

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

May 28th 7:30pm. Venue: Visit to the workshop of Timothy McLeod at 178 Canterbury Road, Middle Park 3206.

Timothy McLeod was born in Western Victoria. He lives in Melbourne where he occupies himself in a small workshop with a few well-tuned machines, hand tools and wood. This enthusiasm for wood is encapsulated in his eye for subtle detail and fine hand skills.

Timothy completed a Furniture Design (Diploma of Arts) at RMIT in 2003-04; and held a solo exhibition at Craft Victoria titled 'Stories through the Barrows' in 2010.

http://www.craftaustralia.org.au/library/review.php?id=mcleod_through_the_barrows



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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].

MARCH MEETING

ASHLEY ERIKSMOEN LECTURE



The March meeting was held at the RMIT lecture theatre in Cardigan Street. The lecture entitled 'From Vikings to Lasers: Twelve Hundred Years of Wood Technology', took us through the Nordic woodworking tradition, and Eriksmoen's connection to it. The lecture was attended by both VWA members and RMIT students. The lecture lasted well over an hour, and examples Eriksmoen's work and ideas are available on her website: <http://ashleyeriksmoen.com/home.html>.

The VWA wishes to thank the RMIT staff for making the lecture theatre available to us.

APRIL MEETING

VISIT TO CHRISTIAN COLE WORKSHOP

The last meeting took us to the workshop of Christian Cole on Coburg. The last VWA newsletter stated this was a meeting not to be missed, and many of our members responded. We had a healthy turnout of over 30 members, and were not disappointed.



The Christian Cole Workshop, Coburg.

Christian started making furniture in his teens, and has since built up a successful business designing and making custom furniture in solid Australian timber for private clients and architectural and commercial fit-outs.

He qualified as a cabinet and furniture maker 16 years ago, and then spent two 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.

Christian built and moved into his new factory in Coburg about 4 years ago, in the middle of the GFC, when others thought it was too risky to do so. But his move has paid dividends, and now has a state of the art setup, heaps of workshop and timber storage space, and a beautiful office and meeting room. The timing of setting up business also worked to his advantage, Nicholas Dattner was closing shop, and Christian was able to buy much of his machinery for a good price.



Christian explains setting up the tenon cutting machine.



The business has steadily grown, and now comprises a team of four, including two apprentices. He enjoys seeing them develop new skills and gain in confidence. Christian insists on staying 'on the tools', it keeps him connected to the project, and enables him to fine tune the design and stay on top of the costing.



The team at Christian Cole Furniture.

The key to Christian's success is to produce quality solid timber furniture, simple and robust in design, and using quality figured timber that virtually sells itself. He only uses high strength epoxy adhesives, fills cavities in his tabletops with the West System epoxy, and achieves a high quality and lasting finish with the Becker Acroma two pack coatings.

The showroom with completed tables on display.

Christian believes that educating the client and making them aware of the quality they are getting is an important step getting them to pay what the furniture is worth. He has a natural talent for communicating his enthusiasm for the furniture he is making, which goes a long way to convincing a potential client.





A massive eucalypt salvaged from the flooded Ovens River in 2010.

At the other end of the manufacturing chain, Christian goes out of his way to look after the suppliers of his timber, whether they are farmers or bush millers, and establishing trusting relationships.

The VWA wishes to thank Christian Cole Furniture for their hospitality in hosting our members.

Bali –Between Tree and Me.

Andrew Potocnik

I just can't help myself, whenever I'm out of my work environment, be it school, or home, I'm attracted to things that increase my understanding of what happens between tree and me, especially how it's done in another country.



Photo 1 Teamwork makes moving heavy blocks easier.

My first trip to Bali enabled a chance encounter with how things happen in the broader world we compete with, one without OH&S inspectors, but work conducted on a 'need to do' basis –if you want a job, this is how we do it, otherwise you're unemployed and without an income. Simple!

Fortunately for local workers there is a boom in development of tourist hotels, so labourers are drawn into the construction industry. During a leisurely stroll I heard the familiar sound of a chainsaw which I followed to its source, where I witnessed incredible chainsaw skills used to break logs down into accurately dimensioned boards, and how heavy sections of wood are moved from one location to another. The site was to be converted into a new

tourist hotel, hence it needed to be clear-felled; however all the trees of salvageable size were slabbed or converted into usable timber on site.

Living in a high-tech world where time is money, it was interesting to see how low tech processes and cheap labour costs can bring our understanding of effective production and processing right down to earth, literally!



Photo 2 Footwear -no consideration for OH&S - it's hot here.



Photo 3 Using a string line in preparation for cutting.



Photo 4 Getting equipment in order.



Photo 5 Preparing the saw -a serious saw!



Photo 6 Cutting a guideline using the toe of the saw.



Photo 7 Completing the cut to full depth returning back to the starting point.



Photo 8 Slabs ready for drying.



Create from a Crate.

NOTE: Exhibition is now scheduled for 8-23 February 2014 at the Hatch Contemporary Arts Space in Ivanhoe.

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

\$7000 in Prize Money must be won!

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.net.au

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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