

TREEN TOPICS

February 2015



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Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society Inc.

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm

New Location —To be announced

Secretary: P. O. Box 2163 Bomaderry 2541



TRREEN TOPICS FEBRUARY 2015

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2015.

November General Meeting

If you can remember back that far, our speakers on the night were Mel and Gordon and the subject was various finishes which are readily available and with which the speakers have had experience. There is always a lot of interest in finishes and there are so many available that almost everyone uses something different.

Many of us are inclined to find one that works fairly well most of the time and we then keep using it to save the bother of experimenting with something different. Although, in defence of that practice, it must be said that the cost of many products encourages us to minimise how many we buy and not to waste them. Mel had a good variety which she demonstrated and produced acceptable finishes with in fairly short time. These were passed around for all to see. Gordon is an advocate for Quick 15 and had a couple of bowls which had this finish on them. It is so named because it is touch dry in 15 minutes.

All in all an interesting demonstration and discussion.

Warwick Robinson started show and tell with a nice box made with veneered MDF. It was well done in blackwood and huon pine. The tray was well fitted and floated into place on a cushion of air.

Demetri Stacchino had a lovely hall table on show made from blue gum and banksia featuring through tenons.

Steve Sheaves is progressing well with his turning. He had three segmented bowls showing complex patterns and said that he is still experimenting and learning and enjoying it. There was also a goblet with the stem offset in a similar way to a crankshaft, a further indication of his improving skill.

February General Meeting

Laz Ferencz will be talking about wood carving at this meeting. We have seen some nice examples of Laz's work at the exhibition so he knows what he is talking about. I think I saw one of his carvings at the Nowra show with a ticket on it to indicate he was a prize winner. Charlie Hillen had the blue ribbon for the best woodwork in the show hanging over a lamp stand and Gordon Elford had a number of exhibits with tickets as well. Congratulations boys. There will be no workshop on Saturday 21st as Laz has other commitments.

The Shed

Our shed is going from strength to strength with quite a few members attending the sessions there. The new table saw has been installed and should be in operation by the time of this meeting. This quality machine will make life easier for users as well as improving safety to a large degree.

Another project currently happening is a new top for one of the workbenches. Jim is undertaking this with the help of other members. The surface and underside will be Tasmanian oak with a chipboard core making a total thickness of about 70mm which will provide a stable, flat and solid bench top. The official opening of the shed will be on Friday 17th April which is two weeks after Easter. This is to be something of a gala day and more will be heard as it draws closer.

Tools and Techniques Weekend

Here are a couple of photos of Jim Davey's sales bench at the recent Tools and Techniques Weekend up at Sturt School for Wood. Jim was so busy I was only able to get one photo where he wasn't a blur of movement selling tools!!



Robert Jolliffe's Rocking Chair

The following article and photos have been contributed by Robert Jolliffe, one of our members from Wollongong way but whom we seldom see. I hope we see the chair in this year's Creative Moments.



Many of the skills taught by Jim went into rocking chair (I) and (II) construction – scary sharp tools.

This project started out with a drive to Rolland Plains – Mal and Greg Ward at Boutique Timbers. It was a Saturday afternoon and Mal made himself available and Greg called by to offer some help. The search pattern was for QLD maple but the project required quarter and back sawn timber. QLD maple is known for fiddle back and grain patterns but strength is required for the rear legs so quarter sawn is the only safe way to go without involvement from WHSA.

“We” found a beautiful quarter sawn slab just about from the middle of the tree and some perfect 100 X 100 sawn stock all of which met the project brief. The slab is huge – 900 to 1000mm wide, 2.6 metres long and 55mm thick. I just had to have it and now have enough timber for 5 rocking chairs!!!!.

However there will only be one in QLD maple – a gift for my daughter in law upon the birth of their first child. For the record those who recall rocking chair (Rose Gum) I have two sons and we are now we proud grandparents to our first granddaughter. The tally is now 3 grandchildren under 3.

Construction followed the first chair – mortise and tenon and loose tenon joints. Most shaping with a spoke shave and a finish of Tung oil with fawn leather seat. The back has some differences from the first chair – 7 rear slats from 6, wider top rail and longer back legs.

The photos don't do the beautiful grain pattern and fiddle back any justice – It is stunning.

Please wish all the members a merry Christmas and happy and safe woodworking in 2015.



Two Workshop Stories

The Elusive Chuck Key :-

I was drilling some MDF on the drill press and when changing the bit I dropped the chuck key. I heard it hit the floor and then hit something else immediately after that but I did not see it at all. My drill press is located about 1.5 meters from one corner of the shed and the walls are lined with jigs, bits of timber etc so there were any number of hidden spots for it to be.

There was no sign of it on the bare areas of the floor so on hands and knees I began to look behind the various hiding places. When this yielded no result I decided to move everything out of the way including the rubbish bin which I had handy so I could dispose of the MDF dust at regular intervals. After clearing the area and sweeping up the accumulated dust and debris with no chuck key found I was becoming pretty frustrated so began to think of other options. My second chuck was not an option as it had a minimum bit size of 3mm and none of the other keys I have fit the chuck I was using so the job was at a standstill.

Using a hand held drill would not be accurate enough so I went on with another job for the rest of the day. The following morning I came out and stopped to think about it before I did anything. I spied the rubbish bin and thought I may as well check it even though I thought it next to impossible because of its height. Sure enough, there amongst the plane shavings, rags etc. was the key. The tee shape of it had given it sufficient spring to make it bounce 400mm off the concrete floor and into the bin. Moral of the story – Consider every possibility and think laterally.

Hoarding :-

I had a clean-up of my timber rack this week and you should have seen what I threw out. My friend with the wood fire did very well out of it. Most of you will be like me and accept almost any timber that you are offered and as you work and produce offcuts, the thinking is that the offcut will come in handy some time.

It is all added to the pile in the rack which gradually increases until eventually it has a very disorganised appearance and it is hard to find the bit you are looking for. When each piece of timber is looked at critically there is quite a bit that will provide very little usable wood. Larger pieces with cracks all through it, boards with knots the full width, bits too short for almost anything, thin slithers and various leftovers which have been sitting there for years and not required. It is important to take a hard line and make your judgement taking a practical view. Be ruthless. I can now see what wood there is in my rack and easily find the bit I need.

RAMBLINGS JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2015

It's a new year and we are in a new workshop how great is that. The workshop is progressing well with the setting up and maintenance of the old machines nearly finished. In addition to the old machines we have taken delivery of a new Saw Stop table saw; the installation is complete but we still have some issues with the training; we are working of this and it should be resolved in the near future.

All those who attended the January BBQ at Denise and Marilyn O'Keefe house had a very pleasant evening. Denise and Marilyn are great host and we always enjoy our visits. I often forget how many new members we now have and when I say we are going to Denise and Marylyn's house in O'Keefe's lane at Jaspers Brush I automatically assume that everybody knows where that is. One of our newer members drove all the way to the end of the lane and then rang to ask where it was. I will have to be more careful in the future.

The rent collection at the Nowra Showground was stopped for two weeks either side of the Nowra Show. We will commence collection again on 16 February 2015. I will need two more volunteers to help with the rent collection as Peter Jackson and Mel Allen are now unable to continue with the task.

We have had an influx of new members to the society most have been recruited through the Tuesday Night workshop. The increase in numbers of new members who need help with their projects has placed a large burden on the existing members so I have asked a number of our more experienced members to help and Peter Farrell and Bob Turnbull have agreed to assist. Their assistance and the continued assistance from the regular Tuesday night members is greatly appreciated.

Our next open day will be Saturday 14 February 2015; Treen Topics will be a little late for this date but we will be holding this event every second month throughout the year. The open days provide the opportunity for members to sell off some of their surplus items or tools and put a few dollars back into their bank.

The SWS is responsible for the mowing of the grounds around the cottage this month so if you can help out with the mowing let the committee know. The cottage now has its own lawn mower but you will have to bring along your own fuel as we need to reduce the amount of flammable material stored in the Cottage and workshop. In addition to the mowing the SWS is responsible for cleaning the cottage for the month of March again if you can help out let the committee know.

The Nowra Showground Cottage has been given the name of the Makers Cottage and there will be an official opening on Friday April 17 2015. All members of the SWS and their partners have an invitation to the official opening but we will need to get numbers so that we can get the catering right on the day.

We manned the Bunnings BBQ early February and that turned out to be a bit of a saga but you will have to read the separate report to get the details.

I had a phone call from Nowra High School early in February to be told that due to the amount of damage done to the school over the end of year break the school was no longer going to rent out any of its facilities to any community groups so after the best part of twenty years association with Nowra High School we have been evicted.

The school has agreed to allow us to utilise the classroom for the last time on 18 February 2015 and then we have to hand the keys back. We have had a number of suggestions from our members as to where we should relocate too but the one suggestion which will not cost us any money is to hold the meeting in the Cottage Shed. In addition to the cost we will be much better situated to hold demonstrations at the meetings. The committee appreciates all the thought and effort that the members put in with their suggestions as to where to relocate too.

I am heading off again; I am taking the boat over to the Classic Wooden Boat Festival in Goolwa in SA. The event is held every two years and I have attended every one since 2007; it is a great event and we enjoy our time at the festival.

BUNNINGS BBQ 7/8 (cross out whichever doesn't apply) FEBRUARY 2015

Well we have managed another first; this was the first time that a Bunnings BBQ was double booked. We arrived to set up just before 0800 Hrs to find the tent was up, the BBQ set up and Norm patiently waiting for us. We started to unload and setup and whilst this operation was underway the other group turned up and indicated that they were going to run the BBQ today; confusion reigned. After several minutes and a lot of discussion with the duty manager it was determined that the SWS was supposed to be running the BBQ on Sunday. I am not big on playing the blame game so the safest thing to say is that the double booking was caused by a breakdown in communications between the SWS and Bunnings. We had a load of perishables; sausages, onions and the like that had been frozen and couldn't be refrozen. So we were looking down the barrel at an estimate loss for the day of \$300.

Bunnings was asking to see if we could run the BBQ on Sunday. I pulled out the list of volunteers and started ringing. The first thing I had to do was let people know that the Saturday was cancelled and the second was to see if they were available to help on Sunday. Norm had already volunteered to help but four of our more experienced members couldn't. At least half of our Saturday volunteers could help on Sunday but it was only when Lisa and Wendy said they could help I knew we would be able to run the BBQ; the girls were needed for the midday shift to run the front counter.

After packing up and reloading the truck I went home and parked the truck, topped up the ice in the coolers and then sat down and had a think about what had happened and how we were going to prevent it from happening again. The best thing to do is send an email to Bunnings and have them confirm the schedule for the remainder of the year.

Just as a side note; when I was driving into Bunnings on Saturday morning I did a quick mental calculation and thought only nine hours to go and then I can go home, little did I know that I would be back in twenty four hours.

There was an upside to the fiasco on Saturday; we had ordered fifty five loaves from IGA in Nowra but when we went to pick them up we found that the baker hadn't delivered them so we were not obliged to pick up and pay for the bread. The down side was when it came to Sunday we had to raid three supermarkets to get enough bread to run the BBQ.

Sunday morning arrived and we crawled out of bed and headed to Bunnings to find Norm with the tent up and waiting for us to arrive; we again started to unload and set up all the while looking over our shoulder to see if another group was going to turn up and claim the BBQ.

The morning shift consisted of Norn, Warwick, Jim and Margaret. This crew set up the BBQ and ran it until the mid-day shift arrived. The mid-day shift consisted of Norn, Lisa, Gordon and Wendy this crew handled the lunch time rush and kept things running smoothly. The afternoon shift consisted of Norm, John, Lisa and Rodger this shift handled the BBQ until the clean-up crew consisting of Margaret, Bob and Liesel. We were very glad to see the clean-up crew as that meant the day was nearly over.

Working on the morning shift was horrendous as the sun was up and streaming down on the tent, the inside temperature was estimated to be in the low forties. The heat was so bad that a can of lemonade on the front counter exploded rupturing the top of the can and emptying half the content into the air.

In the early afternoon David turned up with a box of frozen ice blocks and gave them to the crew. The ice blocks were well received by everyone.

Many thanks to all those who volunteered to help on Saturday and all those who could help on Sunday; Special thanks to Norn who ran the plate most of the day and to Lisa and Wendy without whose help we would not have been able to open on Saturday. Also thanks to David who's Ice Blocks were most welcome.

We managed to make a profit of \$630 for the day and to put this into perspective we managed to turn a potential \$300 loss into a \$630 profit.

Greg Clark

Tools and Machinery for Sale

David Hire has been one of our regulars for some years now so it will be with compassion that members hear of David's plight. As a result of this problem, David has to sell his woodworking gear and some of it is listed below. He can be contacted on 4422 7616.

Ladies and gentlemen, As some members of Woodcraft know, I David Hire have been diagnosed with Parkinsons disease. Accordingly I need to start downsizing so I offer the following :-

Torin blowers, 3 speed, 3 in quantity \$40 ea.
Triton TR1 router in router table \$220
Ryobi Thicknesser 300 wide \$175
Makita Drill, 650 watt, as new \$45
Makita half inch router new, never used \$230
Dewalt Radial arm saw with manuals \$160
Klingspor Velcro sanding discs 5 & 6 inch

Forthcoming Program

Wednesday 18 th February	General Meeting – Laz Ferencz on Wood Carving
Wednesday 4 th March	Committee Meeting
Every Tuesday Night 6.00 to 9.00	Workshop at the Shed – Do your own project
Every Thursday Morning 9.00 to 12.00	Workshop at the Shed – Do your own project
Wednesday 18 th March	General Meeting at New Venue – Doug Green on Finishing
Saturday 21 st March	Sharpening Workshop at Jim's Shed

Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society Inc.

The Shoalhaven Woodcraft Society Inc. was formed in 1987 and is Comprised of persons interested in understanding woodcraft and developing skills in its many and diverse forms.

The aims of the Society are to:

- Foster a understanding and appreciation of woodcraft*
- Provide mutual advice, help and a problem solving forum.*
- Collaborate with other craft groups in the Shoalhaven.*
- Involve the families of “woodies” in social activities.*

Your Committee

<i>President:</i>	<i>Greg Clark</i>	<i>44 478 384</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Peter Jackson</i>	<i>44 236 153</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Richard Hall</i>	<i>44 235 780</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Gordon Elford</i>	<i>44 214 397</i>
<i>Editor:</i>	<i>Peter Farrell</i>	<i>44 228 177</i>
<i>Committee:</i>	<i>Steve Sheaves</i>	
	<i>Bob Turnbull</i>	<i>0412 333 477</i>
	<i>Mel Allen</i>	<i>0407 957 196</i>
	<i>Jim Davey</i>	<i>44 478 790</i>
<i>Men’s Shed Rep:</i>	<i>Don Parkinson</i>	<i>44 218 695</i>

Next Committee Meeting:

*Nowra Showground Cottage
7.30pm Wednesday 2nd July 2014*