



Shed Notes

Newsletter of the Woodcraft Guild ACT Inc

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2011, 1930 - 2130

Venue: **The SHED**, Lions Youth Haven, Kambah Pool Road, KAMBAH ACT 2902

Meeting of 23 February 2011

THE WILD SIDE OF WOODCRAFT

This month, **John Jervis** will give us a presentation on using recycled materials to construct bird-houses, bat-boxes and possum-penthouses for both urban backyards and rural settings. Using recycled materials keeps costs to a minimum, and John will demonstrate easy-to-make designs for practical application.

John says: *"During my employment as a Park Ranger, one of the frequent questions I was asked was: 'How can we attract wildlife to our gardens?' Undertaking research, I found a lot of fallacies and contradictions on this subject. With considerable assistance, I have developed a series of designs and practices which consist of simple woodwork, and after modifications these have proven to be relatively successful".*

Come along to learn more about making homes for our furry and feathered friends which are simple, low-cost and a valuable addition to any home garden.

Hello, Possums!



"Where are my complimentary gladioli?"

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Also at the February meeting, Robert Hogg will describe the Toy SIG project to make 1000 toys for charities for Xmas 2011.

Calling All Wood-be Turners!

The Guild is running another Beginners' Workshop on Sunday 13 March – see page 3 for details.

Executive Committee of the Guild

President	Dan Steiner	president@woodcraftguild.org.au
Vice Pres	Fred Buckley	vicepresident@woodcraftguild.org.au
Secretary	Michael Peel	secretary@woodcraftguild.org.au
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EDITORIAL EFFLUVIA

My thanks to those readers who have offered their comments on my first issue as Editor – fortunately, they have been very positive (so far!), but I welcome **any** feedback that will help me improve the quality and readability of your Newsletter. After all, its primary function is to communicate with you, the Guild members.

As I prepared to publish the January issue (with Lynne's invaluable guidance), I was a bit surprised by the number of members who still have their Newsletters posted to them as hard copy. The longer-serving members among you will remember Lynne's initiative several years ago to publish the Newsletter online, in the interests of making a considerable saving of the costs of printing and posting hard copy. As I sat folding, enveloping and stamping some 40-odd copies, which I had brought home from Phillip after a special trip to the printers, I wondered whether any of the addressees were now in a position to join the majority of members in accessing their Newsletter online. I acknowledge that there are some members whose circumstances are such that they will always need to receive a printed copy – and they will continue to do so – but I am also aware that several of this group now have access to the Internet, and could presumably forgo a mailed copy. I will be exploring this question further, but for now can I point out that I hope to include more photographs of Guild activities and characters in future issues, and only online will you be able to see (and download / print) these images in glorious Technicolor!

I mentioned in the last issue that I would be making some cosmetic changes, and the eagle-eyed among you may have noticed that I have introduced a different way of identifying each issue. *Pace* my predecessors, I have never really understood why a modest publication like *Shed Notes* needed the rather portentous designation "Volume X, No. xx" – as a recent trawl through back issues has revealed, this antiquated system has been followed haphazardly at best, and at worst has led to mistakes and confusion. My research established that the January 2011 issue was the 275th of the line, so from now on I will just use simple serial numbering (as do all of the magazines to which we subscribe).

Rod

SPLINTERS

[This space is reserved for YOUR thoughts, in the form of emails / letters to the Editor, which you might like to share with the general readership. Keep them short and pithy (No, Bruce, that doesn't mean "after a few beers") and they'll be more likely to be published. See below for an example. Contact me via editor@woodcraftguild.org.au, or by writing to Editor, Shed Notes, WGACTION Inc, PO Box 1411 WODEN ACT 2606. Remember: Newsletter deadline is 2nd Friday of the month. Ed]

Email from Alan Casimir (in response to Robin Cromer's article on timber for sale):

"At last !!!!! May you establish and maintain a tradition of using common AND botanical names whenever possible. How can users (particularly furniture makers and box makers) marry different timbers without accurate identification to let them access the specific physical properties? Ultimately we may see less split work. I hope you can extend this to Exhibition entries."

Presentation Postscript (PPS)

At the January meeting, Robin Cromer asked us the question "What is an Oak?", to which his answer, in summary, was "Anything that's 'quirky'!" His informative and well-illustrated presentation gave us a helpful insight into the genus *Quercus*, and into identifying the sub-species that can be found in Canberra streets, through both their foliage and the distinctive structures of their timber. Unfortunately, Robin's presentation is too long to reproduce here, but can be found in full on our website at <http://www.woodcraftguild.org.au/presentations.htm>

COMING EVENTS

Internal

Next Monthly Guild Meeting: - Wednesday 30 March 2011 at 1930 at the Shed

Presentation subject TBA – see front page, March issue!

Woodworking 101 – Using Hand Tools

Sunday 06 and Friday 11 March 2011 at the Shed – An opportunity for members to learn basic hand-tool skills making a simple project, with the help of experienced Guild craftsmen. Cost is \$10 for all materials, use of Guild hand tools, and your morning/afternoon tea. BYO lunch. Limited places, so contact Dave Callan on 6288 8625 or at callanad@bigblue.net.au (See page 12 also.)

Beginners' Turning Workshop

Sunday 13 March 2011 at the Shed – An excellent opportunity for aspiring turners (NB members only) to get a head start and lathe accreditation under the gentle guidance of some of the Guild's experienced turners. Cost is \$10; BYO lunch, mornos & afters provided. Limit of 10 places; get in early to reserve a place with coordinator Dan Steiner on 0415 133 606, or at president@woodcraftguild.org.au (See page 12 also.)

External

Next Triton Club Meeting

02 March 2011 – Demonstration of toy-making and cutting of wooden 21st Birthday keys. (For further information, contact Burn Alting on 6281 0432, or visit the club's website at <http://www.tocact.org.au>)

Sturt Summer School

19 ~ 20 February 2011 at Mittagong – Alan Walker (who is currently attending a course at Sturt) advises that specialist toolmakers, including HNT Gordon, Chris Vesper, Colen Clenton and Lie Nielsen, will be displaying and selling their wares between 1000 ~ 1600 at the school.

Royal Canberra Show

25 ~ 27 February 2011 at EPIC – The Guild will again have a marquee featuring woodcraft sales and demonstrations, under the masterful control of Bill Hodgetts. Volunteer slots are all taken, but any member wanting to sell woodcraft at the Show should contact Dan Steiner (0415 133 606 president@woodcraftguild.org.au). Sales items will need to be delivered to the Shed by Wed 23 Feb.

National Folk Festival

21 ~ 25 April 2011 at EPIC – Once again the Guild will take pride of place among the "Tradition-Bearers" at this prestigious national event, and coordinator Maurene Grundy (6282 1323 maurene.grundy@gmail.com) will soon be seeking volunteers to person the Guild stand. An excellent woodcraft sales opportunity, especially anything "folksy" (but no lace doilies, please – unless wooden!).

TW³S / Annual Guild Exhibition

02 ~ 04 September 2011 at EPIC – Our other major, and premier, event for the year. You should have already started creating your entries; keep an eye on the Newsletter for calls for volunteers.

Marymead Fete

(Day TBA) November 2011 at Marymead, Narrabundah – the Guild will be represented by a modest stall, with all Guild proceeds donated to the Marymead charity.

PRESIDENTIAL PALAVER

Christmas BBQ

The 2010 annual BBQ was a resounding success, with over 60 members and partners attending on a beautiful summer's day. Thanks to those helping with the BBQ; to Art Pollard for the delicious grilled onions; to the usual early arrivers for the set-up; and to all present for the jovial atmosphere!

Disabled Toilet Project

The final certificate of compliance was received 31 January 2011, approximately 2 years after approval of a grant from the ACT Government. On behalf of all members, I want to express sincere appreciation to all those who gave so readily and continuously of their time and talent to complete this valuable addition to the Guild's Shed.

Timber Storage and Organisation for Sale to Members

Robin Cromer has done an exceptional job in carefully reviewing the Guild's timber stocks and removing pieces unsuited to use or sale. Robin's knowledge and thorough approach has freed up critical storage space for the drying of more suitable species. He has also tidied up the Turners' Shed, and labelled pieces for sale at monthly meetings. The purchase of some dry timber suitable for use by furniture and box-makers has proved highly successful, with the \$500 cost more than covered by over \$750 of revenue. Robin continues to be on the lookout for more timber types which are in demand by Members. Donations of mulberry (*Morus spp*) and liquidambar (*Liquidambar spp*) were received in January.

2011 Canberra Show – 25-27 Feb 2011

The RNCAS has again offered a marquee for the Guild to demonstrate woodcraft, with space for members to sell their craft items. Bill Hodgetts is our Coordinator for this year's Show, and he has already attracted enough volunteers to make the Show a success. This is a fine opportunity for members to sell woodcraft (see the item on "Selling Your Woodcraft" on page 12 below).

Barcode Reader

The Guild has purchased a barcode reader, which Derek Jewell is preparing for use by members. Potential applications include: labelling Guild assets; identifying books and controlling loans from the Guild library; identifying Exhibition items for judging; and greatly simplifying and streamlining Guild sales at events. Other uses may well emerge as we become familiar with its use [*including a GPS locator for use by the Librarian? Ed*].

Timber 'Branding Iron'

The Guild has ordered an electric branding iron of the Guild logo. It can be used to permanently label Guild items, in particular those offered for sale to the public. [*What about using it to indentify Life Members? Ed*]

2011 T&WWW Show and Annual Exhibition

I am keen to fill the remaining coordination positions for the Guild's Annual Exhibition from **2-4 September 2011**. Still needed are volunteers for Sponsorship Coordinator; Exhibit Coordinator (including identification of judges); Transportation Captain; Demonstration Coordinator; and Raffle Coordinator. Please contact me NOW if you can help us mount another successful event.

Guild Secretary

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Satnam Singh for his help with the duties of Secretary. Satnam volunteered after we were unable to attract a nominee for Secretary at the AGM, but is unable to continue because of work commitments. **Michael Peel** has now offered to serve as the Guild's Secretary, and I warmly welcome him to the Committee.

Commissions

The Guild has recently received several commissions. We were asked to make some trailer ramps for the group who has preserved the ACT's heritage pipe organ, but would have been unable to complete the project in the very tight timetable allowed. Keith Houston has agreed to oversight work to carve an extension to the Battle Honours board for 816 Squadron at HMAS Albatross, Nowra. Terry O'Loughlin completed an entertainment centre, and has very generously donated the \$400 commission to the Guild. John Armstrong has also donated a \$25 commission fee to the Guild.

Dan Steiner, President

MISSING IN ACTION

The following books are missing from the Library shelves, with no record of who may have borrowed them. If you have inadvertently taken these books without filling in the borrower's card, please return them IMMEDIATELY to the Librarian.

FRN 013 – [Making Wood Tables](#) by Foster

GEN 034 – [Wood Design](#) by Willcox, Donald

GEN 066 – [Fine Woodworking Techniques, Book 4](#) by Fine Woodworking Magazine

SHA 001 – [Sharpening](#) by Kingshott, J

SHA 002 – [The Complete Guide to Sharpening](#) by Lee, Leonard

SHA 004 – [The Complete Illustrated Guide to Sharpening](#) by Lee-Neilsen, Thomas

TLS 024 – [The Blacksmithing Instructor's Guide](#) by Harries, D

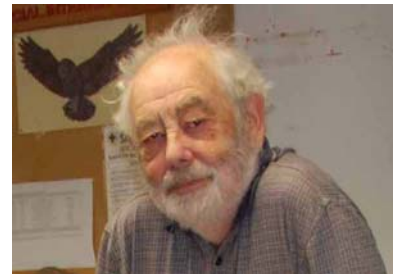
TRN 030 – [Woodturning – a Source Book of Shapes](#) by Hunnex, John

V 12 – [Bowl Turning](#) by Stubbs, Del

V 26 – [Making a Mortice and Tenon Joint](#) by Klausz, F

Sparkie's Safety Spot

This is the first in a series of articles on electrical safety by our new Shed Sparkie, John Armstrong. Many members will be familiar with John as a woodcarver and resident expert on subjects as diverse as Mediaeval Church Carvings, Platonic Solids and the Golden Mean, but he has recently added to his impressive CV the qualifications needed for mandatory testing and tagging of all our Shed electrical leads and appliances. (For a small consideration, John will provide the same service to members.)



Electrical Safety – The Basics

Understanding Electricity

From the layman's point of view, electricity is supplied in two forms – Alternating Current (AC), or Direct Current (DC). The standard domestic power supply in Australia is 240 volts AC. This takes the form of a sine wave, going from zero up to 340 volts, down through zero to minus 340 volts, back up to zero, and so on, at a frequency of 50 cycles per second. Note that the peak values are

larger than the quoted 240 volts, which is the 'average' over the cycle. (The calculation is based on the square root of the mean of the squares of the voltages – you may see the identification 240 V rms, where rms stands for "root mean square".) This is of no consequence in general, except that if you touch a live cable you will be subjected to the peak voltage!

In the case of DC, the voltage is constant at a fixed value, which may change slightly with the load. This form of supply is found in some factories, and it is commonly used in traction motors powering trams, trains, trolleybuses and ships. The extensive use of DC in traction motors is because series-wound electric motors deliver maximum torque on start-up.

It is difficult to define a simple concept that is sufficient to describe all electrical behaviour, but you can understand most effects by considering the separation of charged particles. This sets up a potential difference – **voltage** – which when discharged via a conducting medium (like copper wire) will generate a flow of electrons – **current**. The current which flows is measured in **amperes** (or amps for short). Current will only flow when you have a complete circuit, and the current will depend upon the load (ie, resistance) on the circuit, which is measured in **ohms**. If you have a circuit where the applied voltage is 1 volt, and the current is 1 amp, then by definition the circuit resistance is 1 ohm (the formula is: Resistance = Volts/Current).

The power being dissipated in any circuit is measured as the product of voltage and current, expressed as **watts** (in the example above, 1 volt x 1 amp = 1 watt). Symbols used in calculations are V for Volts, A or I for Amps, Ω for Ohms, and W for Watts.

General Electrical Safety Provisions

The severity of an electric shock depends on many factors, with voltage being the major determinant. **Mains voltage is dangerous and can be fatal**, as can lesser voltages. Treat ALL electricity as potentially dangerous, even so-called "low-voltage" appliances.

For this reason, the following standard safety provisions are in place:

- The supply to your house will be fed from overhead or underground cables by two insulated conductors (Active and Neutral), which enter your switchboard.
- There will be a service fuse in the Active service cable, which can isolate your home in the case of a severe fault.
- Your switchboard will have a master switch, and individual fuses / circuit-breakers / RCD's (Residual Current Devices) for each designated circuit in the house. (These will be covered in detail in a later article.)
- The cables in your house will normally be double-insulated, and wired directly into static equipment (eg lights), or to power sockets distributed about the house.
- The Neutral service cable and the various neutral cables going out to the fixed units or power sockets will all be connected to a copper-covered metal rod in the earth via an Earth cable. This system is called MEN (Multiple Earthed Neutral) and is an important safety feature which will be discussed in a later article.

The next article in this series will be entitled "**Electrical Safety – Protecting the Circuit (and You)**", and will examine the functions of Fuses, Circuit Breakers and Residual Current Devices (commonly called "Safety Switches").

John Armstrong 0413 021 669 j_s_armstrong@hotmail.com

NOTA BENE (*Note Well*, for those deprived of a classical education): At the February Guild meeting, John will be on hand to accept members' leads / appliances for testing at a cost of \$1.50 per item (50¢ of which John will kindly donate to Guild funds).

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) REPORTS

(SIG Coordinators: please note the deadline for newsletter input: 2nd Friday of each month.)

SIG Meeting Schedule

NB: All meetings are held at the Guild Shed, unless otherwise indicated.

Carving SIG: 3rd Saturday of the month, from 12:30pm – 4:30pm.

Paul Dunn 6251 1360 pdunn88@aol.com

Furniture SIG: 2nd Saturday of the month, from 1.00 – 4.30 pm

Mathew Klein 62310475 kleinmw@hotmail.com

Pyrography SIG: Sunday 13th March 2011, from Midday – 4pm

Vivien Laycock 0438877711 viv_bungendoreart@bigpond.com

Scroll Saw SIG: 3rd Sunday of the month, from 1.30 – 4.00 pm

David French 6278 4103

Tools Appreciation SIG: 3rd Thursday evening of the month, from 7.30pm.

Jack Dempsey 6292 2432 dempsj@gmail.com

Toys & Models SIG: Sunday AFTER the Guild monthly meeting, from 1.30 – 4.30pm

Robert Hogg 6295 7372

Miniature & Mandrel Turning SIG: 1st Saturday of the month (except January, September & December); Practical session commencing at 10.00 am, and Demonstration session commencing at 1.30 pm - bring your lunch!

Art Pollard 6288 6602 artpolrd@tpg.com.au

Monday Night Turning SIG: 2nd Monday of the month, from 7.00 – 9.30 pm

Peter Hughes 62557711 hughes_pa@hotmail.com

Between Centres Turning SIG: 2nd Saturday of the month, from 1.00pm for coffee, 1.30pm start, at Jim's workshop, Murrumbateman.

Jim Reid 6227 5664

Saturday Turning SIG: Saturday BEFORE the monthly Guild meeting, from 1.30 – 4.30 pm.

[STILL NO COORDINATOR !]

SIG COORDINATORS' NOTES

Mandrel and Miniature (Pen) Turning SIG: The February SIG meeting featured a very productive working bee which cut, sorted and packaged SIG stocks of pen blanks for sale (see ad below). Please note that SIG Meetings are now conducted in two sessions, as advised in the last Newsletter; refer to the program (available at the front desk) for details.

Art Pollard 6288 6602 artpolrd@tpg.com.au

Pyrography SIG: Yet again, I am actually writing this before the February SIG meeting, but like the last it should have been full of members enjoying everything pyrography has to offer. We are experimenting with different timbers kindly donated to the SIG by members who have spent extra time sourcing anything that might be suitable, and our timber list is slowly developing.

Our next meeting on 13 March coincides with a Beginners' Turning Workshop at the Shed, but as pyrographers are space-friendly, and only use the amenities room tables, we can quite easily share.

Congratulations to Shannon Henry for her 1st and 3rd places at the recent Bungendore Show – hers was the only pyrography entry, but competed with pens and scrollsawn work.

Vivien Laycock 0438877711 viv_bungendoreart@bigpond.com

Off-Cuts (miscellaneous items of interest)



ex LIBRIS

Being a Librarian is supposed to be a peaceful and relaxed occupation (take no notice of that unfunny and deplorable ABC “comedy” of the same name). Your Guild Librarian has just spent a goodly portion of the Xmas break conducting an overdue stocktake of your Library – a necessary, albeit tedious, pursuit which should be about as exciting as watching Bruce McKenzie mowing the grass around the Shed. This stocktake, however, caused your normally mild-mannered Librarian to wail and gnash what is left of his teeth, because of the number of books which have gone Missing in Action (MIA) – see the notice on page 5 for a complete list.

I was particularly exercised to discover that ALL of our significant, and costly (\$50 ~ \$100), reference books on Sharpening are MIA – that is to say, they are absent from the relevant shelf, and there are no loan records for them. The most charitable explanation I can devise is that they have been borrowed at a time when I was not present, by people who were either ignorant, or forgetful, of our normal borrowing procedure – that is, to remove the loan card from the back pocket of the book, enter your name and due date of return, and place the card and 50¢ per book (\$1 per video) in the blue plastic box on the shelf next to the DVDs.

A less forgiving explanation, of course, is that they have simply been stolen.

Until now, I have been pretty relaxed (as befits a gentle Librarian) about access to the Library, and the duration of loans, as I thought I could rely on my fellow Guild members to do the right thing. It now appears that my trust has been at best misplaced, and at worst betrayed.

With the agreement of the Committee, I have decided to restrict access to the Library to monthly meeting nights when I am present. On request, I am also prepared to open the Library during Shed open days, or SIG meetings, but only when I am present, and not involved in other Guild work. Spare copies of Library keys will be strictly controlled, and made available only with the express permission of myself or the President. If I cannot attend a Guild meeting, I will arrange for a deputy to take responsibility for the occasion.

I regret that these strictures may offend some members, and make it more difficult to use the resources of the Library, but the Library stock represents a significant investment of both Guild funds and the generosity of donors, and must be protected.

I will also be writing in the near future to all members who have loans outstanding from the Library for more than three months. I have hitherto been generous with extensions of the normal one-month loan period, but some members have taken excessive advantage of that generosity, to the extent of six months, or longer. **No more Mr Nice Librarian!**

Rod Tier, Guild Librarian 6231 6246 librarian@woodcraftguild.org.au

GUILD TIMBER SUPPLIES

As detailed in the last issue, the Guild has stocks of a range of timber species that are available to members at very reasonable prices. A selection of timber is usually set out at monthly meetings, but if you have particular requirements, check with me by email or phone, or drop in at the Shed on a Tuesday. Good-quality, dry turning blanks are now available, and we have also made a good start on clearing up general stocks in the drying shed. Unfortunately, the wide boards of red cedar, walnut and blackwood that were available last month have all been snapped up. I will keep an eye out for more quality timber, but that leads me to the following observations.

Timber Donations

I have recently spent quite a lot of time (with helpers) trying to produce reasonable quality usable timber from trunks or branches of trees that have been donated to the Guild. This has mainly involved chainsawing and bandsawing material that has been left to dry in one of the drying sheds over the years. The amount of wood wasted in this process is enormous – the proportion of useful timber recovered is usually in the 20 to 30% range, but can be as low as zero. This is an unfortunate waste of the resource, as well as the time and energy of the recovery team!

This leads me to ask members to be much more selective in donating logs that “could be useful”. Leaving logs in the round at the Shed, in the hope that “someone will look after them”, is a recipe for disaster. Unless you are prepared to assist in breaking down logs while they are still green, then you may as well take them straight to the tip. The natural process of drying means that logs dry out at the ends first, and stay moist in the centre; and the shrinkage properties of timber mean that whole logs usually develop cracks and checks that often render the timber useless. Logs can stay wet in the middle for a very long time, and fungi that may be present in the timber can spread, causing the wood to rot and degrade. Borers attack the sapwood of many species, which also leads to degradation.

If logs are cut into wide boards while they are still green and the ends are sealed, then the boards can bend, rather than split, as they dry. They also dry much faster, so that fungal infection and attack by borers is less likely. Overall, it is generally a waste of time donating smaller branch-wood, as the proportion of low-density sapwood is high, making borer attack and splitting more likely.

Before donating a log to the Guild, ask yourself the basic question:

If this log is of no value to me, will it be more trouble than it is worth at the Shed?

If you still think it is likely to be valuable, be ready to help with processing the log to ensure it does not end up as firewood !

Robin Cromer 6286 8568 robinandjill@bigblue.net.au

Attention Pen, Miniature and Mandrel Turners!

The Guild now has for sale to members a stock of 18 mm square x 120mm

PEN BLANKS

☞ Also suitable for Letter Openers, Keyring Toggles, Lace Bobbins, etc. ☞

Timbers include: *Casuarina spp?*, Tasmanian Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), Australian Teak (*Flindersia australis*), Ironbark (*Eucalyptus spp?*), Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*), Cypress (*Cupressus spp?*) and Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*)

The blanks are mainly in packs of five assorted timbers; some packs contain a single species.

\$2 Per Pack of 5 Blanks

See Art Pollard, Robin Cromer, or Terry O'Loughlin at the Shed

(PS Art still has stocks of Pen Kits available)

AT YOUR DISPOSAL

Bandsaw Blades

Your Committee has decided to purchase only high-quality blades for our bandsaws. We have recently obtained some bi-metal high-speed steel blades, made by Lenox (US). These blades last considerably longer than most other blades, and can be re-sharpened to extend their life. The blade now on the 21" (3865 mm) Carbatec bandsaw is a Woodmaster 27 mm x 1.3 tpi, which does an outstanding job of breaking down large pieces, and of re-sawing. The blade on the 14" (2345 mm) Jet bandsaw is a Dimaster 10 mm x 4 tpi, which also does a great job on smaller material. **Please look after these blades**, and help extend their lives by feeding wood through **slowly**, so as not to overheat the blade.

Since we are now only using these new blades, we have a number of older blades for sale to members. These still have good life left in them after some re-sharpening. They are mostly wide blades for a 21" bandsaw (see photo), and we would be prepared to accept offers starting around \$5 per blade.



Bandsaw blades for sale



Accessories (especially JA) not included

Large Workbench

Now that we have a new bench from the team under Fred Buckley's guidance, we have too many benches to maintain a safe working environment in the Shed – strictly speaking, the total length of benches is too long to fit our space. We have thus decided to sell the longest bench so that it can be replaced by a shorter one, allowing space to re-position benches for safer access during courses. This bench is 2700mm long x 900mm wide x 900mm high, and very heavy. As the photo above shows, John Armstrong is not impressed to see his favourite bench going, but we are re-training him to use the higher, and more ergonomically suitable, new bench. Bidding on the old monster – the bench, that is – will start at around \$175, which price will include one vise.

♪ On a Different Note ... ♪

*I am a member of Sing Australia, a national singing organization, and I belong to the "Blokes" group (choir is too grand) which meets on Tuesdays at 7.30pm at Duntroon Chapel. We sing for fun; there is no requirement to read music; or even to be able to sing! Visitors / prospective members are welcome, and there are no auditions. About once a month, we have a combined practice with our female equivalent, "Colours" (who meet Monday 7.30pm in the gymnasium of Merici College, Braddon.) See the website <http://singaustralia.com.au/groups.asp> for further details. Come along and give it a try – the neighbours might appreciate more dulcet tones coming from your workshop! **Simon Fisk 6241 7476***

Student Program 2010 – Review

A most eventful year culminated in Stromlo High School students completing the large natural-edge coffee table shown below, which is now proudly displayed in the Stromlo High Achievement Centre (our thanks to Graham Hargense for providing the superb slab for the project).



Left: Students at work fitting the “natural” legs.



Right: Proudly displaying the finished product.

The projects undertaken by the students during the year are too numerous to detail, but most importantly the students were learning in an environment that provided a stable, positive and safe workplace; something not otherwise readily obtainable for these young people.

Students attending the Guild workshop are selected on the basis of individual suitability, but all share a background of learning difficulties. These may include problems at school, home, or with the authorities; some of their families struggle to provide the basics. Furthermore, some students have challenging disorders, such as Asperger’s Syndrome (a form of autism). We had one such student for whom the Thursday workshop with us was his main activity for the week, and we are pleased that he made significant progress during 2010 in the Guild’s positive environment.

The need for close, “one-on-one” supervision means that Guild Mentors are only able to work with a maximum of 3-4 students at a time. Actions we take for granted, like sawing a piece of wood, may present a major task to a student. A vital link between the students and mentors in achieving these tasks is provided by Neil Rodgers, the Stromlo High student carer, who will be with us again in 2011. We are talking with Lions Youth Haven about possible participation by other Schools, within the limitations of the student-mentor ratio indicated above.

Working side-by-side with Guild Mentors each Thursday during school terms has been so successful for many students that it has become the highlight of their week. Guild Mentors Phil Colman and Mike Cammell currently run the program, with occasional assistance from members John McKenna and John Armstrong, while Shed Boss, Terry O’Loughlin, also provides us with professional assistance when required. We will be looking towards inducting some new mentors during this year, as the program is an ongoing community service through Lions Youth Haven, with the full backing of the ACT Woodcraft Guild.



**Phil Colman,
Student Program Co-Coordinator**

Left: Mentor Mike Cammell keeps a close watch.



Right: Carer Neil Rodgers with a couple of his lads.

Odds 'n Ends

(or, items from a Presidential email that the Editor nearly overlooked ...)

Selling Your Woodcraft

The Guild actively seeks opportunities for members to sell their high-quality woodcraft to the public. Recently, members sold over \$2500 worth at the Kingston Old Bus Depot Markets. Popular items were toys, small bowls, coasters, decorative scrollsaw work, pens, kitchen utensils, and other items generally priced below \$30-50. Some higher-priced items also sold.

If you would like to sell items at the Canberra Show, then **you must act now to compile a list of items**, using the **Seller's Form** available from Dan Steiner or David Weisser. Setup for the Show is on Thursday, 24 Feb and you need to deliver your sale items to the Shed by Wednesday evening, 23 Feb (at the monthly meeting) for them to be included for sale at the Show.

Dan Steiner

Saturday Turning SIG

The next Saturday Turning SIG meeting is set for 19 February. This SIG will offer new turners the opportunity to practice their skills under the watchful eye of more experienced turners. **Come to the Shed at 10.00 am Saturday for some tuition** or just a chance to try out new techniques. Bring your own project, or pick out some wood from the Guild's stocks (at low prices). The **normal SIG meeting will commence at 1.30 pm** with an interesting demonstration, and will include a discussion of plans for the full year's program. Turners are reputed to be the largest group in the Guild – come along and show yourselves!

Dan Steiner

Woodworking 101 – Using Hand Tools

In response to members' requests for a course in using traditional hand tools, and making a simple project, the Guild is offering Members a full-day course introducing them to planning a project, measuring up, sawing and shaping the piece, screwing, gluing, sanding and finishing.

Courses will be held on Sunday, 06 March (9.30 – 4.00 pm) and on Friday, 11 March (9.30 – 4.00 pm) at the Shed. Fee is **\$10**, to cover use of all Guild tools and materials, and morning / afternoon tea. **BYO lunch**; soft drinks are available for purchase at the Shed.

Registration is essential. Contact Dave Callan (6288 8625) or Terry O'Loughlin (6291 9970) to indicate your interest and complete a registration form. Registration forms are also available at the Shed, and at the monthly meeting on 23 Feb.

Dave Callan

Introduction to Woodturning

A one-day workshop to introduce beginners to the lathe, and teach them to produce a couple of simple pieces, will be held on Sunday, 13 March, from 10.00 – 4.00 pm. The cost will be **\$10** to cover materials and morning/afternoon tea. Participants need to bring their own lunch; soft drinks are available for purchase at the Shed. Accreditation on the wood lathe will be a goal for participants of this workshop. Interested Members should contact Dan Steiner on 0415 133 606, or by email to president@woodcraftguild.org.au, to register.

Dan Steiner

(Please note that the above courses are open only to financial Guild members.)

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GUILD MEMBERSHIP

Please see the Guild website at <http://www.woodcraftguild.org.au/membership.htm> for detailed information about Guild membership, or contact the **Membership Secretary, Mike Nash**, on **6262 5096**, or by email at mike.carol.nash@bigpond.com

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Members' Articles: Articles from members are very welcome, **providing copyright rules are followed and sources acknowledged**. Preferred format is in Arial 12pt in an MS Word document attached to email. Articles will be published when space is available, and entirely at the discretion of the Editor, who may make editorial changes where necessary (especially if you can't spell). **NB:** If you are illustrating your article with images, please send them separately as JPEG files, so they can be adjusted to fit.

Deadline: 2nd Friday of the month (except December, when no issue is published).

Member's Free Advertisements: One free advertisement of **3 lines** per edition.

Other Advertising: Queries regarding rates should be addressed to the Treasurer. Payment is by donation to the Woodcraft Guild ACT Inc, PO Box 1411, Woden ACT 2606.

Editor