



Issue 277

March 2011

Shed Notes

Newsletter of the Woodcraft Guild ACT Inc

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH 2011, 1930 - 2130

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

THE WILD SIDE OF WOODCRAFT (REDUX)

DO NOT ADJUST YOUR COMPUTER!
This IS the March issue – the presenter has just carried over from last month.

John Jervis had been scheduled to speak to our February meeting, but was instead made an offer he couldn't refuse by his surgeon, who had unexpectedly found a few minutes between golf games to attend to a pressing medical problem John was experiencing.

Bionic John now assures us he is fighting fit again, and will be able to give us his planned presentation on using recycled materials to construct bird-houses, bat-boxes and possum-penthouses for both urban backyards and rural settings. John will demonstrate easy-to-make designs, using recycled materials to reduce costs.

Hello again, Possums !



"Has anyone seen my hammer?"

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What is this Mystery Object ??? (See p11)

Executive Committee of the Guild

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PRESIDENTIAL PALAVER

2011 Canberra Show – 25-27 February 2011

The Guild enjoyed a successful involvement in the Canberra Show on the last weekend of February. The RNCAS provided (at no cost) a 7m x 7m marquee, located at the front of the Crafts Pavilion, which provided us with excellent “passing trade”, especially during busy periods. Bill Hodgetts was an excellent coordinator for the Guild, organising a fine roster of volunteers for demonstrations of turning, scrollsaw, pyrography and carving, all of which attracted active interest, and some commissions, from show visitors. The Guild signed up new members, gained two more registrations for the beginners’ woodturning course on 13 March, and recorded nearly \$2500 in woodcraft sales, yielding \$450 for our coffers.

Bill and I met with RNCAS CEO Geoff Cannock afterwards, and he expressed his appreciation for the Guild’s participation. We presented him with a redgum bowl, with our thanks for having us. Geoff wants the Guild to be represented again at the 2012 Show, and he also invited us to have a stand at the Home & Leisure Show in October 2011, following our successful debut last year, on which he congratulated us.

Barcode Reader

The Guild trialled its new barcode reader at the Canberra Show. It worked quite well, and we learned a bit more on how its use can make the recording of sales more efficient, to both the advantage of the customer and the Guild. We will continue to improve the operation of the reader, and to broaden its applications within the Guild.

Guild Branding Iron



The Guild has now received its Branding Iron (*left*), which enables the Guild’s Logo to be ‘burned’ onto timber pieces (*right*). It was successfully trialled at the Canberra Show on selected Guild items for sale. There is a knack to setting it square on the piece for an even image, and the type of wood strongly affects the time taken to achieve a clear brand. We have yet to trial it on skin ...



National Folk Festival – 22~25 April 2011

The Guild will have a stall at the NFF again this year, and will need volunteers to demonstrate their skills and sell members’ woodcraft. Potential volunteers should contact Maurene Grundy (6282 1323 maurene.grundy@gmail.com). You benefit by gaining FREE access to the Folk Festival and being able to attend events when you are not rostered (or needed) at the Guild marquee.

2011 TWWW Show and Exhibition – 2~4 September 2011

There are still volunteers needed to coordinate the Raffle, Demonstrations and the Exhibition itself (judges and entries). I welcome any and all offers by Members who wish to help out with this most important Guild event.

Commissions

The Navy has now formally commissioned the extension of the Honours Board for 816 Squadron at HMAS Albatross, Nowra, under Keith Houston’s direction. Design work has been completed, and timber selection is progressing. A number of commissions were also received at the Canberra Show, and will be passed to appropriate members to contact the individuals and seek their agreement to do the work.

Restoration of Benches for Canberra Hospice

The Guild has been approached by the Manager of Clare Holland House (the Canberra Hospice) regarding the re-finishing of a number of wooden benches, located outdoors in their gardens. I have reviewed the condition of the benches, and will discuss what is needed with members experienced in restoration. I expect we can restore the eight pieces progressively over several months, and so gain positive community reaction.

Dan Steiner, President

COMING EVENTS

Internal

Next Monthly Guild Meeting: - Wednesday 27 April 2011 at 1930 at the Shed

Richard Raffan and Brian Stewart (Justin McCarthy's brother-in-law) will give a presentation, aimed at amateur enthusiasts, on "Photographing Your Woodcraft".

Chainsaw Safety & Accreditation Course

Tuesday 26 April, 1900~2200 (Theory Class) & Saturday 30 April, 0900~1600 (Practical Training). The course will involve 3 hours of classroom instruction at the Shed, and a full day of practical training on fallen trees around the Lions Youth Haven farm. **There is a limit of 6 persons on the course (NB Guild members only).** Members wishing to use the Guild's chainsaw must be accredited through a course like this to ensure they follow safe practices to avoid injury. This course will also benefit those who own their own chainsaw. The instructor will be Bill Hodgetts, who is qualified to teach chainsaw safety and has extensive experience with the Rural Fire Service. The course fee will be \$50, payable on booking a place on the course. Interested members should contact Bill Hodgetts on 6258 7058, or at billhodgetts@bigpond.com.

External

Next Triton Club Meeting

Wednesday 06 April 2011 – Members "hands-on", making toys and 21st Birthday keys. (For further information, contact Burn Alting on 6281 0432, or visit the club's website <http://www.tocact.org.au>)

National Folk Festival – Volunteer NOW !!!

Thursday 21 ~ Monday 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) is seeking volunteers to person the Guild stand. An excellent woodcraft sales opportunity, especially anything "folksy" (but no lace doilies, please – unless wooden!) Potential sellers should contact David Weisser on 0414 249 209, or at treasurer@woodcraftguild.org.au

Hoskinstown Chestnut Festival

Sunday 08 May 2011 – From 1000 to 1600 there will be a celebratory roast of the products of the largest chestnut plantation in NSW near this little hamlet off the Captain's Flat Road. This somewhat obscure excuse for a party is reinforced by the need for urgent re-stumping and re-roofing of the Hoskinstown Community Hall [*without which, there wouldn't be much left of Hoskinstown! Ed*]. The Guild has been invited to set up a stall to sell and demonstrate woodcraft, the only proviso for the latter activity being that we must use chestnut wood (provided). Contact Rod Tier on 6231 6246 or shayrod@incanberra.com.au

Malkara Model Railway & Scale Model Exhibition

Saturday 06 ~ Sunday 07 August 2011, at Malkara Special School, Wisdom Street, Garran – the Guild will be represented by a modest stall, with all Guild proceeds donated to Malkara.

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; volunteers to coordinate the Raffle, Demonstrations and the Exhibition itself (judges and entries) are still required – please see Dan Steiner to discuss how you can help.

EDITORIAL EFFLUVIA

Well, the editorial honeymoon didn't last long! After a few initial compliments, yr Ed was left in no doubt by a number of members about their attitudes to the content and tone of his first two issues. For starters, our esteemed President commented unfavourably on what he saw as the Editor's privileged position on page 2, as compared to his own lowly rankings of page 3 in January and page 4 in February. You will notice that this egregious insult to his status has been corrected in this issue, but I will resist strenuously any demands for front-page billing ...

Then I was taken to task by others for making improper use of my new editorial power to make sarcastic and scornful remarks about fellow members in several of the pieces I had written. And there I was thinking that a light-hearted, jocular style would be just the ticket for this kind of publication, and that a few digs at fellow woodies, in the great Australian tradition of chiacking your mates, would enhance the humorous tone. WRONG – no room for my twisted sense of humour here! Bad Editor!

Much chastened, I therefore apologise unreservedly to Bruce McKenzie for implying that his lawnmowing lacks excitement – I assure you, Bruce, that watching you mow grass is nowhere **near** as boring as watching paint dry, and is certainly far more exciting than library stocktaking. As for John Armstrong, any incidental comparison of him to a timeworn old monster [of a workbench] is deeply regretted.

Snivelling and grovelling aside, my thanks to those members who responded positively to my request that they reconsider their need to have printed copies of the Newsletter delivered by mail – every little bit helps, though I should also acknowledge that those members who indicated that they still wanted to receive hard copy did so for compelling reasons. For the record, as of going to press 14 members had chosen to “go online”, 10 members had asked to continue mail delivery, and 14 members had not responded to my letter at all (*they didn't write, they didn't call – was it something I said?*).

An unintended consequence of this exercise was that several people formed the impression that what I was offering instead of a printed copy was that I would email an electronic copy to them individually, as an attachment. While this would be possible, it would introduce a whole other range of problems arising from bulk emailing which are best avoided, given the difficulty we have just with keeping our list of members' email addresses up-to-date. Posting the Newsletter on our website is the easiest and most cost-effective way of making it available to the majority of Guild members, and to the wider woodworking community.

Rod

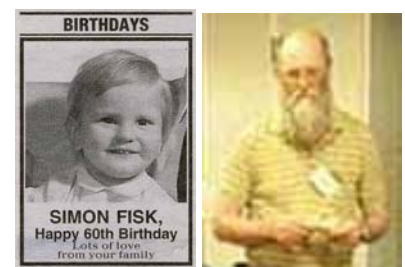
SPLINTERS

[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. 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]

No emails or poison-pen letters to the Editor this month, but the *Canberra Times* of 06 March provided incontrovertible proof that, contrary to popular belief, one of our senior members has NOT had a long, grey beard all of his life!

A Hippopotamus, a Budgerigar, and a Pair of Female Sheep
to **Simon** from all of us !

[Hippo Birdy Two Ewes!]*



PPS – Presentation Postscript

That's "Hodgetts", not "Hogwarts"!

At the February meeting, Bill Hodgetts kindly stepped into the breach left by John Jervis being whisked off into surgery, and gave us a fascinating insight into his approach to the art of stick-dressing. He demonstrated the special jigs he uses for compressing and re-shaping rams' horns to create handles for his superbly-crafted walking sticks; and discussed his methods for shaping other types of horn, and wood, for the wide variety of styles he produces. A special treat was Bill's display of his latest preoccupation (born of a grandchild's request) – wizards' wands "in the style of Harry Potter", which have already found an appreciative market (BYO spells, however).



POET'S CORNER



The following verse piece was sent in by member David French, noting that he had found it among some papers of his late father's, and that it was "on a small scrap of very yellowed paper so has been around for a long time. As a new member of the Guild it brought me to thinking about our use of timber."

Good Timber

The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
But stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king
But lived and died a scrubby thing.

The man who never had to toil
To gain and farm his patch of soil,
Who never had to win his share
Of sun and sky and light and air,
Never became a manly man
But lived and died as he began.

Good timber does not grow with ease:
The stronger wind, the stronger trees;
The further sky, the greater length;
The more the storm, the more the strength.
By sun and cold, by rain and snow,
In trees and men good timbers grow.

Where thickest lies the forest growth,
We find the patriarchs of both.
And they hold counsel with the stars
Whose broken branches show the scars
Of many winds and much of strife.
This is the common law of life.

A quick google revealed that the author was **Douglas Malloch** (1877 - 1938), an American poet, short story writer, and associate editor of *American Lumberman* magazine. He was known as "The Lumberman's Poet" and was very popular on the lecture circuit doing public readings of his stories and poems. Reviewers wrote, "*Malloch ... sings of the open, of hard work, of exposure, of rough living and rough loving. It is verse which belongs to the strong-armed school; a healthy antidote to the softening tendencies which creep in with an age that loves luxury too well.*" Malloch was also a prominent Freemason, and he was highly regarded for his inspirational verse on Masonic themes and values. His evocation of the hairy-chested Protestant Work Ethic explains why his poetry was much favoured by proponents of the Boy Scout movement in mid-20th century America.

[Editor's note: I may be sorry I have set this precedent, but I am happy to consider any offerings of verse, or penetrating insights, or witty sayings, provided they have a "Woody" theme. Sources, where known, should of course be acknowledged – all copyright claims will be referred to the submitter!]

Sparkie's Safety Spot

This is the second 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 – Protecting the Circuit (and You).

Fuses

Fuses, or fusible links to give them their full name, consist (usually) of a single length of wire which will melt and break at a given over-load current level. In normal domestic situations, you might expect a fuse of 8 or 10 amp rating for a lighting circuit, and of 20 amps for a power circuit.

Supply Service Fuse

This fuse is in the Active cable coming from the overhead supply to a POA (Point of Attachment), usually on the barge-board or fascia of your roof, from which it runs to your switchboard. This fuse will have a rating of 80 or more amps; is only designed to come into play if there is a major fault to earth / Neutral by the Active (or by other means); and remains the property of the supply authority. It is not designed to protect your home circuits from overloading, which is the function of your house switchboard.

Switchboard Circuit Fuses

The one advantage of wire fuses is that they are simple. They are easy to repair, and do not rely on any other circuitry to operate, but they are also easy to abuse. A piece of wire from a paperclip might look the same diameter as a power (20 amp) fuse-wire, but it is not made of the same metal, and will not behave in the same predictable way. Also, increasing the rating of fuses because you are having too many faults is NOT the way to go! If fuses keep melting, **there is something wrong with the circuit** – get an expert electrician to investigate while your house is still standing.

Circuit Breakers

While many older houses still rely on fuses, a better option is to have each circuit protected by an individual circuit breaker, which automatically breaks the circuit when the current rises above the designated limit. The circuit can be restored simply by re-setting the switch on the breaker; if the circuit still fails, then clearly a fault exists and you have been protected from further damage. This device usually operates as a solenoid by passing the load current through a coil which generates a magnetic field. If the field is strong enough (ie when the designated trip current is flowing) a metallic rod is pulled into the coil and the movement breaks the circuit contacts. An alternative mechanism is a bi-metal strip which opens the spring loaded contacts, but does not re-close the circuit on cooling (sometimes both methods are in use). Circuit breakers can be purchased which “retro-fit” into fuse holders, but the correct rating for the relevant circuit must be fitted and this is properly the function of an electrician.

The main role of fuses or circuit breakers is to prevent overloading of the circuit, so they can be seen as 'over current' devices. On some older setups, circuit breakers can be quite large and they can also contain an 'under voltage' device; that is, the breaker will trip if the supply voltage is below some

defined critical value. This was relevant in earlier times when the supply voltage was less reliable, and in some rural situations this can still apply (this aspect will be discussed in a later article).

RCD's – Residual Current Devices (“Safety Switches”, or “Earth Leakage Circuit Breakers”).

It is important to understand that **fuses and circuit breakers do not directly safeguard you from electric shock. The amount of current which can seriously damage you can be measured in milliamps (thousandths of amps), so you cannot rely on devices which operate in the range of 10s of amps.** RCDs, however, are another matter – they operate quite differently.

They have two functions, first of all they operate in exactly the same way as a circuit breaker to protect for excessive load current, secondly they protect you if you touch a live conductor. For this second function the RCD, like the circuit breaker, depends on creating a magnetic field, but in this case it creates **two** fields. One coil in the active line creates a field in a magnetic ring (ferrite core), and another similar coil in the returning neutral line creates an opposite field. As long as these fields (and thereby the currents) are equal, they effectively cancel each other out, and there is no resultant field in the ring. If the currents/fields differ, however, the resulting field is detected by a third coil and (depending upon the degree of unbalance) the contacts are tripped open. If you happen to touch a live component, then current will flow through you to Earth (hence Earth Leakage). In this case the current in the neutral path is reduced, leading to an unbalance which causes the protective tripping. Extension cords can also be provided with Safety Switches which operate on the same principle.

The standard current difference required to trip the RCD is 30 milliamps. With the 30 milliamp limit, you should suffer no damage. The time lapse before opening the contacts depends on the current difference, but for the standard 30 milliamps the ‘standard’ delay is of the order of 300 milliseconds – that is, about a third of a second. In practice, domestic RCDs usually operate well inside this limit and you may see them described as ‘instantaneous’, although this is not strictly accurate. (In hospitals and similar situations a higher level of safety is required, so tripping will occur with a current imbalance of 10 milliamps and the tripping time must be 40 milliseconds, or less, irrespective of the current imbalance.) You should, from time to time, check the operation of your RCDs by using the test button provided on the device

RCDs can be used to protect individual circuits, or they can be used to protect groups of circuits, since a fault in any circuit will operate the tripping mechanism. Current practice, however, is to employ one RCD per circuit. Some older appliances tend by their design to be ‘leaky’, and if they are part of a RCD protected circuit it can result in frequent ‘nuisance’ tripping. Prime examples are the circular/spiral rings in a cooker top, and the cooling elements in fridges/freezers. As none of these are handled when switched on, they are really not a problem and RCD protection is not needed. Modern designs have reduced the incidence of this problem.

The next article in this series will be entitled **“Testing and Tagging of Portable Electrical Equipment”**.

John Armstrong 0413 021 669 j_s_armstrong@hotmail.com

Lost in Translation

Do you recognize any of the following email addresses? If so, it means you haven't advised us that your email address has changed, because these are ones which “bounced” as undeliverable last time we sent an email to advise you that the Newsletter had been published ...Ed

kwgroves@bigpond.net.au
rblau@bigpond.com
sybroth@bigpond.net.au

tandcoca@gmail.com
jake.scanlonq2@gmail.com
pandcg@iprimus.com.au

wgalway@grapevine.com.au
bob.cox@dewr.gov.au
macdonaldbn@homemail.com.au

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) REPORTS

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

SIG MEETINGS

For details of normal SIG meetings, please refer to the Calendar on the Guild website at <http://www.woodcraftguild.org.au/calendar.htm> Henceforth, only unusual, or out-of-program meetings will be notified in this section of the Newsletter.

SIG COORDINATORS' NOTES

Monday Night Turning SIG: The topic for the meeting on 11 April will be “Turning Decorative Coves and Beads”. This is not just an exercise for the beginner – coves, beads and their variations can form striking decorative effects on otherwise ordinary pieces. They can also be used to mask joins and natural flaws. The task for this session is to bring along, or turn on the night, decorative coves and beads and discuss what they add to the form of the pieces.

Paul Wayper 0422 392 081 paulway@mabula.net

Pyrography SIG: The February meeting was busy and constructive, as predicted, with discussions of pyrography safety and possible options for resolving some temperature issues with particular pyrography machines. Demonstrating at the Canberra Show went well, attracting a lot of interest, and I thank everyone involved for their enthusiasm. The meeting on 13 March ran smoothly, despite sharing the Shed with a beginners' turning workshop, and some collaboration on decoration occurred. Our next meeting is on Sunday, 10 April, from midday to 4pm.

Vivien Laycock 0438 877 711 viv_bungendoreart@bigpond.com

Toy SIG: Having settled on the dimensions for the Doll's Cot Project (100 Cots by Christmas), members of the SIG at the last meeting commenced the preparation of stock from a donated supply of rough-sawn packing case timber. A significant amount of wood was dressed through the jointer, thicknesser and drop saw, incidentally enabling a number of members to be accredited for the use of these Guild machines.

The next meeting, at 1.30pm on Sunday 03 April, will continue this work, including gluing up boards to required widths and docking to size as components of cot construction kits. Plans for the construction of cots with suggested design options are being prepared. We will also start cutting out some of our standard toy designs. Any Guild members who would like to become involved with the real aspects of wood working would be most welcome to attend.

Robert Hogg 6295 7372



ex LIBRIS

Our library's MIAs have not been returned, and now appear unlikely to ever be recovered. I will now have to decide how much of the library's limited budget I can afford to spend on replacements, if any. I am disappointed, discouraged and more than usually cranky. Overdue borrowers beware ...

On a brighter note, I want to thank Terry O'Loughlin and sundry helpers for the sterling work they are doing in converting the Library cabinet doors to a bi-fold configuration, which will greatly improve access in the busy Amenities Room.

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

Off-Cuts (miscellaneous items of interest)

THE GUILD ON SHOW

Thanks to the support of all our volunteers, the Guild's recent participation in the Canberra Show was, in my opinion, a great success all round. Our site this year was well placed, and afforded us the opportunity to erect a small gazebo at the rear of the marquee where volunteers could take a break without getting in the way of others inside. Whilst the weather was wonderful for the whole weekend, the hot afternoon sun would have created some discomfort for our demonstrators if not for David Weisser and John Murphy providing large umbrellas to shade the front of our marquee. The layout inside the marquee for demonstrators and sales items worked well, and it was pleasing to see demonstrations on turning, carving, scrollsawing and pyrography happening continually throughout the day. Your overall professional approach to your chosen skill, along with customer approach in selling, is indeed a credit to you all and I'm sure augurs well for the future of our Guild presence at the Show.



David Weisser and John Murphy analysing sales trends



Stuart Storey remains unconvinced, while customers browse our offerings



Shannon Henry discusses the finer points of burning wood, while Bill Hodgetts tries to cope with the fumes

Some improvements we should consider for next year include:

- A large banner to better advertise our presence (good for the Folk Festival as well);
- Rostering a late afternoon shift to extend our opening hours from 5pm to, say, 8pm on the Friday and Saturday. We found, particularly on Friday, many people coming to the show after finishing work at 5pm, to find us closing down for the day – a lost sales opportunity; and
- Internal lighting for the marquee to improve visibility for customers and staff on dull days and into the evenings.

Bill Hodgetts, Coordinator

GUILD TIMBER SUPPLIES

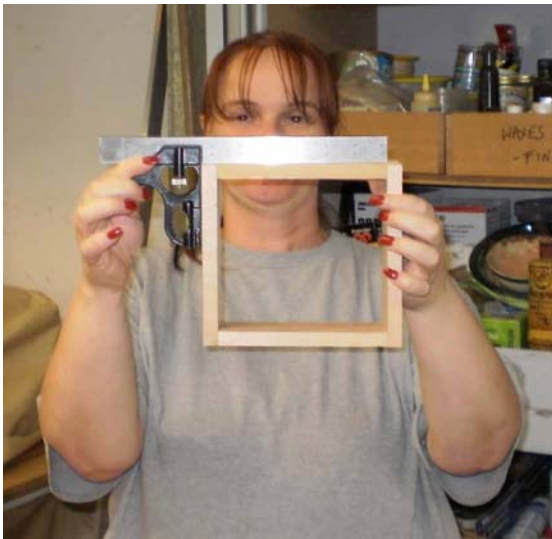
Just a note to remind members that the Guild has stocks of a range of timber species, available to members at very reasonable prices. A selection of timber is usually set out at monthly meetings, but if you have particular requirements, check with me by email or phone, or drop in at the Shed on a Tuesday

We have acquired a small amount of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) that should turn beautifully while still in the green state. Some boards about 1.5 m long have also been cut from a log that has been in the drying shed for years. I believe it is probably Californian redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) – the species has low-density pink to red heartwood that is naturally durable, and creamy sapwood.

Robin Cromer 6286 8568 robinandjill@bigblue.net.au

WOODWORK 101

Terry O’Loughlin and Dave Callan conducted the inaugural introductory hand-tool woodworking course at the Shed on 06 March. Five participants with varying levels of skill (including 40 years since last working with wood!) enthusiastically accepted the challenge of building a box. They sketched, they measured, they sawed, they planed – and they were somewhat amazed by exotic devices like bench hooks and shooting boards (another course on useful workshop devices?) After all that, there was the fun of gluing up and pinning (with a bit of a mixed response to the latter). The bases were then glued and trimmed, and lids fitted. No great hardware problems were encountered (not so sure about the software ...). Terry operated the only powered machine used in the construction – the drill press – to bore plumb holes for the bamboo skewer hinges.



Gerrie Titulaer tries the square of her construct, not noticing that the base has fallen out ...



Terry O’Loughlin casts a critical eye over the wielding of a coping saw, while in the background Brian Treanor wonders if he should get a bigger hammer.

After some six hours, everyone said how much they appreciated the range of skills they had experienced, with a comment or two about how fast the time had gone! A lot was covered in the workshop, and the class appear to have shared a common appreciation of the utility of good hand tools for fine work. Finishing was largely left to the students as homework, but some preliminary oiling of one of the boxes showed a really promising outcome. The boxes may not be “exhibition material”, but the students were justifiably proud of their achievements with traditional hand tools.



Left: You can never have enough clamps ...



Right: Stuart Storey boxing clever.

Dave Callan, Coordinator

Odds 'n Ends

Mystery Object – The Dreaded Chuck-Toe!

This was the result of a 2kg Vicmarc Chuck slipping from one member's grasp, and falling from a great height onto another member's toe. Although he was wearing full leather shoes, the resulting compression caused severe blood-blisters and loss of the toenail (not to mention pain!).



It is an OH&S requirement that anyone working in the Shed wear enclosed shoes. In this case, however, ordinary shoes were not resistant enough to prevent injury – safety footwear with steel or fibreglass reinforced toes would have handled the impact. Some members already wear such shoes or boots; anyone habitually working in an area where heavy objects like chucks are handled – such as the turning booths, or the Smithy – should also consider taking this precaution. Our insurance may require members to take reasonable precautions against a foreseeable injury of this kind.

Safety and Training

Accreditation on a specific machine entitles Guild members to use that machine at the Shed, unsupervised. It does not guarantee, however, that an accredited member will always remain accident-free. We all need to stay vigilant on safety, both at the Shed and in our home workshops. One way to do this is to take advantage of the Guild's library and borrow books that can enhance our skills, and make us more aware of both safe and unsafe practices with specific machines.

Another way is to make more use of the Internet. There is a multitude of training videos available that will improve our capacity to work safely, while enhancing our skills. A good example is the following video clip on the Sawstop table saw from the Woodworking Guild of America, discovered by Derek Moyes: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9V4FyCX97Y>. There are many more videos on this site which you may find of interest.

I also ask that you raise any safety issue you become aware of with me, and other members, whenever possible. This sharing of ideas is one of the things that attracted me to the Guild.

Ted Riesz, Safety Officer 6247 2886 triesz@actewagl.net.au

Let's Keep the Shed Clean !

Members who use the Guild's facilities at the Shed, whether on Tuesday or Thursday open days, or at a SIG meeting, should ensure that when they have finished using any machine, **they need to clean up the machine and not leave it for others to do at the end of the day.** Too often dust and shavings are left for others to clean up. We have brooms, a shovel, small hand-brushes and pans, a mobile dust extractor and two vacuum cleaners. When cleaning, please use the brooms, shovel and/or dust-pans to first pick up bulky amounts of shavings and dust, and place them in the Shavings Bin – only use the vacuum / dust extractor to do final cleaning. It is important to keep the machines tidy, the floor swept and waste removed from the Shed to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for all members.

Dan Steiner, President and Part time Shed Cleaner.

HAPPY SNAPS



At the February Saturday Turning SIG meeting, bemused wood-be turners wonder how they can cram the equivalent of forty years of practice into what's left of their lives, so they can aspire to the same level of skill being demonstrated by Maestro Raffan. Yr Ed looks particularly dubious – he knows he has about as much chance as he has of regrowing his hair ...

Richard was demonstrating not only his legendary virtuosity, but also the features of the new Vicmarc VL150 mini-lathe (see the latest issue of *Australian Wood Review* for his full assessment of this lathe).

And no, that's not a breakaway group of rebel turners plotting revolution in the background – it's the Carving SIG, whose monthly meetings sometimes coincide with the Turning SIG because of the vagaries of the Gregorian Calendar. They **were** trying to figure out how to stop such a thing happening again, of course ...



The Lads Who Lunch – a typical lunchtime scene in the Amenities Room of the Shed. The Occasional Philosophy Discussion Group are deep in earnest metaphysical dialog at the far end of the table, overseen by John “Socrates” Armstrong; while Robin Cromer, Keith Houston and David Weisser appear somewhat taken aback by Peter Bloomfield’s attempt to drink ginger beer through his mouth and nose simultaneously while trying to finish a sentence ...

AT YOUR DISPOSAL

BANDSAW BLADES



As advertised last issue, we have a number of bandsaw 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.

See Robin Cromer, or Terry O'Loughlin, during Tuesday / Thursday sessions, or contact Robin on 6286 8568, or at 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)

Scott Mitchell Design – Clearance Sale

6239 1030

7a Yallourn Street, Fyshwick, on Saturday 09 April at 1030

Offcuts of all types of timber in varying sizes; veneering sheets also available.

FREE Woodworking Information !

Many of us are greatly unimpressed by the huge amount of useless and trivial information peddled around the Internet, especially when it almost inevitably involves someone trying to flog something, or scam us, or both at the same time. It comes as a relief, therefore, when you come across a website which is locally-based, sponsored by a reputable Australian woodworking products company, and chock full of useful information on every aspect of woodworking you can think of, and much more besides.

Check out the **Woodwork Forums** website at <http://www.woodworkforums.com/index.php> , sponsored by Neil Ellis' U-Beaut Polishes. It's free, and simple, to register and browse through wide-ranging discussion forums which are a rich source of tips, problem-solving hints, and how-to tutorials. Very highly recommended!

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NB: 10% discount to Guild members on Howard products



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 Times New Roman 12pt in an MS Word document attached to an 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