

# REDWOOD

Newsletter of the Redcliffe and District Woodcraft Society Inc.

Editor: Kerry Cameron [kandjcameron@gmail.com](mailto:kandjcameron@gmail.com)

0457 431 232

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## Redcliffe and District Woodcraft Society Inc.

### Clubhouse:

Woodcraft Centre  
463 Oxley Ave  
Redcliffe QLD 4020

Club Email: [redcliffewoodcraft@gmail.com](mailto:redcliffewoodcraft@gmail.com)

### Management Committee

**President:** Ernie Hobson  
0400 621 513  
[erniehobson@outlook.com](mailto:erniehobson@outlook.com)

**Vice President:** Shona McKay  
0408 015 076  
[shonaipad@gmail.com](mailto:shonaipad@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Ian Ross  
0418 378 305  
[ian.ross200@gmail.com](mailto:ian.ross200@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Bill Charlton  
0417 778 968  
[wcharlton7@bigpond.com](mailto:wcharlton7@bigpond.com)

### Committee Members

Steve Baker	38800628
Neil Evans	0438 099 587
Wendy Hillhecker	0404 900 371
Thadeus Ikihega	0402 098 791
Val Millway	0490 501 836
Rainer Pinno.	0417 825 842
Peter Smallhorne	0418 191 790

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to my February report, A bust year is shaping up with lots of activities already happening in February. Competency training is up and running with Robyn, Rainer and several assessors very busy. Great to see new members learning to be assessors and offering their time and knowledge to assist others. I trust all members will attend the refresher courses scheduled for 17 & 19 March if possible.

We propose to have further meetings with the council, state and federal members to offer our support for the proposed new building. Several members have been working on some concept plans and documentation detailing our current situation and our future needs, which we will present to the relevant parties when we meet.

Our next Safety and Training video (bandsaw) is progressing with the filming taken place on the 27<sup>th</sup> February. Several members have been involved with checking and updating our documents in preparation for the filming. The 3rd video will be on the Thicknesser and already assessors have been checking our documents in preparation.

Unfortunately, several of our members or their partners have some ongoing medical conditions which can, from time to time play havoc with personalities and behaviour. We need to show empathy and tolerance towards members as they cope during some trying times. Our club is not just about building skills and confidence in a range of woodcraft activities, but even more importantly acts as a supportive mental and social network.

An updated Code of Conduct was recently sent to all members, and I ask everyone to read and abide by it contents.

Ernie Hobson  
President

## NOTES FROM THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT SECTION

Musical instruments made by the Musical Instrument Section are not only standard classical, acoustic and electric guitars and ukuleles. John Gorrett has of course made beautiful lutes, which have been pictured in previous issues of Redwood.

Werner Baumeister is currently working on a Weissenborn slide lap guitar, an instrument which was developed by H. Weissenborn in Los Angeles in the 1920s and 1930s. The instrument is broadly the shape of a guitar but has a hollow neck, tapering from the Upper Bout (the soundhole area) to the Nut.

Thad Ikihega continues to make exotic Melanesian guitars and ukuleles.

Dok Cromb is working on his 9<sup>th</sup> guitar (same as the 8<sup>th</sup> as one cannot have siblings fighting over who got the best guitar), but reckons he only has one more in him. Don't take bets on this.

Michael Dwyer, Percy Hill and Ivan Harrison are making great progress on their first instruments.

On the administrative side, we are about to finalise our own Induction document, which is intended to give new members a guide on what is involved in instrument-making, as well as foster a harmonious and cooperative working culture. The consumables needed for instrument making have been inventoried, and we are about to seek approval to buy additional items using the Instrument Making Levy funds paid in by each MIS member annually.

The Levy funds also cover the purchase of specialized small tools. These will be placed in a "Shadow Box" being built by Richard Scriven and which will be placed on the wall adjacent to the entry door (which observant members will note has been cleared).

Maurice Coutanceau has donated some tools, wood and books which he cleared out of his house in preparation for moving house, but decided not to move after all. So a Wood Library has been set up in the building out the front and an Instrument-making Library is also available to MIS members. Thank you Maurice.



Doc Cromb working on his 9<sup>th</sup> guitar



Chris Taylor getting to the end of another masterpiece



Maurice checking and advising Peter on his guitar neck.



Richard Scriven marking out for hand cut dovetails for the 'Shadow Box'

*Steve*

# Men's Shed 8 & 9

(Both closed)

Batemans Bay, NSW

In grounds of St Bernard's Primary School and convent which I thought was pretty weird (maybe just me).

It is only open Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. No Facebook or website so I couldn't give you more information.

I can only give you photos.



Ulladulla, NSW

Open Monday to Thursday mornings (we were there on a Sunday) but the photos show a very active club with great facilities and a HUGE garden. They sell produce from their garden and plants. Looks really good.



*Shona*

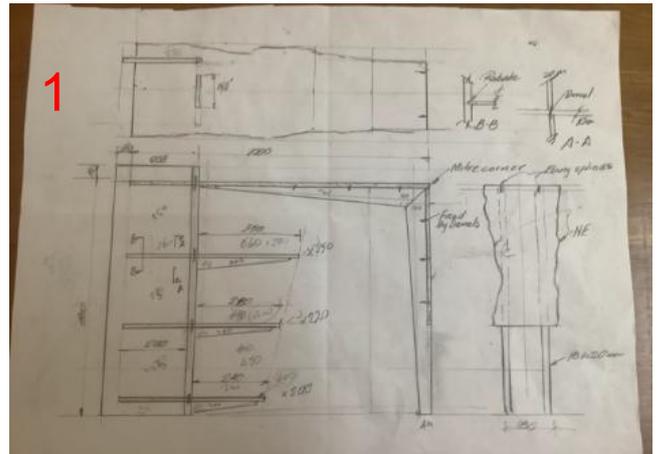
# ***My last major furniture project*** from my home workshop!

By Kerry Cameron

Downsizing makes for serious choices of what to keep etc, and then you realise 'hang on what do we have left to display our collectables?' So a decision was made to design and make a wall display unit to fit a small area in the lounge of our new apartment.

The design focused on a natural edge slab of Tasmanian myrtle that I had brought back from a caravanning adventure in 2009, coupled with black heart sassafras for the shelves and sycamore for the legs.

*Photo 1: The design*



After sorting and dressing the chosen timbers the tapered legs were detailed and cut by attaching boards to a 10mm poly carbonate sheet off-cut to achieve the desired angles, mitred joints were then cut and joined and a using biscuits jointer to get a strong joint.

*Photo 2: Cutting the tapered legs*



Having cutting and finishing the dressed the legs they were joined and glued using a purpose made clamping supports as the outer corner was 90 degrees with the inner angle being 95

The joint was reinforced with a 20mm biscuit

*Photo 3: Gluing and clamping the legs*



The main vertical board supporting the shelves had grooves routed using a jig with an adjustable stop.

My second hand Elu router that I had purchased from a clubs clearance sale many years ago has come into its own, I have added a series of collets to take 6 and 8mm router bits as well as the standard 1/4".

My router table mounted with a Triton a trimmer has gone to our son in Sydney and was not available.

Photo 4: Routing the main vertical to support the selves.



One of the most challenging and frustrating processes was cutting the mitre to achieve the designed 'waterfall effect' and successfully joining them structurally, after head scratching and experimenting I managed to achieve a satisfactory and acceptable result.

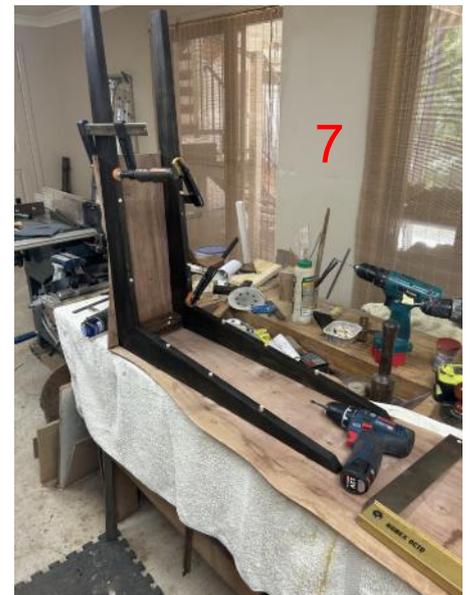
Photo 5: Experimenting with the joint.



Components were laid out and dry assembled prior to final detailing. It was at this stage that I determined that doweling without other fastening was not a viable option.

Drilling for screws allowing for plugs to hide penetrations was pursued after all the verticals/legs had been stained with Black Japan.

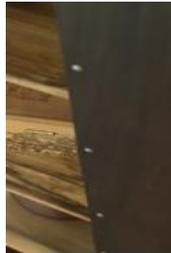
Photos: 6 & 7



Components are ready for final assembly, all sanding had been done, down to 600 grit prior to assembly, including the stained items. (8a)

The inner verticals were cut to size fitting between the shelves, dowelled from below and screwed from the top with the rear vertical drilled and round head deck nails fixed in place to secure the smaller pieces at a right angle (8b), the round head of the nails being a hidden 'feature' making the unit nice and stable.

Photo: 8, 8a & 8b



The design called for feature dovetail splines at the mitred end, a purpose made jig was made to fit the router to execute the process. Photo: 9

Ebony dovetail splines that had previously been cut on a temporary router table were glued into place and were cut back with a Japanese style flush cut pull saw. Photo: 10

The finished result. Photo 11



The end result in its temporary home displaying a few selected items.

Photo: 12



## Timbers used to make the above display unit

### Tasmanian Myrtle Timber

Tasmanian Myrtle Timber – Tasmanian Myrtle (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) is an evergreen tree which grows in the temperate rainforests and alpine areas of Tasmania and Victoria. It is not part of the Myrtle family and is often referred to as Tasmanian Myrtle. As a slow growing tree it can reach a maximum height of 30 to 40 metres. Sometimes living up to 500 years.

Tasmanian Myrtle is a beautiful timber with deep rich colours of red, pink, orange and brown. It can have a striped appearance and also a fiddleback grain. It's burl figure is highly desired. The

colour is vibrant, with subtle variations in tone. Fiddleback and wavy features bring the surface alive with its texture and sheen. Tasmanian Myrtle timber veneer is highly praised by furniture makers. Is this just the timber veneer you need for your next project?

Also known as Myrtle Beech.



### Blackheart Sassafras

#### (*Atherosperma moschatum*)

Sassafras Blackheart Timber Veneer – Sassafras (*Atherosperma moschatum*) grows as an understory tree in the rainforests of Tasmania.

Sassafras can also be found in rainforests in Victoria and New South Wales. It can grow to a height of 45m and around 1m in diameter. The

unusual dark streaks that often run through the heart of its golden-grey wood, give Blackheart Sassafras its name. This staining is caused by naturally occurring wood fungi

which produce a range of contrasting brown to black colours. These streaks are the hallmark feature of this unique and beautiful timber.



**Sassafras produces strong timber but is still soft and light.** Therefore, it is easy to work with. It can be used in furniture manufacturing, as well as cabinet making, panelling, woodturning, carving, and veneers.

When polished, it reaches a high finish, which gives it an excellent reputation in the furniture trade. Its creamy grey hue also delivers the unique look of each product. It is regarded as neither softwood nor hardwood; rather, it sits between the two varieties because it is solid yet light. It does not split, even though it can be springy, which is why it was the preferred material for clothes pegs. Also, it does not have high tannin content, unlike others, which can cause staining on fabrics.

Today, Sassafras is used in making furniture and decorative items. It is easy to work with, even when manipulating it by hand.

Of all timbers from Tasmania, Sassafras is the one with the most dynamic colouring. It is this distinction that guarantees that no two timber pieces look alike. Every saw log comes with special features, giving you a cut board that works like a one-off piece.

**Sycamore** trees in Australia refer mainly to the invasive **Sycamore Maple** (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), a European species naturalised and considered an environmental weed in cool, moist areas of Victoria (like Melbourne's Dandenongs) and NSW (Blue Mountains, Grampians) where it displaces native vegetation with dense shade and prolific wind-blown seeds. While sold as ornamental trees, they become aggressive, outcompeting natives in forests and riparian zones, requiring significant control efforts, though native alternatives.



## Tips and Tricks

### Seal endgrain with plastic bags

When a black walnut tree in my front yard came down, I eagerly cut and stacked it for future turning projects. My plan was to seal the endgrain with wax, but the weather was so cold the wax was too thick to spread. Instead, I wrapped plastic bags around the endgrain and secured them with baling twine.

Months later when I unwrapped the logs, there were no cracks. Now I wrap instead of wax, even in warm weather—it's faster and easier to apply, especially



on large surfaces. ▶

—*Tim Heil, Minnesota, AAW member since 2001*

### Finish saver

It can be frustrating to open a partially used can of finish to find the contents skimmed over. To prevent this, I seal the surface with a thin piece of plastic before closing the can. Next time I open the can and remove the plastic, I'm assured of a skim-free liquid finish. ■

—*Tim Heil, Minnesota*



### Budget-friendly wavy-edge disks

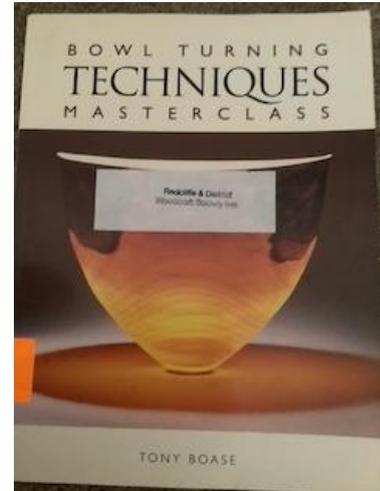
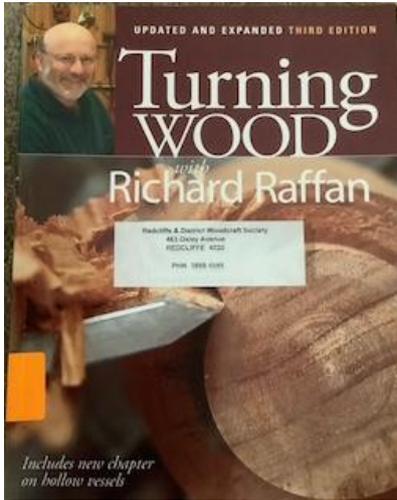
Wavy-edge abrasive disks prevent the harsh marks that straight-edge disks can leave on curved surfaces, but they cost significantly more than standard disks. I now make my own wavy-edge disks by using pinking shears to trim straight-edge ones. They work just as well as pre-made wavy-edge disks at a fraction of the cost. Be sure to dedicate a pair of pinking shears to this purpose—abrasives will dull them for fabric use. ■

—*Michael Hamilton-Clark, British Columbia, Canada, AAW member since 2013*



# Book Reviews

Our Club Library has an excellent range of books covering all woodcraft disciplines. Two books that offer Wood Turning inspiration are *Turning Woods* by Richard Raffan and *Bowl Turning Techniques, Masterclass* by Tony Boase, both worth looking at for competition inspiration.



Richard Raffan is a renowned woodturner, demonstrator and author, he has helped popularise the craft of woodturning since the 1970's. Taunton Press has published seven of his books including this one in 2008, he has also starred in several DVD's. He also has his own YouTube Channel.

I consider Raffan as the 'Godfather' of woodturning, his books are a must for all new woodturners and a good reminder of good technique for the more experienced.

This book covers all the basics from knowing the ins and outs of lathes, spindle and flat turning and anything that a turner needs to know in their ongoing journey of adventure.

I thoroughly recommend members to borrow this book and others by Richard Raffan, they will definitely enhance your turning experience and help to explore bowl design.

This book is for the more advanced woodturner but is also an inspirational challenge for the less experienced to aim for.

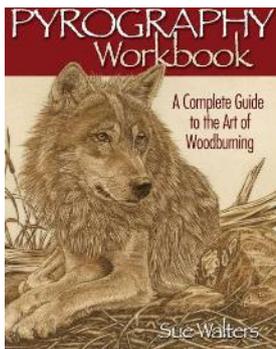
Starting with "A Brief History of Bowl Turning" and then "Wood and Where to Find It" other chapters cover milling as well as design and inspiration and are a good read.

The main thrust of the book is a compilation of turnings by renowned artists, detailing their creative pursuits.

It is well worth borrowing whether you be a beginner or experienced in the woodturning craft.

Both these books offer something for all members.

Enjoy using our library for information and browsing for information.



**PYROGRAPHY** we have several excellent books on pyrography in our library, all describing in great detail the development and encouraging the art of woodburning.

I am basically self taught from one of these books and it gives me enormous satisfaction to practice the skills learnt, from copied art to embellishment on wood turned and boxes.

We now have a dedicated pyrography table and two Razertip burners and a selection of pens.

*Why not borrow a book and give it a go.*





## Bandsaw Demonstrations

On Tuesday 3 February 2026 members were treated to an excellent demonstration of a few bandsaw techniques. We were shown how to use a circle cutting jig, how to cut unstable timber using sacrificial pieces, techniques of curve cutting and the use of relief cuts, and the use of a jig to cut branches. Both jigs are available for members to use.

We could clearly see the skill and expertise of the presenters and there was something there for members of all levels of experience. Well done Ed, Warrick and Graham.

*Barry*

Barry Spillman conducted an advanced turning workshop for members that have recently completed the training program.

Daryl, Wendy Tamara, Mike and Maureen all took part in making a lidded box.

A well received exercise by all participants.



# Show and Tell



Ken Rays displayed two more of his creations.



Barry Spillman talked about his carved 'dragons head' that was originally meant for a walking cane and showed how he repaired the handle of one of his decorated sticks.



Pod Meier brought along his book-matched camphor laurel cutting boards



Michael Lederman firstly showed his artistic creation of combining contrasting timbers and then followed up with a bit of a history quiz on his framed 'Rat Pack' memorabilia.



Geertruda Window talked about her beautifully carved radiating grooved disc with lightly stained flutes



Neil Evans with his one of four charcuterie boards that he has made in camphor laurel from club sock.



**What's in a name?** Marilyn recently brought in a piece of timber tagged White Siris, White Bean, there was a discussion if both were the same tree as there is confusing information as the true identity as one version of White Siris is *Albizia procera* commonly known as white siris or karol tree and is native to Asia and India whereas there is an Australian native White Siris (*Ailanthus triphysa*) which is a fast-growing Australian native tree, reaching 10–35 meters, found in dry rainforest areas with pale green, feathery foliage and pale, smooth bark. It is known for its grey-green foliage, cream-coloured flowers and is also called white bean. Ken took the piece home and turned a small threaded lidded box showing that the discussion was unfounded as the timber proved to be **Crow's Ash** *Flindersia australis* (confused?)



Crow's ash  
*Flindersia australis*



White Siris is *Albizia procera*



**Ailanthus triphysa**  
Australian White Siris or  
White Bean



The editor harvesting the crow's ash at Dayboro back in 2009.

A piece of which sits under Ken's lidded box.

As a turning timber, **Crows Ash** machines quite well as long as tools are kept sharp but it is a pain to sand although wet sanding gives a good result. The best finish is Danish Oil.

The greasy surface is not suitable for pyrography.

It has been used extensively for in halls as dance floors

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<b>Utopia Woodcraft</b> , Marilyn Kunde 31 Beech Drv, Cashmere	0403216317	email: zakk@tpg.com.au
<b>Red Poppy Art Collective</b> 95 Redcliffe Pde. Redcliffe 4020	0455963554	<a href="http://www.redpoppyart.com.au">www.redpoppyart.com.au</a>
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<b>Traditional Funerals</b> 17 Anzac Ave, Redcliffe 4020	07 3284 7333	<a href="https://www.traditionalfunerals.com.au/">https://www.traditionalfunerals.com.au/</a>
<b>Vicmarc Machinery Pty Ltd</b> 52 Grice St, Clontarf, 4019	07 3284 3103	<a href="https://vicmarc.com/">https://vicmarc.com/</a>
<b>Woodland Fitouts</b> 13 Bult Street, Brendale, 4500	07 3205 4188	<a href="https://woodlandfitouts.com.a">https://woodlandfitouts.com.a</a>

### The Redcliffe and District Woodcraft Society Inc. - General Information

The aim of our society is to promote, encourage and practice the art of woodcraft and similar arts Workshops in woodturning, woodcarving, scroll sawing, pyrography, box making, musical instrument making, toy making, general woodworking, and timber preparation are held in the Woodcraft Centre at 463 Oxley Avenue, Redcliffe. The Society is administered by a Management Committee of eleven members who report to the general membership.

Members meet on Tuesdays for general workshop activities and our weekly "show and Tell" at morning tea where members can show and discuss their creations and be inspired by the work of others. Our Club is also open to members on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.

The Society has a large range of tools and machinery for members to use and offers regular tuition in different aspects of woodcraft. Our club also conducts a comprehensive system of competency in the operations of its machinery. ALL NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME