

IN THIS ISSUE

- Upcoming Exhibitions and Events.
- Outgoing President's Report, by Damien Wright.
- Incoming President's Welcome Message, by Jerome Wielens.
- VWA AGM 2014 Report, by Jerome Wielens.
- Create from a Crate 2016.
- Penang's Blue Mansion, by Andrew Potocnik.
- Current VWA Committee and Contacts.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS.

Wednesday 26th November at 7:30 pm. Wood facts and fictions: what science tells us about the real qualities of wood and wood movement.
Venue: Arts House Meat Market Meeting, small meeting room, 5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne. 3051.

Jugo Ilic is Australia's foremost wood scientist. He worked at CSIRO in the Forestry and Forest Products Division for 36 years, and he was also a secondary school teacher for a short time. His special interests include wood structure and timber identification, wood water relationships, wood quality and non-destructive testing of wood. He has published widely in specialist journals and in Australian Wood Review on properties of wood.

Jugo will discuss facts and fictions about wood movement, and will happy to answer questions about wood structure and behaviour.

Outgoing President's Report 2013/14, by Damien Wright.

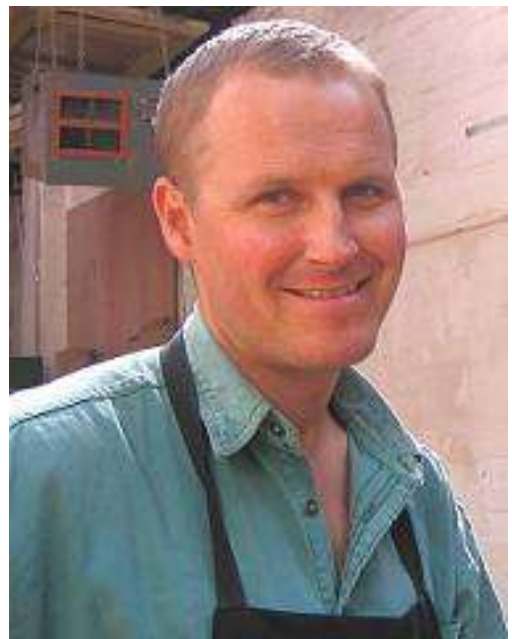
Thank you all for attending.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for the final time as President of the VWA.
This is an important event where we take stock of the previous year and embrace the challenges of the next.

I can report on a very successful year for the VWA.

We have consolidated our position as the leading wood working organization in the country. With an eye on the future and with respect to the hard work of previous administrations we continue to regard as the bedrock of the VWA's activities, stability, accountability and transparency.

Dr Jerome Wielens as the incoming President will speak in more detail about the VWA's year and the challenges ahead.



Before I hand over to Jerome I wish to acknowledge the passing of John Diorietes. John was and is a much loved and respected part of our woodworking community. He is greatly missed.

Thanks you to the employees of the VWA for their commitment, hard work and unique gifts.

Finally I thank the committee for their faith, intelligence, hard work, support, friendship and inspiration.

In particular I want to thank Libby O'Brian who along with John Monument and Ward Petherbridge got the VWA back into the exhibition business. Libby is not going to stand again on the committee.

Thanks and goodnight.

Yours,
Damien Wright

Incoming President's Welcome Message, by Jerome Wielens.

I would like to start by thanking our past president Damien Wright for all of his hard work and dedication to the VWA over the past three years. It has been great working with him and I am glad that I can continue to draw on his extensive knowledge and experience as part of the committee going into 2015. I also welcome the new committee members and look forward to implementing our vision over the next twelve months. I especially would like to thank Libby O'Brien who has resigned after many years of service. Libby played a major role in our exhibitions programme including the Storm Wood exhibition in 2012 and this year's Create-from-a-Crate exhibition. Her good nature and skills will be sorely missed.

A bit about me. I come from a scientific background specialising in medical research and drug development. I joined the VWA about four years ago initially as a student at the School of Woodcraft and then as a member of the committee and more recently as Vice President. My interest in timber and fine furniture making was reignited after a long absence while I had concentrated on study and other pursuits. It has been great designing and building various pieces using Australian timbers and different techniques.



Over the past three years, I have chaired the sub-committee for the School of Woodcraft and have helped oversee its continued operation. I have a strong interest in the School and want to see it continue to grow and develop. On occasion I fill in as an assistant at the School and really enjoy engaging with the students and seeing what they are working on.

The quality of design and execution from students is truly amazing and a reflection of the calibre of the teaching staff. In the near future we will be introducing a CNC course to complement our traditional classes.

The future of the VWA is exciting. We have our next Create-from-a-Crate exhibition planned for early 2016 and are looking to holding a fine woodworking exhibition during 2015. Our membership remains strong with around 1,000 members and thanks to our insurance scheme we maintain a good financial position. Our members meeting program is being developed for 2015 at the moment and I encourage you all to attend. We regularly visit furniture makers' factories, timber sellers and host various speakers and craftsmen at the meat market. To stay informed of our latest developments follow us on Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn or visit us through our website www.vwa.org.au.

Cheers,
Jerome.

VWA AGM 2014 Report, by Jerome Wielens.

It has been another big year for the VWA as we continue to strive to promote woodworking and the value of wood workers in the community.

Exhibitions –

After a 9 year hiatus, we held our Create-from-a-Crate exhibition at two locations in Ivanhoe and Ballarat. This was a very successful exhibition and garnered huge interest and much positive feedback from fellow woodworkers and the wider community. John will talk about this exhibition in more detail shortly but I would like to especially thank Libby, John and Ward for their tremendous efforts in helping to put this exhibition together. I would also like to thank Rohan Schwartz who helped coordinate the event, Emer Diviney who worked on the promotional material and the contributors who made some truly amazing pieces. Congratulations to our prize winners, Will, Pip and Andrew. I would also like to thank Waste Converters Recycling for their sponsorship, support and participation in the event and Effective Freight Management who helped transport some of the crates to interstate members.

Insurance –

Our insurance program continues to offer excellent value to our members providing either \$10 million or \$20 million cover for public and product liability. In addition to providing a great product for our members, this scheme supports the activities of the VWA, including our exhibitions program, our tenancy incubator program, the school of woodcraft, the machine room and allows us to maintain a strong financial position.

Tenancy Incubator program –

The tenancy incubator program is a 3 year program designed to assist young up and coming woodworkers establish their businesses by providing a collective community of like-minded individuals in a subsidised fully equipped workshop environment. Over the past four years we have hosted six tenants. Russell and Ian left at the end of last year; Russell is establishing his own workshop in Tasmania just outside of Hobart and Ian has taken a workshop manager's position at Timber Revival and continues to develop his own pieces.

The second wave of tenants are about to graduate from this program. Alex plans to continue to make custom furniture balanced with residential joinery and has recently released a small range of furniture. Callum is busy setting up his workshop as well. He will continue to concentrate on custom pieces and café fit-outs, as he progresses his own designs from

paper to prototype. Sam is in the final stages of planning for his backyard shed. Sam will continue to focus on CNC and design. We wish them all of the best. Our most recent member, Illy, started with us earlier this year and will hopefully be joined by some new tenants in the not too distant future.

School of Woodcraft –

The school of woodcraft is a program for students to learn new woodworking skills and design and build their own unique piece of furniture or art under the guidance of Master Craftsmen. The VWA operates six three-hour classes each week. Classes are for 10-weeks and are held four times per year. The School hosts up to 60 students each term and provides access to expert guidance, high quality machinery and hand tools. Students are free to design and build their own unique piece of furniture. Each class has an experienced teacher and assistant. Shortly we are looking to add a specialist CNC class to the school calendar, which will be taught by our resident CNC expert Sam Johnson.

The school has undergone some significant changes in the past year. A major one was the unexpected loss of one of our founding teachers, John Diorettes last November. John suffered a heart attack and died suddenly. John was an inspirational character who loved a laugh and was a passionate and dedicated teacher, craftsman and family man. He inspired many students who returned term after term to produce some truly amazing pieces of furniture. I had the good fortune of working and dealing with John as chairman of the school committee and as a fill-in assistant in some of his classes. His contributions to the School are sorely missed and our thoughts go out to Deb and his family as they continue to adjust to life without him.

The school has welcomed two new teachers, Alex Lesniowski and Randall Kohn who are both accomplished designers, artists and woodcraftsmen. They join Carl Lutz, who most of you will know, a master craftsman and encyclopaedia of all things wood related. I would like to say a big thank you to these teachers, as well as, the assistants Tom and Ian, who often go above and beyond to help students achieve their goals and to ensure that the school runs as smoothly as possible. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the future.

The Committee –

I would like to thank the VWA Committee for all of their efforts in building and maintaining the VWA and its programs. I would like to especially thank Damien for his leadership and eloquent introductory speeches that always inform and amuse. He is clearly a knowledgeable and passionate wood craftsman. Damien has announced that he will be stepping down from the presidency this year, but will continue to contribute to the VWA as part of the committee. I would like to thank Stephen Farquhar for his hard work as Secretary and roles as liaison with Craft Victoria and the WDC tenants. Stephen is also responsible for maintaining and developing our presence on the web through the VWA webpage and our linkedin, facebook and Google+ profiles. Rob Allan is our treasurer and Council of Woodworking Clubs representative. He runs a tight ship and ensures that all of our books are balanced and our bills paid each year. Rob brings a wealth of experience and dedication to the committee and I thank him for that.

A big thank you to Will Matthysen and Stephen Ziguras. Will is the editor for our newsletter and has driven its revival. Stephen is now responsible for our members meetings and has helped put together an outstanding program over the past year. Again I would like to thank our exhibition crew; Libby, John and Ward for all of their efforts in bring together this year's create-from-a-crate exhibition and their continued support in preparation for the 2016 exhibition. The depth of our committee is further enhanced with the skills and contributions of Andrew, Mark, Sam and Randall who all support various programs. I thank them all for their continued work.

Meg –

Lastly I would like to talk about Meg. Meg Allan is the backbone of our organisation and one of our best assets. She coordinates our membership and insurance renewals, all of the school administration each term, manages the books and is the point of contact for many questions. Meg, I sincerely thank you for all of your efforts and look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Well that is all from me.

Jerome Wielens.

Create from a Crate 2016.

Introduction:

Create from a Crate is a Biennial Exhibition of objects made from two recycled hardwood pallets supplied by Waste Converters/ SMART Recycling, and staged by the Victorian Woodworkers Association. In past exhibitions, the objects created by craftspeople and artists have included furniture, home ware, musical instruments and sculpture. See examples of previous entries at: <http://www.vwa.org.au/exhibitions/create-crate/> and <http://www.wasteconverters.com.au/RecyclingCompetition.php>.



The seed for Create from a Crate began over a decade ago at Waste Converters/ SMART Recycling Depot in Dandenong South, Victoria. Over this period, five successful and high profile exhibitions have been staged.

The aim of Create from a Crate:

In Australia most timber waste either ends up in landfill or is pulverized into low value mulch. In Victoria alone, over 500 000 tons of timber waste is disposed of per annum, enough to fill the MCG one and half times!

Create from a Crate seeks to create a platform to educate the woodworking and arts communities, and the general public about the inherent beauty in industrial timber waste. It also encourages us to value our planet's resources, reduce waste and live sustainably.

The Supplied Material:

Exhibitors will be supplied with two single use pallets which measure approximately 1520mm x 760mm, each providing the following size timber sections:

- 3 bearers 1520-1700mm long, 150 x 70mm
- 9 boards 760mm long, 100 x 20mm
- 1 board 760mm long, 125 x 20mm
- 2 boards 760mm long. 150 x 25mm.

The pallets originate from the U.S.A., and include some of the following timber species; American white and red oak, sycamore, maple, cherry, ash and elm. Exhibits can be made using all or part of the timber provided, although other materials such as glass, metals, plastics, fabrics, leather etc. may be incorporated, provided the overall visual effect and design intent is to showcase the recycled pallet timber.

Procedure for picking up the pallets:

1. Send completed Entry Form to Meg Allan (VWA Membership Secretary); either by mail to 2650 Mansfield-Whitfield Rd, TOLMIE VIC 3723, or email to membership@vwa.org.au. Tel: (03) 5776 2178. The following fees apply:

ENTRY FEE:

VWA Members: free entry.

Non-VWA Members: \$50.00. (Or become a VWA member for \$50.00).

PALLET DEPOSIT:

Both VWA Members and Non-Members pay a \$50.00 deposit, which is refunded when the completed work is submitted.

Please make out cheques to "The Victorian Woodworkers Assoc. Inc."

2. Contact Ward Petherbridge at Waste Converters to arrange pick up of pallets. Interstate entrants can contact Ward to discuss the possibility of obtaining pallets. The VWA may consider subsidizing the freight of pallets to other capital cities within Australia if a minimum number of 5 entrants are reached. Entrants remain responsible for transporting their finished pieces to and from the exhibition in Melbourne in 2016 at their own expense.

Pallet Collection Address: Waste Converters Recycling, 185 Westernport Hwy, Dandenong South, Victoria 3175. Enter via Bayliss Road/Westernport Hwy intersection. Melways Ref: 129 A1. Open for collection: Monday to Friday, 7am – 4.00pm. Saturday 7am – 11.30am.

Please phone or email Ward prior to collecting to arrange a suitable time.

Email: ward@wasteconverters.com.au. Tel. 0418 350 551 or 9799 1935.

Entries:

Entries are open to all exhibits using the timber and materials as set out in The Supplied Materials above, and that have not been exhibited before at any previous Create from a Crate exhibition. No selection process will be applied to the exhibition, although the VWA Exhibition Committee reserves the right to exclude any pieces which in the unlikely event do not meet the standards for display. In this instance the \$50.00 Pallet Deposit will be refunded. The decision of the Exhibition Committee in this matter will be final, and no discussion will be entered into.

Delivery of finished exhibits no later than **Monday 1st February 2016**, to the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre unless suitable arrangements are made with the VWA.

The Venue:**Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre**

Corner of Walker & Robinson Streets, Dandenong 3175.

Gallery hours: Mon. – Fri. 11 am to 5 pm, Saturday 11 am to 3 pm.

- Exhibition Opening: **Thursday 4 February 2016 from 6.30pm**
- Last day of Exhibition: **Saturday 27 February 2016 at 3pm**
- Pack up: from **3pm Saturday 27 to 4pm Sunday 28 February 2016**.

Prize Money & Awards:

Waste Converters/ SMART Recycling and the VWA have pledged significant prize money for awards. Further details will be provided when the final amounts are known. An independent panel of judges will be appointed by the VWA for the purpose of selecting the prize-winners. The judges' decision will be final.

Fees and Commissions:

There will be no entry fee or commission charged by Waste Converters/SMART Recycling and VWA for works displayed in the exhibition. Any enquiries for sales or orders by the public regarding works on display will be referred to the artist.

Publicity and Advertising:

Publicity will be conducted by Waste Converters/SMART Recycling and the VWA. Advertisements for the exhibition will be included in all paid and free advertising. Professional media releases will be prepared and forwarded to the media.

Exhibition Invitations:

Waste Converters/SMART Recycling and the VWA will produce exhibition brochures, invitations and/or catalogues to be distributed to VIP and mail list patrons.

Exhibition Set-up and Presentation:

The VWA Exhibition Committee will position the exhibition of works and prepare all documentation and other display information material. In previous years exhibitions have taken place in Melbourne and a Victorian regional town. The VWA Exhibition Committee has the final say in all matters relating to public safety and security. The VWA will supply banners and other display material in the exhibition space.

Freight:

Exhibitors will be responsible for all freight arrangements, packaging, and costs to and from the exhibition space. Exhibits must arrive at the exhibition space on **Monday 1st February, 2016**. Insurance of works to and from the exhibition are at the expense of the maker. The VWA will pack unsold works in the packaging provided by the maker, ready for collection by the maker.

Insurance:

The works on display are covered by the VWA insurance for fire and theft while in the exhibition space for the duration of the exhibition.

Copyright:

The VWA shall have a non-exclusive license to photograph each maker's work for publicity, and archival reasons.

Further information is available from:

<http://www.vwa.org.au/exhibitions/create-crate>

<https://www.facebook.com/createfromacrate>

<http://www.wasteconverters.com.au/RecyclingCompetition.php>

Key dates to remember:

1. Submission of your completed Entry Form and payment to Meg Allan (VWA Membership Secretary). Pick up your pallets from Waste Converters. Entries close on **Friday 31st of July, 2015**.
2. Send images of completed exhibit(s) and Artist's Statement as set out in the Entry Form to the VWA Membership Secretary, by **Monday 23 November 2015**. These will be included in the Exhibition Catalogue.
3. Delivery of completed exhibits to the Walker Street Gallery on **Monday 1 February 2016**.
4. Opening of Exhibition: **Thursday 4 February 2016 at 6.30pm**.
5. Last day of Exhibition: **Saturday 27 February 2016 at 3pm**.
6. Exhibition pack up: from **3pm Saturday 27 to 4pm Sunday 28 February 2016**.

Create from a Crate 2016 Entry Form

Send completed Entry Form to Meg Allan (VWA Membership Secretary); either by mail to 2650 Mansfield-Whitfield Rd, TOLMIE VIC 3723, or email to membership@vwa.org.au. Tel: (03) 5776 2178. This will enable you to pick up the pallets from Waste Converters and start work.

Closing date for submission of completed Entry Forms: **Friday, 31st July 2015.**

I intend to participate in the Waste Converters/ SMART Recycling and VWA exhibition.

Name		
Email		
Postal address		
Phone Number		
Proposed exhibits	Details: type of object; title; materials; processes; date; dimensions in mm (h x w x d); sale price (if work is for sale).	
1		
2		
3		
4		

Attach more if you wish.

Artist's Statement

Please send professional quality digital images of your completed work at 300dpi on CD, DVD or USB stick by **Monday 23 November 2015**, for inclusion in the catalogue.

I have read the terms and conditions, and agree to abide by them.

I have included my cheque to cover the Entry Fee and Pallet Deposit.

Signed:..... Date:

Penang's Blue Mansion by Andrew Potocnik.

Open a travel brochure featuring Malaysia and you'll most likely find an image of a beautiful blue colonial building with an old-style rickshaw parked on the front porch. A wonderful photo opportunity for any keen photographer..... and I'm sure I'm not the only lover of photography to have taken numerous photos from all sorts of angles hoping for that perfect shot that the professionals get.



But that's not what this story is about. Commonly known as the 'Blue Mansion', its correct title is the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, believed to have been built in the 1880s when British Colonial influence was at a cross-road and Chinese Malays were keen to combine their cultural backgrounds with the new world they were living in.



Built by the merchant Cheong Fatt Tze as his home, this building has 38 rooms, 5 paved granite courtyards, 7 staircases and 200 timber louver windows and a spiral staircase imported from Glasgow, Scotland, which all amount to an incredible overload of any wood enthusiast's senses! But, how much is too much?

Keep in mind that the entire building was divided along its length into 'Eastern' and 'Western' influences, so one half of the building is decorated in a 'Western', i.e., European style of furnishing, while the other half was filled with the finest of 'Eastern' fittings. Quite a quagmire for one to unravel, but isn't that the beauty of travel; you do most of your learning once you return home when you have time to research all those little bits you saw along the way? But why divide a building in half? The answer is simple and lies within the 'Eastern' element of the owners' background - Feng Shui, a philosophy where environmental balance results in physical balance and well-being.



Pieces I saw were wonderful examples of Ming Dynasty furniture decorated with mother of pearl inlays that may well be considered as ostentatious nowadays; however we need to remember the historical significance of these items following Chinese migration to Penang in the 1880s. This was a time when it may well have been appropriate to show off your newly acquired status through items you surrounded yourself with. Maybe the more you showed off your wealth the more appealing the item was.

At the time of my visit, my focus was on Chinese influenced furniture, most of which was of Ming Dynasty origin (dating back to 1368–1644), hence I photographed pieces that at the time seemed to combine the elegance of classical Ming Dynasty furniture, but which we now consider 'classical' Chinese. Keep in mind that as cultures are transplanted around the world, so are interpretations of what the 'classical' style is. And then mix in local influences along with what the next generation considers a form of expression of their cultural background... the equation is a complex one, and continues to evolve today.



But going back to the Blue Mansion, a tour of the building is a delight to any enthusiast of Ming Dynasty period Chinese furniture, but it also allows an insight into a long gone era where wealthy residents of Penang Island's Georgetown were able to surround themselves with the finest of furniture, paintings, ceramics from both worlds, East and West, and true to Feng Shui principles, were able to live in harmony a ripe old age, or did they really?

Andrew Potocnik.



to



Current VWA Committee and Contacts:

President	Jerome Wielens	0431 891 451
Vice-President	John Monument	0417 119 946
Treasurer	Rob Allan	03 5776 2178
Secretary	Stephen Farquhar	0419 311 010
Editor	Will Matthysen	0438 984 415
School Sub-committee Chairman	Jerome Wielens	0431 891 451
Exhibitions Co-ordinator	John Monument	0417 119 946
Committee Member	Damien Wright	03 9486 4434
Committee Member	Andrew Potocnik	0419 875 811
Committee Member	Mark Wakeham	0400 102 551
Committee Member	Sam Johnston	0404 520 680
Committee Member	Ward Petherbridge	0418 350 551
Committee Member	Randall Kohn	0438 132 644
Committee Member	Stephen Ziguras	0405 668 779
Committee Member	John Foster	0435 930 423