



VICTORIAN WOOD
WORKERS ASSOCIATION

The Cutting Edge

June 2011

42 Courtney St Nth. Melbourne Vic 3051

From the Editor

This month we have a report on the April VWA general meeting featuring the work of Adam Stewart and Phil Crickmore in their Brunswick workshop. If it is a while since you've been to one of these friendly and informative meetings I hope the report and photos will encourage you to go along. Details of the next meeting are on page four. In future newsletters there will be space for publishing photos and short notes about member's work – a "show & tell" section. If you have made something interesting send a photo or two and the story behind it to my email address below. Other woodworkers would like to see what you are making. Get in early.

George Wright editor@vwa.org.au



From The President Will Matthysen

Wood Design Centre.

Over the past two months we have been working to improve the machine maintenance in the VWA workshop. The committee has appointed Marday Enasse and Stephen Farquhar to assist Carl Lutz as machine room supervisors.

Carl has done a thorough machine maintenance training session with Marday and Stephen who are now be able to assist members who wish to use our workshop equipment for their own projects. All you have to do to make something in the VWA workshop is contact Meg Allan on 03 5776 2178 and book time in the machine room. The cost is \$20 per hour.

VWA Flood Rebate Scheme

You will recall that the VWA committee offered those insurance members who were affected by the recent floods, a full rebate on cost of their VWA Public and Product Liability Insurance bill for the coming year. We have received numerous requests for assistance, and these are currently being processed.

Thank you also to all the VWA members who wrote back to the committee with your comments of support, it makes the effort worthwhile.

General Meeting April 2011

Report by Will Matthysen

The recent VWA meeting was held on the 19th April at the shared workshop of Adam Stewart and Phil Carson Crickmore in Brunswick. About 30 members attended for excellent presentations by Adam and Phil on their work. Both Adam and Phil have a long standing association with VWA. Each of them began their craft practice with a period of tenancy at the WDC at the Meat Market in Nth Melb. Thanks Adam and Phil for a great evening.



Adam Stewart

Adam began the evening's presentation.



His work has developed over the years, from one off furniture commissions, production pieces and architectural fit-outs. It is characterised by clean uncluttered lines, well proportioned forms, and a meticulous finish. On the workshop floor we saw pieces of furniture under construction - stunning bookshelves and wall unit in blackheart sassafras, an island bench-top 5m long for a domestic interior. Much of Adam's work now consists of fit outs for high end commercial and domestic interiors. Examples included a 9m long boardroom table for a Melbourne law firm. Too large to fit in the goods lift, it had to be dismantled into its constituent components and manhandled up 12 flights of stairs by a small army of legal partners. Thankfully no damage and ensuing claims!

When Adam's work is seen as a whole, a few references come to mind. Mies van der Rohe's use of polished steel structure supporting other components such as upholstered leather, veneered timber planes or sheets of glass is suggested. And Alvar Aalto would not be disappointed with Adam's intelligent use of curved plywood elements - never used decoratively, but structurally - forming an integral part of the design.

As for technique, Adam uses vacuum forming to layup his selected veneers either on a flat substrate or onto complex formers to produce the curved ply wood shapes in some of his furniture.

As well as producing furniture and doing interior fit-outs, Adam has participated in a number of collaborative projects with other artists. In 2002 Adam collaborated with animator and architect Dik Jarman on a large mechanical sculpture which was to become a set for filming "Dad's Clock".

The sculpture, constructed almost entirely of wood, has 1000 moving parts. It features animated wooden sea waves around a hull structure of a ship which could open up and reveal the inside. Dik took about 22000 still photos of the sculpture in sequence to produce the animated film. You can watch the [video clip](#) on YouTube.

Adam also works as a tutor and instructor at the VWA Wood Design Centre in North Melbourne. See Adam's website at: <http://adamstewart.com.au/>

April general meeting continued

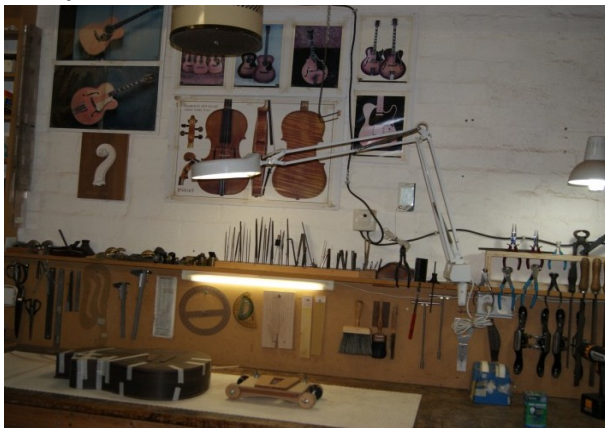
Phil Carson Crickmore

The second part of the evening was a presentation by Phil Carson Crickmore, guitar maker. Phil started out on his career with an apprenticeship in cabinetmaking over 30 years ago. Since that time he has developed expertise in many areas ranging from furniture, boatbuilding, musical instrument making. He even had a 2 year period building houses in London. Phil finally settled on guitar making, and over the last 28 years has built up a reputation as a guitar maker of international standing. Having decided to start out as a guitar maker, Phil began



to patiently acquire the skills and put down the roots necessary to grow what he calls his 'knowledge tree'. At first it always remained a surprise as to how the instrument would sound once completed. With time, the results would become more predictable, and now has achieved a level of control that enables him to determine the type of sound he is looking for before even starting to build.

Phil picks up a piece of wood and, carefully balancing it in one hand, taps along its length with the other hand. Thus he can predict its aural properties and how it would sound in a completed instrument. The wood in string instruments develops a memory by being



played. At a cellular level the wood fibres become attuned to vibrating and resonating at various frequencies, to the extent that experienced musicians can easily pick the difference. Most of the timbers Phil uses are Australian species including blackwood, Queensland Walnut, Satin Box from the Otways and King Billy pine. While the acoustic properties of the timber are paramount, the material must also be free from flaws, be structurally sound and be visually appealing. Each component of the



guitar also has to perform a different task, and hence the timber is selected to accommodate this. Although guitar making is suited to CNC machining, Phil prefers to build each guitar as either a one-off, or in small batch production of up to 6 instruments. He uses a vast array of templates and jigs which line the workshop walls, each one designed to perform a particular job. Phil has reached a point in his craft where all stages of production have been defined and refined. He is willing to pass on this accumulated knowledge and skill, and runs guitar making classes for the interested amateur. These classes have proved very popular. He puts them on six times per year. Visit Phil's website <http://www.carson-crickmoreguitars.com.au/index.htm>.

The next meeting
Woodworking in the Internet Age
Stephen Farquhar



Stephen will discuss:

- Information sources – blogs, vlogs
- Saving videos from YouTube and other sites for later viewing
- Woodworking info on handheld devices – iPhone, Android, and applications
- Demystifying – RSS and newsfeeds
- Social Media -van Facebook benefit the woodworker?
- Open Q & A

Tuesday June 28, 2011 at 7:30pm
VWA General Meeting
Meat Market Conference Room
5 Blackwood St Nth Melbourne
[Click to view Google map](#)

Timber and Working With Wood Show
Across The Board

Exhibit your work on the VWA stand
All types of woodwork considered
From all Victorian woodworkers and VWA members
October 21 to 23, 2011
Judged by Peoples Choice Voting
Prizes :
First \$1000, Second \$750, Third \$500.

Further details and entry form coming soon
No entry fee for this VWA competition
Contact John Monument
vicepresident@vwa.org.au

Meetings matter

Past Topics

furniture design
production
manufacturing
marketing
career development
information exchange media
timber harvesting
seasoning
milling
timber drying
CNC operated equipment
table saw
band saw

Past Topics

planer thicknesser
sanders
lathes
hand tool techniques
wood turning
wood carving
inlay and veneering
coopers
coach builders
boat builders
musical instrument makers
violins
guitars
recorders and flutes

Past Topics

adhesive technology
hide glues
two part epoxy
finishes
oils waxes
French polishing
polyurethane
lacquers
art, design and craftsmanship
history of furniture

Have an idea for a meeting topic?

Tell the committee!

Email vwa@vwa.org.au

2011 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
28 June	Stephen Farquhar – Woodworking/Internet Age	Meat Market Conference Room
23 Aug	tba	tba
21-23 Oct	Timber and Working with Wood Show	Flemington Showground
25 Oct	Annual General Meeting	Meat Market Conference Room
13 Dec	Christmas Drinks and Student Exhibition	WDC@ Meat Market

The VWA Committee

President **William Matthysen**

Vice President **John Monument**

Secretary **Stephen Farquhar**

Treasurer **Rob Allan**

Committee : **Libby O'Brien** **Alistair McKendrick**

Damien Wright **Kevin O'Connor**

Marday Ennasse **Carl Lutz**

VWA Website <http://www.vwa.org.au/>