed process, certainly not just a rubber stamp. In addition, the Federal Government which issues woodchip export licences, maintains close oversight and control of operations.

. During harvesting there is a tight system of monitoring and supervision in order to avoid abuse. Breaches of conditions are subject to penalties and sanctions.

. Criteria and indicators of sustainability are being identified both here and overseas - this will take time to develop in detail although there are now draft criteria adopted in Australia. They will be applied to specific areas at first as part of national research projects. In future there will be an annual report on the health of the forests. In the longer term we are looking towards a series of accreditation standards which can be used, especially overseas, to show that the timber is produced in an environmentally friendly way.



Technology and Marketing

. A large and growing part of the business is softwood substitution, especially of some hardwood and imported species for routine structural applications.

. With particular reference to the eucalypt hardwoods, our timbers have notable advantages in strength, durability and beauty which set them apart from the softwoods. We see a future in capitalising on these sorts of qualities rather than using them where softwoods can be used. This means value adding, leading to greater profitability and better use of the native timbers. Much more is now being kiln dried and dressed and used for its strength for engineering applications as well as for flooring, panelling and furniture: it's reckoned that these uses have only reached half of their potential. State Forests are keen to encourage these sorts of increased value usage. Research is being done by the CSIRO Forest Products Division and by timber companies and the Forest and Wood Products R & D Corporation, a commonwealth organisation which is distributing funds into a range of projects aimed at new applications. With respect to improving the availability of the more interesting eucalypt timbers (something which is a serious problem at present) there is a desire to expand this and to drive the marketing of the product in order to create a market which the sawmiller can see and is prepared to cater for by selecting high quality logs. There will be a lot of pressure (eg. from government) to encourage this over the next couple of years.

. For this to happen there must be market deregulation and a change in the pricing structure. This may make it easier to establish a trade in small packets of high value logs for a specifically targeted market (eg. furniture). Individual logs such as cedar have been put to tender in the past.

. With respect to the species which are potentially available there is still a wide range of timbers being harvested - the most common (blackbutt) only comprises about 17% of the total. Many are high strength, high durability as well as a wide range of grain and colour types which provide quite a diverse resource with potentially high marketability, something which is very poorly exploited at the moment.

. There is some development with respect to engineered timbers such as stress laminated timbers for bridges and other structural uses requiring high strength.

. Another technology development area is reconstituted wood products (MDF etc.) which can use lower grade timber and could be a high value replacement for export woodchips.

Nevertheless, much more must be done to develop the

uses and markets for top grade high value hardwoods. This may require some effort to get more involved in the harvesting operation so as to segregate top quality logs and divert them into high value uses, as mentioned above. The effect of the concentration of timber production into a few major operators is debatable - one advantage is that they may have the resources for new product development (assuming that the will is there). On the other hand, smaller mills may be able to more effectively exploit particular high value but low volume niche markets or new technologies.

. There is considerable investment in plantations - there are currently 26,000Ha mainly flooded gum and blackbutt, of average 20 years yielding about \$1 million worth of product now, \$3 million in 3 years; some on the North Coast are producing high value veneer which is very encouraging. A further 2,000Ha are being planted this year, 3,000Ha next year rising to 10,000Ha per annum assuming the money can be found. The aim is to have 100,000Ha in 10 years.

Many of these plantations are being set up as joint venture schemes with private landowners in blocks of 30 - 40Ha (minimum 20Ha). The landowner provides land, State Forests establishes the plantation and the proceeds are shared on harvesting. Most of these landowners are being drawn towards joint ventures for a variety of reasons from the romantic to the purely practical (lowering water tables to reduce salination, commercial gain from timber).

There has been some concern that a landowner will not be free to harvest a plantation when the trees mature. In order to address this problem the Government intends to introduce into Parliament a bill to provide a right of guarantee of harvest to anyone who establishes a plantation (according to accepted rules and regulations). As to the species which would be planted in these joint venture plantations, commercial considerations are paramount so blackbutt and flooded gum will predominate with some allowance for small quantities of a range of other species. Profitability is low at present so careful selection of species for planting is crucial; in fact the scheme would probably not work if the landowners were operating purely on the profit motive. (In Western Australia, for example, trees are being used to lower the water table as well as provide timber. Also, some species of eucalypt from the north east coast of NSW have been found to do well in drier areas of the Murray-Darling because of the high water table.) However, special arrangements are being considered whereby, for example, the landowner can choose that, say, 25% of the land may be devoted to species of his/her own choice, but he/she will only be entitled to profit from that area.



There are no plans to plant or harvest rainforest species except where they are found as understorey species in regrowth forests. Some private planting of these species is occurring but not on a commercial basis.

Hans' talk was interesting and stimulating. Modern forest management in New South Wales has evolved to meet both community and commercial needs and has incorporated changing perceptions about responsible environmental management. What we heard would appear to be a far cry from the claims by some 'environmentalists' that logging is arbitrary, recklessly unsustainable and aimed at satisfying the short term greed of big business.

For many in the audience, there are two important issues which arise.

One is clearly that of environmental protection and this was addressed substantially. There will always be questions about the underlying assumptions used to define low and high conservation values. There will also be objections raised, particularly by those who see the felling of any tree, old growth or regrowth (other than in a plantation) as an ecological disaster - the position taken by many conservation groups. The general public, however, might be happy if they can see the management strategy as a responsible balance. The difficulty may be in convincing them of this - a comprehensive information and education program is certainly needed. Convincing the media, not renowned for an interest in constructive debate, will be crucial.

The other issue concerns increasing the availability of the best of the hardwoods (principally eucalypts nowadays) for furniture making. Many of the questioners described frustration at either being unable to easily access these timbers or feeling that large quantities were 'going to waste'. Whilst Hans recognised the problem and said all the right things about market development, high value adding and so on, I couldn't help wondering whether mass market priorities (high strength, durable construction timbers, concentration on a near monoculture for plantations) would result in continuing marginalisation of the development of the full potential of top grade timber. I hope I'm being unduly pessimistic - perhaps there is a role here for the Woodworkers' Association in maintaining an ongoing dialogue with State Forests (to keep up the pressure!).

Andy Stewart



Who WE Are

The Woodworkers' Association of NSW is composed of about 170 individuals, both men and women, and membership is open to anyone with an interest in woodworking. There are regular meetings where you can usually hear a guest speaker and where you can discuss tips and techniques, sources and problems with fellow 'woodies' over cheese and biscuits with some fruit juice, wine, tea or coffee.

The aims of the Association are to :

- Keep increasing the standard of Australian fine work in wood
- Promote public awareness of this work
- Provide a focus for the exchange of expertise and to foster camaraderie among those who work in wood
- Be a voice for the proper management of our dwindling native timber resources.

As the membership is about half and half professional and amateur, and most aspects of woodworking are represented, there is plenty of opportunity for the exchange of clues and news. And there is this handsome bi-monthly newsletter containing discussion on a wide range of woodworking topics, letters, competitions and other items of interest to woodworkers.

Members include boatbuilders, furniture makers, marquetrists, woodturners, sculptors, carvers, musical instrument makers, modellers, miniaturists, spoonmakers, restorers, fine artists and designers, all passionate about their shared medium : wood.

The majority of the practicing members work in a modern design idiom characterised by bold and vibrant concepts which are translated into distinctive objects. Other members immerse themselves in the traditional aspects of their craft, maintaining time-honoured skills such as marquetry, inlay, stringing, french polishing and restoring.

The Association aims to set high standards for workmanship and design and to that end has instituted selection criteria based on peer assessment. Although Association membership is open to anyone interested in woodwork, exhibiting membership is attained when examples of current work are submitted and judged to be excellent by the committee. Only these members are entitled to exhibit and even their work offered for exhibition will be adjudicated.

The membership year is from January to December. Associate membership can be yours for \$40 per annum, or \$10 per quarter or part thereof. Send your name, address and area of interest with your payment by cheque, money order or credit card (BC, MC or VISA, card number, cardholders name, card expiry date) to our treasurer, Margaret Kearns as listed on page 2.

WOODWORKERS' CHALLENGE

"LET'S TALK!"

The challenge is to make a conversation piece with the theme of - "Let's Talk!".

This challenge is open to ALL financial members of the Association. You may enter more than once, there is a \$5 entry fee per entry, and all proceeds will go to a registered charity to be nominated by the winner. The winner will be decided by a viewer's poll to be conducted at our August 1995 meeting.

This is NOT a judged competition. The idea is to have a bit of FUN by letting your imagination run free.

You may still enter if you are geographically challenged. Country members may send their entries to Paul Floyd, or anyone on the committee, before the August meeting of the Association.

The only limitations on each entry are :

- at least two timbers, or timber derivatives, must be used;
eg. jarrah & ply is ok, or pine & MDF & masonite is ok. Just pine is Not ok.
- no more than two non-timber materials can be used;
eg. glass + woods is ok, or glass & steel + woods is ok. Glass & copper & marble is Not ok.
- it must fit wholly within a space measuring 60cm by 30cm by 20cm.
(approx. 2ft x 1ft x 8in);
- it must relate, in some explainable way, to the theme of "Let's Talk!".

What are you still waiting for?

Put your thinking caps on again and get going - the August meeting is the 7th.

(The entries we receive could make an interesting mini-exhibition)

SIDEBOARD

From the June meeting the following notice remains unfulfilled.

AVAILABLE NOW!

Ageing computer programmer, thoroughly dissatisfied with the world of high-tech gizmos, seeks alternative path to poverty through woodworking;

Currently enrolled in stage 3 cabinetmaking at Lidcombe TAFE, dreams of 2 to 3 days per week (or as required), in a small furniture workshop with the opportunity to watch, listen, learn and participate.

Ian Masters
(02) 958 1096

WHAT NOW ?

There have been a couple of name changes that readers may be interested in.

Australian Red Cedar is now *Toona ciliata* (formerly *Toona australis*).

Brush Box is now *Lophostemon confertus* (formerly *Tristania conferta*).

This information was provided by John Galea, from the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, out of one of their publications 'The Flora of New South Wales'. John also recommended subscribing to their two journals :- *Telopea* and *Cunninghamia*. Does the Association or any members already subscribe?

Bob Howard

Timbers Not To Be Used

The following lists of timbers, taken from The Wilderness Society's brochure "*She's Dying For a New Home*" 1994, was reproduced in *Choice* February 1995. Members and consumers are asked to avoid using them.

NATIVE TIMBERS

Alpine ash
Bean (black, red, salmon)
Beech
Blackwood
Box-ironbark
Brushbox
Bunya pine
Canary ash
Celery top pine
Crows ash
Cypress pine
Ebony (black, grey)
Grey gum

Huon pine
Ironbark
Jarrah
Johnson River hardwood
Karri
Kauri pine
King William pine
Mallee timbers
Manna gum
Marri
Messmate
Mountain ash
Quandong
Walnut (black,
Queensland yellow)

Queensland maple
River red gum
Red cedar
Red satinay
Rosewood
Sassafras
Satin box
Shining gum
Silky oak
Silver wattle
Tasmanian oak
Tasmanian myrtle
Victorian ash

IMPORTED TIMBERS

Batu
Californian redwood
Douglas fir (oregon)
Iroko
Jelutong
Kapur
Kauri
Kempas

Keruing
Lauan
Mengkulang
Meranti
Merbau
Mersawa
Narra
Nyatoh

Pacific maple
Padauk
Philippine mahogany
Ramin
Sapele
Teak
Tulipwood
Western red cedar

The list is interesting for a number of reasons. Firstly, because we don't have a system of timber accreditation, lists such as these perform that role by de facto. As wood workers and consumers demand to know the environmental costs inherent in the timbers they use, such a system is important as a part of the forests debate and the future of sustainable forestry practices.

Secondly, the list includes species that are plantation grown or harvested as part of regrowth managed forests. Species such as mountain ash, cypress pine and messmate are grown in plantations and while it is likely that some stock is still harvested in the old slash and kill method of advanced environmental vandalism, their inclusion on this list devalues the role of plantation timbers. Not only is the rarity of the timber species an issue, but how it is harvested is just as critical. Australian forestry practices are pretty primitive - timbers harvested in a sustainable mode should be accredited as such. Good practice should be rewarded.

Thirdly, using common names is not precise - three to four eucalypt species are marketed as Tas Oak - different species in different areas. A number of the imported timbers are also a bit vague on detail. What timber is being blacklisted is not clearly indicated.

The principle is a fine one, and one that we all can support. And support we must because both our clients and ourselves will demand to know what we can use and what we shouldn't. However, what we should be demanding is a national, nay, an international accreditation system for timber. There's nothing to be gained by taking on the Wilderness Society - they are going to set an agenda that matches their philosophy and values (one many members probably share). But at the same time, as far as we may be concerned, there has to be a compromise worked out between that and Boral and their accountants wasting thousands of lineal metres of hardwood a year through cost cutting and the inefficiencies of the Forestry Commission that appears not to support the ecologically sustainable small mill capable of supplying timbers of cabinet quality.

An accreditation system answers consumers' questions, argues that sustainable forestry practices are possible and economic, and of course helps to support the small mill and increase timber diversity. Expensive? Impossible to implement? Quality control registration is in place under the umbrella of quasi-government and industry bodies for both timber and secondary forest products. Building grade timber carries stress grades. These are imprinted on each piece of timber. A system of at least national accreditation of timber source would be no more difficult - indeed probably easier as it would allow governments and their agencies to clamber all over the green bandwagon, and bring green groups into resource management practice. It would also support the small mill able to selectively log its concessions or private lots.

A possible mechanism for putting this into place is to use the Australian Standards Council. Australian standards are set by sub-committees, which take evidence from relevant authorities, members of the public, "experts" etc. and then impose those standards, using regulatory devices such as the Building Code of Australia. This is not a government body, and it is not controlled as regards the appointment of the sub-committee members. An Australian Standards Code that regulates the classification of timber source and its subsequent marketing may be the mechanism to make it work. One advantage of using an Australian Standard Code is that even an organisation like the Woodworkers' Association of NSW can have either a permanent representative on the sub-committee or at the very least, make a presentation to it. It can also provide a somewhat neutral arena for the timber industry, the greens, unions and government authorities to meet and thrash it all out.

Timber source accreditation work is being done by Greenpeace, The Rainforest Information Centre as well as The Wilderness Society. The RIC produces the *Good Wood Guide* which is currently being revised. You should access these lists and at least have some idea of where the debate is heading. The other point is how do you answer your customer's questions about the green credentials of your materials? Fob it off? Treat it as an annoying attack of the do-gooders? More fool you. Given that this list has been reproduced in *Choice*, I would see the issue as a very important one. The people who read *Choice* are middle class and just the sort of audience who may buy your work.

The point of all this - if you do not support or help to establish some form of timber source accreditation in this country, then it will be done in proxy by either green organisations who have a somewhat different agenda than we the small producer of fine wooden objects, or a scheme set up by industry bodies that runs the real risk of having no support from the greens and therefore a lame duck. If you, the end user, don't contribute, who will make the decisions that will affect you? Who you are and what you produce as a woodworker is intrinsically tied up with your materials - having no input into its management is a very dangerous place to be.

Kim Johnston - Associate Member

Copies of

"She's Dying for a New Home: Will It be Yours?" are available from The Wilderness Society, 1a James Lane, Sydney 2000 phone (02) 267 7929.

The *Good Wood Guide* will be available from the Rainforest Information Centre phone (066) 218 505.

Greenpeace has also produced the draft document *"Timbers for the 2000 Olympic Games"* which is available from Greenpeace. Timber source accreditation is dealt with in the report.

The Turn - Towards Sustainable Furniture By Design

The EcoDesign Foundation is offering around \$6000 in prizemoney, half of which is for student work and the other half for professionals.

The aim of the competition and subsequent touring national exhibition is to give industrially manufactured recycled furniture a higher profile in the industry, as well as to encourage designers to incorporate ecodesign methods and materials into their work.

There are four sections based on the materials used:

- 1 Sustainable plantation materials
- 2 A single recycled material
- 3 A combination of recycled and plantation materials
- 4 A single new synthetic environmentally passive material

Closing date for entries is 6th October, 1995.

For further information and entry forms, contact :

Claudia Nemeth
EcoDesign Foundation Inc.
PO Box 369
Rozelle NSW 2039

Phone (02) 555 9412 Fax (02) 555 9564

Diary

JULY

June 25 - August 3

Furniture '95: occasional pieces

Exhibition of contemporary occasional furniture
by 14 leading designer/makers

Beaver Galleries

81 Denison Street, Deakin ACT

Enquiries : (06) 282 5294

28 - August 10

Collaboration between Ceramist and Woodworker

Mura Clay Gallery

49 - 51 King Street, Newtown, Sydney NSW

Enquiries : (02) 550 4433

28 - September 10

Woodworkers of the Northern Rivers Region

The Chocolate Factory Art and Craft Centre

12 Foleys Road, South Lismore NSW

Enquiries : Dympna Horan (066) 223 200

AUGUST

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2 - 20 WOOD AT THE ROCKS

Craftspace

88 George Street, The Rocks NSW

Enquiries : Karen Miles (02) 564 7848

AUG.

**7 Woodworkers' Association of NSW Inc
Next Meeting**

See page 2

**8 The Traditional Tools Group Inc
Next General Meeting**

Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre

Observatory Hill, Sydney NSW

Enquiries : Mike Williams (02) 44 6356

25 - October 8

AGROUND - Don Fortescue

Wollongong City Gallery

Corner Kembla & Burelli Sts Wollongong NSW

Enquiries : (042) 28 7500

**26 Closing Date for applications
for The Waverley Art Prize**

Enquiries : Margaret Kearns tel. (02) 387 2461

fax. (02) 389 1486

SEPTEMBER

July 28 - September 10

Woodworkers of the Northern Rivers Region

The Chocolate Factory Art and Craft Centre

12 Foleys Road, South Lismore NSW

Enquiries : Dympna Horan (066) 223 200

August 25 - October 8

AGROUND - Don Fortescue

Wollongong City Gallery

Corner Kembla & Burelli Sts Wollongong NSW

Enquiries : (042) 28 7500

12 - October 31 Alvar Alto

Architecture, furniture and models of influential

Finnish Architect

Powerhouse Museum, Sydney

Enquiries : (02) 217 0111

16 - October 15

Meet The Makers - at Floriade

Canberra's Spring Festival

Canberra, ACT

Enquiries : Marketlink Exhibitions (06) 285 1186

or Fax (06) 285 1796

22 - 24 Oberon Woodcraft Exhibition

Oberon High School, Oberon NSW

Enquiries : Col Roberts (063) 36 3148

Diary

SEPTEMBER

23 - 28 Grafton ARTFEST

A unique range of affordable courses, guided by talented and experienced professionals.

Enquiries : PO Box 465, Grafton NSW 2460

Phone (066) 43 3177 Fax (066) 42 2610

29 - October 2 Treasures in Timber

Woodcraft Guild of the ACT

Exhibition Gallery of ACT Legislative Assembly
Civic Square, London Circuit, Canberra ACT

Enquiries : (06) 281 6548

29 - Oct. 2 Exhibition of Fine Woodwork

Sails Resort, Port Macquarie NSW

Enquiries : Robert Percival (066) 52 5221

OCTOBER

Sept 29 - 2 Exhibition of Fine Woodwork

Sails Resort, Port Macquarie NSW

Enquiries : Robert Percival (066) 52 5221

August 25 - October 8

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Enquiries : (06) 281 6548

NOVEMBER

21 - 26

The Australian CRAFT Show

RAS Showground, Sydney NSW

JANUARY 1996

8 - 19

McGregor Summer School

"A learning experience in a holiday atmosphere"

Enquiries : The Manager, Cultural Activities

Darling Downs Unilink

PO Box 200

Drayton North, Toowoomba QLD 4350

Phone (076) 36 4000

Fax (076) 36 4888

Is your event listed here?

It will be for free if you just drop a line to the Editor - see address on page 2 of this newsletter and see page 3 for next deadlines.

Can any reader please let the editor know about other happenings in other parts of this great State?!

WOOD AT THE ROCKS



AN EXHIBITION
OF FINE WORKS
BY MEMBERS OF
THE WOODWORKERS'
ASSOCIATION OF NSW



WEDNESDAY 2ND AUGUST TO
SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST, 1995

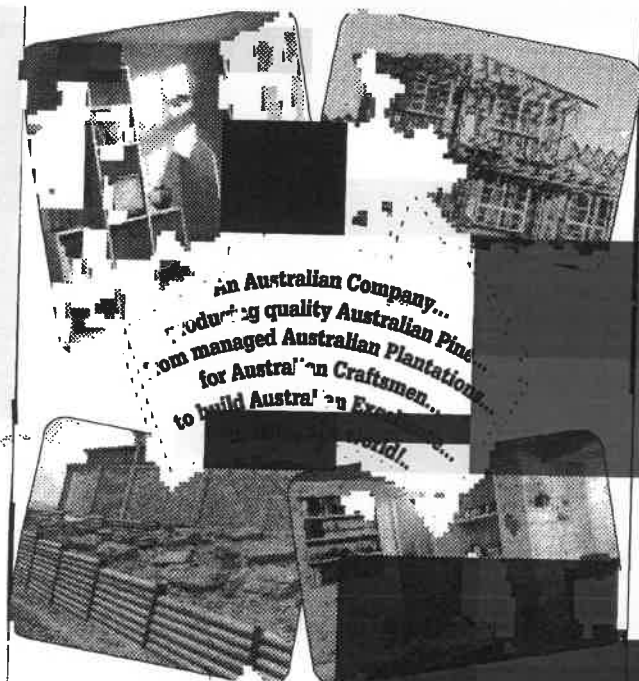


CRAFTSPACE
88 GEORGE STREET
THE ROCKS
TUESDAY - SUNDAY 11 AM - 5 PM

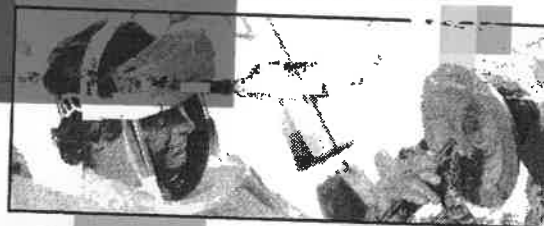
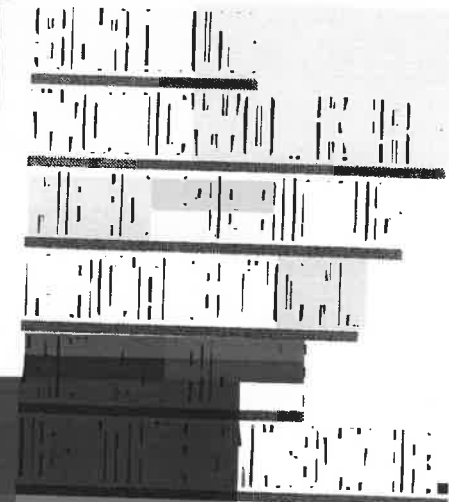


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Airflow over face...
• Imp...
• 4 or 6...
Safety



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