



## The Newsletter Is Back!

A priority for the President and Vice-President, newly elected at the October 2010 AGM, has been to start work on getting the newsletter back on line. You have a new Editor. The plan is to have a printable version of the newsletter sent to your email address every two months. There will be no mail-out of hard copies. We would like to publish your reports and photographs of woodworking and craft activities. We will start small. You can send material for possible publication to my email address. Love to hear from you!

*George Wright. [georgewr@bigpond.net.au](mailto:georgewr@bigpond.net.au)*

### From the Minutes of the October 2010 AGM:

#### **Chairman's Report:**

Will Matthysen advised the meeting that our President, Scott McFadden, had resigned unexpectedly. The Management Committee had elected Will to act as as Committee Chairman for the remainder of the year.

The Management Committee has begun rebuilding the organisation. Members exhibitions will again become a regular event, the website will be revitalised and the newsletter re-launched. The new committee will work on improving communication with members.

VWA is in a healthy financial position with strong membership numbers and substantial annual revenue. The new Management Committee will be more strategic financially, and will lay out a plan for the use of accumulated funds. The Wood Design Centre has been tidied up in preparation for repainting and refurbishment. There is currently only one tenant in the WDC and we plan, after refurbishment, to engage three more tenants.

Arts Victoria have renewed the VWA lease on the Wood Design Centre premises for three years, with renewal options giving us security of tenure up until 2019. We do not have permanent security of tenure. Arts Victoria has plans for a performing arts precinct at the Meat Market so we might in the future be forced to find a new home.

### **Membership :**

Meg Allan reported that at the end of the financial year we had 926 full members and 124 general members (ie members with no public liability insurance).

During the last 12 months a \$187 premium option has been added to provide a higher level of insurance cover which is particularly suitable for crafts people using some markets, galleries and shopping malls. Our premiums are very competitive for this type of insurance, with our closest competitor being much more expensive.

Approximately 70% of our members are non-woodworkers who join mainly for the insurance option. Only 30% of VWA members work with wood.

### **VWA School of Woodcraft :**

Meg Allan has taken over responsibility for the overall management of the School, including enrolments, coordination of tutors, and planning for future curriculum. The school has a good enrolment of students but there is a concern that students are generally detached from VWA and we need to draw them in to the other VWA activities.

The newly elected Management Committee will address the finances of the school.

### **The New Committee :**

*President* William Matthysen

*Vice President* John Monument

*Secretary* Stephen Farquhar

*Treasurer* Rob Allan

#### **Committee Members :**

Libby O'Brien

Alistair McKendrick

Damien Wright

Kevin O'Connor

Marday Ennasse

Carl Lutz



School's in. Jeff & Carl

### **Special Resolution :**

*“The VWA membership authorises the VWA Management Committee to investigate and plan for investment strategies for VWA funds which are currently held in bank accounts.”*

Passed on a show of hands.

# The Working With Wood Show

*John Monument Vice President*

It was good to be back and involved with the Working With Wood Show 2010. We have received very positive comment on our VWA stand at the exhibition and on the quality of the workmanship demonstrated in the pieces displayed.

Visitors to our stand were given the opportunity to vote on their choice of best piece. Congratulations to the prize winners and well done to all entrants. The 'people's choice' winner was Peter Biggs' rocking chair. A special thank-you to the members for their support in manning the stand over the three days.

Next year the show dates will be October 21 - 23.

You might like to begin planning an object to exhibit. We are looking forward to a bigger and better exhibition in 2011, so start your projects now.



**People's Choice Winner**

Thank you to all who participated, and especially John Monument for taking the initiative and setting it up. The show allowed us to reconnect with members, and recruit new ones. As someone said, "Members, members, members, all you ever talk about is members". That just about sums it up, it's all about members, there is no VWA without members.  
*Will Matthysen*

...The design is influenced by both the Hal Taylor and Sam Malouf style of rocking chairs.....

*Peter Biggs*

## Peter Biggs Rocks!

I have been a student at the VWA School of Woodcraft for about three and a half years, regularly joining John Diorites on Saturday mornings. The rocking chair took nine months to make. It is the second rocker I have made. The first was of blackwood and takes pride of place at my Mother's house. This rocker was made for my wife Leanne and is proudly displayed at our home. I used Tasmanian pink myrtle and tiger myrtle sourced from Island Specialty Timbers. I'm a bit of a wood tragic and spend as much time scouring timber mills as I do fishing when on holidays in Tasmania. The chair design is influenced by both the Hal Taylor and Sam Malouf style of rocking chairs. There are some beautiful fiddleback grain patterns in the seat and headrest. The pink myrtle of the chair body frames seven curved back braces from an exquisite and piece of tiger myrtle. Rockers were formed from nine laminates. Back braces have four laminates - the exterior laminates being the precious tiger myrtle. While making the chair I was tutored and encouraged by John Diorities - no matter what challenge you throw at John, he will always have a solution. I spent many hours working with curved sanding blocks, hand rasps, spoke shaves and sandpaper. I would take chair parts to class every Saturday and nut out the difficult stuff with John, then do my homework in the garage during the week. The chair was sanded to 400 grit and is finished with Rustins Danish Oil which provides excellent protection and helps to highlight the magnificent timber.



The VWA woodwork classes are the highlight of my week. The atmosphere is relaxed and fun. The classes are good therapy. I am a civil engineer and in my spare time a passionate woodworker and keen fly fisher. I am currently building a cedar strip plank Canadian canoe which is taking up too much room in my already cramped garage. Thank you VWA for the prize for my rocking chair.  
Peter Biggs  
peterbiggs@gmail.com

## Voting at The Working With Wood Show

187 people voted for the People's Choice.

First prize of \$1000 to **Peter Biggs** for his myrtle beech rocking chair.

Second prize of \$750 to **Marday Ennassee** for his pine tub chair.

Third prize of \$500 to **Marday Ennassee** for his blackwood chair and wine table.

The door prize of the screwdriver set went to **L Redfern**.

### Overheard at TWWWS

Where have you guys been all these years?

Does the VWA still exist?

Good to see you are back!



Pine Tub Chair *Marday Ennassee*



Angel *Ronnie Sexton*



Walnut Coffee Table *Warwick*

## More Pics From The Working With Wood Show



Bed & Side-Tables *Alistair McKendrick*



Heart *Ken Free*



Chess Board *Gabriel*

Celtic Cross *Ronnie Sexton*



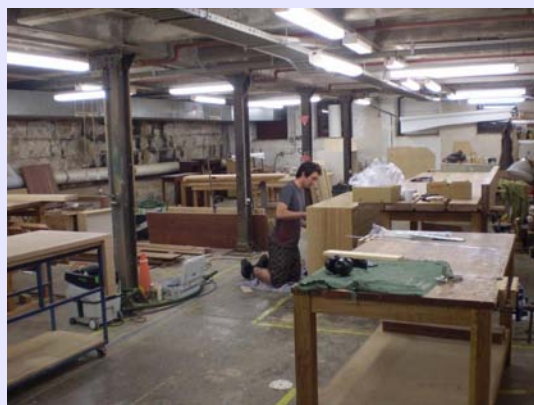
Hall Table *Rod Jones*

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday December 14 at 7:30pm**  
**Christmas Drinks**  
**Display of Work by VWA School Students**  
**Venue: Wood Design Centre**  
**Entry off Tyrone St, Nth Melbourne**



Student Shereen carving a gum leaf.

WOOD  
DESIGN  
CENTRE



Current WDC tenant Alistair McKendrick and his cabinet

# Take a Note Of These:

- Christmas drinks and display of WDC student work  
December 14 at 7:30 pm, Tyrone Street Nth Melbourne  
WDC students to bring their pieces – or images - for display
- A new meetings program for 2011
- TWWWS and VWA exhibition dates: October 21 – 23, 2011  
Substantial prize money for the show
- At least one other major exhibition of fine woodwork by VWA members late 2011
- Regular newsletters next year – bimonthly
- Regular machine maintenance at the Wood Design Centre
- New storage racks and extractor fan at the WDC
- Three new tenants for the WDC selected from graduates of Melbourne's furniture design courses
- Check out the VWA website <http://www.vwa.org.au/>

The first meeting in the new year:

February 22, 2011  
VWA General Meeting  
at the factory site of  
**Mark Tuckey Furniture**  
**4 Anderson Road THORBURY**  
**MELWAY REF 30 B4**

