



VICTORIAN WOOD  
WORKERS ASSOCIATION

# The Cutting Edge

August 2011

42 Courtney St Nth. Melbourne Vic 3051

## From the Editor

I believe there are many VWA members who would like to tell others about pieces they are working on without going to the trouble of writing a full feature article. I called for your submissions to a new "Show & Tell" section. Well submissions didn't pour in so I cajoled my son Damien (Damien Wright Furniture) to allow me to use photos of his latest piece. The picture is of the scale model of the piece he made to show his design to the client and to get their final go-ahead for the project. More on this later in "Show & Tell". Readers beware! Don't let this nepotism get out of hand. Send in your submissions else I will put in pictures of my own stuff next month.

George Wright [editor@vwa.org.au](mailto:editor@vwa.org.au)



## From The President Will Matthysen

This has been a busy year for the VWA and many things have been achieved so far but we still have much to do.

### **Woodwork Classes.**

The Woodwork classes are well attended and booked up till the end of the year. Meg Allan, who has taken over the running of the classes, has done an excellent job in restructuring these activities, and for the first time put the books in the black. Carl Lutz has also worked his way through a long list of OH&S items, and has trained a number of members to assist with machine maintenance. Meanwhile John Monument has completed the installation of the industrial racking, which has made life a little easier for our students in storing works in progress.

The committee has focused on several tasks, not all of them glamorous, but nonetheless essential building blocks for the long term revitalization of the club. These involve getting our own house in order, and putting management systems in place which ensure accountability and consistency. I particularly wish to thank Ken Free for drafting his comprehensive Policy and Procedures Manual, it has proved to be a document we refer to regularly, and continually add to.

*President's report cont .....*

Our new secretary, Stephen Farquhar, is thankfully back on the mend, after a recent illness. Stephen has seamlessly slipped into his new role, and is upgrading the website with new and relevant information. As the founder of Melbourne's first internet service provider, Stephen knows a thing or two about websites, with the goal to make the VWA website more interactive and easier to update.

### ***Exhibitions***

Libby O'Brien's exhibition committee has submitted applications for a major VWA exhibition scheduled for the first half of next year. One option is the Manningham Gallery in Doncaster, and we have yet to receive confirmation. This was the venue of the Doncaster woodwork festival many years ago. It provided the opportunity for woodwork clubs to come together and put on a fantastic range of activities from timber slabbing, hand tool exhibition and sale, to demonstrations in all forms of woodwork and an exhibition which showcased the work of our talented makers. This was a mammoth undertaking, and it will take many years before we are in a position to match the past achievements, but from little things big things grow.

### ***TWWS***

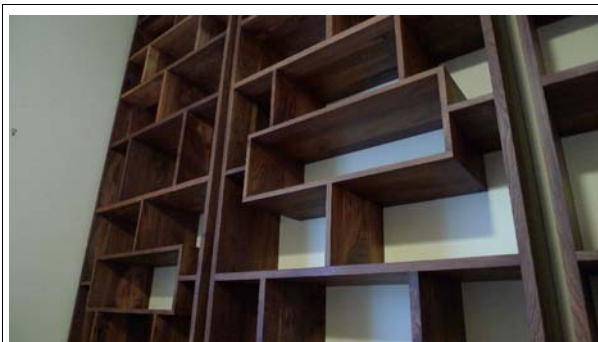
The Timber and Working with Wood Show (TWWS) is almost upon us, and John and Libby are currently receiving applications from as far afield as Queensland for the VWA exhibition at the TWWS called ACROSS THE BOARD. This is an exhibition open to woodworkers Australia wide. With over \$2000 in prize money set aside, this is a great opportunity for woodworkers to show their craft, so send in your applications now. [Click here for the entry form.](#)

### ***Next General Meeting***

Our next members meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August is not to be missed. Andrew Potocnik will give a talk about woodturning and wood art. Andrew has been a long time contributor to the Australian Wood Review, with many publications and exhibitions under his belt. The meeting will be held at the Meat Market Lecture room at 5 Blackwood Street North Melbourne. The talk will start at 7:30pm.

Ultimately, the role of the VWA is to foster and encourage woodwork in all its forms, and create a sense of community where we can enrich and share our knowledge with other members. It is also particularly rewarding when longstanding members who have drifted away over the years coming back and again become part of the VWA.

Best wishes, Will Matthysen



*Detail of Damien's shelves*



*Shelves near completion*

## Show & Tell

Many VWA members have visited Damien Wright Furniture workshop in Beavers Rd Northcote – there was a general meeting night there a couple of years ago. Damien's client was looking for a quality cabinet/bookshelf piece to occupy one wall of the lounge room. They have three children and have the idea that when the children grow up and leave home, each would inherit one section of the family heirloom. The triple design allowed Damien and Justin Vecchio to get this large furniture piece into a rather small room.



The timber is kiln dried elm which is much softer than the Australian hardwoods Damien usually works with.

External joints of the cabinet, shelf carcass and the three feature boxes are dovetails.

Door handles are hand made from ancient redgum.

All surfaces were dry sanded up to 240 grit, oiled with burnishing Organoil and wet sanded to 320 grit. When thoroughly dry surfaces were then buffed.





## The next meeting

### A presentation by Andrew Potocnik. Wood turner

Tuesday August 23rd 7:30pm

Conference Room. Meat Market Arts Centre  
5 Blackwood Street North Melbourne 3051

Over the past 15 years, Andrew Potocnik has built up a considerable reputation as one of Australia's foremost wood turners. During this period, he has exhibited widely in Australia and the U.S.A., while his work is held in public and private collections worldwide. Andrew's work has been featured in numerous publications, and is a regular writer for the Australian Wood Review, as well as other journals. Andrew is a woodcraft teacher at a Melbourne secondary college, and a longstanding member of the VWA. An evening not to be missed!



#### Artist's statement:

*Ever since childhood, whenever I wanted, or needed, to make something, I found wood to be the first material I turned to. It wasn't always the best choice, but it was a material I felt comfortable with, and one that I could convert into whatever I needed.*

*At high school, I met a teacher who encouraged creative use of wood, setting convention aside in order to*

*encourage aspects that were radical at that time. He encouraged me to salvage and recycle wood, and even worse, he taught me to appreciate wood for its colour, smell, feel, grain and any other intrinsic quality it may have.*

*With an introduction like this, where else could I go, but continue to explore all those wonderful qualities every piece of wood conceals, just needing a sympathetic cut to expose it to those who see it as nothing more than a renewable resource, ready to be exploited, rather than appreciated! Now, I gain enormous enjoyment from seeing how people from other cultures explore their wood, how they expose and celebrate its beauty, and how it's integrated into their culture and general existence. As an artist, I continually find inspiration to explore new directions in creating objects from wood.*

*As a teacher, I try to pass information on to my students, hoping that they too will be inspired to explore wood. Celebrating it as a living material that grows around us, as a material that can give voice to ideas conjured in our minds, as a material that says something about our culture and world.*

*August general meeting continued .....*

## Andrew Potocnik .... cont



All Welcome. Light Supper and Drinks Provided.  
Gold coin Donation

Contact: Will Matthysen 0438 984415

### **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/>

## 2011 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
23 Aug	<b>Andrew Potocnik. Wood turner</b>	Meat Market Conference Room
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



Here's an interesting pic I found in in an on-line magazine "Wood & Panel". The publication deals with manufacturing of veneers and panels for the furniture and building industries in Europe and USA. Links to the web version of the magazine arrive regularly addresses to the editor of The Cutting Edge. Most articles seem to be about panels rather than wood but this one from West Africa shows a new product for building.



You can check it out at [www.woodandpanel.com](http://www.woodandpanel.com)