

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

April 23rd 7:30pm. Venue: 5 Dairy Drive Coburg.



Visit to the workshop of Christian Cole Furniture. 5 Dairy Drive, Coburg Vic. 3058.

THIS IS A MEETING NOT TO BE MISSED!

Christian Cole is a qualified Cabinet and Furniture Maker, completing his apprenticeship 16 years ago. He specializes in the construction of solid timber kitchens, and has spent 2 years in the construction industry fitting out large commercial projects. Christian Cole Furniture was established 13 years ago and now has a loyal following around Australia and abroad.

<http://www.christiancolefurniture.com.au>



A Sausage Sizzle will be held at 7.30pm at Christian Cole Furniture

IN THIS ISSUE

- Obituary
- 'A Chance Encounter' by Andrew Potocnik
- Wood Movement Calculator
- Create From A Crate Announcement

Note from the editor.

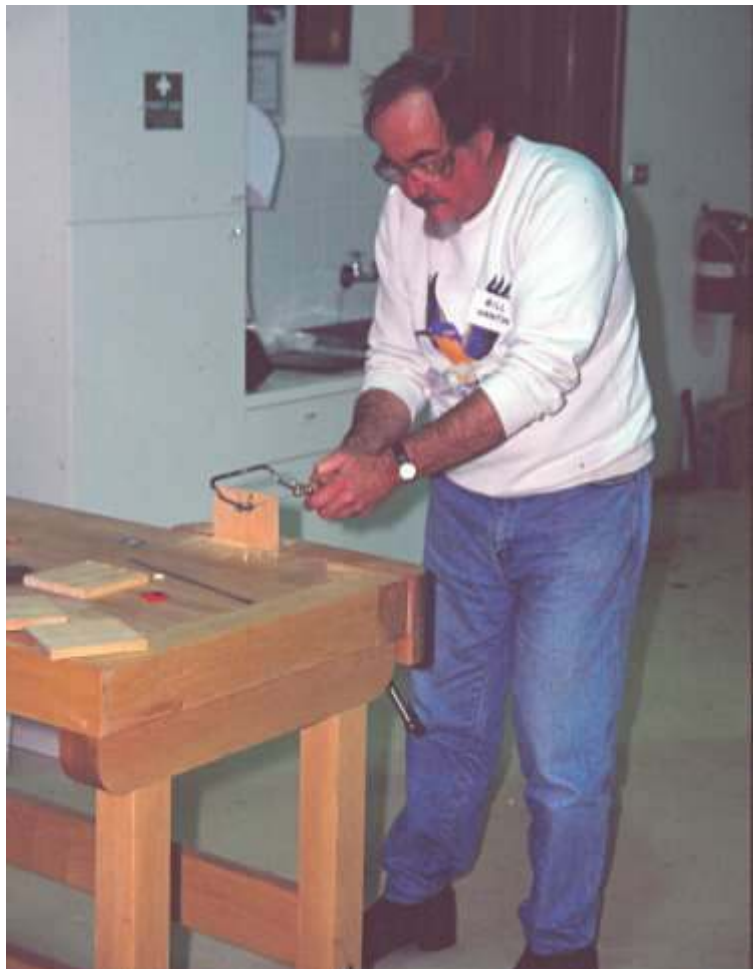
Please direct any comments or feedback on the newsletter, articles for publication, or other VWA activity to the editor at: VWA Editor [editor@vwa.org.au].

OBITUARY. Bill Hawtin

Anyone who has attended an AGM in the last ten years will be aware of my regularly informing the gathering of Bill Hawtin's apologies for his non-attendance at the AGM. Newer members will not have met Bill, which is your bad luck.

Now Bill, (I am sure) would like to send his final apologies to the VWA for his non-attendance at all future meetings due to his recent death.

It is always sad to hear of death and over the years there has been an inexorably growing list of VWA members who I have met through my and their involvement in the VWA. These are people I have grown to know and like and whose company has enriched my life. Bill was a man who ensured that every occasion he attended would have a cheerful, sometimes outlandish and always happy and occasionally risky edge.



Bill Hawtin cutting dovetails



Prior to producing some fine pieces of woodwork over many years, he had been a recording and sound expert with a long involvement in the early jazz recording industry, cut short by failing hearing. Bill also authored and co-authored many technical and educational manuals and books, as well as writing many articles about woodworkers and their exhibitions.

I was first aware of Bill at our regular meetings when I noticed him limping in with an unwieldy gait carrying his own stool. Bill suffered a lifetime of hip and

joint problems with innumerable operations from childhood on, but you would not hear him complaining of any of it. If pressed about his times in hospital you would just be regaled with hilarious stories about nurses and puberty from his younger days and then nurses and illicit wines in his later days.

Stories were frequently punctuated with words such as "LOOKOUT!" as well as a liberal sprinkling of strong and sometimes obscure swear words.

Bill served on the VWA committee for a number of years and during the 1980s many hilarious committee meetings were held in Bills house in Middle Park.

The most notable being the night the newsletter editors resigned from the committee, because we were far too formal, followed soon after by the secretary who resigned because we were far too informal. All the shenanigans, as usual, were accompanied by Bills outrageous guffaws and much amusement.





I am sure that like me all who knew Bill will remember and miss his humour and good will.

Hamish Hill.

A Chance Encounter

Andrew Potocnik

You never know what you'll encounter when you stay the night in a genuine Rajasthani palace, especially when the resident Maharaja keeps the equivalent of a personal family museum on the property.

Forget about the extensive grounds once portrayed in the heyday of Rudyard Kipling's depictions of colonial India, but you'll still be blown away by remnants of Bhanwar Vilas Palaces' past!

Complete with family possessions passed down



Palace Entry Hall

through the generations; stuffed tigers behind the reception room couch, trophy heads of animals now hunted to near extinction, room after room fitted with magnificent furniture and walls covered in painted portraits of generations past sporting magnificent moustaches and turbans, all standing to attention in prim and proper order, looking both powerful and elegant.



A 50's Classic in its original state.

This was just the main building. Out in the backyard (as we would call it) behind the orchards and to the side of the fish farm, all covering acres, was a row of garages filled with beautiful old cars, cannons, farming equipment and howdahs. |



The howdah with its beautifully crafted lattice work and cane seating.



These are the wooden carriages fitted to the backs of elephants, which the Maharajas would ride on their hunting expeditions, high up out of harm's way and out of sight of the 'sport' they were out to kill.

The Palanquin or sedan chair.

Usually highly decorated with carvings and inset semi-precious stones, this was all about ostentation and show, now belonging to a by-gone era, but presenting visitors with an insight into the wealth once controlled by few but employing many. The balance is now changing rapidly.

Contemporary India has joined the modern world in its race toward technological and financial wealth, and the Maharajas with diminishing power and status are opening their once regal homes to tourists as a way of ensuring income for their descendants and not letting their era's importance fade into obscurity.



Decorative carving to the side of the palanquin.

...and as for my evening stroll through town when I found blacksmiths forging axe heads with a power hammer and another smith hand forging cold chisels. You never know just what you'll find when you wander down a road off the beaten track.



Wood Movement Calculator

One of our clever members, Stephen Ziguras, has created a Wood Movement Calculator.

It's an Excel spreadsheet which allows you to estimate wood movement with changes in moisture content, or environmental humidity and temperature. It's partly based on data published by Jugo Ilic in *Australian Wood Review* a few years ago.

It is simple to use, has clear instructions, and is backed by a wealth of data.

Everyone is welcome to download it for free from Stephen's website at:

<http://ecowooddesign.com.au/wood-movement>



Create from a Crate Exhibition October 2013

Please note that the cut off date for entries is June 30th, 2013.

Entry to the competition is open until the 30th of June, 2013. We are planning to hold an exhibition of finished pieces in Oct/Nov 2013 at a Melbourne and regional Victorian Gallery.

Prize money up for grabs is \$7000 in total.

Further information can be found on the following websites:

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

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

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



To enter the competition, please contact:

Meg Allan by email:

rob Allan@hotmail.com

Once you have paid the required amount, you will be sent an email informing you of where to pick up your crates.

Current VWA Committee and Contacts:

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